

START



National Consortium for the
Study of Terrorism and
for homeland security policymakers and practitioners
Responses to Terrorism

Gary LaFree
Director

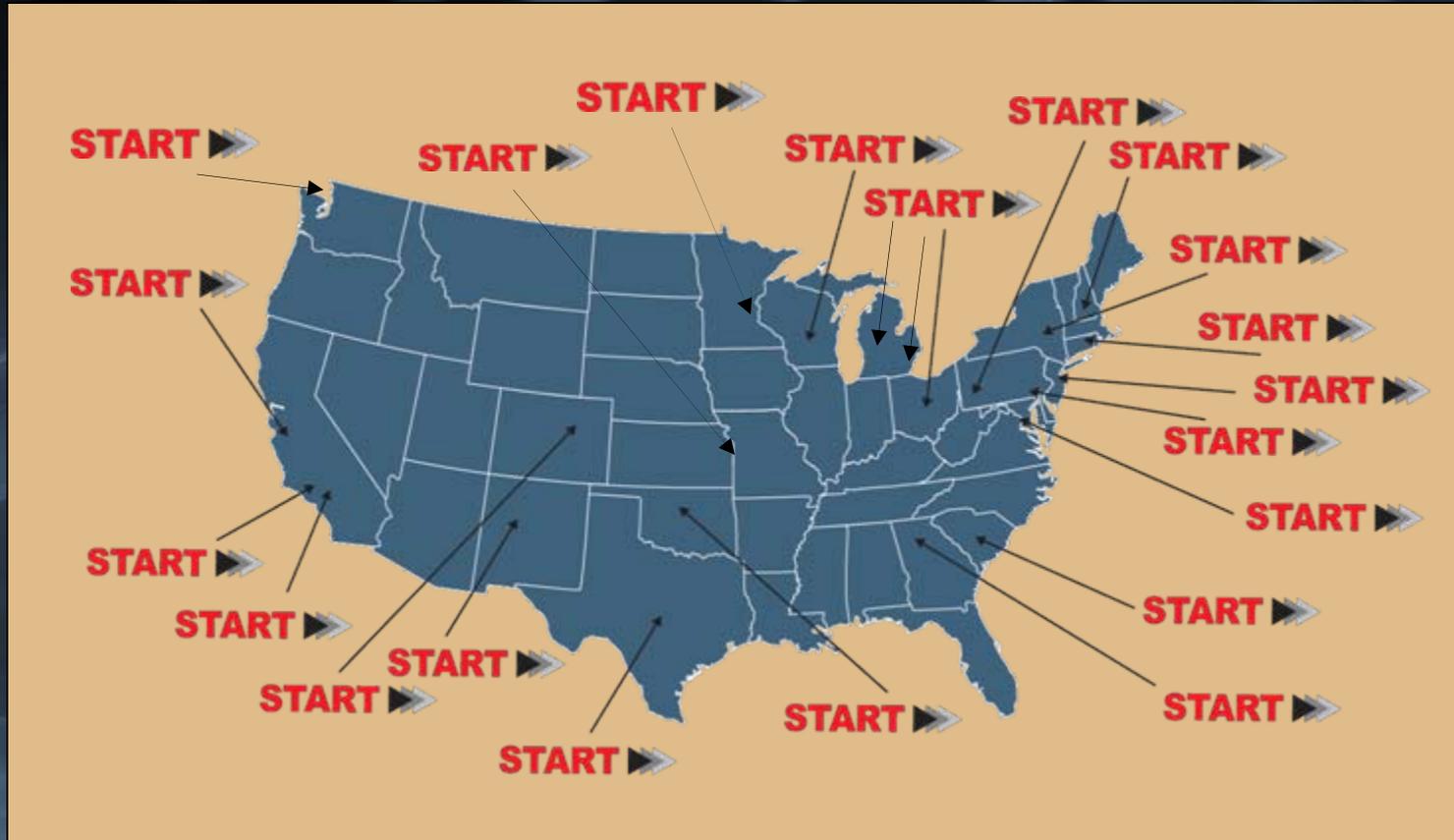
Second Annual DHS University Network Summit
20 March 2008

START Mission

Harnessing the methods and resources of the social sciences to better understand:

- The formation of terrorist groups,
- The dynamics of terrorist groups, and
- The social and psychological impacts of terrorism.

START Consortium



START ➤➤ *Abroad:* Australia, Israel, Italy, France, Peru, Sweden, UK

HFD and START

“**Human Factors** will apply the social and behavioral sciences to improve detection, analysis, and the understanding of threats posed by individuals, groups, and radical movements.”

~ *HFD Mission Statement*



START conducts basic research on the human causes and consequences of terrorism, using theories, methods, and concepts of the social and behavioral sciences.

~ *START Mission*

START...turning terrorism data into knowledge

- Global Databases
- National Databases
- International Surveys
- National Surveys
- Strategic Case Studies and Field Work
- Data Archives

