

**Forum:** Historical Security Council (HSC)  
**Question of:** Combatting Terrorism (2001)  
**Student Officer:** Hiroki Kurata, Deputy Assistant-President

---

## Introduction

### Historical Causes & Overview

This Historical Security Council topic will be focused on the time period at the initiation of Operation *Enduring Freedom* as it marked the beginning of urgent international action against terrorism, and will tackle the main terrorist groups in the War on Terror as well as international law against terrorism. The War on Terror, otherwise known as the Global War on Terrorism, is an ongoing international military campaign initiated by the United States mainly targeting Islamist terrorist groups. To understand the issue, it is first important to explore Islam as a whole.<sup>1</sup> Founded in the year 610 CE by Muhammad, the religion was spread across the Arabian peninsula. The religion began to rapidly expand with the help of its missionaries, merchants, and military power. Islam is a religion that has strict laws known as the Shari'a Law, which many modern governments do not follow today due to the harshness. However, there are people known as the Islamists who want to go back to the traditional religion-enforced structure. The extreme Islamists go beyond the instructions of the Quran and into violence. Although the committee will be based at the start of the war, it is important to consider the various subsequent events in order to understand both the magnitude of the terrorist movement and learn from mistakes in international law.

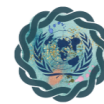
In 1979, the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan in an effort to spread their influence in the Middle East. Despite the expected quick cleanup of the nation, the Soviets were unexpectedly faced with a 10-year long war.<sup>2</sup> This spelled disaster for both the Soviets at home and more importantly the Afghani civilians who were forced into horrific living conditions.<sup>3</sup> Following the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan between 1979 and 1989, Islamist extremist groups began to emerge aiming to overthrow governments

---

<sup>1</sup> Suzan Yalman. *The Birth of Islam*. Metmuseum.org. (n.d.). [https://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/isla/hd\\_isla.htm](https://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/isla/hd_isla.htm)

<sup>2</sup> Baev, P. K. (2022, March 9). *Russia and America's overlapping legacies in Afghanistan*. Brookings. <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2021/08/18/russia-and-americas-overlapping-legacies-in-afghanistan/>

<sup>3</sup> Encyclopedia Britannica, inc. (n.d.). *Taliban*. Encyclopedia Britannica. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Taliban>



across the Muslim World in order to establish new governments that strictly enforce religiously sanctioned political and social order. Among the extremist groups, al Qaeda and the Taliban stand out as the biggest threats to international security in Afghanistan.

In the aftermath of the decade-long war, the Afghan government lacked stability and failed to establish civil order. The mass discontentment in the Afghan populace resulted in many turning towards religious rhetorics in madrasahs. In 1994 a group of former fighters from the Afghanistan war associated with the madrasahs successfully defeated a warlord and began to occupy surrounding areas.<sup>4</sup> As the faction began to gain traction and religious fervor began to spread, the movement became known as the Taliban. By 1996, the Taliban was able to capture the capital Kabul and controlled around two-thirds of the country. The Taliban became an extremely oppressive and conservative regime with a combination of a strictly religious ideology and a traditional Afghan social code.

Alongside the Taliban, a group with similar ideals known as Al Qaeda began to rise. Al Qaeda was originally a network supporting Muslim fighters resisting Soviet Union during the Afghan War. The organization dispersed after the war, but resisted against what the organization considered to be a corrupted and westernized regime. Although initially based in Sudan, the organization re-established their base under Taliban patronage. The two organizations have aligning interests and objectives, so they often work together with their terrorist activities.<sup>5</sup> Contrary to the common misconception that Al Qaeda is an international terrorist organization, Al Qaeda is more of an ideology. The FBI dubbed the loosely linked activists that Osama bin Laden and his aides had formed as “Al Qaeda.” This Al Qaeda acted more as a logistical network for terrorist/militant organizations by providing them with funding, contacts, and expert advertise. The organization merged with other militant groups such as Egypt’s Islamic Jihad and the Islamic Group and trained tens of thousands of Muslim militants across the world.<sup>6</sup> Leading up to 9/11 and the beginning of the Global War on Terror, agents of Al Qaeda conducted countless terrorist attacks such as the destruction of US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania (1998) and a suicide bomb attack on the US Warship *Cole* near Yemen (2000).

Around six thousand kilometers away two key terrorist groups emerged in the Philippines, known as Abu Sayyaf and Jemah Islamiyah. Abu Sayyaf is the most violent Islamist group that promotes the

---

<sup>4</sup> Encyclopedia Britannica, inc. (n.d.). *Taliban*.

<sup>5</sup> Jason Burke. (n.d.). *Think Again By Jason Burke - JSTOR*. JSTOR. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/4147572>

<sup>6</sup> Encyclopedia Britannica, inc. (n.d.). *Al-Qaeda*. Encyclopædia Britannica. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/al-Qaeda>



establishment of an independent Islamic state in Western Mindano.<sup>7</sup> In order to accomplish independence, the organization has committed numerous acts of kidnapping and killings of people ranging from diplomats to innocent civilians. Jemaah Islamiyah is an anti-Shi'ite movement with anti-government ideals and hatred towards non-Muslims.<sup>8</sup> Although not as violent as Abu Sayyaf, Jemmah Isalymiah presents a significant danger as it has penetrated the Indonesian mainstream.

