

# The Psychology Of Terrorism By John Horgan

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## ANDREWS COWAN

*The Psychology of Terrorism Fears* John Wiley & Sons  
 This accessible new book looks at how and why individuals leave terrorist movements, and considers the lessons and implications that emerge from this process. Focusing on the tipping points for disengagement from groups such as Al Qaeda, the IRA and the UVF, this volume is informed by the dramatic and sometimes extraordinary accounts that the terrorists themselves offered to the author about why they left terrorism behind. The book examines three major issues: what we currently know about de-radicalisation and disengagement how discussions with terrorists about their experiences of disengagement can show how exit routes come about, and how they then fare as 'ex-terrorists' away from the structures that protected them what the implications of these findings are for law-enforcement officers, policy-makers and civil society on a global scale. Concluding with a series of thought-provoking yet controversial suggestions for future efforts at controlling terrorist behaviour, *Walking Away From Terrorism* provides an comprehensive introduction to disengagement and de-radicalisation and offers policymakers a series of considerations for the development of counter-radicalization and de-radicalisation processes. This book will be essential reading for students of terrorism and political violence, war and conflict studies, security studies and political psychology. John Horgan is Director of the International Center for the Study of Terrorism at the Pennsylvania State University. He is one of the world's leading experts on terrorist psychology, and has authored over 50 publications in this field; recent books include *The Psychology of Terrorism* (Routledge 2005) and *Leaving Terrorism Behind* (co-edited, Routledge 2008)

### Psychology of Terrorists

Routledge  
 Responding directly to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, an outstanding interdisciplinary group of academics, clinicians, and activists from around the world united to produce this clear exploration of terrorism.

**The Psychology of Terror** Greenwood Publishing Group  
 Terrorism and radicalization have a long history, but in recent years their prominence has been a particularly conspicuous and influential feature of the global political landscape. This important book presents an overview of the processes involved in radicalization and terrorism, and introduces a systematic framework which captures the most crucial individual and social factors involved in determining these processes. The authors begin by considering the possible role of prejudice, economic deprivation, and discrimination, and the cognitive responses and emotions they can trigger. Such responses tend in turn to

increase the importance of group membership, and promote intergroup differentiation and polarization, a process which is often accompanied by more pronounced and more extreme religious and ideological beliefs. The book also describes the role of cultural values and social climate in processes of radicalization, as well as the role of personality factors and demographics such as age and marital status. As for violent terrorist action itself, this final most radical stage is elicited by a number of group factors such as groupthink, isolation, and leadership. Certain cognitive mechanisms - for example, dehumanizing the target and attributing responsibility elsewhere - can also provide excuses for violence. The book explores why some groups turn to violence and others don't, and it addresses processes of disengagement, deradicalization programs, and other methods used to inhibit the spread of radicalization and terrorism. *The Psychology of Radicalization and Terrorism* takes a unique and systematic approach to a vital topic, integrating knowledge from diverse literatures, and using social psychology as a basis for comprehending human behaviour. It will be essential reading for students and researchers from all disciplines seeking a greater understanding of terrorism and violent political conflict in all its forms.

[The Psychology of Terrorism](#) Greenwood Publishing Group  
 Publisher description

### Psychology of Terrorism

Amer Psychological Assn  
 Substate terrorism now represents one of the gravest threats to human civilizations. As the frequency of interstate wars has declined since the end of the Second World War, terrible violence against innocent civilians is increasingly perpetrated by non-state groups with extreme agendas and virtually no restraints. Why do people become terrorists? Are terrorists crazy? Simply evil? Normal people driven to extremes? What social factors and tensions are most likely to provoke terrorist behaviors? And how can we use our rapidly growing understanding of the psychology of terrorism to anticipate coming attacks and protect the international community? *Psychology of Terrorism* is a collection of the best classic and contemporary writings about the mind of the terrorist. Carefully selected by a panel of world-renowned authorities for value and readability, this collection provides the reader with deep knowledge and unique insights into the ideas, feelings, and social influences of modern terrorist groups. General readers who wish to understand this deadly phenomenon, students and scholars of human psychology or political science, and decision makers facing the challenge of designing effective counterterrorism policies will enjoy and profit from these essential readings and the inescapable conclusion they suggest: By ignoring the psychology of terrorism, Western nations have been making grave errors in the so-called war on terrorism. Understanding the deep roots of terrorist behaviors gives us tools

that are absolutely vital to any effort in reducing this escalating threat.