Global Databases



- Global Terrorism Database

- Minorities at Risk/Organizational Behavior (MAROB) Dataset



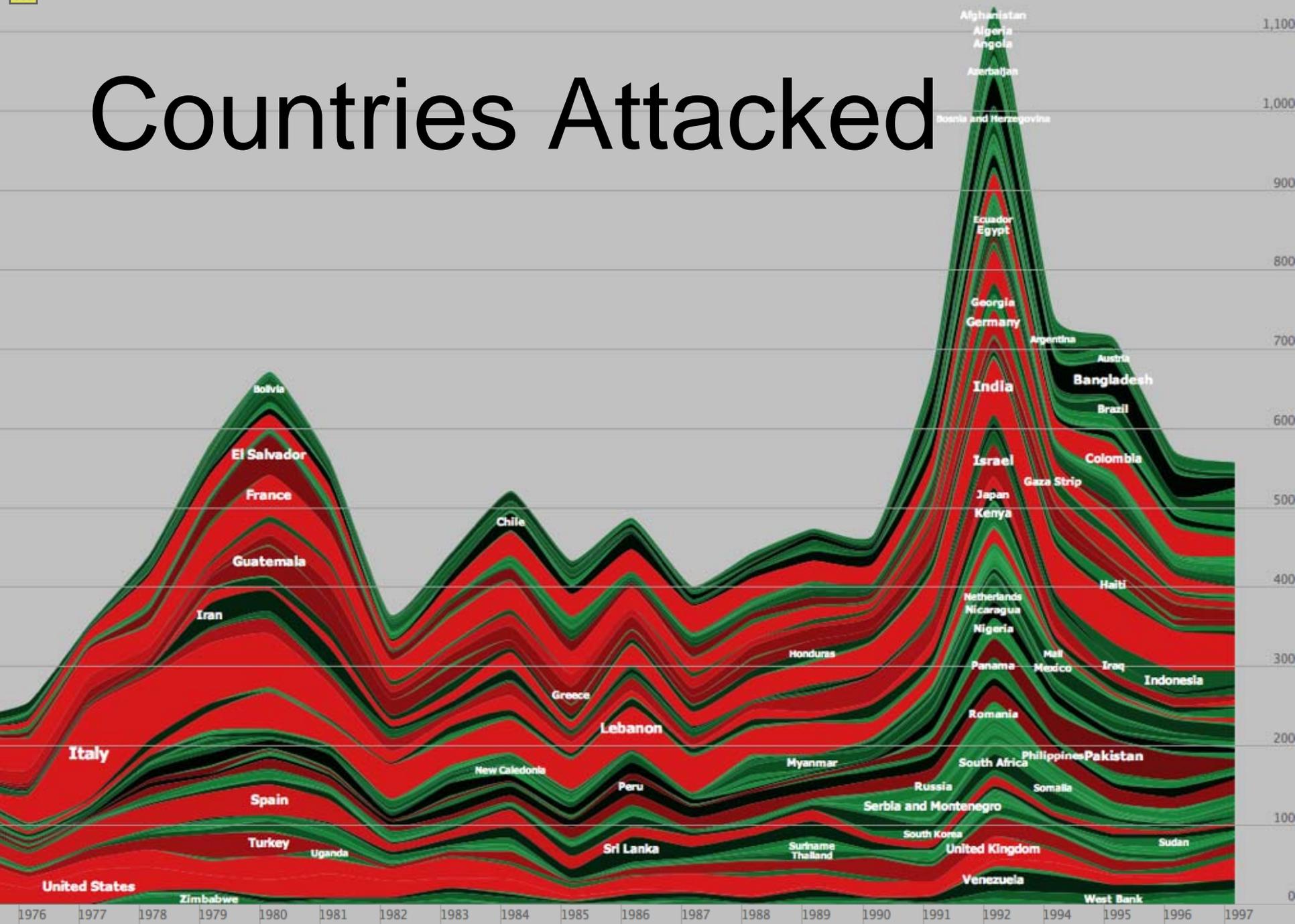
The Global Terrorism Database (GTD)

- The longest and most comprehensive terrorist incident database ever assembled, with incidents from 1970 to 2004; real time by February 2009.
- Thus far, GTD contains **80,000+ incidents**, with up to **128 data fields** per incident = more than **6,000,000 data points**.

