Chapter 4
Terrorism Manifestations

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ABSTRACT
This chapter examines the tactical aspects of terrorism. It begins by focusing on the nature of war and conflict in the 21st century, suggesting that technology, economic structures, and communication have changed the way war is waged. It argues that small groups of aggrieved people may conduct campaigns of unconventional warfare against individual nations or international alliances. Although such violence is manifested in many ways, it is typically labeled as “terrorism.” The chapter also demonstrates how large groups and nation states may participate in terrorist activities by either using terrorist tactics or supporting terrorist groups. The next part of the chapter focuses on the specific actions that constitute the tactics of terrorism, examining tactical innovations within various campaigns. The chapter concludes with an analysis of tactical force multipliers, and it introduces the role of the media within this context.

INTRODUCTION
Terrorism is a method of fighting. It involves asymmetrical attacks; that is, small outgunned and outmanned subnational units that launch assaults on a larger foe outside the rules of conventional warfare (Jenkins, 2006). Terrorism involves crime because terrorists violate criminal laws while engaging in violence against innocent people for political purposes (Cooper, 2001; Crenshaw, 1983). Terrorism is also a means of communicating a political, religious, or ideological message (Schmid & Jongman, 2005). As a result, it requires modernity with access to technology and the contemporary media. With no stage or mass mediated violence, terrorism has limited impact (Black, 2004).

This chapter will focus on the tactics, ideological meanings, and applications of terrorism. Terrorist tactics are simple and straightforward, but the social processes surrounding them make the tactical aspects of terrorism quite complex. Accordingly, this chapter will identify the basic tactics of terrorism, discuss the manner in which power is amplified, provide a framework for understanding terrorism within the changing nature of modern conflict, and explain the importance of communication. While terrorism has a range of meanings, the unit of analysis in this chapter is considered small to large subnational groups. Such groups may act with state support, but they do not act as official agents of the state. Accordingly, an ideological death squad operating outside the legal norms of a state fits the definition.
States acting with unconventional military force and those repressing a population with police or military power are not included. The focus will also be on political, ideological, and religious groups operating outside the law.

**TACTICS AND IDEOLOGIES**

Terrorism is ever changing. Terrorist organizations change tactics and strategies frequently, which can strain the capabilities of authorities to respond effectively (Thackrah, 2013). If security forces can chart the organizational structure of terrorist groups, they can be tracked and destroyed. As a result, terrorists seek to form complex organizations and networks (Latora & Marchioni, 2004). They change structures over time and operate with extended secrecy (White, 2012). Such changes allow groups to maintain complex social networks (Sageman, 2004). Thus, flexibility means survival. When a network is penetrated, security and flexibility are compromised giving security forces an opportunity to destroy key links inside the organization (Arquilla & Ronfeldt, 1996; Arquilla, Ronfeldt, & Zanini, 1999).

It is important to note that terrorism is not new. Distinguished scholars such as Walter Laqueur (1999) trace terrorism back for hundreds of years. However, massive death and destruction require modernity and technology. Modern terrorists wage a war in the shadows, blurring the distinction between war and peace. Access to instruments that can kill hundreds of people at a time and the ability to deliver death from great distances is a product of the modern world (Burleigh, 2009). Terrorism is a form of communication, and operations vary in terms of the message. In other words, terrorists operate within an informational aura while targeting a specific audience; operations change with the meaning of the message and its receiving audience. Today, small numbers of like-minded people can gather on an international level and wreak havoc that was unimaginable in the past. Their message and violence are communicated immediately throughout the world (Hoffman, 2006).

Various scholars and analysts believe that the tactics of terrorism are simple (Brackett, 1996; Jenkins, 1987; O’Connor, 2006; Parachini, 2003; White, 2012). Although they can be described and grouped in a variety of ways, terrorist tactics involve shootings (e.g., assassinations, drive-bys, random assaults, etc.), physical assault, bombing, arson, and other forms of control mediated by violence (e.g., kidnappings, hostage incidents, hijackings, etc.).

Brian Jenkins (1984, November; 2004a, 2004b) summarizes these activities by categorizing six basic tactics of terrorism: bombing, hijacking, arson, assault, kidnapping, and hostage taking. Attacks can range from a simple shooting spree to a massive attack with a technological weapon. These actions become terrorism when they are conducted for political purposes guided by an ideological framework. Thomas R. O’Connor (2006) posits a slightly different typology, citing five basic tactics delivered in four modes. The tactics include:

1. Rolling where terrorists use a moving vehicle;
2. Ambush attacks;
3. Standoffs where terrorists are barricaded;
4. Boutiques involving multiple simultaneous attacks (also known as swarm attacks); and
5. Revenge attacks against symbolic targets.

The modes used to deliver such attacks are derived from conventional traditional weapons, advanced technological weapons, cyber-attacks, and the utilization of narcotics as an instrument of terrorism. A close examination reveals few differences between Jenkins and O’Connor; specifically, delivery may be complicated, but the tactics are simple.

If tactics are simple, terrorism is not. Complexity arises from the organizational structures and networks supporting terrorism and the criminal
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