### **Main Issues Faced**

There are several issues with combatting terrorism, a key issue the indistinguishability of civilians and terrorists.<sup>9</sup> The high civilian casualties caused by strike attacks on various different Islamist extremist groups has been cited by numerous sources to be excessive, as a recent look at the civilian casualties show that 40% of all civilian casualties come from airstrikes. The key to combatting this issue is agreeing on a universal definition for a terrorist. Currently despite the frequent effort to do so, there is no definition for a terrorist established internationally, which is a huge obstacle to combatting terrorism.<sup>10</sup>

In addition, the difficulty of a uniform response to terrorism has hindered many efforts to counter terrorism.<sup>11</sup> Although there are nations spending billions of dollars on counterterrorism, there are many nations who can barely afford to provide public services and do not have the resources to combat terrorism effectively. This results in extremist groups being able to prosper in less developed nations, especially with their lack of border regulations and law enforcement. When considering the effectiveness of international policies, it is essential to consider these less developed nations.

### **Historical Overview**

The War on Terror began on September 11th 2001 with the terrorist attacks on the Twin Towers that shocked the world to its core. In a coordinated attack, four airplanes were hijacked by terrorists and

---

<sup>7</sup> Ncte. (n.d.). *National Counterterrorism Center: Groups*. National Counterterrorism Center | Groups. [https://www.dni.gov/nctc/groups/abu\\_sayyaf.html](https://www.dni.gov/nctc/groups/abu_sayyaf.html)

<sup>8</sup> RSIS. (n.d.). *IP21025: The infiltration of Jemaah Islamiyah into Indonesian state and Society*. Nanyang Technological University. <https://www.rsis.edu.sg/rsis-publication/idss/ip21025-the-infiltration-of-jemaah-islamiyah-into-indonesian-state-and-society/#.Ytg0FOxBzt0>

<sup>9</sup> *40% of all civilian casualties from airstrikes in Afghanistan – almost 1,600 – in the last five years were children - Afghanistan*. ReliefWeb. (2021, May 6).

<https://reliefweb.int/report/afghanistan/40-all-civilian-casualties-airstrikes-afghanistan-almost-1600-last-five-years>

<sup>10</sup> Relief Web. (2021, June 2). *The Legal Black Hole in United Nations counterterrorism*. United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs .

<https://reliefweb.int/report/world/legal-black-hole-united-nations-counterterrorism>

<sup>11</sup> United Nations. (n.d.). *Securing our future: A decade of counter-terrorism strategies*. United Nations. Retrieved July 21, 2022, from <https://www.un.org/en/chronicle/article/securing-our-future-decade-counter-terrorism-strategies>



crashed into targeted areas.<sup>12</sup> In response to the attack on 9/11, President George W. Bush declared the initiation of the Global War on Terrorism with Operation *Enduring Freedom* on October 1st 2001.<sup>13</sup> The targets of the war are anyone seeking to spread terror and any governments sheltering or supporting them.

The initial theater of the Global War on Terror was based in Afghanistan with the goal of overthrowing the Taliban regime. The US and supporting coalition members began attacking Taliban forces and supporting anti-Taliban forces in the region.<sup>14</sup> Taliban forces quickly lost control of their forces on December 9th 2001 and were forced to relocate to Pakistan.<sup>15</sup> US and its coalition members were able to destroy al-Qaeda camps in Afghanistan and establish an interim government in the first 100 days. The Taliban has consistently been attempting to regain full control, but has failed until recent events where the US backed out of the two-decade long war in Afghanistan.

The other main theater was based in Iraq with the development of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS). ISIS originated as a branch of Al Qaeda in Iraq and was founded in 2004.<sup>16</sup> ISIS quickly became one of the most powerful and influential Sunni insurgent groups. In addition to its frequent attacks in Iraq, ISIS joined the Syrian War as a major part of the opposition against the Syrian government and has established zones of exclusive authority. ISIS members consider themselves as jihadists. The US and its coalition members came into contact with ISIS during Operation *Iraqi Freedom*. Operation *Iraqi Freedom* was initiated by President Bush and was a US led coalition attack on Iraq's regime after it was discovered that they were stockpiling weapons of mass destruction.