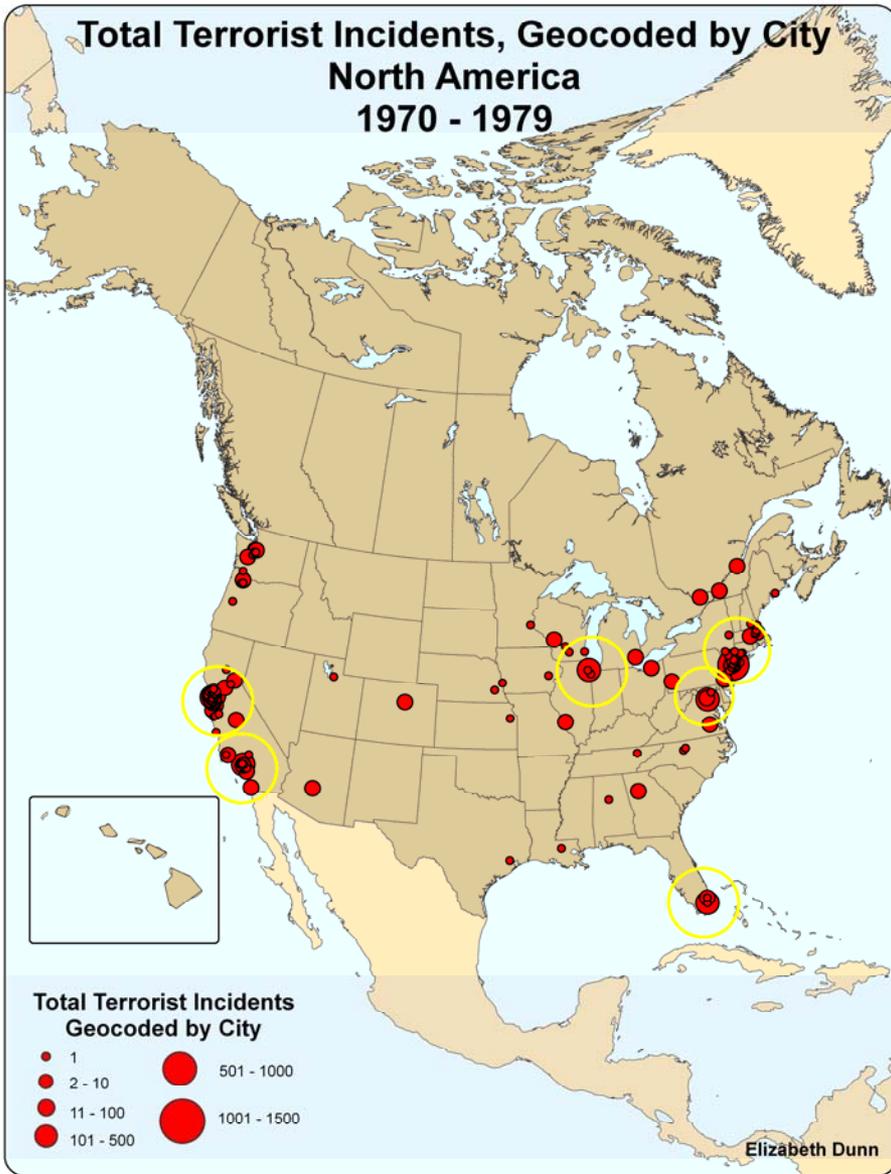




Countries Attacked



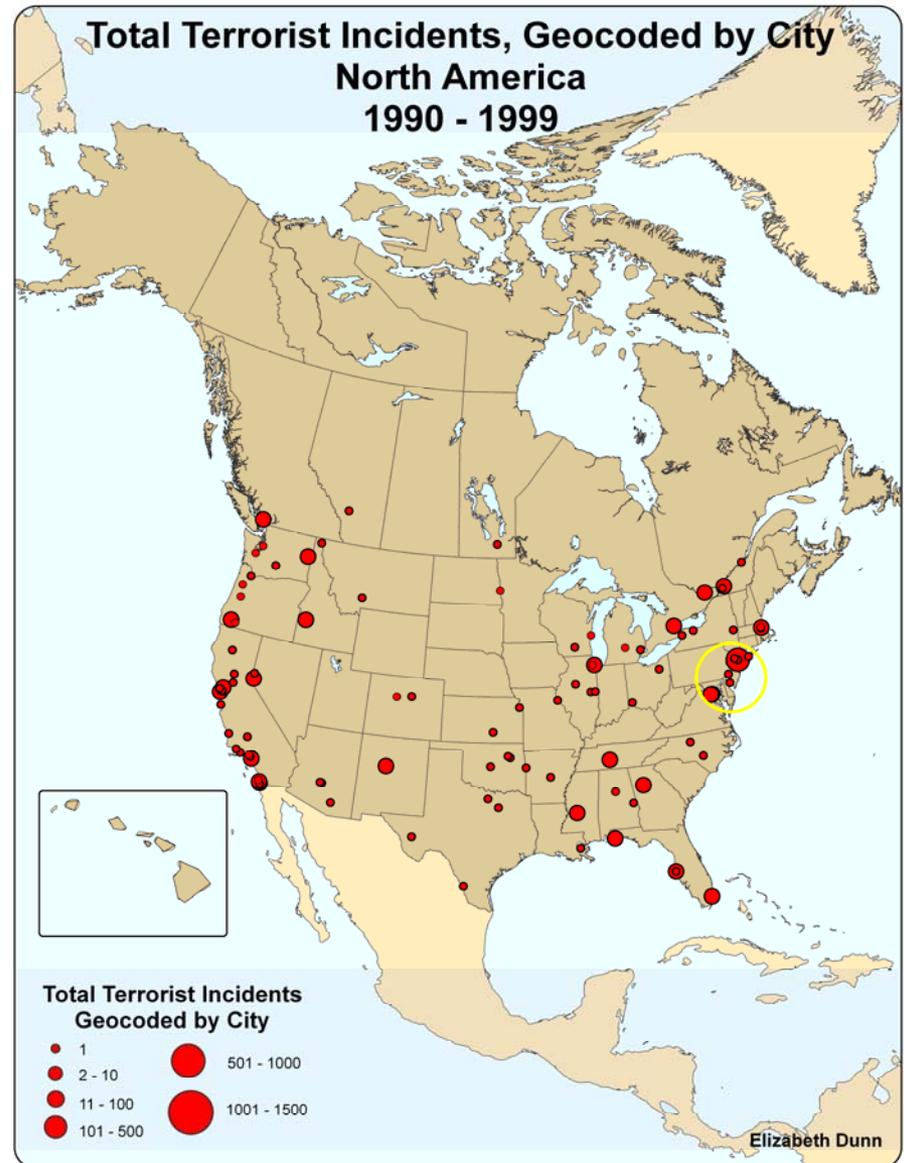
**Total Terrorist Incidents, Geocoded by City
North America
1970 - 1979**



