

## Question 10: Is the Web terrorists' best friend?

Past technological innovations, such as telephones or fax machines, have quickly been exploited by terrorists. But the information revolution is proving particularly useful to them. Indeed, many experts claim that the Web is terrorists' best friend. This lecture analyses how the Web and social platform have been woven into the fabric of terrorist enterprises and what the implications for us all are.

### *Discussion questions*

1. How do terrorists use the Web? Discuss three examples and their implications.
2. What is the Dark Web and why is it relevant to terrorists?
3. How serious is the cyberterrorism threat?

### *Essential readings*

- Ingram, Haroro J. 2014. "Three Traits of the Islamic State's Information Warfare." *The RUSI Journal* 159 (6): 4–11.
- Weimann, Gabriel. 2016. "Going Dark: Terrorism on the Dark Web." *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism* 39 (3): 195–206.

### *Further readings*

- Bérubé, Maxime, and Benoit Dupont. 2019. "Mujahideen Mobilization: Examining the Evolution of the Global Jihadist Movement's Communicative Action Repertoire." *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism* 42 (1–2): 5–24.
- Droogan, Julian, Lise Waldek, and Ryan Blackhall. 2018. "Innovation and Terror: An Analysis of the Use of Social Media by Terror-Related Groups in the Asia Pacific." *Journal of Policing, Intelligence and Counter Terrorism* 13 (2): 170–84.
- Heickerö, Roland. 2014. "Cyber Terrorism: Electronic Jihad." *Strategic Analysis* 38 (4): 554–65.
- Jarvis, Lee, Stuart Macdonald, and Lella Nouri. 2014. "The Cyberterrorism Threat: Findings from a Survey of Researchers." *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism* 37 (1): 68–90.
- Klein, Ofra, and Jasper Muis. 2018. "Online Discontent: Comparing Western European Far-Right Groups on Facebook." *European Societies*, July, 1–23.
- Richards, Imogen. 2019. "A Dialectical Approach to Online Propaganda: Australia's United Patriots Front, Right-Wing Politics, and Islamic State." *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism* 42 (1–2): 43–69.
- Rudner, Martin. 2017. "'Electronic Jihad': The Internet as Al Qaeda's Catalyst for Global Terror." *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism* 40 (1): 10–23.
- Wahlström, Mattias, and Anton Törnberg. 2019. "Social Media Mechanisms for Right-Wing Political Violence in the 21st Century: Discursive Opportunities, Group Dynamics, and Co-Ordination." *Terrorism and Political Violence*, April, 1–22.
- Weirman, Samantha, and Audrey Alexander. 2018. "Hyperlinked Sympathizers: URLs and the Islamic State." *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism*, March, 1–19.

*Non-peer reviewed resources*

- “Terrorists Might Be Dumb, but They're Tech-Savvy,” *Big Think*, 23 March 2016. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=78rR3NMYQ-I>.
- Burke, Jason. 2016. “How the Changing Media Is Changing Terrorism.” *The Guardian*, February 25, 2016. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/feb/25/how-changing-media-changing-terrorism>.
- Carlin, John P. 2018. “Inside the Hunt for the World’s Most Dangerous Terrorist: How a British Hacker Joined ISIS’s Top Ranks and Launched a Deadly Global Cyber Plot.” *Politico*, November 21, 2018. <https://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2018/11/21/junaid-hussain-most-dangerous-terrorist-cyber-hacking-222643>.
- Dion-Schwarz, Cynthia, David Manheim, and Patrick B. Johnston. 2019. “Terrorist Use of Cryptocurrencies: Technical and Organizational Barriers and Future Threats.” Santa Monica, CA: RAND. [https://www.rand.org/pubs/research\\_reports/RR3026.html](https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR3026.html).
- Stockel-Walker, Chris. 2018. “Does the Internet Really Radicalise Terrorists? It’s (Really) Complicated.” *Wired*, December 12, 2018. <https://www.wired.co.uk/article/terrorist-radicalisation-facebook-twitter-isis>.
- Weill, Kelly. 2018. “How YouTube Built a Radicalization Machine for the Far-Right.” *Daily Beast*, December 17, 2018. <https://www.thedailybeast.com/how-youtube-pulled-these-men-down-a-vortex-of-far-right-hate?ref=scroll>.