In addition to the war in Afghanistan and Iraq, the US and its coalition members worked together to eradicate terrorism across the world.<sup>17</sup> In the East, the US supported the Philippine government in combating Abu Sayyaf and Jemaah Islamiyah by sending special forces units and teaching the Philippine

---

<sup>12</sup> History.com Editors. (2019, February 1). *A timeline of the U.S.-led War on Terror*. History.com. <https://www.history.com/topics/21st-century/war-on-terror-timeline>

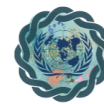
<sup>13</sup> *Global War on terror*. George W. Bush Library. (2001). <https://www.georgewbushlibrary.gov/research/topic-guides/global-war-terror>

<sup>14</sup> Council on Foreign Relations. (n.d.). *Timeline: U.S. War in Afghanistan*. Council on Foreign Relations. <https://www.cfr.org/timeline/us-war-afghanistan>

<sup>15</sup> U.S. Department of State. (n.d.). *The Global War on Terrorism: The First 100 Days*. U.S. Department of State. <https://2001-2009.state.gov/s/ct/rls/wh/6947.htm>

<sup>16</sup> *Timeline: The rise, spread, and fall of the islamic state*. Wilson Center. (n.d.). <https://www.wilsoncenter.org/article/timeline-the-rise-spread-and-fall-the-islamic-state>; Encyclopædia Britannica, inc. (n.d.). *Islamic State in Iraq and the levant*. Encyclopædia Britannica. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Islamic-State-in-Iraq-and-the-Levant>

<sup>17</sup> Encyclopædia Britannica, inc. (n.d.). *Abu Sayyaf Group*. Encyclopædia Britannica. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Abu-Sayyaf-Group>



forces on counterterrorism tactics. In Africa, the coalition members are stationed in Northern Africa and the Horn of Africa as part of Operation *Enduring Freedom* in an effort to combat terrorism and piracy.

### **Impacts of the Issue**

After Osama bin Laden and his associates were killed, the structural hub known as Al Qaeda was destroyed.<sup>18</sup> However, the radical Al Qaeda ideology prevailed and is continuing to become more stronger and radical every day. Islamic extremism has become a worldwide phenomenon with various global theaters being established as noted in the historical overview. Spanning from South East Asia to Europe, terrorism has been a huge thorn to the international community.<sup>19</sup> As recent as March 4th 2022, ISIS attacked a Shiite Mosque in Pakistan, killing over sixty people and injuring around two hundred people. Terrorism and its ideals have scaled globally to numerous different subgroups and organizations with interconnected networks.<sup>20</sup> There was 5,226 recorded terrorist attacks in 2021, which shows the instability still prevalent in modern society.

In addition to the impacts on public fear and safety, terrorism has significant impact on the economies of nations.<sup>21</sup> Terrorist attacks caused direct damage through physical destruction and cause market uncertainty. Not only are the global financial markets set in peril with terrorist attacks, they also severely damage key local businesses as seen in the 2016 Nice attacks in which a 30% decline of tourism in France was observed.

This topic is especially relevant as our world continues to become more and more interconnected. Terrorism has had such a divisive global impact that the increased emergence in terrorism starting in the 2000s needs to be investigated. Connecting to this year's theme of the "*Bonds of Unity*," there must be an international consensus-based approach in order to combat the issue at hand. Nations and organizations harboring or supporting terrorist organizations dramatically harms the effectiveness of counter terrorism, so it is important to unite as one together.

---

<sup>18</sup> Ganesan Annamalai. (n.d.). *The Impact of Osama Bin Laden's death on the Landscape of Global Jihad* - JSTOR. JSTOR. [https://www.jstor.org/stable/26350999?seq=1#metadata\\_info\\_tab\\_contents](https://www.jstor.org/stable/26350999?seq=1#metadata_info_tab_contents)

<sup>19</sup> Gul, A. (2022, March 4). *Suicide bombing of Shiite muslim mosque kills 56 in Pakistan*. VOA. <https://www.voanews.com/a/suicide-bombing-of-shiite-muslim-mosque-pakistan-/6469984.html>

<sup>20</sup> Pandit, P. (2022, May 11). *Five countries most impacted by terrorism in 2021: Global terrorism index 2022*. Vision of Humanity. <https://www.visionofhumanity.org/five-countries-most-impacted-by-terrorism-in-2021/>

<sup>21</sup> Ross, S. (2022, July 8). *How terrorism damages the Global Economy*. Investopedia. <https://www.investopedia.com/articles/markets/080216/top-5-ways-terrorism-impacts-economy.asp>



## Definition of Key Terms

### **Madrasah**

Institutions of higher education in Islam. These institutions can help to spread extremist ideologies and generate extremist groups as a result. They were especially fundamental in helping to create extremist groups during and after the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, as it resulted in a lot of chaos and people turning towards religion because of it.

### **Insurgent**

An insurgent is someone rebelling an established government or authority. Most extremists/terrorist groups tend to be insurgents, as they are attempting to overthrow governments.<sup>22</sup> In the case of ISIS for example, they are insurgent forces with the goal of reinstating Sunni control across the Muslim Empire.

### **Sunni**

Sunni is the main branch of Islam, consisting of a huge majority of all Muslim believers. The distinction between Sunni and Shi'ite is the succession to Muhammed. This knowledge is imperative as most Islamist extremist groups are Sunni and there have been many terrorist attacks on Shi'ite mosques and other religious locations due to religious differences.

