International Terrorist/Extremist Groups

Activities and Tactics
International Terrorist/Extremist Groups Topics

- The geographical area of the Middle East
- The basics of Islam
- Three sources of Middle-Eastern terrorism
- Major Middle-Eastern terrorist groups
- Other international terrorist groups
- Conclusions
What Is the Middle East?

- Alfred Thayer Mahan, USN
Islam = Peace Be Upon You

In the name of God, the Compassionate
Islam 101

- NOT a violent religion
- Cousin to Judaism and Christianity
- Monotheism
- Equalizes classes through love of God
- Submission to the will of God
- Muslim is one who submits

- Kabah in Mecca
- Mohammed 570/71 to June 8, 632
- Khadijah and the caravan
- Mohammed’s search for religion
Islam 102

- Age 40 and Gabriel
- Fatima
- Verses or sayings—the Koran
- Merchants’ reaction
- Flee to Monophysite Christian Community
- Flee to Medina
- Year 1 (622)

- 624 Badr—will God allow the submitters to defend themselves?
- Birth of jihad
- Greater jihad
- Lesser jihad
Significant Events in Islam

- 629 pilgrimage to Kabah at Mecca
- 630 merchants surrender Mecca
- The Prophet’s religion spreads along trade routes
- Cosmology and egalitarianism convert
- There is no God but God (Allah)
  - Moses tells this to the Hebrews
  - Jesus tells this to the world
  - Mohammed tells this to the Arabs

632 farewell pilgrimage to Mecca—Mohammed dies
Institutionalization of Islam

- Koran codified—114 Surahs arranged by length
- Affinity with the Bible
- Sunnis—no clergy, but prayer leaders and scholars
- Political leadership—Caliph
- dar al Islam to be united in an egalitarian caliphate
Institutionalization of Islam (continued)

- Exegeses of Koran by scholars
- Sunnah (becomes Sunni or orthodox)
- Hadith (derek or ṣaḥīḥ)
- Sharia
- Fiqh
- Imams and Caliphs
Five Pillars of Islam

- **Shahada**—confession that there is no God but Allah, and Mohammed is his prophet
- **Selah**—ritual prayer
- **Zakah**—alms for the poor
- **Sawm**—fasting, especially during Ramadan (the month when Gabriel revealed the Koran)
- **Haj**—pilgrimage to Mecca
Trouble With the Caliph

- The Companions vs. the Family
- Fatima and Ali
- Ibn Ali Hussein
- Karbala
- Shi`ite community
- Seveners
- Twelvers
Primary School of Thought

- Sunni (90%)
- Hanafi Rite—tolerates wide range of opinions
- Maliki Rite—seeks compromise with Koran; accepts rulings of descendents of Companions
- Shafeia Rite—reverts to Prophet
- Hanabali Rite—influenced by Wahhabi
Other Islamic Thought

- Shi`at Ali = Shi`ites—develop clergy: imam, hojatalislam, ayatollah, grand ayatollah
- Sufism—Sufis (mystical tradition)
- Wahhabis
- Salafis
Three Sources of Middle-Eastern Terrorism

- Questions of Palestine/Israel
- Future of Shi`ite revolution
- Establishing the Caliphate
  - dar al Islam
Palestine/Israel Question

- 19th century Zionism
- Greater Syria
- European immigration
- Jewish understandings
- Arab understandings
World War I (1914-1918)

- British promises
  - To Arabs—dar al Islam
  - To Jews—Balfour Declaration
  - To France—Sykes-Picot Agreement
  - Good war-time policy, bad situation for coming years
1930s—Nazis Caused Increased Immigration
Dissatisfaction

- Arab Revolt of 1936
- Stern Gang
- Irgun Zvai Leumi
World War II Watershed

- International sympathy for Holocaust victims
- Arabs lack international stature and power
- Campaign against British army
- Irgun Zvai Leumi and Stern Gang
  - King David Hotel bombing
1948

- United Nations creates Israel
- Arab League strikes and fails
- Arabs court Soviets
- U.S. courts Israel
- 1956 Suez crisis—Israel Defense Forces (IDF) strikes
Failure of Arab Conventional Wars

- Six-Day War
- Yom Kippur War
- Egypt seeks separate peace after saving face
- Jordan seeks truce
- Syria, et al., adapts the Irgun’s tactics
Complaints With U.S. Policy

- Two eyes, two policies, OR Israel gets a pass
- Exist in your communities
- U.S. policies exploitive in nature, only interested in oil
- Foreign troops stationed near Mecca and other locations in the Middle East
- U.S. supports puppet governments and regimes throughout the region
Growth of Terrorism in Palestine

