

Ideological Motivations of Terrorism in the United States, 1970—2018

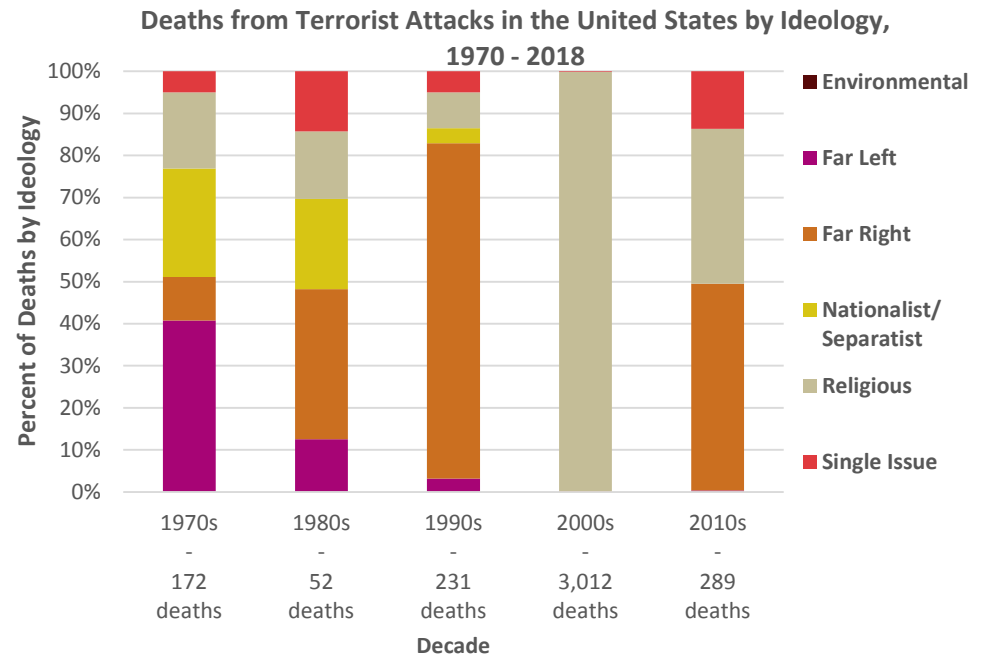
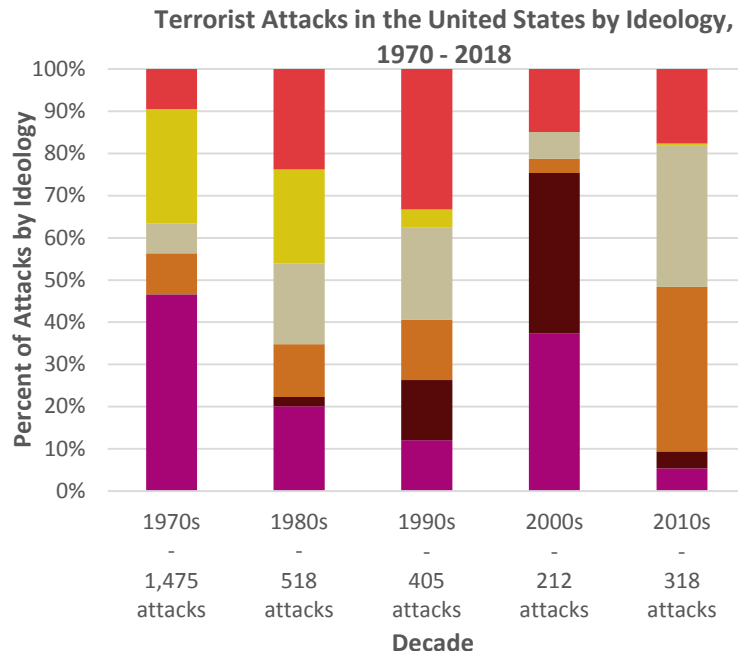
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IDEOLOGICAL PATTERNS OF TERRORISM IN THE UNITED STATES

- Problem: Need to understand motivations of terrorist attacks
- Solution: Leverage data from the Global Terrorism Database
- Results:



- WWW.START.UMD.EDU/GTD
- Contact: Erin Miller; eeemiller@umd.edu



GLOBAL TERRORISM DATABASE

The Global Terrorism Database (GTD) is an open-source database including information on domestic and international terrorist attacks that occurred around the world since 1970 (currently updated through 2017). It contains data on where, when, and how more than 180,000 terrorist events took place.