### **Terrorist**

Unfortunately, there is currently no international definition for terrorist agreed under consensus.<sup>23</sup> This is a key issue of the Global War on Terrorism, as it prevents international treaties on terrorism from being able to articulately tackle terrorists. The ambiguous meaning for the term is highly contentious, as what may be considered a “terrorist” in a country may be thought of as a “freedom fighter” in another.

### **Coalition**

A coalition is an alliance between one or more political parties. This is important as the US and its coalition is the biggest threat to terrorism. With coordinated strikes and sharing of intel, they have been effective in taking out numerous terrorist hideouts and operations.

### **Jihadist**

---

<sup>22</sup> Nctc. (n.d.). *National Counterterrorism Center: Groups*. National Counterterrorism Center | Groups. <https://www.dni.gov/nctc/groups/isil.html>

<sup>23</sup> Relief Web. (2021, June 2). *The Legal Black Hole in United Nations counterterrorism*. United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs .



Originally, jihadists represented warriors who fight in jihads, or in other words religious fighting against the enemies of Islam. In the modern era, the word jihad has been used as a justification for terrorist attacks.<sup>24</sup> The prime example of this is the Islamic State, which considers themselves as jihadists and holy religious fighters despite their actions violating the Quran.

## **Quran**

The Quran is the holy book of Islam, similar to the way the Bible is the holy book of Christianity. As a sacred religious text, Muslims are extremely devoted to the teachings of the Quran. It is especially crucial to consider the Quran as it is also the text used by Islamists to justify their actions and as a reference. Something to note is that most extremist groups are devoutly religious and dedicated to the Quran.

## **Regime**

A regime is the ruling government of a nation that tends to restrict or regulate freedoms and the social structure. Regimes can begin to become extremely oppressive as their ruling members become more corrupt and the ruling members' interests shift from their nation to themselves. The perfect example of an oppressive regime is the Taliban. In fact, civilians were so afraid of going back under Taliban rule that they tried to jump on planes and throw their babies over the barbed wire in American compounds with the hope of somehow getting out of Afghanistan.<sup>25</sup>

## **Timeline of Key Events**

### **September 1996 - Taliban Captured Kabul**

By September of 1996, the Taliban was able to capture most of Afghanistan, including the capital Kabul. In addition, the Taliban killed the reigning president and established the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan. This event was crucial as it solidified the Taliban as the ruling power in Afghanistan, which was a big precursor to numerous terrorist attacks in the near future.

### **September 11, 2001 - September 11 Attacks**

---

<sup>24</sup> *Timeline: The rise, spread, and fall of the Islamic state.* Wilson Center. (n.d.).

<sup>25</sup> Al Jazeera. (2021, August 16). *Afghans cling to moving US Air Force jets in a desperate bid to flee.* Conflict News | Al Jazeera. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/8/16/afghans-cling-to-plane-defining-image>; Brown, F. (2021, August 20). *Afghan mums throw babies over barbed wire fences and beg soldiers to take them.* Metro. <https://metro.co.uk/2021/08/19/afghanistan-news-mothers-throw-babies-over-barbed-wire-fences-at-kabul-airport-15116483/#:~:text=Desperate%20Afghan%20mothers%20threw%20their,a%20future%20under%20the%20Taliban.>



On September 11th, the most horrifying and devastating terrorist attack in the US shocked the world into action.<sup>26</sup> Four passenger airplanes were hijacked, with two crashing into the Twin Towers, one crashing into the Pentagon, and the final airplane crashing before reaching its destination. This was the major catalyst behind the US's declaration of the Global War on Terror and the escalation in international action against terrorism. It is important to keep in mind that this there were numerous terrorist attacks leading up to the September 11 attacks.

### **September 22, 2001 - ongoing - Global War on Terrorism**

On September 22nd, the phrase “Global War on Terrorism” was first coined.<sup>27</sup> This was the beginning of the US and its coalition members' efforts to combat terrorism. The mission of the war is to eradicate all forms of terrorism. The war on terrorism becomes especially crucial as it is the reasoning behind many of the coalition members' attacks on terrorists outside of the Operation *Enduring Freedom*.

### **October 7, 2001 - August 30, 2021 - Afghanistan War**

This was the biggest forefront of the theater against terrorism.<sup>28</sup> Beginning shortly after the September 11 attacks, the Afghanistan War lasted for two decades and was one of the longest and most brutal wars in recent history.<sup>29</sup> Starting soon after the September 11th attacks and the initiation of the Global War on Terror, the Afghan war is one of the most controversial and convoluted conflicts. With the coalition members hiding a lot of information on the extent of the attacks on terrorists or their attacks in general, the lack of transparency has resulted in the lack of accountability. As a result, there have been extremely high civilian casualties, although the extent of which is not clear due to the lack of transparency. In addition, the war has been highly criticized as it has been a breeding ground for illegal activities such as opium production in addition to expansion of warlords and piracy.