### The Sociology and Psychology of Terrorism

Routledge  
 A must-read for psychologists—clinical and academic alike—as well as for political scientists, policy analysts, and others working in the realm of terrorism, political violence, and extremism, this book carefully explores the theories, observations, and approaches of authorities in the field and addresses how and why terrorism has perpetuated for so long. • Addresses how various groups are affected by terrorism, including children, older adults, and, arguably more relevant than ever before, refugees • Tackles the perplexing question of why terrorism has remained such a difficult problem to overcome • Includes contributions from Islamic subject matter expert, scholar, and author Dr. Sayed Ammar Nakshawani, listed among The 500 Most Influential Muslims • Serves as appropriate reading for students taking courses in subjects ranging from international psychology, military psychology and theory, political science, and political theory to religious studies, peace studies, military sciences, law enforcement, social work, feminist theory, public health, sociology, and anthropology

*The Psychological Consequences of America's War on Terrorism* ABC-CLIO

Terrorism has returned to the streets of Northern Ireland. In the years after the 1998 Real IRA bombing of Omagh, which killed 29 people, violent dissident Republican groups have re-emerged as a major security threat to a region that has been denied peace, stability, and prosperity for too long. Those responsible have many names. They are breakaways, splinter factions, spoilers, and "residual" terrorists. The Real IRA, Continuity IRA, and Óglaigh na hÉireann are only some of the groups now responsible for a growing wave of bombings, shootings, threats, and intimidation across Northern Ireland. Commonly known as "the dissidents," these are the rejectionists for whom there seems to be no negotiated settlement, no peace deal, no consensus solution that will convince them to accept the will of the majority of the people on the island of Ireland. *Divided We Stand: The Strategy and Psychology of Ireland's Dissident Terrorists* presents the results of meticulous research conducted by the International Center for the Study of Terrorism at the Pennsylvania State University. Since 2007, John Horgan, Director of the center, has led a research project to monitor the activities of Ireland's new terrorists. Drawing on one of the largest open-source militant databases ever assembled, *Divided We Stand* describes the activities, histories, motivations, psychology, and strategy of the small, dynamic, and rapidly evolving splinter groups that continue to erode peace, stability, and normalization in Northern Ireland. [Current Political, Legal and Psychological Issues](#) Routledge  
 This edited book explores how psychology can be used to improve

our understanding of terrorism and counterterrorism. This work firstly aims to provide balanced and objective insight into the psychology of terrorists; what their motivations are, what keeps them involved in terrorist groups, and what eventually forces most to end their active involvement in terrorism. Secondly, the contributors focus on the challenging issue of how to respond to terrorism. These chapters provide information for those concerned with short-term tactical problems (e.g. interviewing), as well as those looking towards the more long-term strategic questions of bringing an entire terrorist campaign to an end. Ultimately, the individuals involved in terrorism require a more complex response from society than simply a quest for their apprehension. Believing inaccurate and misleading characterizations leads inevitably to damaging policies and deficient outcomes and campaigns of violence are needlessly prolonged. It is from this perspective that the concern arises with how researchers – and the policy makers guided by them – perceive the psychology of terrorists and of terrorism. This innovative book will be of great interest to students of terrorism and counter-terrorism, security studies, psychology and politics, as well as security professionals and military colleges.

