

Organizations and the Turn to Terrorism

Victor Asal
University at Albany

Abstract

Why do some organizations turn to terrorism? What factors determine the intensity of the terrorism that organizations use? This presentation draws from two projects to provide some insights into these critical questions. Using data from the Minorities at Risk Organizational Behavior database of ethnic organizations in the Middle East we examine those organizational factors that predict an increased likelihood that an organization will use terrorism as one of its political repertoires. Using Data from the National Memorial Institute for the Prevention of Terrorism database to examine those factors that predict the lethality and tactical choices of terrorist organizations worldwide from 1998-2005.