1970-1979

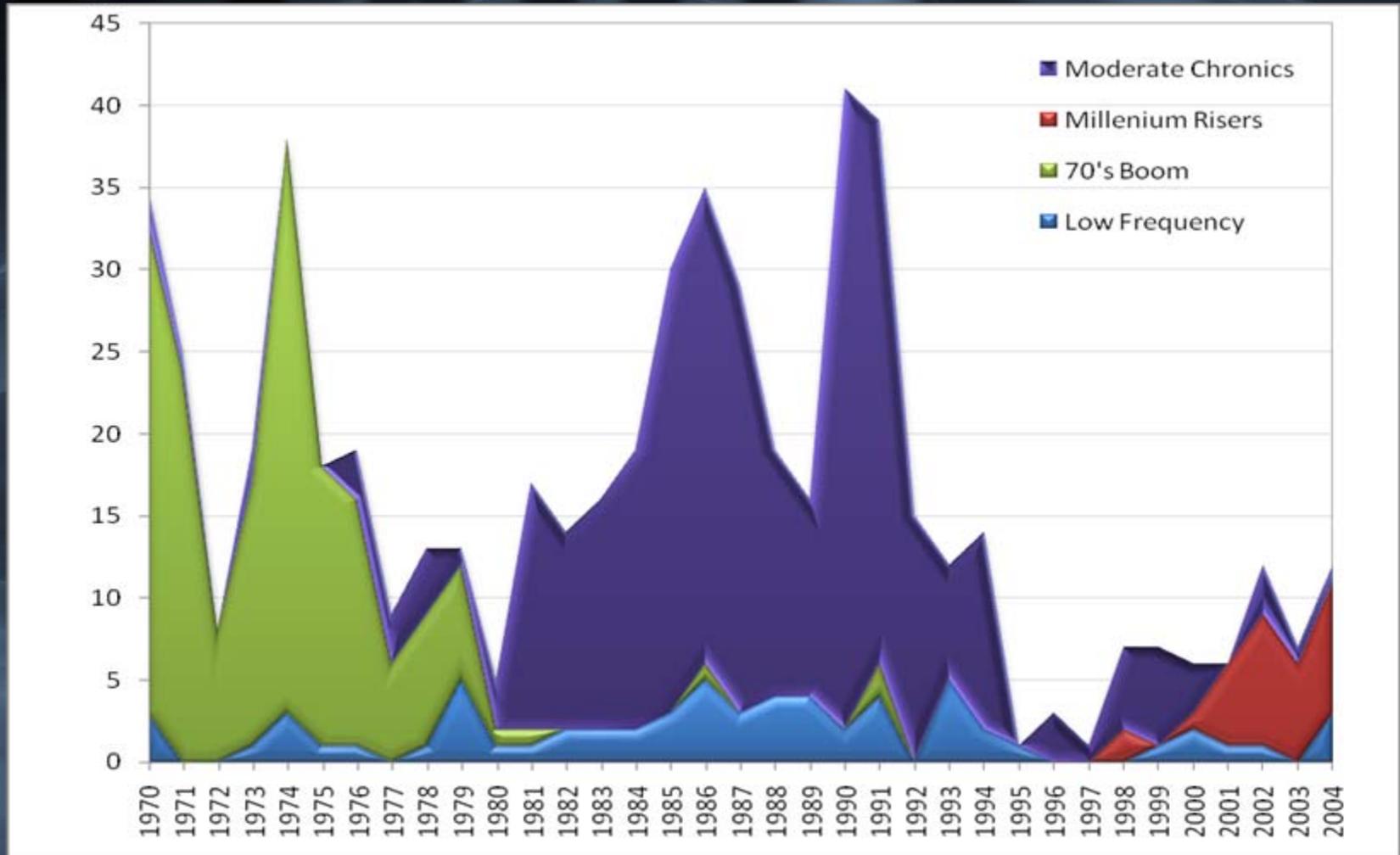
1990-1999

**Total Terrorist Incidents, Geocoded by City
North America
1990 - 1999**



START

Terrorist Attack Trajectories Against United States



GTD Global Terrorism Database

You are here: Home > GTD2

- Home
- GTD1
- GTD2 Beta**
- Methodology
- Credits
- FAQs
- Contact

SEARCH

Search ?
Advanced Search

BROWSE by

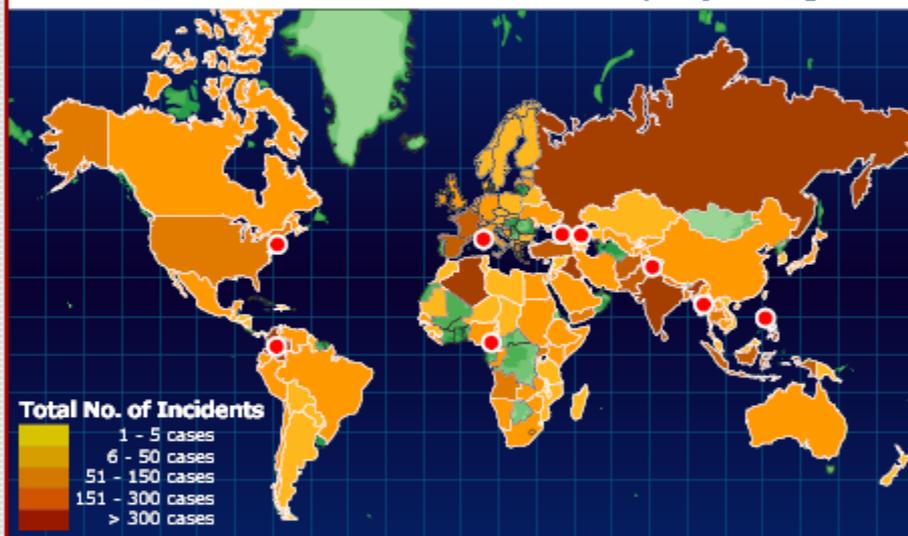
- Date
- Incident Location
- Attack Type
- Target Type
- Perpetrator Type
- Weapon Type
- Casualties

GTD 2 Developed on behalf of START by the Center for Terrorism and Intelligence Studies (CETIS)



Interactive World Map

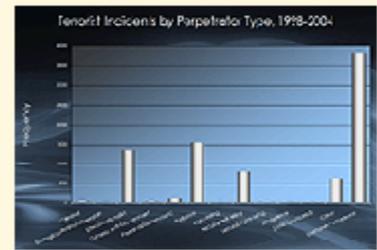
Selected Incidents with Substantial Property Damage



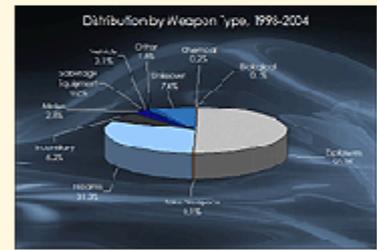
Hover the mouse over an incident point for summary.
Click a incident point to view the full incident page.

- Choose View:
- Property Damage
 - Weapon Type
 - Multiple Incidents
 - Targets
 - Perpetrators
 - Casualties
 - Tactics

Summary Statistics



Incidents by Perpetrator Type



Distribution by Weapon Type

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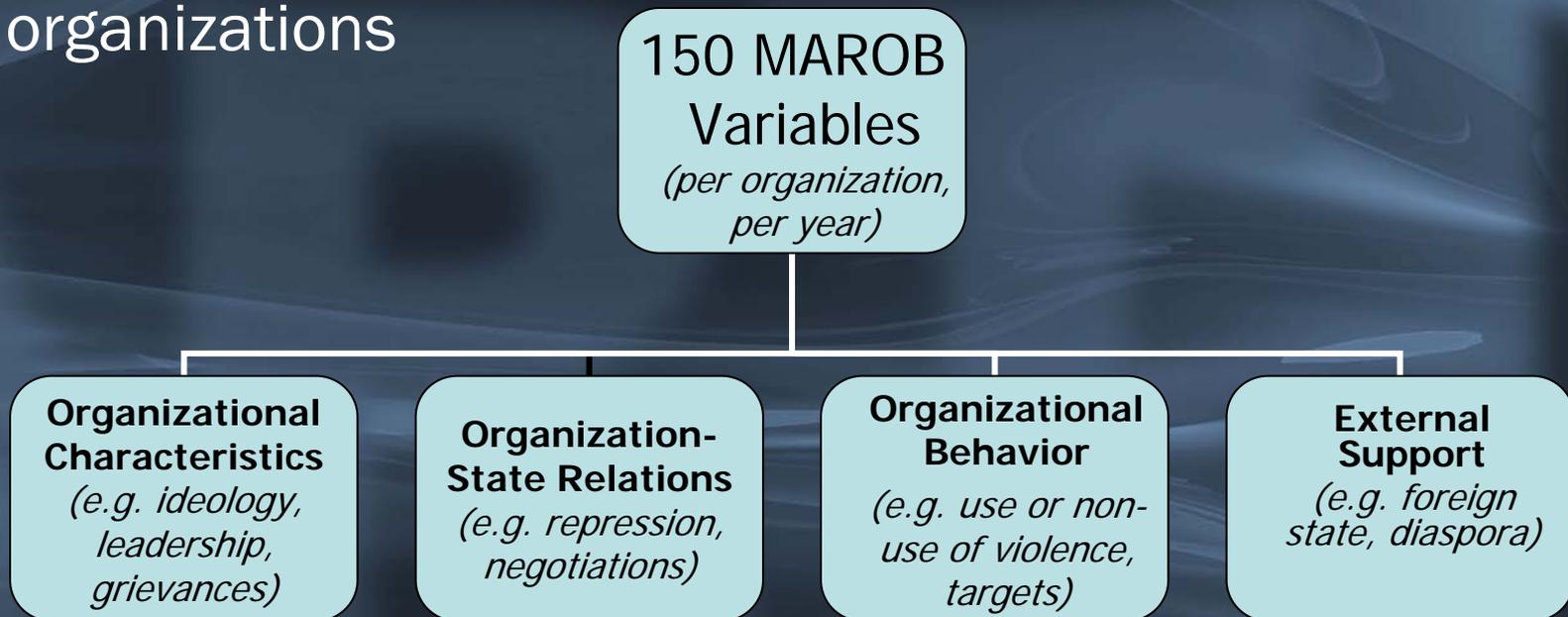


GTD Analysis Presentation

- 4:00pm-5:00pm today
- *Panel:* Research on Radicalization on Terrorism
- *Presentation:* Country Trajectories of Terrorist Activity, Dr. Laura Dugan

Minorities at Risk/Organizational Behavior (MAROB)