Browse and Download:
www.start.umd.edu/gtd

PERPETRATORS OF TERRORISM IN THE UNITED STATES

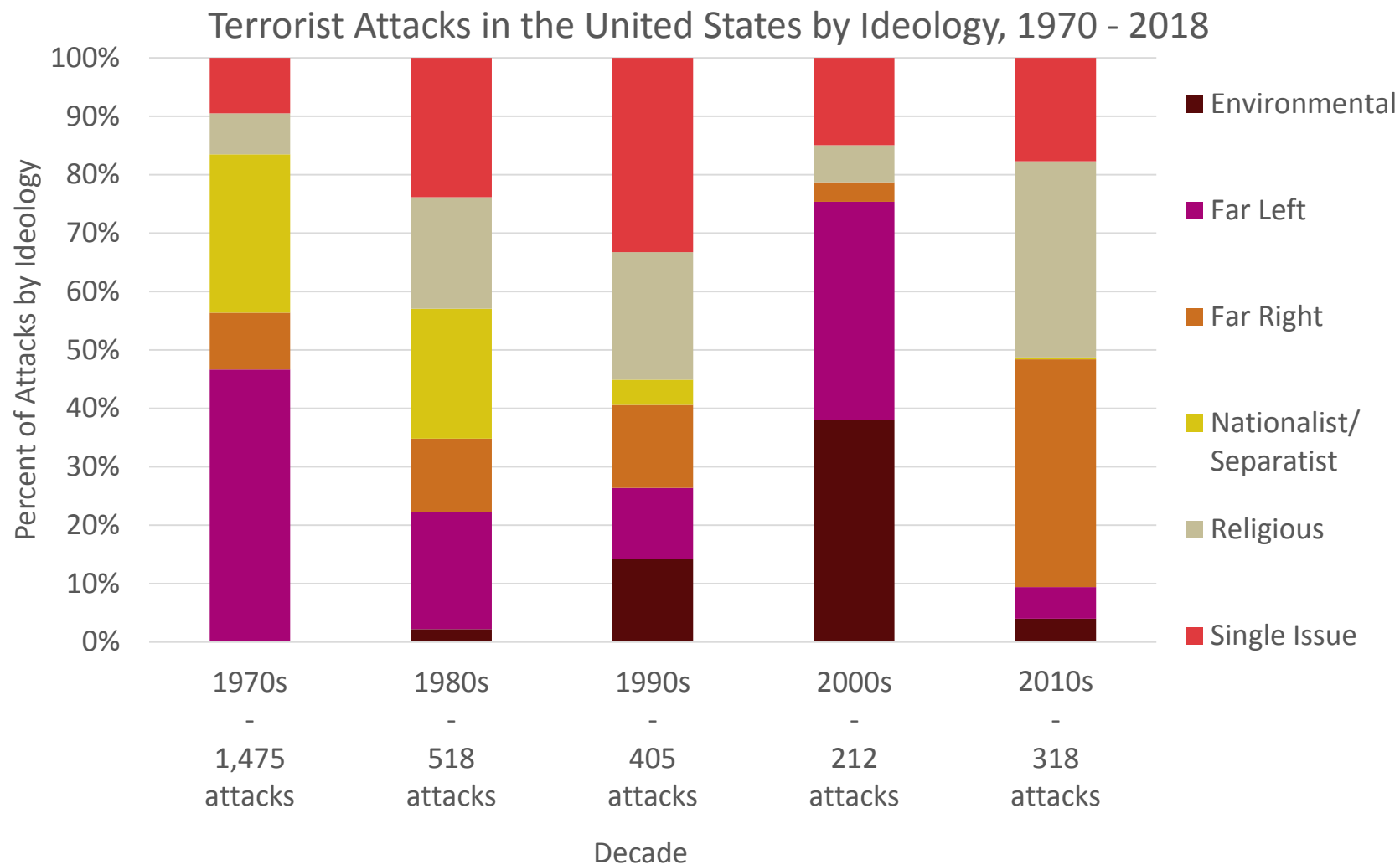
1970s	Total Attacks	Total Killed
Left-Wing Militants	169	4
Fuerzas Armadas de Liberacion Nacional (FALN)	107	7
New World Liberation Front (NWLF)	86	1
Black Nationalists	82	16
Student Radicals	71	0
White Supremacists/Nationalists	52	12
Weather Underground, Weathermen	46	1
Jewish Defense League (JDL)	44	2
Black Liberation Army	34	19
Chicano Liberation Front	31	2
1980s		
Anti-Abortion extremists	74	0
Macheteros	31	4
Jewish Defense League (JDL)	30	2
Omega-7	25	1
United Freedom Front (UFF)	19	0
Organization of Volunteers for the Puerto Rican Revolution	15	1
Army of God	15	0
May 19 Communist Order	14	1
Fuerzas Armadas de Liberacion Nacional (FALN)	13	0
White Supremacists/Nationalists	11	11