- **Terrorist side**
  - Arafat and birth of Fatah
  - Fragmentation
  - Black September
  - Leftist—ethnic coalition of terrorism

- **Nation State side**
  - King Hussein moves against Palestinian Liberation Organization
  - Affaz Hassad wants Syrian control of terrorism
  - Khadaffy and Hussein join the fray
dar al Islam Enters the Equation

- dar al Islam vs. dar al Harb
dar al Islam

- Who will rule?
- World War I brings divided kingdom
- Oil wealth brings rich families
- Poverty brings socialism—Ba`ath Party
- Pan-Arabism
- Muslim Brotherhood
Revolutionary Fundamentalism

- Iran and the future
- Ba`athist sectarianism
- Violent Sunni fundamentalism
- Wahhabism
- Salafi
Mainstream vs. Militants

- Mainstream Islam is a religion of peace
- Militants seek conflict
- Militants emerge from three sources
  - Salafi and Wahhabi interpretations
  - Indian and Pakistani anticolonial revolutions
  - Shi`ite revolutionary thought
Militant Salafis and Wahhabis

- Sayyid Qutb (1906-1966)
- Current status of Islam in alienation (jahaliyya)
- Current Islamic governments are unbelievers (takfir)
- Non-Muslims are enemy infidels, especially the West (kafir)
- World must be placed under Sharia
Asia and Central Asia

- Mawlana Mawdudi (1903-1979)
- Most famous work: *Jihad in Islam*
- Muslims must separate from the world
- Establish governments under the Sharia
- Work against toleration
- Work against non-Islamic government
Iran and Militant Shiaism

- Ruhollah Khomeini (1902-1989)
- One of the five Grand Ayatollahs from the Iranian Revolution (1978-1979)
- Believed in spreading Islam throughout the world
- West is illegitimate
- Martyrdom defines a true Muslim
- Karbala is an everyday event
Major Groups

- al Qaeda
- Hezbollah
- Hamas
- Palestinian Islamic Jihad
al Qaeda (The Base)

- Developed during the Soviet War in Afghanistan
- One of seven mujahadeen groups
- Reactivated after Persian Gulf War
- Leaders Usama bin Laden and Ayman al Zawahiri
al Qaeda’s Threats to Law Enforcement

- Linked to other terrorist groups through Muslim Brotherhood
- Borderless resistance
- Virginia not different from Bosnia, Uzbekistan
al Qaeda’s Plots

- Attack—December 29, 1992
  Aden, Yemen
    - 100 U.S. servicemen leave Gold Mohur hotel just before bomb explodes
    - Two suspects have 23 bombs, 2 antitank mines, dynamite, and machine guns
al Qaeda’s Plots (continued)

- Attack—February 26, 1993
  World Trade Center (WTC)
  - First bombing attempt to bring down the WTC
  - Kills six, more than 1,000 injured
  - Suspects planned other bombings
al Qaeda’s Plots (continued)

- Attack—October 3, 1993
  - Conventional guerrilla attack against U.S. Army in Somalia
  - 18 U.S. soldiers killed
al Qaeda’s Plots (continued)

- Foiled—late 1994-early 1995
  - Ramzi Yousef plans to
    - Assassinate Pope and President Clinton in the Philippines
    - Blow up more than 12 commercial jets over the Pacific Ocean
al Qaeda’s Plots (continued)

- Foiled—June 26, 1995
  Addo Abada, Ethiopia
  - Attempted attack on Hosni Mubarak
al Qaeda’s Plots (continued)

- Attack—November 13, 1995
  Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
  - Car bomb kills five U.S. soldiers and two Indian soldiers
  - Four suspects confess on national television
Al Qaeda’s Plots (continued)

- Attack—June 25, 1996
  - Dharan, Saudi Arabia
    - Truck bomb destroys Khobar Towers, U.S. Air Force Base
    - 19 airmen killed, hundreds wounded
al Qaeda’s Plots (continued)

- Attack—August 7, 1998
  U.S. Embassies in Africa
  - dar es Salaam, Tanzania, and Nairobi, Kenya
  - Truck bomb
  - Coordinated in two countries
  - Kills 224, including 12 Americans
al Qaeda’s Plots (continued)

- Foiled—December 4, 1999
  Port Angeles, Washington
  - Ahmed Ressam
  - Customs agents notice suspicious behavior
  - Confessed to bombing plot at Los Angeles International Airport
al Qaeda’s Plots (continued)

