

TOPIC 6: TERRORISM & MEDIA

PSC 136 – Terrorism in World Politics

ROLE OF TRADITIONAL MEDIA FOR TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS

- Violence as propaganda
 - Required to gain attention, broadcast message
 - Terrorism as “perverted form of show business”
- Evolution of Media Technologies and Terrorist Exploitation of Media
 - Print Journalism
 - Television
 - Technological revolutions

EFFECTS ON PUBLIC OPINION?

Symbiotic relationship between terrorist organizations and media, but does it affect the way terrorism is viewed?

- Public Opinion
 - What type of coverage do terrorists get? Effects on how terrorism/terrorist groups viewed by public?
- Government Response
 - Media role in threat perception of public, forcing government action?

CNN Syndrome?

NEW MEDIA

- Traditional media (print,TV) limitations and trade-offs for terrorist organizations
- “New” media – terrorist organization produced
 - Zapatistas, Tamil Tigers, Hezbollah, Hamas, al Qaeda, ISIS
 - Advantages?
 - Limitations?
- New media phases:
 - 1980s: audio/videotapes
 - 1990s: top-down websites
 - 2000s: interactive forums/chat rooms (controlled by organization)
 - 2010s: social media

SOCIAL MEDIA

- How do terrorists use the internet/social media?
- Functions
 - Content hosting
 - Audience development
 - Brand control
 - Secure communications
 - Community maintenance
 - Financing
 - Information collection and curation
- Variations with different platforms

COUNTERTERRORISM AND SOCIAL MEDIA: QUESTIONS FOR TECHNOLOGY COMPANIES

- How to balance free speech, privacy, and security?
- How to determine who's a terrorist?
- Content standards?
- Removal orders?
- Finding terrorism content?
- What to do with terrorism content once found?