### **October 7, 2001 - December 31, 2014 - Operation Enduring Freedom**

The initial stage of the war in Afghanistan, the mission of the operation was to capture al-Qaeda leaders, destroy terrorist infrastructure, and eradication of terrorist activity in Afghanistan. The coalition of international forces (mainly consisting of the US, UK, Canada, Germany, and Norway) were able to

---

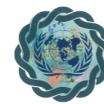
<sup>26</sup> *9/11 faqs*. 9/11 FAQs | National September 11 Memorial & Museum. (n.d.).  
<https://www.911memorial.org/911-faqs>

<sup>27</sup> *Global War on terror*. George W. Bush Library. (2001).

<sup>28</sup> Schmitt, L. K. and E. (2021, September 13). *Afghanistan updates: The U.S. occupation is over, ending America's Longest War*. The New York Times. Retrieved July 21, 2022, from  
<https://www.nytimes.com/live/2021/08/30/world/afghanistan-news>

<sup>29</sup> Encyclopædia Britannica, inc. (n.d.). *Afghanistan War*. Encyclopædia Britannica. Retrieved July 21, 2022, from  
<https://www.britannica.com/event/Afghanistan-War>





quickly topple the Taliban regime in late 2001. However, the Taliban proved to be difficult to defeat with their guerilla warfare tactics and harboring in Pakistan. The operation ended in 2014 when President Obama declared the military operations in Afghanistan to be over and initiated a new operation, Operation *Freedom's Sentinel*.

### **March 20, 2003 - December 15 2011 - Iraq War**

On March 20, 2003 a force mostly consisting of the United States and the United Kingdom invaded Iraq over allegations of Iraq producing weapons of mass destruction.<sup>30</sup> Similar to the situation in Afghanistan, the force was able to quickly defeat Iraqi forces and toppled the regime. However, there was a long period of time of Iraqi resistance and the war quickly became a major front in the war against terrorism. From the standpoint of the United Nations, the war in Iraq was illegal and a violation of the United Nations Charter. However, the UN was not able to do anything to stop the invasion and consequent decade long war. This becomes relevant due to the high involvement of terrorist groups such as the Islamic State of Iraq.

## **Position of Key Member Nations and Other Bodies**

### **United States of America**

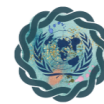
The United States of America is the leading nation in the war against terror and has consistently been the most valuable contributor to the fight against terrorism. Since the September 11 attacks in 2001, the U.S. has been strongly against all acts of terrorism and any organizations or states that support them. Their stance is to crack down on terrorist groups as much as possible as the it is the biggest proponent of security measures such as stricter border control. As a democratic nation, the U.S. has struggled with conflicting interests with its different political parties, with the conservatives wanting a more aggressive stance against terrorism in comparison to the liberals. It is important to note that the United States has supported some terrorist groups unofficially.

### **United Kingdom**

Similar to the United States, the United Kingdom is a massive proponent of strict border control and public security. The nation has also been a significant contributor to the fight against terrorism, having assisted the U.S. and it allies numerous times in coalition strikes and crackdowns. This is seen during Operation *Enduring Freedom*, as the nation sent its ground forces, commandos, and royal marines

---

<sup>30</sup> Cable News Network. (2022, April 1). *Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn fast facts*. CNN. <https://edition.cnn.com/2013/10/30/world/meast/operation-iraqi-freedom-and-operation-new-dawn-fast-facts/index.html>



which played a major role in the speed of the overthrow of the Taliban. There have been hundreds of terrorist attacks throughout the last decade, and the state is strengthening their counter terrorism forces more and more.

### **Russia**

Russia has been a supporter of strengthening legislative framework and law enforcement practices against terrorism.<sup>31</sup> The nation has suffered numerous terrorist attacks with it peaking in 2010 with 339 attacks.<sup>32</sup> Due to the considerable amounts of attacks, Russia has a strong opposition to most terrorist groups. As a result, Russia cooperated with the US and its allies in Operation *Enduring Freedom* and established levels of cooperation previously not obtained. This is important to note, as it shows that Russia is willing to go to the extra length in order to deal with terrorist groups.

### **People's Republic of China**

The People's Republic of China has provided mine-clearance and police training for Afghanistan during Operation *Enduring Freedom*, but was unwilling to send forces despite international pressure. China was unwilling to provide more direct assistance due to fears of domestic backlash. The common theme in China's assistance to counter terrorism efforts is indirect assistance such as supplies, but the reluctance to send direct help.<sup>33</sup> China has had an internal war on terror and has cracked down on domestic terror, which has been deemed effective internally.

### **France**

France has been another major contributor to fight against terror.<sup>34</sup> In fact, France has contributed 24% of Operation *Enduring Freedom*'s naval forces and was the only non-US nation that was part of the operational buildup at Manas airfield in Kyrgyzstan. France has contributed to significantly to both coalition strike and civilian relief efforts throughout the campaign against terror. Importantly, France ramped up their contributions to the war against terror after a significant series of terrorist attacks in 2015.

### **European Union**

---

<sup>31</sup> United Nations *Russia -- measures to eliminate international terrorism*. (n.d.).