- Foiled—December 1999
  - Amman, Jordan
    - Jordanian intelligence stops several bombings
    - By arrest
    - By sharing intelligence with U.S.
al Qaeda’s Plots (continued)

- Attack—October 12, 2000
  - Aden, Yemen
  - Boat attack on USS Cole
  - 17 U.S. sailors killed
al Qaeda’s Plots (continued)

- Foiled—December 25, 2000
  Strasbourg, France
  - Attempted bombing of Strasbourg Cathedral and market
  - German investigators make arrests before terrorists can cross the Rhine
al Qaeda’s Plots (continued)

- Attack—September 11, 2001
  New York, New York; Washington, DC; Pennsylvania
  - Airplanes used as bombs
  - World Trade Center, Pentagon
  - Fourth attempt thwarted by passengers
  - Thousands killed
al Qaeda’s Plots (continued)

- Foiled—September 13, 2001
  Paris, France; Brussels, Belgium
  - Investigators review confession of suspect Djamel Beghal
  - New arrests prevent bombing
Hezbollah (Party of God)

- Originates in Iranian Revolution
- 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon
- Revolutionary Guards to Bekaa Valley in Lebanon
Hezbollah Metamorphosis—1982

- Israel invades Southern Lebanon
- Revolutionary Guards go to Lebanon
- Links form among Syria, Lebanon, and Iran
- First suicide bomber
  - November—Israel Defense Forces Headquarters in Tyre, Lebanon
Hezbollah Metamorphosis—1983-1988

- Hezbollah forms under Shura Council
- Suicide bombings increase
- Kidnappings and murders
- War with Amal
Hezbollah Metamorphosis—1989-Present

- Modern Hezbollah emerges
- Complete rejection of Israel’s right to exist
- Declared hatred of U.S.
- Organized as a political party in 1992
- Raised funds and spread message in the U.S.
Hamas–Islamic Resistance Movement

- Palestinian branch of the Muslim Brotherhood
Hamas Background

- Muslim Brothers form 1987
- Acronym for Harakat al Muqawamah al Islamiyya (Islamic Resistance Movement)
- Name means courage and bravery
Areas of Operation

- Palestine Authority area and Israel
- Propaganda in Western Europe
- Major funding comes from
  - Iran
  - Private benefactors in Saudi Arabia
  - Europe
  - United States
Basic Activities

- Spiritual movement
  - Sheik Ahmad Yassin
  - Islamic Covenant 1988
- Political activities
- Targets other Muslims
  - Especially Fatah rivals and Palestinian collaborators
- Military wing
  - Izz el Din al Qassam Brigade
Four Basic Tactics

- Dawa—militant sermons
- Popular violence
- Security (Aman)
- Publications (Al Alam)
Prototype of Suicide Bombers

- Copied tactic from Hezbollah
- Psychological characteristics of most bombers
- Social structures to support bombers
- Profile of bomber shifting
Leaders

- Sheik Ahmad Yassin
  - Born 1936
  - Structures along foundation of Brotherhood
- Musa Mohammed Abu Marzuq
  - Born 1951
  - Educated and lived in U.S.
Marzuq’s Activities

- 1991—left Virginia for Israel
- 1991-1993—built infrastructure, gathered weapons
- 1992—established links with Iran
- 1995—arrested in New York
- 1997—expelled to Jordan
Primary Locations of Hamas’ Leaders

- Jordan
- United States
- United Kingdom
Activities in the U.S.

- Violent rhetoric in Dawa
- Recruiting
- Fundraising
- Criminal schemes to raise money
- Indoctrination of youth
Most Infamous: Islamic Jihad

- aka—Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ)
- Often confused with Hamas
Islamic Jihad

- Emerges from Hezbollah’s façade in early 1990s
- Embraces suicide bombings
- Has not specifically attacked U.S.
- Areas of operation: Israel, Jordan, Lebanon
- Headquartered in Syria with limited support from Iran
Activities in the U.S.

