



THE ECOLOGY OF VIOLENT EXTREMISM

PERSPECTIVES ON PEACEBUILDING
AND HUMAN SECURITY

**EDITED BY
LISA SCHIRCH**



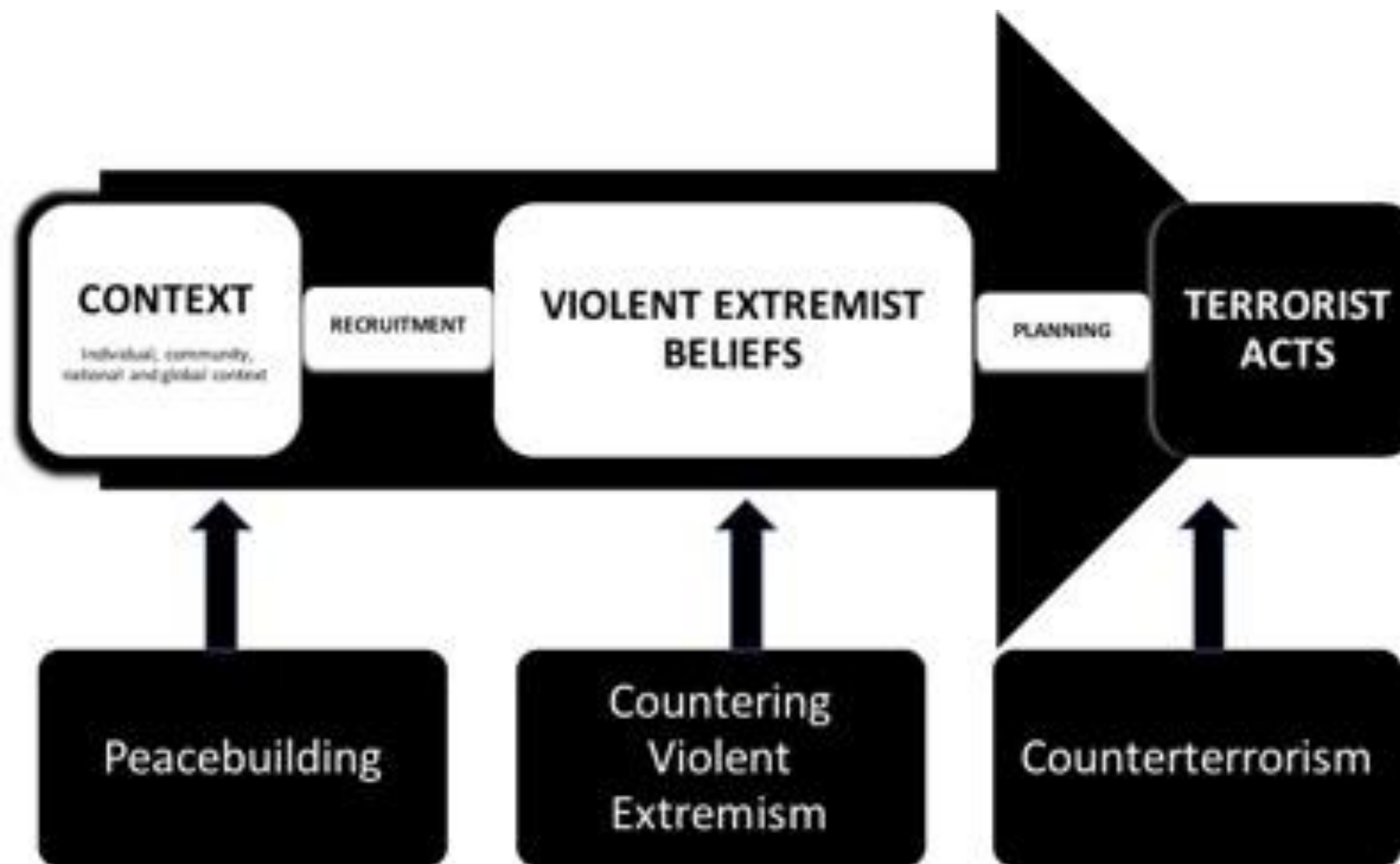
Course Objectives

- Compare and contrast different definitions of violent extremism
- Identify 25 factors that relate to violent extremism
- Identify three categories of interventions to violent extremism
- Identify the dangers, risks and unintended impacts of interventions to stop violent extremism
- Practice using planning tools to identify complementary and coordinated programs to respond to violent extremism