[https://www.un.org/en/ga/sixth/75/int\\_terrorism/russia\\_e.pdf](https://www.un.org/en/ga/sixth/75/int_terrorism/russia_e.pdf)

<sup>32</sup> *Ukraine Russia Crisis: Terrorism Briefing* Institute for Economics & Peace

<https://www.visionofhumanity.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Ukraine-Russia-Crisis-Terrorism-Briefing-1.pdf>

<sup>33</sup> *Xinjiang: What the west doesn't tell you about China's War on Terror*. Consulate-General of the People's Republic of China in Cape Town . (n.d.). <https://www.mfa.gov.cn/ce/cgct/eng/gdxw/t1870194.htm>

<sup>34</sup> National Archives and Records Administration. (n.d.). *International Contributions to the War Against Terrorism and Operation Enduring Freedom* . National Archives and Records Administration. <https://georgewbush-whitehouse.archives.gov/march11/coalitioncontributions.html>



The Council of the European Union “expressed horror” at the September 11 attacks.<sup>35</sup> The council stated that they express sympathy for the American people, and will work closely with the United States to combat terrorism. Following these statements, the European Union established a strong stance against terrorism and has made decisive actions against terrorism.

### **Taliban and Al Qaeda**

Both Al Qaeda and the Taliban have similar Islamic extremist ideals and have cooperated together on many military operations. They have been the greatest opposition against the international community and continue to spread fear worldwide. Al Qaeda and the Taliban protest the actions of international coalition forces and Operation *Enduring Freedom* as actions against the Quran. Their influential networks caused surging amounts of terrorist attacks in the 2000s and 2010s. To this day, they have been the biggest influences on newly emerging terrorist sub-groups.

## **Suggested Solutions**

One of the most important actions is to come to consensus with a definition for terrorism. Seeing that the vague ambiguity of the term allows for terrorism to remain unpunished.<sup>36</sup> There are various definitions for terrorism an example being the U.S., who define terrorism as “violent, criminal acts committed by individuals and/or groups to further ideological goals.” The issue stems from the fact that many states harbor or sponsor terrorist groups and becomes extremely difficult to draw the line between terrorism and military activity. Delegates are recommended to look into definitions proposed by various parties, mainly being the United Nations Security Council and the European Union. The legal definition for terrorism has been left to the nations to decide on, which has drastically reduced the impacts of international law and resolutions on the matter.

In December 1999, the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism defined terrorism in Article 2.1b as “any... act intended to cause death or serious bodily damage to a civilian, or any other person not taking an active part in the hostilities in a situation of an armed conflict, when the purpose of such act, by its nature or context, is to intimidate a population, or to

---

<sup>35</sup> Security Council. (n.d.). *N0153766*. United Nations. <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N01/537/66/PDF/N0153766.pdf?OpenElement>

<sup>36</sup> FBI. (2016, May 3). *Terrorism*. FBI. <https://www.fbi.gov/investigate/terrorism>



compel a government or an international organization to do or to abstain from doing any act.”<sup>37</sup> This is a key definition referenced during the proposals of several counterterrorism treaties and resolutions. It is important to note the high focus on conciseness and neutrality of the definition. The issue that comes with this definition is the fact that it is not binding in the first place, and more importantly the lack of coverage. This definition focuses on terrorism as acts against people, rather than considering the other targets of terrorism including infrastructure, resources, and endangerment of the general public and its health. Delegates are highly recommended to think of more open definitions that are more relevant keeping historical context in mind.

Sanctions Committees were also developed in order to support the implementation of a special resolution adopted by the Security Council that aims to have all States comply with preventing and suppressing financing of terrorist acts. However, the UN Security Council’s sanctions have been internationally criticized due to their ineffectiveness. The issue rises in the lack of enforcement of sanctions and their misuse. Sanctions have often been enacted in the place of proper action, which results in the primary issue at hand not being addressed in the first place. Delegates are encouraged to look into legally binding resolutions on the suppression of terrorism acts. The lack of accountability from nations has allowed for terrorist groups to prosper.

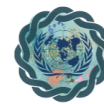
Furthermore, strengthening border control is a major factor to consider in the fight against terrorism. International cooperation is essential to having frequent border checks and cracking down on illegal terrorist activities. An example of international cooperation successfully combatting terrorism is seen with the Schengen Information System (SIS) used in Europe.<sup>38</sup> SIS is an intelligence system that shares important information such as vehicle registration and biometrics, and assists nations with border control and law enforcement. With the EU Agencies having special access to this intelligence system, they have been able to crack down significantly more on terrorism. It is important that nations’ responsibility to not harbor or support any terrorist organizations is made clear. In order to do so, delegates are recommended to form a legally binding treaty that reinforces this concept.