PERPETRATORS OF TERRORISM IN THE UNITED STATES

1990s	Total Attacks	Total Killed
Anti-Abortion extremists	129	4
Animal Liberation Front (ALF)	37	0
Aryan Republican Army	16	0
The Justice Department	13	0
Earth Liberation Front (ELF)	8	0
Unaffiliated Individual(s)	7	3
Anti-Government Group	6	0
Army of God	6	3
White Supremacists/Nationalists	6	2
World Church of the Creator	6	3
2000s		
Earth Liberation Front (ELF)	58	0
Animal Liberation Front (ALF)	31	0
Anti-Abortion extremists	20	1
Anti-Government extremists	18	0
Coalition to Save the Preserves (CSP)	8	0
Jihadi-inspired extremists	5	15
Al-Qaida	4	3001
White Supremacists/Nationalists	2	0
Anti-Semitic extremists	2	2
Muslim extremists	2	0
Neo-Nazi extremists	2	0
Revolutionary Cells-Animal Liberation Brigade	2	0
Environmentalists	2	0

PERPETRATORS OF TERRORISM IN THE UNITED STATES

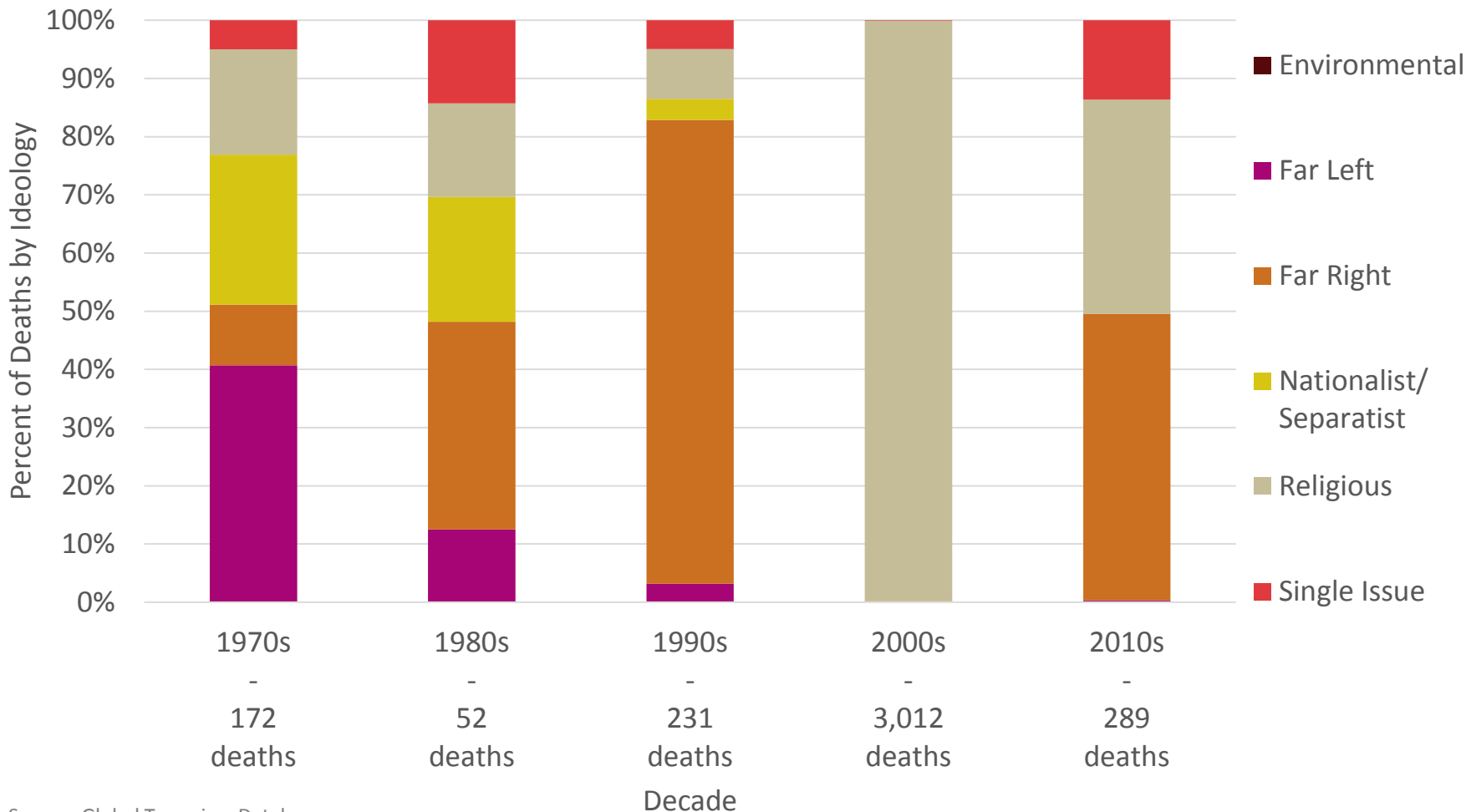
2010s	Total Attacks	Total Killed
Jihadi-inspired extremists	28	92
Anti-Muslim extremists	28	5
Right-wing extremists	18	0
White Supremacists/Nationalists	17	42
Anti-Abortion extremists	13	3
Anti-Government extremists	13	73
Muslim extremists	11	15
Anti-Semitic extremists	10	14
Anti-Police extremists	7	12
Animal Liberation Front (ALF)	6	0
Anti-White extremists	6	10
Anti-LGBT extremists	4	0
Sovereign Citizen	4	1
Incel extremists	4	20
Anarchists	3	0
Ku Klux Klan	3	0
Black Hebrew Israelites	3	0
Anti-Gun Control extremists	3	0
Environmentalists	3	0
Neo-Nazi extremists	2	11
Anti-Trump extremists	2	0
Veterans United for Non-Religious Memorials	2	0
White Rabbit Three Percent Illinois Patriot Freedom Fighters Militia	2	0
Pro-LGBT Rights extremists	2	0