The VE System

- Violent extremism (VE) takes place within social, political, economic, religious, cultural, and environmental systems.
- Violent extremism results from a variety of diverse and often interrelated causes, including recruitment, individual motivations, factors in the national and global context, and impacts from VE interventions.
- There are no quick fixes for violent extremism. There are a variety of different interventions that aim to prevent or stop VE.



Defining Terrorism #1

CIVILIANS

- An attack on civilians and civilian property
- What is a civilian?



Defining Terrorism #2

State vs Non-State Actors

- Legal authority to use violence?
- No intention to kill civilians – collateral damage
- State Terrorism
- State-sponsored Terrorism



Deaths from Terrorism in 2016	Deaths from violent conflict in 2016	Deaths from heart disease in 2015	Deaths from traffic accidents in 2015	Deaths from opioid overdose in US in 2016
25,000+	157,000+	15 million	1.3 million	42,000


Terrorism is not scary because it kills more people than other social problems.

The death toll from terrorism is equal to, or possibly a third less than the death toll from counterterrorism.

<i>Annual death toll from terrorism in 2000</i>	<i>Average annual death toll from terrorism since 2013</i>	<i>Conservative estimate of average annual death toll from war on terror from 2001-2016</i>	<i>Approximate death toll from war on terror from 2001-2016</i>
Less than 5000	25,000-33,000	24,666	370,000 to 1 million

The economic impact of terrorism is less than the economic impact of counterterrorism

<i>Cost to plan and carry out a terror attack in Europe</i>	<i>Global impact of terrorism between 2001-2016</i>	<i>US spending on counterterrorism between 2000-2017</i>	<i>Amount that would have been saved if peacebuilding funded for 10 most at-risk countries</i>
<i>\$10 thousand</i>	<i>\$724 billion</i>	<i>Between \$1.7 and \$5.6 trillion</i>	<i>\$552 billion</i>

The background features a series of concentric, curved lines in a light gray color, creating a sense of motion and depth. These lines are more prominent on the left side of the image and fade towards the right.