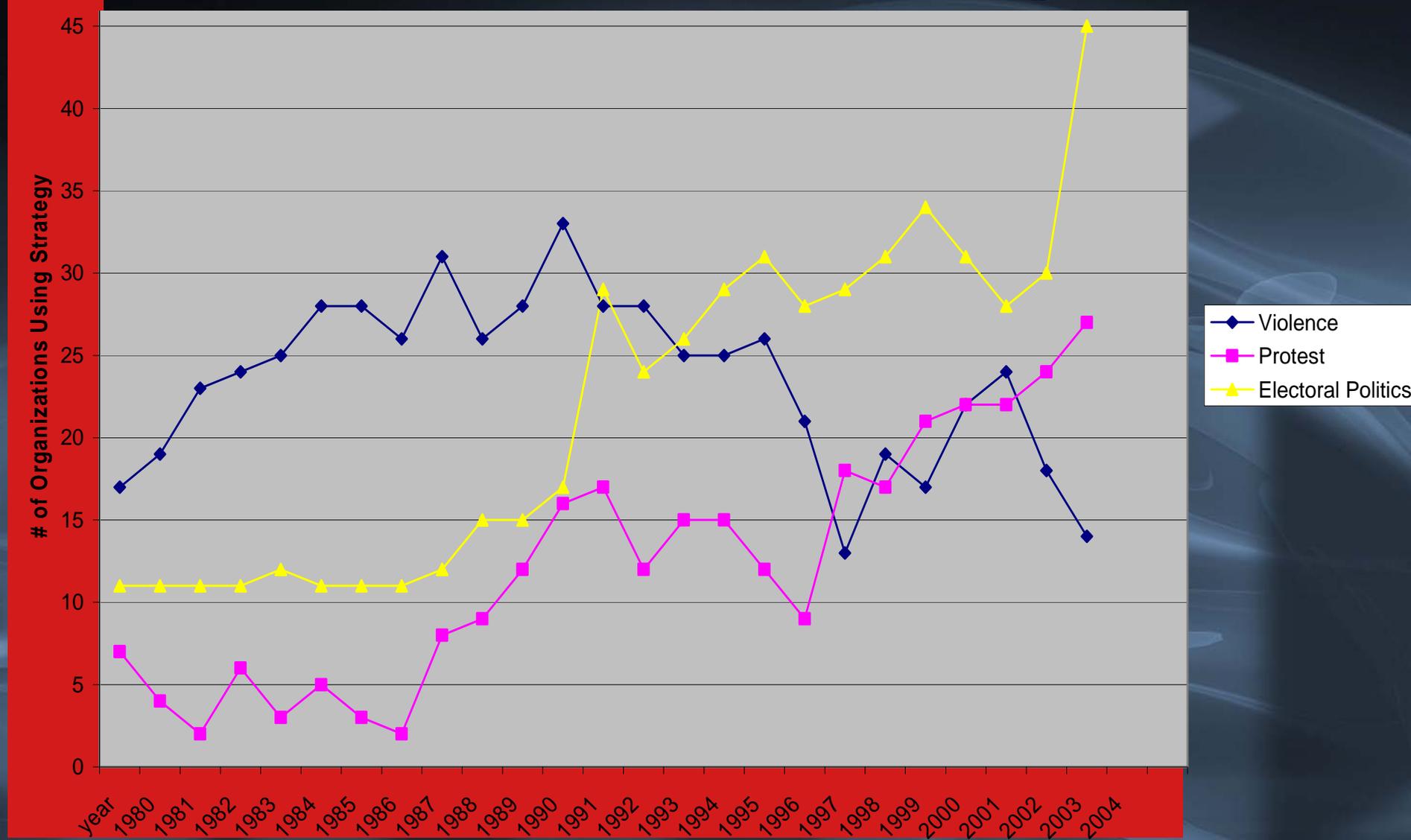
- Focus on organizations that represent the interests of ethnic groups around the world who have experienced state repression
- 300 “minorities at risk” groups → 1900 organizations



MAROB Data Collection and Analysis

- Analysis underway on annual data for 121 organizations in Middle East and North Africa for the years 1980 to 2004
- Data collection underway on Eastern European and Asian groups, with expansion to Latin America (sponsored by DHS S&T International Office), Western Europe, and U.S. planned
- Led by Jonathan Wilkenfeld (University of Maryland) and Victor Asal (University at Albany, SUNY)

Activities of Middle East MAR Organizations



National Data Bases

- US Extremist Activity Data Base
- Vulnerability of US Cities to Terrorism
- Economic impact of terrorism on the US
- Collection of surveys on attitudes towards activism, use of violence, and terrorism in the U.S.

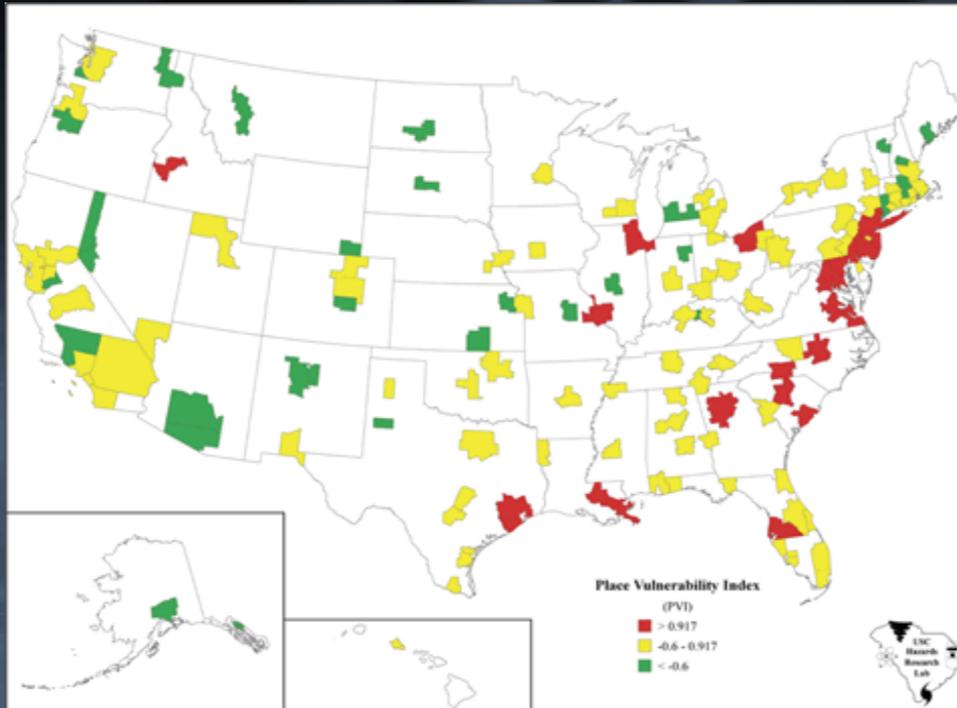
Extremist Crime in the United States

- Event-based data set, including incidents of:

- tax refusal
- gun charges
- land-use violations,
- violations of motor vehicle regulations
- false liens & financial schemes
- abortion-related crimes
- hate-crimes
- anti- pornography attacks
- anti-government attacks
- anti-global strikes,
- possession and planned use of chemical, and biological weapons
- preparatory crimes (e.g. bank robberies, counterfeiting, etc.)