[Psychological Responses to the New Terrorism: A NATO-Russia Dialogue](#) Amer Psychological Assn

Terrorism is to create a state of terror and fear. Therefore it is important to study the psychological factors and to understand and mitigate our response to terrorism. It is the creation of states of mind, of reducing people's resilience and will to resist, and causing such psychological and social pressure that eventually the political aims of a terrorist group will be fulfilled. This book is not about the prevention of terrorism, but concerned with the consequences of acts of terror and their impact on populations. It describes what citizens, professionals and governments can do to mitigate the consequences. The focus is less on the 'timeless' or 'universal' trauma reactions captured by labels such as post traumatic stress disorder, but more on culture and place specific reactions. A comparison is made between the responses visible in Russia (large scale adversity) and the western reaction (a cultural shift towards an age of anxiety and risk aversion). Also 'new' terrorism (chemical, biological and nuclear terrorism) is discussed, but in practice most terrorist attacks remain steadfastly conventional. A last topic is communication; such as communication between government and its citizens; between terrorists themselves, between terrorists and citizens and between citizens themselves. People talking to each other in the immediate aftermath of terrorist incidents gives much needed support and reassurance. More attention needs to be given to assisting these normalising processes and more needs to be done to safeguard such communications in the immediate aftermath of a terrorist attack.

**Driven to Death** CRC Press

Terrorism and radicalization have a long history, but in recent years their prominence has been a particularly conspicuous and influential feature of the global political landscape. This important book presents an overview of the processes involved in radicalization and terrorism, and introduces a systematic framework which captures the most crucial individual and social factors involved in determining these processes. The authors begin by considering the possible role of prejudice, economic deprivation, and discrimination, and the cognitive responses and emotions they can trigger. Such responses tend in turn to increase the importance of group membership, and promote intergroup differentiation and polarization, a process which is often accompanied by more pronounced and more extreme religious and ideological beliefs. The book also describes the role of cultural values and social climate in processes of radicalization, as well as the role of personality factors and demographics such as age and marital status. As for violent terrorist action itself, this final most radical stage is elicited by a number of group factors such as groupthink, isolation, and leadership. Certain cognitive mechanisms – for example, dehumanizing the target and

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**The Psychology of Radicalization and Terrorism** IOS Press

"The deepest study yet of one of the least understood phenomena of our time. A scholarly work that read like a page-turner."---Bob Simon, CBS News Chief Middle Eastern correspondent and recipient of the Edward Weintal Prize for Diplomatic Reporting. --

**The Psychology of Terrorism** Springer Nature

An eye-opening, revisionist analysis of the social and psychological roots of violence argues that violence should be approached as a problem in public health and preventative medicine, rather than one of biological or moral origins, and that shame is the common denominator that links violent perpetrators. [Accounts of Disengagement from Radical and Extremist Movements](#) Routledge

Responding directly to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, an outstanding interdisciplinary group of academics, clinicians, and activists from around the world united to produce this clear exploration of terrorism.

[International Handbook of War, Torture, and Terrorism](#) Routledge

In contrast to the widely held assumption that terrorists as crazed fanatics, Jerrold Post demonstrates they are psychologically "normal" and that "hatred has been bred in the bone". He reveals the powerful motivations that drive these ordinary people to such extraordinary evil by exploring the different types of terrorists, from national-separatists like the Irish Republican Army to social revolutionary terrorists like the Shining Path, as well as religious extremists like al-Qaeda and Aum Shinrikyo. In *The Mind of the Terrorist*, Post uses his expertise to explain how the terrorist mind works and how this information can help us to combat terrorism more effectively.

[Blood That Cries Out From the Earth](#) Oxford University Press, USA

Responding directly to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, an outstanding interdisciplinary group of academics, clinicians, and activists from around the world united to produce this clear exploration of terrorism.