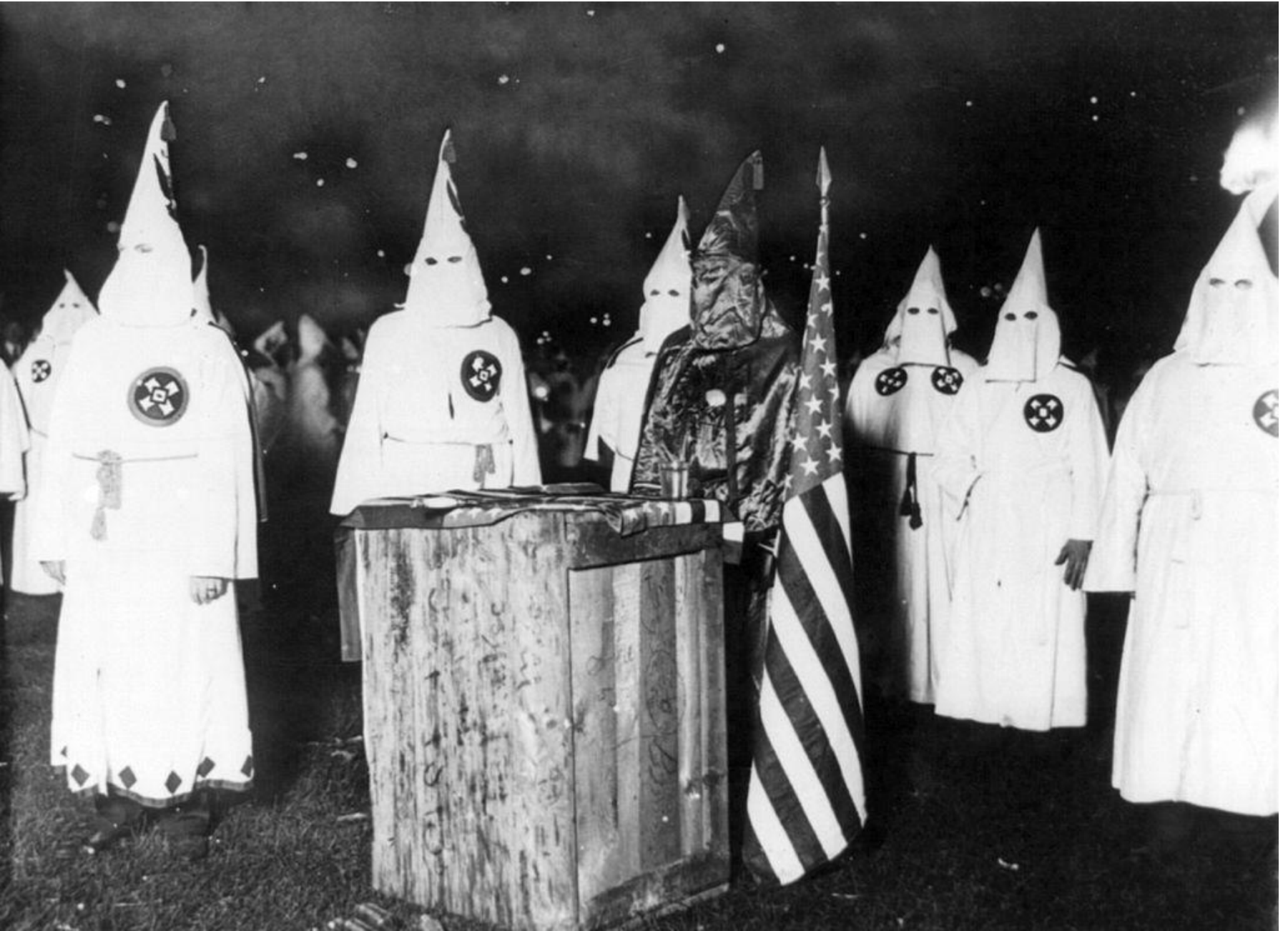
*The increase in
terrorism and
counterterrorism
correlates with a
decrease in political
rights and civic
freedoms*



Characteristics of Violent Extremism

- Violence is a necessary strategy
 - Tactical superiority
 - Redemptive
- Civilian Targets
 - Purification
 - Responsibility
- Authoritarian Narrative
 - Intolerant
 - Patriarchal
 - Authoritarian
- Ideological Goals
 - Ideological identity
 - Response to grievance

Ku Klux Klan (KKK)



Orlando Shooter/ISIS



Kahanists



Kenyan Human Rights Organization



Black Lives Matter



Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND)