- Includes data on perpetrators (individuals and groups) and on victims (individuals and groups)
- Compiled from unclassified sources
- Led by Joshua D. Freilich (John Jay College) and Steven Chermak (Michigan State University)

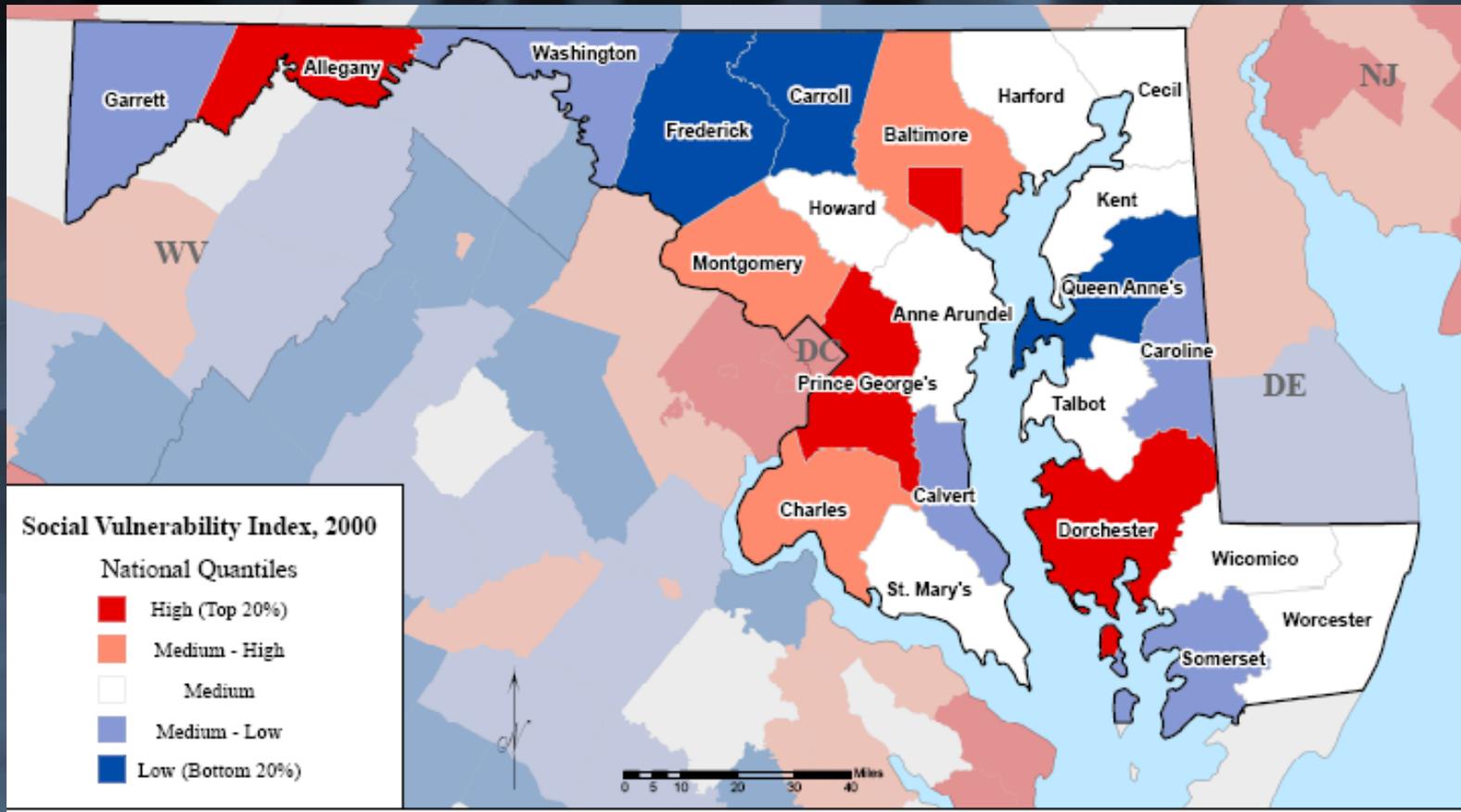
Urban Vulnerability to Terrorism in the United States



High Risk = **red**;
Medium Risk = **yellow**;
Low Risk = **green**

- Risk factors including critical industries, ports, railroads, population, and natural environment analyzed for 132 U.S. cities
- Employs benchmark vulnerability analysis
- Led by Susan Cutter (University of South Carolina) and Walter Piegorsch (University of Arizona)

Social Vulnerability, State of Maryland (2000)



Hazards and Vulnerability Research Institute, University of South Carolina

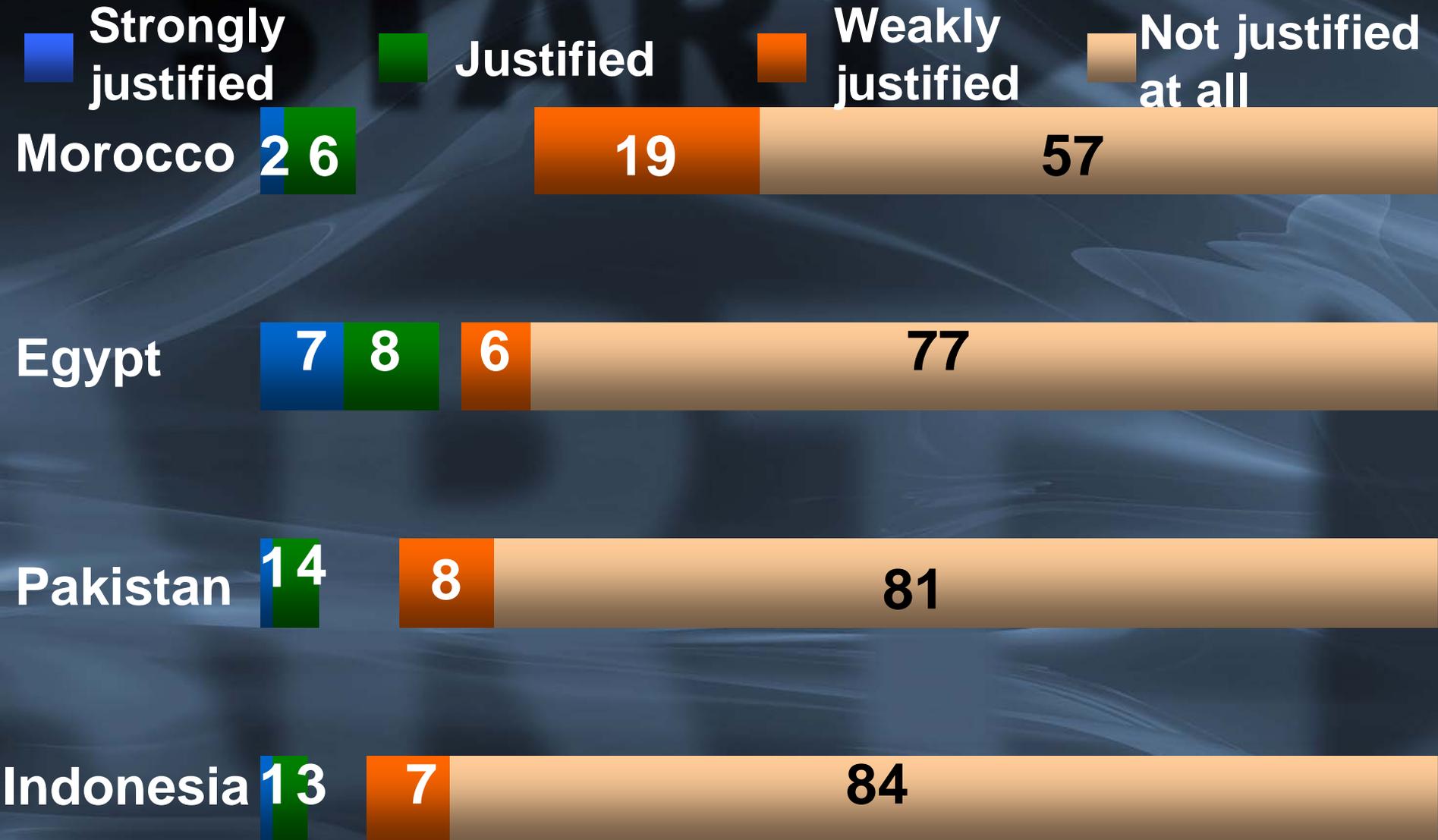
<http://www.cas.sc.edu/geog/hri/index.htm>