[Public and Government Responses to Attack](#) Springer Science & Business Media

*Investigating Terrorism* takes a look behind the closed doors of terrorist cases. Major players from the world of counter-terrorism, including politicians, lawyers, psychologists and police, offer analyses of recent terror attacks and share their knowledge of terrorist behaviour Deals with legal, psychological and practical issues surrounding how to deal with a real life 'ticking bomb' scenario Provides an insight into the most recent police model for interviewing witnesses, victims and suspects Contains the latest analyses of recent terrorist attacks including the recent Norwegian tragedy carried out by terrorist Anders Breivik Contains the views of major players in the world of counter-terrorism, including Lord Carlile, the former HMG's Independent Reviewer of Terrorist legislation, and Peter Clarke, the recently retired Head of Terrorist Investigations for the UK Incorporates recently-released findings from studies commissioned by New Scotland Yard to study the effectiveness of police interviews with terrorist suspects Includes chapters discussing the context in which people become suicide bombers

[Profiling and CounterAction](#) Routledge

This text explores the emotions of despair, fear and anger that arose after the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and

the Pentagon in the Autumn of 2001. The authors analyse reactions to the attacks through the lens of terror management theory, an existential psychological model that explains why humans react the way they do to the threat of death and how this reaction influences their post-threat cognition and emotion. The theory provides ways to understand and reduce terrorism's effect and possibly find resolutions to conflicts involving terrorism. The authors focus primarily on the reaction in the US to the 9/11 attack, but their model is applicable to all instances of terrorism, and they expand their discussion to include the Israeli-Palastinian conflict.

**The Psychology of Religious Terrorism** Createspace Independent Pub

This volume examines the psychological factors, environments, and social factors contributing to identification with extremist identities and ideologies. Incorporating recent findings on interpersonal relationships, emotions, and social identity, the book aims to improve understanding of what makes individuals vulnerable to extremism. It concludes with a discussion of the intricacies of identification with extremist groups, a proposal for de-radicalization, and a call for awareness as a means to resist polarization. Chapters highlight interdisciplinary research into specific concepts and behaviors that can lead to extremism, addressing topics such as: ● Homogamy, tribalism and the desire to belong ● Shared hatred in strong group identities ● The impact of emotional contagion on personal relationships ● Dehumanization across political party lines An in-depth exploration of an increasingly divisive modern issue, *The Psychology of Extremism* is an essential resource for researchers and students across social psychology, sociology, political psychology, and political science.

**Psychology of Terrorism** John Wiley & Sons

The Oklahoma City bombing, intentional crashing of airliners on September 11, 2001, and anthrax attacks in the fall of 2001 have made Americans acutely aware of the impacts of terrorism. These events and continued threats of terrorism have raised questions about the impact on the psychological health of the nation and how well the public health infrastructure is able to meet the psychological needs that will likely result. *Preparing for the Psychological Consequences of Terrorism* highlights some of the critical issues in responding to the psychological needs that result from terrorism and provides possible options for intervention. The committee offers an example for a public health strategy that may serve as a base from which plans to prevent and respond to the psychological consequences of a variety of terrorism events can be formulated. The report includes recommendations for the training and education of service providers, ensuring appropriate guidelines for the protection of service providers, and developing public health surveillance for preevent, event, and postevent factors related to psychological consequences.

**The Oxford Handbook of Terrorism** OUP USA

The Oxford Handbook of Terrorism systematically integrates the substantial body of scholarship on terrorism and counterterrorism before and after 9/11. In doing so, it introduces scholars and practitioners to state of the art approaches, methods, and issues in studying and teaching these vital phenomena. This Handbook goes further than most existing collections by giving structure and direction to the fast-growing but somewhat disjointed field of terrorism studies. The volume locates terrorism within the wider spectrum of political violence instead of engaging in the widespread tendency towards treating terrorism as an exceptional act. Moreover, the volume makes a case for studying terrorism within its socio-historical context. Finally, the volume addresses the critique that the study of terrorism suffers from lack of theory by reviewing and extending the theoretical insights contributed by several fields - including political science, political economy, history, sociology, anthropology, criminology, law, geography, and psychology. In doing so, the volume showcases the analytical advancements and reflects on the challenges that remain since the emergence of the field in the early 1970s.

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