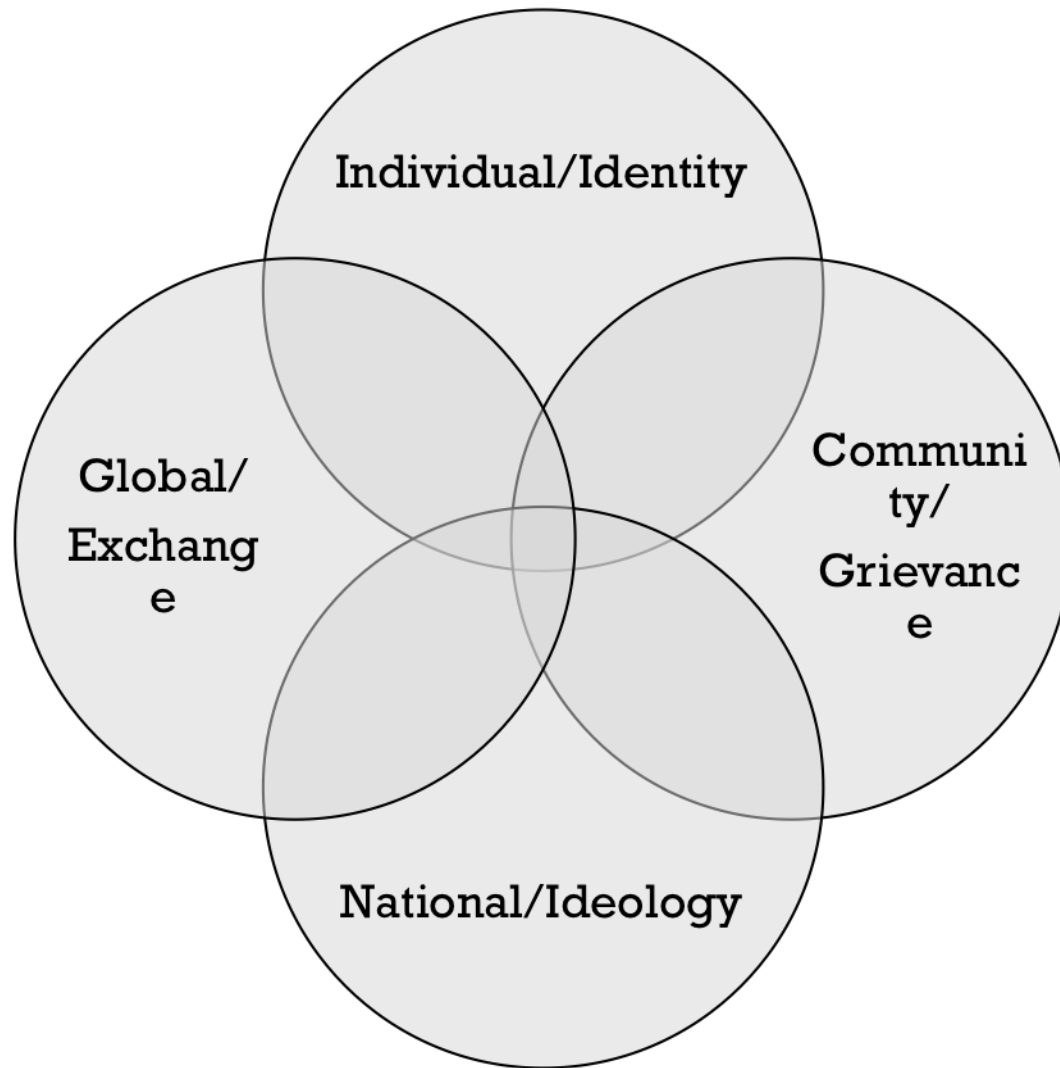
Bangladesh Political Violence





OREGON ANTI-GOVERNMENT MILITIA STANDOFF

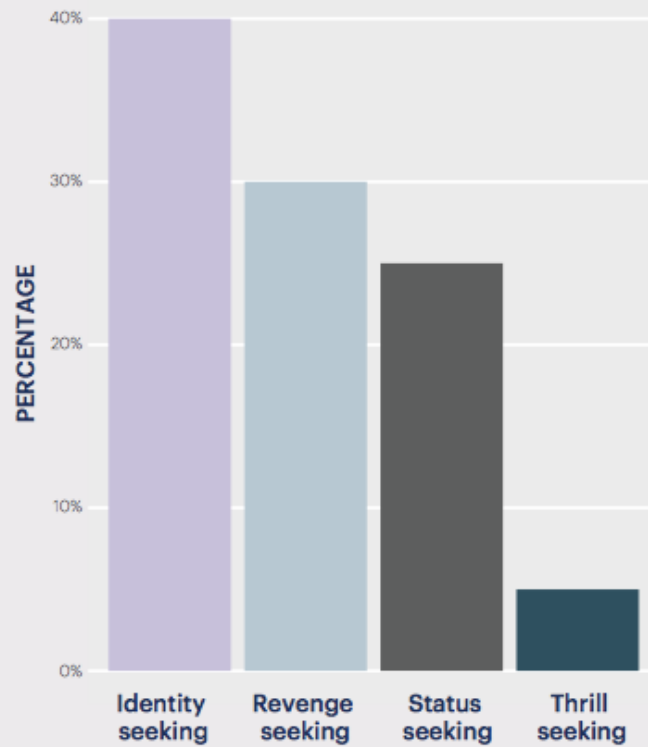
	Ideological Goals	Superiority Narrative Intolerant of Diversity	Belief in Brutal Violence Against Civilians	Violent Extremists ?
White nationalists	X	X	X	Yes
Orlando Shooter/ISIS	X	X	X	Yes
Kahanists	X	X	X	Yes
Kenyan Human Rights Organizations	X			No
Black Lives Matter	X			No
US School Shooters		X	X	No