International Surveys

- Individual-level data from countries in which there is evidence of support for terrorism directed at the United States
 - Indonesia, Egypt, Morocco, and Pakistan
- Related research questions:
 - What is the general view of the United States and its policies in these countries?
 - Are there links between individuals' perception of the United States and acceptance of use of terrorism?
 - Do attitudes vary according to individual value systems?
- Done in conjunction with Program on International Policy Attitudes

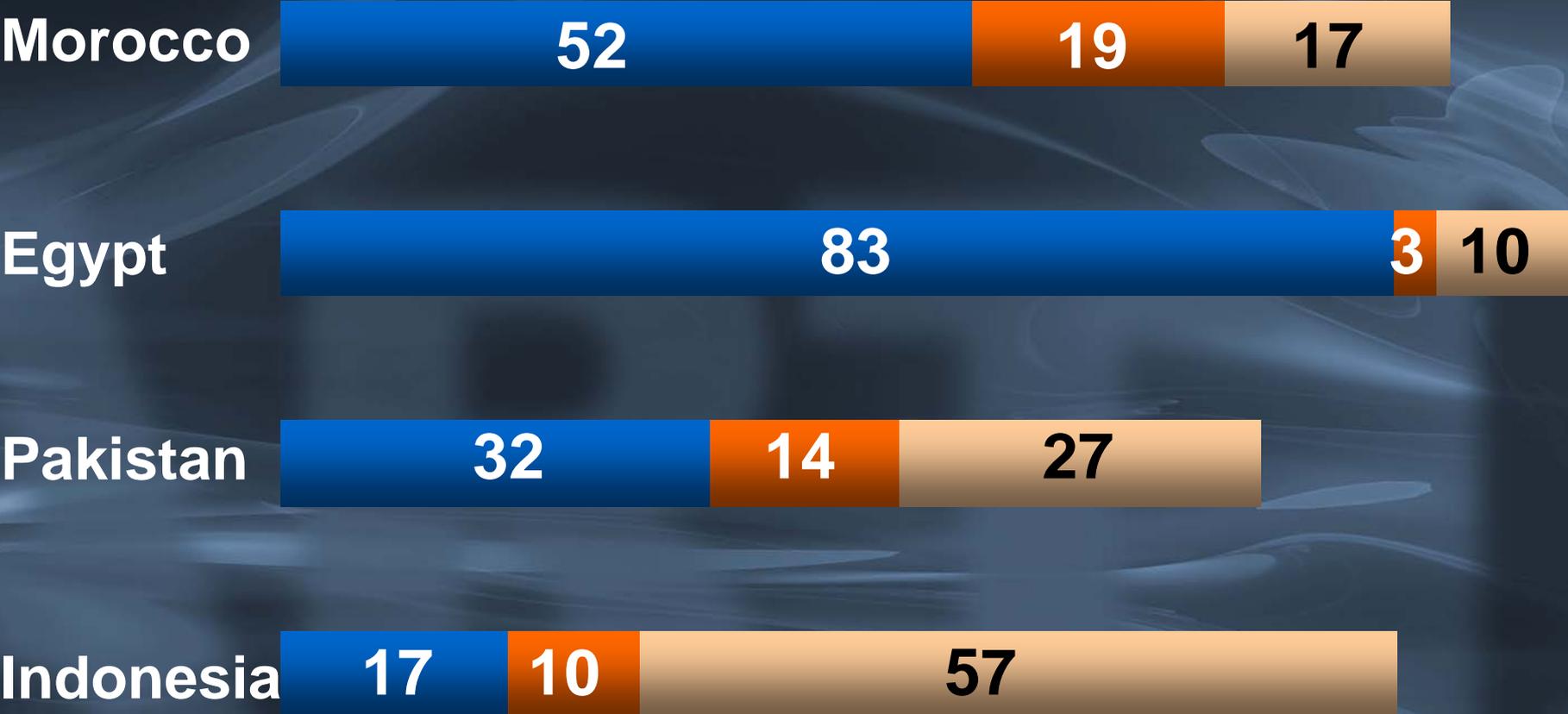
Support for Attacks on Civilians

How justified are attacks on civilians that are carried out in order to achieve political goals?



Support for Attacks on U.S. Troops Based in the Persian Gulf

■ Approve ■ Mixed feelings ■ Disapprove

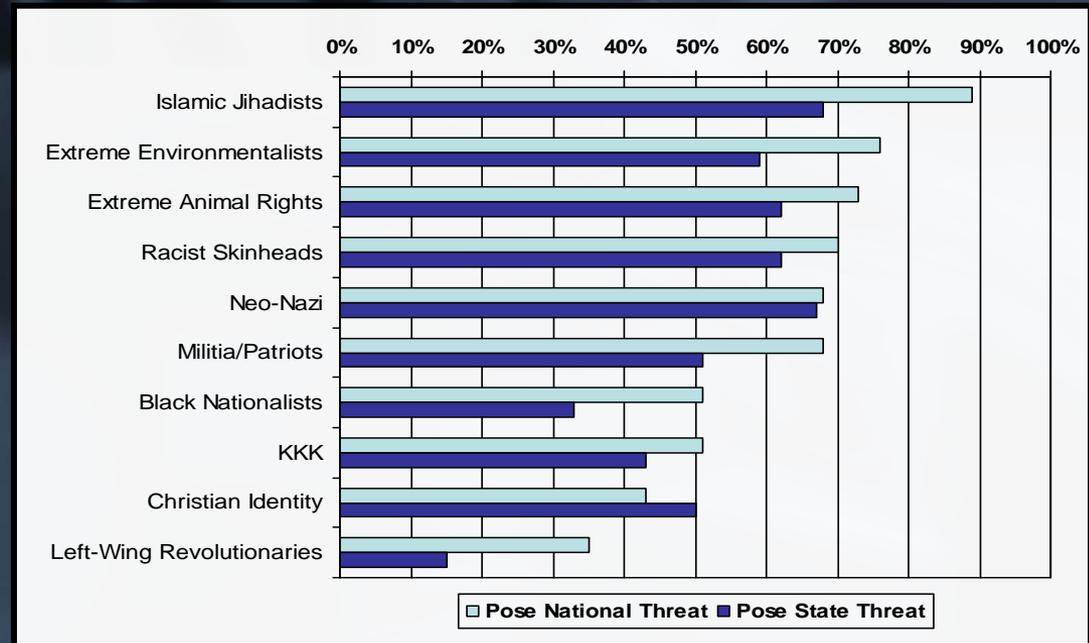


National Surveys

- Survey of State Law Enforcement Agencies
- National Household Survey on Preparedness