- Fundraising
- Grocery coupon fraud
- Publishing houses
- Particularly active in Michigan, Texas, Florida, and Missouri
- “We did not plan September 11, but we’re glad it happened.”
Egyptian Islamic Jihad

- aka
  - al Jihad
  - Islamic Jihad
  - Jihad Group
Areas of Operation

- Based around Cairo, Egypt
  - Afghanistan
  - Pakistan
  - Yemen
  - Sudan
  - United Kingdom
  - United States
Specializations of Egyptian Islamic Jihad

- Car bombs
  - Islamabad, Pakistan, 1995
  - U.S. thwarts attack in 1998 against embassy in Albania
- Assassinations
- Has not attacked in Egypt since 1993
Other International Terrorist Groups
Abu Nidal Organization (ANO)

- aka
  - Fatah Revolutionary Council
  - Arab Revolutionary Brigades
  - Black September (not the original)
  - Black June
  - Revolutionary Organization of Socialist Muslims
- Abu Nidal means “Father of the Struggle”
- Abu Nidal’s real name was Sabri al Banna
  - Died in Baghdad, August 20, 2002
Dormant but Dangerous

- Robberies and crimes in St. Louis
- No anti-Western attacks since late 1980s
- Killed PLO officials in 1990s
- Relocated to Baghdad in 1998
  - Bases in Bekaa Valley, Lebanon
  - Bases in some Palestinian areas
- Dangerous because Saddam Hussein may use as mercenary terrorists
Hierarchy—Abu Nidal Organization

Committee for Revolutionary Justice

Political Bureau

Secretariat

Directorate

Central Committee

Revolutionary Council

Financial Directorate

Foreign Countries
Arab Countries
Palestine/Jordan

Military Committee (1976-1983)
Committee for Special Measures (1983-Present)

People’s Army

Membership

Political Directorate

Intelligence

Scientific Committee

Investment
Expenditures

Publications
Political Relations

Technical Committee
Jemaah Islamiya

- Bombed Bali nightclub, killing over 200
- Leader is Iman Samudra (now in custody)
- Linked to al Qaeda through Riduan Isamuddin, aka Hambali
- Active in Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Singapore
Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG)

- Operates in Philippines
- Smallest, but most radical group
- Split from Moro National Liberation Front
- Linked to al Qaeda
- Tactics: bombings, assassinations, kidnappings, extortion
- Kidnapping draws international attention
- 200 hard-core terrorists with 2,000 supporters
al Aqsa Martyr’s Brigade

- Military wing attached to Yasser Arafat’s headquarters
- Operates in tradition of Black September and Force 17
- Used against Israelis and rival terrorist groups
- Involved in suicide bombings
- Area of operation—West Bank, Israel
- Size—several hundred
Islamic Group

- aka—Egyptian Islamic Group, al Gama`a al Islamiyya, Islamic Liberation Party
- Began and grew in Egypt
- Based on militant Wahhabism
- Follow ideology of Sayyid Qutb
- International in scope
Key to Islamic Group Is Organization

- All cells are autonomous
- No central leadership
- Cells are linked by religious ideology
Islamic Group Support

- Not seeking political legitimacy
- Assassination and intimidation—shootings and bombings
- Targets
  - Government officials
  - Police officers
  - Christians
  - Foreign tourists
  - Secular professors
Islamic Group’s Most Infamous Attack

- Luxor, Egypt, massacre—November 17, 1997
  - Dressed as police officers
  - Systematically murdered tourists at the pyramids
  - One researcher says the attack was planned in London
Linked to U.S. and Europe

- Omar Abdel Rahman, spiritual leader
  - In U.S. prison for 1993 World Trade Center bombing
- Rifa`i Taha Masa, current leader
  - Signed bin Laden fatwa
  - Interested in attacking American targets
  - Has links to New York City
  - Supported by militant mosques
Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP)

- Marxist-Leninist group founded 1967
- Leadership has changed hands from its founder, George Habash, to Ahmed Sadat
- Broke with PLO in 1993
- Tried to restore ties in 1999
- Opposes peace with Israel
- Strength—800
Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—General Command (PFLP—GC)

- Split from PFLP in 1968
- Leader Ahmad Jabril
- Violently opposed to Arafat
- Small-scale terrorist attacks against Israel
- Recently eclipsed by Islamic Jihad and Hamas
Jewish Extremism

- Groups that feel they have a right to reestablish the Biblical Kingdom of David
Kach (Thus)

- Founded in New York City by American Rabbi Meir Kahane
- Philosophy—non-Jews must be driven from Israel
- Primary activities—murder of Palestinians
- Operations—Israel and New York City
Kahane Chai (Kahane Lives)

- Meir Kahane murdered by al Qaeda allies in New York
- Binyamin Kahane founds Kahane Chai
- Declared terrorists by Israeli government 1994
- Binyamin killed December 2000
Conclusions

- International terrorism increasingly dominated by violent religious extremism
- Groups discussed today do not compromise with one another
- Sleepers remain active, even after infrastructure appears to be destroyed
- Violent religious fundamentalism will continue to be a problem for American law enforcement
International Terrorist/Extremist Groups Recap

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Questions