Individual Identity Context		
VE Factor	Description	Theories of Change
Adventure, Significance	Desire for exotic travel or new experiences and sense of glory	Opportunities for travel; creation of new “hero” groups
Social Isolation	Sense of isolation and desire for group membership	Civic engagement, sports, arts, and other groups to provide belonging
Transition and Migration	Uprooted community with unsettled or unpredictable future	Psycho-social support services; community organizing
Fear	Perception of attacks on one’s religion or identity	Affirmation for identity groups; human rights education; dialogue
Humiliation	Perception of disrespect & desire for power for revenge and to gain respect	Symbolic gestures of respect; principle of dignity and human rights in all interventions
Mental Health, Hormones	Biological and physical aspects that contribute to VE beliefs	Community support to channel bio-physical aspects; Psycho-social support services and trauma recovery programs
Sex	Sexual rewards for participating in terrorism	Gender awareness training; organized sports activities
Gender Roles	Social norms for men and women encourage participation in VE	Gender awareness training; inclusion of women in VE interventions

FIGURE 41 MOTIVATIONS FOR FOREIGN FIGHTERS JOINING AL-QA'IDA, 2010

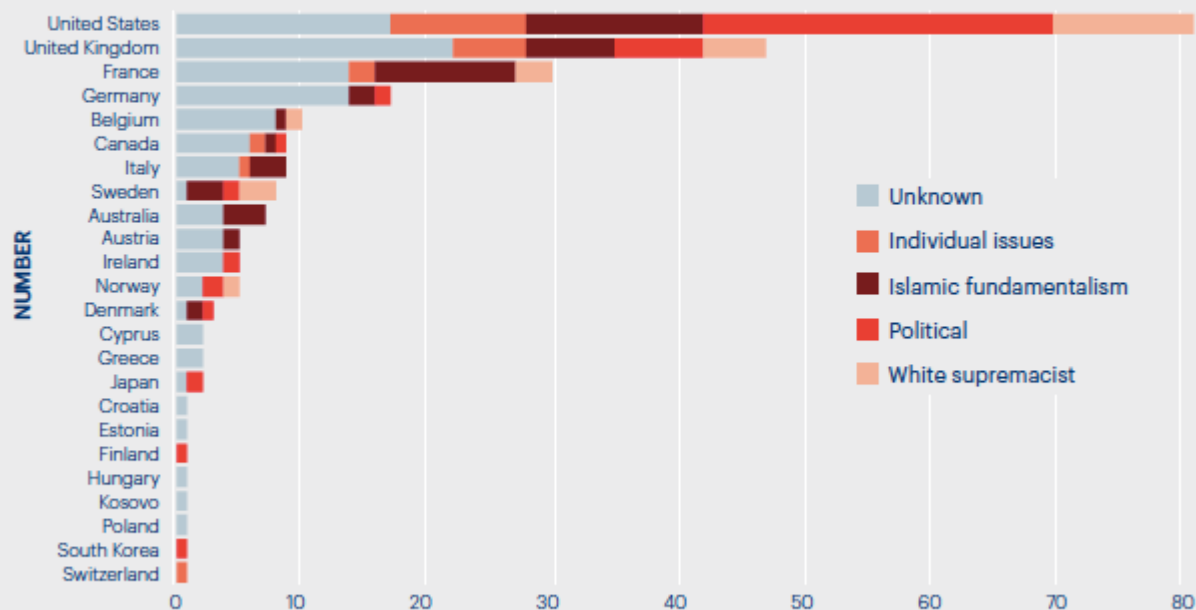
Identity was the largest reason that foreign fighters joined al-Qa'ida, followed by anger, status and thrill seeking.