Source: Global Terrorism Database

Note: Ideology was unknown in 22% of all attacks. Ideology categories overlap; attacks can be counted multiple times.

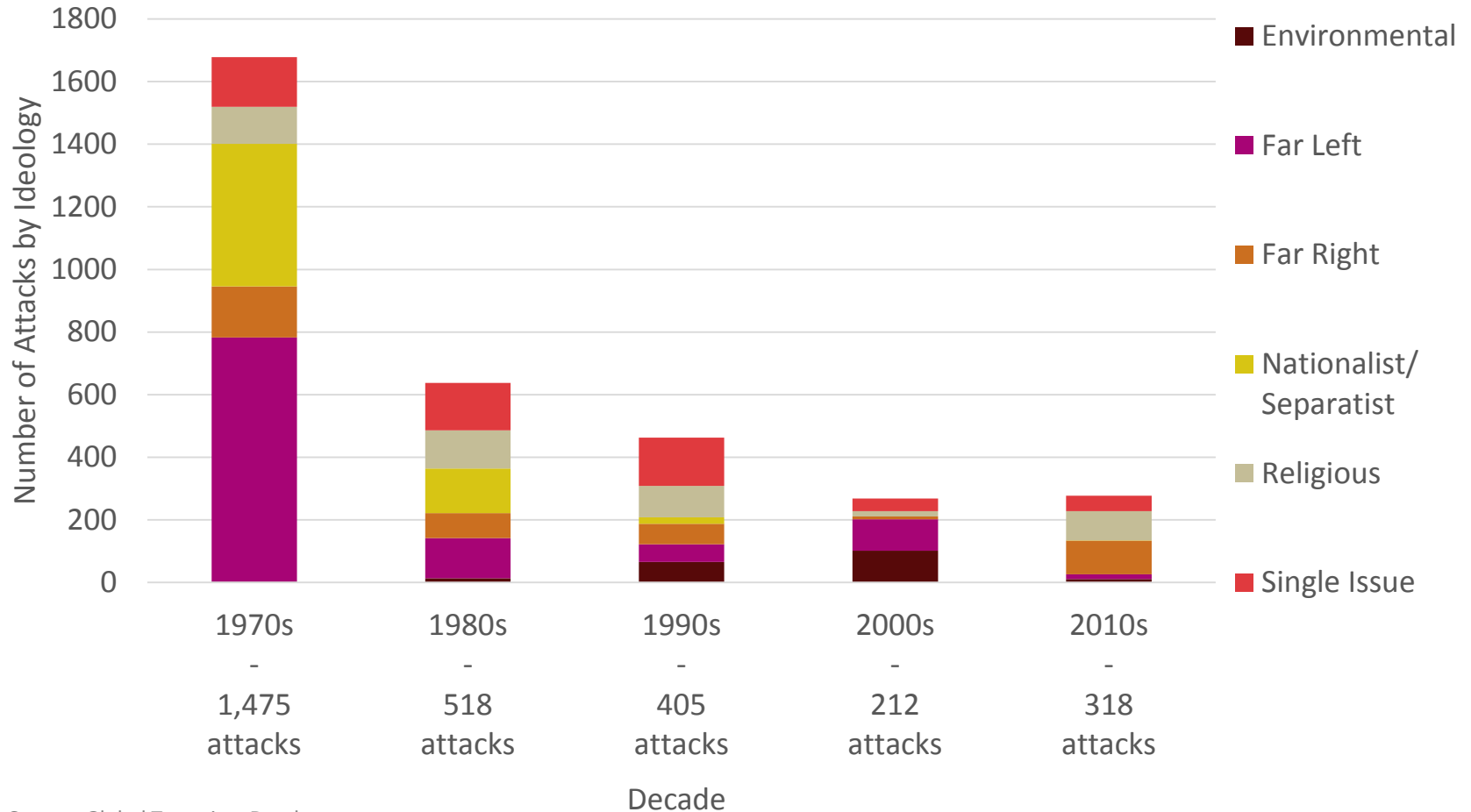
Deaths from Terrorist Attacks in the United States by Ideology, 1970 - 2018