An important facet to the issue to consider is the issue of counterterrorism in developing nations. Although some nations are able to afford to spend billions of dollars, many nations are unable to even afford basic necessities. Therefore, it is important to consider in resolutions methods of countering

---

<sup>37</sup> *The Practical Guide to Humanitarian Law*. Doctors without borders | The Practical Guide to Humanitarian Law. (n.d.). <https://guide-humanitarian-law.org/content/article/3/terrorism/>

<sup>38</sup> *Schengen information system*. Migration and Home Affairs. (n.d.). [https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/schengen-borders-and-visa/schengen-information-system\\_en](https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/schengen-borders-and-visa/schengen-information-system_en)



terrorism internationally as a whole rather than just domestically. A way to help these developing nations is send counter terrorism forces to them if the hosting nation consents, to train the local forces or to cooperate with local forces in taking terrorist groups down. A relevant focus to the issue is the developing nations' economies, as poor economies have had the biggest exposure to terrorism. All nations are encouraging to support developing nations economically, technologically, and through law enforcement by considering the impacts of sharing a border with a country hosting terrorists. Therefore, it may be a potential solution to call for developed nations to support their bordering nations especially with border control as it is essential for both parties.

## Bibliography

Jason Burke. (n.d.). *Think Again By Jason Burke - JSTOR*. JSTOR. Retrieved July 12, 2022, from <https://www.jstor.org/stable/4147572>

Suzan Yalman *The Birth of Islam*. Metmuseum.org. (n.d.). Retrieved July 10, 2022, from [https://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/isla/hd\\_isla.htm](https://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/isla/hd_isla.htm)

Encyclopedia Britannica, inc. (n.d.). *Al-Qaeda*. Encyclopædia Britannica. Retrieved July 14, 2022, from <https://www.britannica.com/topic/al-Qaeda>

Ganesan Annamalai. (n.d.). *The Impact of Osama Bin Laden's death on the Landscape of Global Jihad - JSTOR*. JSTOR. Retrieved July 12, 2022, from [https://www.jstor.org/stable/26350999?seq=1#metadata\\_info\\_tab\\_contents](https://www.jstor.org/stable/26350999?seq=1#metadata_info_tab_contents)

United Nations. (n.d.). *Securing our future: A decade of counter-terrorism strategies*. United Nations. Retrieved July 21, 2022, from <https://www.un.org/en/chronicle/article/securing-our-future-decade-counter-terrorism-strategies>

Encyclopedia Britannica, inc. (n.d.). *Taliban*. Encyclopedia Britannica. Retrieved July 21, 2022, from <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Taliban>

Security Council. (n.d.). *N0153766*. United Nations. Retrieved July 20, 2022, from <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N01/537/66/PDF/N0153766.pdf?OpenElement>

*Global War on terror*. George W. Bush Library. (2001). Retrieved July 21, 2022, from <https://www.georgewbushlibrary.gov/research/topic-guides/global-war-terror>



Nctc. (n.d.). *National Counterterrorism Center: Groups*. National Counterterrorism Center | Groups. Retrieved July 21, 2022, from <https://www.dni.gov/nctc/groups/isil.html>

Nctc. (n.d.). *National Counterterrorism Center: Groups*. National Counterterrorism Center | Groups. Retrieved July 21, 2022, from [https://www.dni.gov/nctc/groups/abu\\_sayyaf.html](https://www.dni.gov/nctc/groups/abu_sayyaf.html)

RSIS. (n.d.). *IP21025: The infiltration of Jemaah Islamiyah into Indonesian state and Society*. Nanyang Technological University. Retrieved July 21, 2022, from <https://www.rsis.edu.sg/rsis-publication/idss/ip21025-the-infiltration-of-jemaah-islamiyah-into-indonesian-state-and-society/#.Ytg0FOxBzt0>

Pandit, P. (2022, May 11). *Five countries most impacted by terrorism in 2021: Global terrorism index 2022*. Vision of Humanity. <https://www.visionofhumanity.org/five-countries-most-impacted-by-terrorism-in-2021/>

Encyclopædia Britannica, inc. (n.d.). *Abu Sayyaf Group*. Encyclopædia Britannica. Retrieved July 21, 2022, from <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Abu-Sayyaf-Group>

*9/11 faqs*. 9/11 FAQs | National September 11 Memorial & Museum. (n.d.). Retrieved July 21, 2022, from <https://www.911memorial.org/911-faqs>

FBI. (2016, May 3). *Terrorism*. FBI. Retrieved July 21, 2022, from <https://www.fbi.gov/investigate/terrorism>

Encyclopædia Britannica, inc. (n.d.). *Islamic State in Iraq and the levant*. Encyclopædia Britannica. Retrieved July 21, 2022, from <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Islamic-State-in-Iraq-and-the-Levant>

Cable News Network. (2022, April 1). *Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn fast facts*. CNN. Retrieved July 21, 2022, from <https://edition.cnn.com/2013/10/30/world/meast/operation-iraqi-freedom-and-operation-new-dawn-fast-facts/index.html>

Brown, F. (2021, August 20). *Afghan mums throw babies over barbed wire fences and beg soldiers to take them*. Metro. Retrieved July 21, 2022, from <https://metro.co.uk/2021/08/19/afghanistan-news-mothers-throw-babies-over-barbed-wire-fences-at-kabul-airport-15116483/#:~:text=Desperate%20Afghan%20mothers%20threw%20their,a%20future%20under%20the%20Taliban.>