Source: USIP

FIGURE 4.6 MOTIVATIONS FOR LONE ACTOR TERRORIST ATTACKS, OECD, 2008-JUNE 2017

Political factors and Islamic fundamentalism are equally motivating factors in the terrorist attacks that have been carried out in OECD countries since 2008.

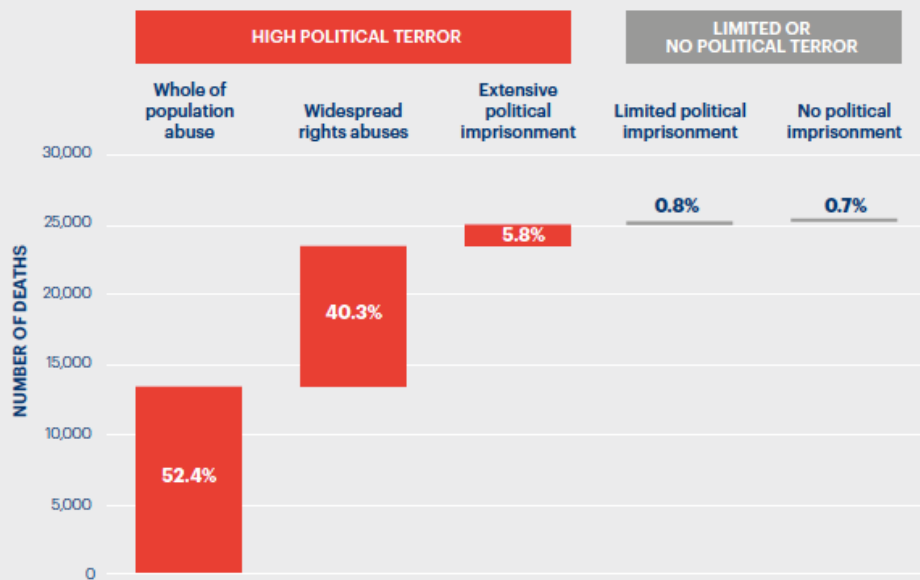


Source: IEP calculations

Community Grievance Context		
VE Factor	Description	Theories of Change
General VE grievances	Public grievances against the state	Counterterrorism/CVE counter-narratives to alter perceptions
		Nonviolent civil resistance to push for changes to address grievances
		Improve state-society relationship with peacebuilding efforts
Political Grievances	Civil War or Insurgency with armed groups	Political peace process with DDR
	Perception that state power is elite-captured	Democratic reforms and participatory governance
	Perception that Western countries dominate global politics	Reform global political institutions to increase representation and empowerment of non-Western states
	Graft, bribery and corruption to favor elites	Reform of national governance to increase transparency
	State military or police repression of population and/or inability to protect people from non-state group threats	Security sector reform to increase adherence to human rights and international humanitarian law, and civilian oversight and human security
Economic Grievances	Relative deprivation between groups, perceived inequality with structural privileges	State grants to community for community-led sustainable economic development
	Money or other financial incentives	Promotion of private sector growth and job creation
	Perception that trade system favors wealthy nations	Economic and trade reforms to support fair trade
Social grievances	Weak relational ties between social groups and strong relational ties within	Inter-group dialogue, programs to enhance social well-being
	Perception of social exclusion	Social cohesion programs

FIGURE 4.1 NUMBER OF DEATHS FROM TERRORISM BY LEVEL OF POLITICAL TERROR, 2016

In 2016, 98.5% of deaths from terrorism occurred in countries with high levels of political terror.