Source: Global Terrorism Database

Note: Ideology was unknown in 2% of all deaths. Ideology categories overlap; deaths can be counted multiple times.

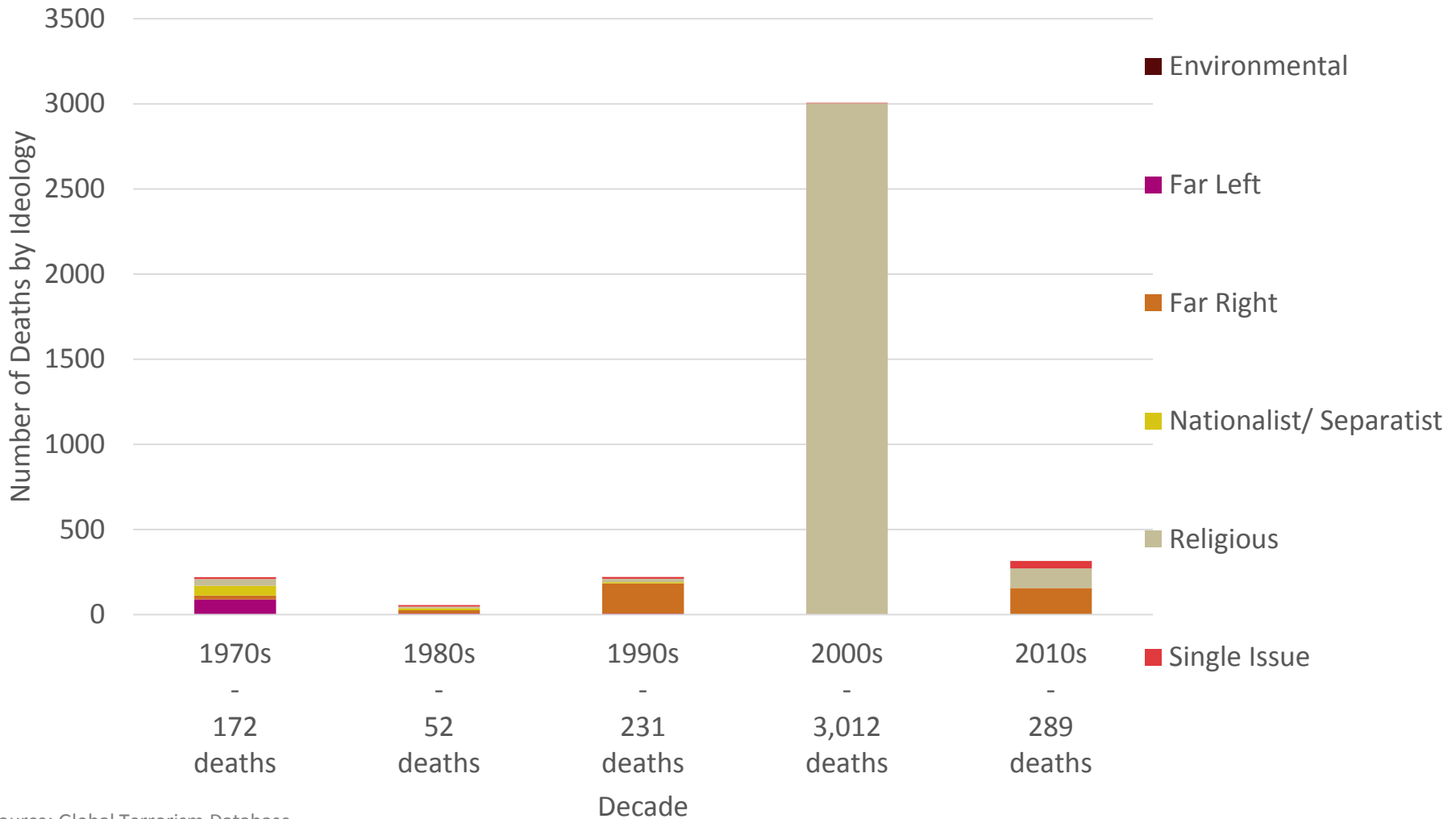
Terrorist Attacks in the United States by Ideology, 1970 - 2018