A&E Television Networks. (2011, August 29). *Osama bin Laden killed by U.S. forces*. History.com. Retrieved July 21, 2022, from <https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/osama-bin-laden-killed-by-u-s-forces>

Encyclopædia Britannica, inc. (n.d.). *Afghanistan War*. Encyclopædia Britannica. Retrieved July 17, 2022, from <https://www.britannica.com/event/Afghanistan-War>

Council on Foreign Relations. (n.d.). *Timeline: U.S. War in Afghanistan*. Council on Foreign Relations. <https://www.cfr.org/timeline/us-war-afghanistan>

Al Jazeera. (2021, August 16). *Afghans cling to moving US Air Force jets in a desperate bid to flee*. Conflict News | Al Jazeera. Retrieved July 14, 2022, from <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/8/16/afghans-cling-to-plane-defining-image>

Schmitt, L. K. and E. (2021, September 13). *Afghanistan updates: The U.S. occupation is over, ending America's Longest War*. The New York Times. Retrieved July 10, 2022, from <https://www.nytimes.com/live/2021/08/30/world/afghanistan-news>

Gul, A. (2022, March 4). *Suicide bombing of Shiite muslim mosque kills 56 in Pakistan*. VOA. Retrieved July 18, 2022, from <https://www.voanews.com/a/suicide-bombing-of-shiite-muslim-mosque-pakistan-/6469984.html>

*The Practical Guide to Humanitarian Law*. Doctors without borders | The Practical Guide to Humanitarian Law. (n.d.). Retrieved July 11, 2022, from <https://guide-humanitarian-law.org/content/article/3/terrorism/>

History.com Editors. (2019, February 1). *A timeline of the U.S.-led War on Terror*. History.com. Retrieved July 21, 2022, from <https://www.history.com/topics/21st-century/war-on-terror-timeline>

Ross, S. (2022, July 8). *How terrorism damages the Global Economy*. Investopedia. Retrieved July 21, 2022, from <https://www.investopedia.com/articles/markets/080216/top-5-ways-terrorism-impacts-economy.asp>



*Ukraine Russia Crisis: Terrorism Briefing* Institute for Economics & Peace Retrieved July 20, 2022, from <https://www.visionofhumanity.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Ukraine-Russia-Crisis-Terrorism-Briefing-1.pdf>

Jennifer L. Petykowski *Russia's Interests in the Global War On Terrorism: Implications for a Continuing US-Russia Partnership* Naval PostGraduate School Monterey, California (n.d.). Retrieved July 20, 2022 (Thesis Report)

United Nations *Russia -- measures to eliminate international terrorism.* (n.d.). Retrieved July 20, 2022, from [https://www.un.org/en/ga/sixth/75/int\\_terrorism/russia\\_e.pdf](https://www.un.org/en/ga/sixth/75/int_terrorism/russia_e.pdf)

*Xinjiang: What the west doesn't tell you about China's War on Terror.* Consulate-General of the People's Republic of China in Cape Town . (n.d.). Retrieved July 19, 2022, from <https://www.mfa.gov.cn/ce/cgct/eng/gdxw/t1870194.htm>

*Timeline: The rise, spread, and fall of the islamic state.* Wilson Center. (n.d.). Retrieved July 21, 2022, from <https://www.wilsoncenter.org/article/timeline-the-rise-spread-and-fall-the-islamic-state>

National Archives and Records Administration. (n.d.). *International Contributions to the War Against Terrorism and Operation Enduring Freedom* . National Archives and Records Administration. Retrieved July 21, 2022, from <https://georgewbush-whitehouse.archives.gov/march11/coalitioncontributions.html>

Relief Web. (2021, June 2). *The Legal Black Hole in United Nations counterterrorism* . United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs . Retrieved July 11, 2022, from <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/legal-black-hole-united-nations-counterterrorism>

*40% of all civilian casualties from airstrikes in Afghanistan – almost 1,600 – in the last five years were children - Afghanistan.* ReliefWeb. (2021, May 6). Retrieved July 11, 2022, from <https://reliefweb.int/report/afghanistan/40-all-civilian-casualties-airstrikes-afghanistan-almost-1600-last-five-years>

Baev, P. K. (2022, March 9). *Russia and America's overlapping legacies in Afghanistan.* Brookings. Retrieved July 10, 2022, from <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2021/08/18/russia-and-americas-overlapping-legacies-in-afghanistan/>





U.S. Department of State. (n.d.). *The Global War on Terrorism: The First 100 Days*. U.S. Department of State. Retrieved July 10, 2022, from <https://2001-2009.state.gov/s/ct/rls/wh/6947.htm>

*Schengen information system*. Migration and Home Affairs. (n.d.). Retrieved July 23, 2022, from [https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/schengen-borders-and-visa/schengen-information-system\\_en](https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/schengen-borders-and-visa/schengen-information-system_en)