Source: START GTD, Political Terror Scale, IEP calculations

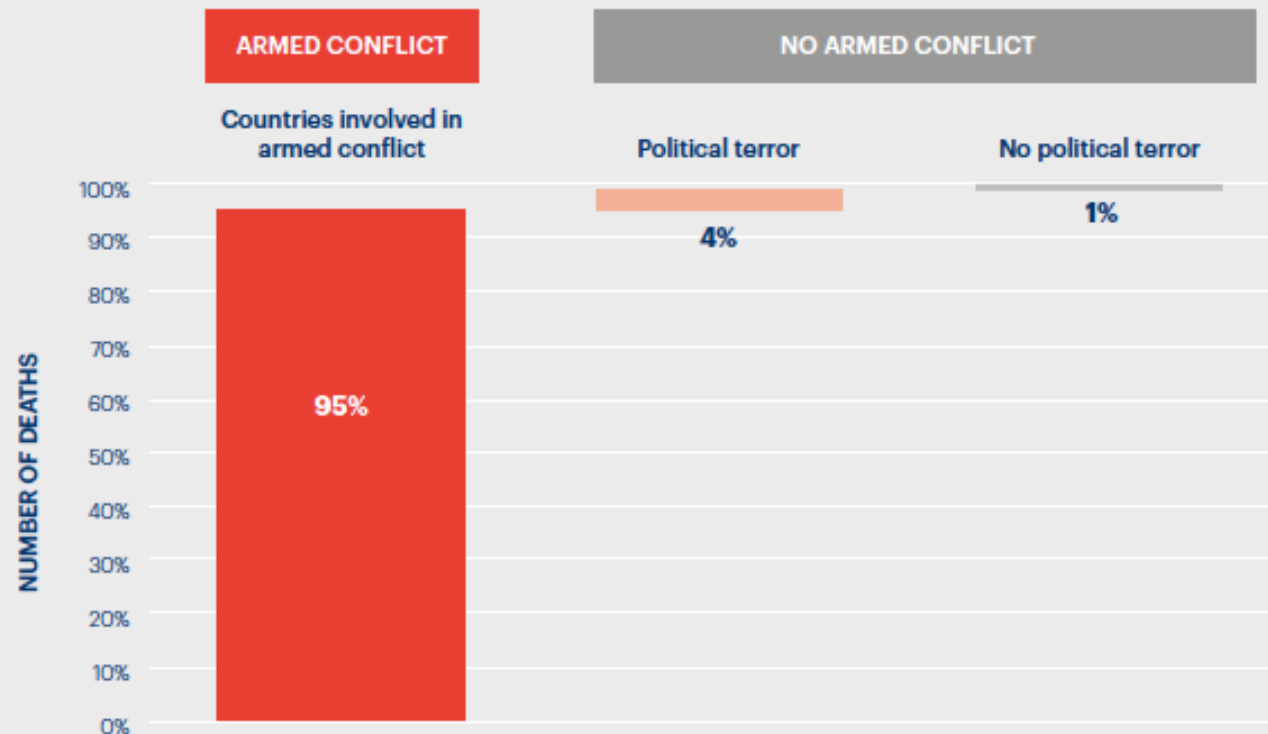
The overwhelming majority of terrorism occurs in countries that

fall into two categories;

- countries involved in an armed conflict, or
- countries with high levels of political terror.

FIGURE 4.2 PERCENTAGE OF DEATHS FROM TERRORISM THAT OCCURRED IN COUNTRIES IN CONFLICT AND WITH POLITICAL TERROR, 2016

Conflict drives terrorism: 99% of terrorism occurs in countries in conflict or with high levels of political terror.



Source: START GTD, Political Terror Scale, IEP calculations

“Higher levels of political terror, lower respect for human rights, the existence of policies targeting religious freedoms, group grievances, political instability and lower respect for the UN or the EU all correlate with higher levels of terrorism.”

-Global Terrorism

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