

Non-Nuclear WMDs

- Chemical Weapons: A variety of chemicals that are weaponized and used in a military capacity
 - o First significant use: chlorine and mustard gas (used by Germany in WWI)
 - Choking agents (chlorine) destroys lungs
 - Blister agents (mustard gas) destroys skin and causes temporary blindness
 - Nerve agents (sarin) cause paralysis and suffocation; most lethal
 - Incapacitates (tear gas) cause temporary incapacitation
 - o Limited effectiveness against modern prepared militaries
 - o Mostly effective against civilians

Politics of Chemical Weapons

- 1952 Geneva Protocol: banned use, but not possession of chemical weapons
- Chemical Weapons Convention (1997): illegal to possess large quantities of C. weapons
- WMD's of the Poor
- Easiest WMD to obtain and use by terrorist

Non-Nuclear WMDs

- Biological Weapons: living organisms or toxins used to sicken or kill humans, animals or plants
 - o Mongols catapulted soldiers who died from the plague into besieged city (1346)
 - Bacteria (anthrax): can be spread over a large area, but aren't contagious
 - Viruses (smallpox): small impact area, but contagious
 - Toxins/poisons (ricin): used as an assassination weapons

- Too unpredictable for modern military use
- Difficult to use by terrorist groups
 - High risk of self-infection
 - High risk of detection by criminal authorities
 - Cannot stop from killing own supporters/ethnic/religious kin

Politics of Biological Weapons

- Biological and Toxin Weapons Conventions
 - o Bans creation of new biological weapons
 - o Bans production of weapons capable of delivering biological weapons
 - o No inspection mechanism due to large number of labs that work with biological agents

What is Terrorism?

- Definition: a threat or use of violence for political purposes by non-state groups
- Attempt to coerce a targeted government into changing policy
 - o Goal is frequently the end of an occupation
 - o Why not other goals?
- Rely on future costs more than on present damage
- A tactic of the "weak"
 - o I.e. sanctions for prosperous but military weak countries
 - o Impact uncertain, dependent on external responses, and takes a long time to achieve

Terrorist or Freedom Fighter

- Terrorism used by weak for liberation pursued by weak
- The strong in charge of designating terrorist groups
- Terrorism is morally repugnant, attacking enemy is not
 - Intifada: 45% of Palestinians supported terrorism but 90% supported bombing of Israeli clubs and restaurants
- My friends can't be a terrorist but can be a freedom fighter
- Liberation is an objective, terrorism a tactic

Terrorist Motivations

- Regime change: gain control of the government
 - Mostly left wing groups
- Territorial change: establishing a new state/taking another state's territory
 - Mostly ethnic or religious secessionist groups
- Policy change: push a government to change a specific policy
 - Mainly international terrorist groups
- Social control: force domestic groups to become subservient
 - Tend to be socially conservative groups
- Maintain status quo
 - Many anti-revolutionary groups

Rationality of Terrorism

- Reactive - terrorism is justified as a reaction to something
- Terrorist groups often claim their attacks are in retaliation to specific enemy acts
- Terrorists more likely to have been personally affected by conflict