Survey of State Law Enforcement Agencies

- Focus on presence of and risk posed by extremist groups
- State officials view Islamic Jihadists as the greatest *national* threat
- Neo-Nazis seen as equal threat to Jihadists at the *state* level
- Two states report evidence of cooperation between Jihadists and far-right groups



- 43 of 50 states have responded
- Project led by Freilich, Chermak, and Joseph Simone (John Jay College)

National Household Survey on Preparedness



Data being collected on:

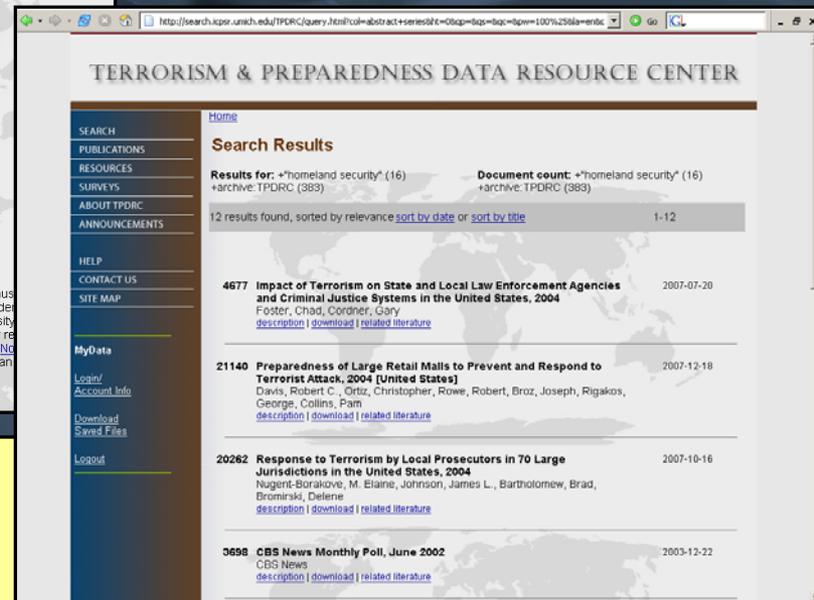
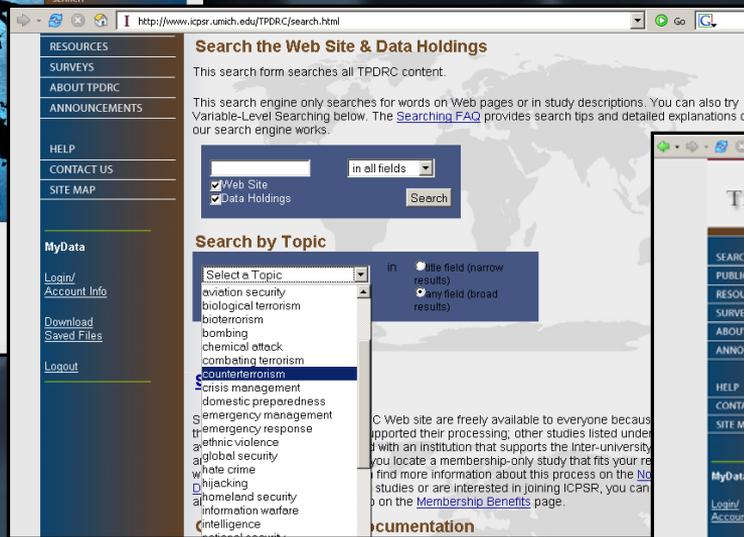
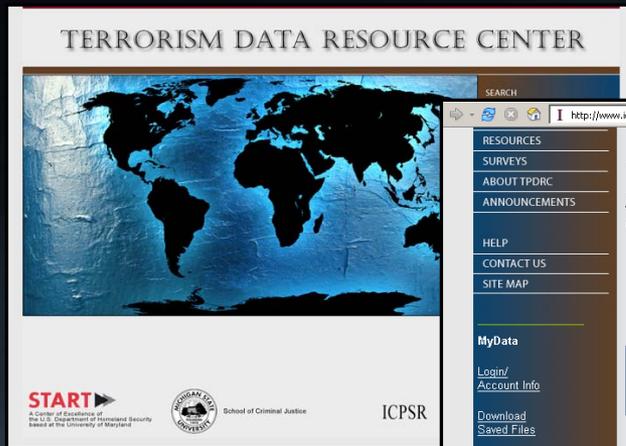
- Perceived risk of terrorism
- Terrorism avoidance behaviors
- Perceived efficacy of terrorism protective efforts
- Intention to engage in preparedness activities
- Definition of terrorism
- Information actively sought
- Barriers to preparedness
- Social support and psychological distress
- Demographic information

- Survey of 3300 respondents
- Oversampling in New York, Washington DC, and Los Angeles areas
- Project led by Linda Bourque (UCLA) and Dennis Mileti

Strategic Case Studies and Field Work

- Cell Groups, *Halaqa*, and the Internet in Indonesia — *McLeod and Hairgrove (Univ of Wisconsin)*
- Suicide Bombers in Iraq — *Hafez (UMKC)*
- Understanding “Londonistan” — *Bale (MIIS)*
- “Dual identity” of LTTE and Hamas: Service Providers and Terrorists — *Flanigan (SDSU)*
- Self-Centered Rhetoric of the German Right-Wing — *della Porta (European University Institute)*
- Reality or Myth? Hizb ut-Tahrir and Non-Violent Radical Islam — *Karagiannis (Univ of Macedonia)*

Terrorism and Preparedness Data Resource Center



- Searchable archive of homeland security data
- Contains 370 data collections, available to all users
- New data can be submitted via tpdrc@start.umd.edu

- Developed and maintained in partnership with ICPSR, DHS, and NIJ

START's Educational Programs

- Professional Development
 - Graduate Certificate in Terrorism Analysis
 - “Introduction to Terrorism” Series
 - Public events and panel discussions
- Advancing Undergrad Education
 - Minor in Terrorism Studies
 - Undergraduate Research Program
 - Curriculum Development and Syllabus Clearinghouse

Thank You

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