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GTD DEFINITION OF TERRORISM

Acts by non-state actors involving the threatened or actual use of illegal force or violence to attain a political, economic, religious, or social goal through fear, coercion, or intimidation.

GTD DEFINITION OF TERRORISM (CONT.)

Mandatory inclusion criteria:

- **The incident must be intentional – the result of a conscious calculation on the part of a perpetrator.**
- **The incident must entail some level of violence (includes property violence) or the threat of violence.**
- **There must be sub-national perpetrators**

At least two of the following criteria must be met:

- 1) The act must be aimed at attaining a political, economic, religious, or social goal. In terms of economic goals, the exclusive pursuit of profit does not satisfy this criterion
- 2) There must be evidence of an intention to coerce, intimidate, or convey some other message to a larger audience (or audiences) than the immediate victims.
- 3) The action must be outside the context of legitimate warfare activities, i.e. the act must be outside the parameters permitted by international humanitarian law (particularly the admonition against deliberately targeting civilians or non-combatants).

DEFINITIONS (SEE [HTTPS://TER.PS/GTDIDEOLOGY](https://ter.ps/GTDIDEOLOGY))

Environmental extremism

Violence in support of biodiversity and bio-centric equality (the view that humans have no legitimate claim to dominate earth). Characterized by the belief that the earth and/or animals are in imminent danger, that the government and parts of society such as corporations are responsible for this danger, that this danger will ultimately result in the destruction of the modern environment and/or whole species, and that the political system is incapable and/or unwilling take action to preserve the environment, and/or support biological diversity.

Far left extremism

Violence in support of a revolutionary socialist agenda and the view that one is a protector of the populace. Characterized by disdain for capitalism, imperialism, and colonialism, and by a Marxist political focus and pro-communist/socialist beliefs, or support for a decentralized, non-hierarchical sociopolitical system (e.g., anarchism).

Far right extremism

Violence in support of the belief that personal and/or national way of life is under attack and is either already lost or that the threat is imminent. Characterized by anti-globalism, racial or ethnic supremacy or nationalism, suspicion of centralized federal authority, reverence for individual liberty, and/or belief in conspiracy theories that involve grave threat to national sovereignty and/or personal liberty.

Nationalist/separatist extremism

Violence in support of ethnic or geo-political self-determination. Characterized by regional concentration and a history of organized political autonomy, traditional rule, or regional government, and a commitment to gaining or regaining political independence.

Religious extremism

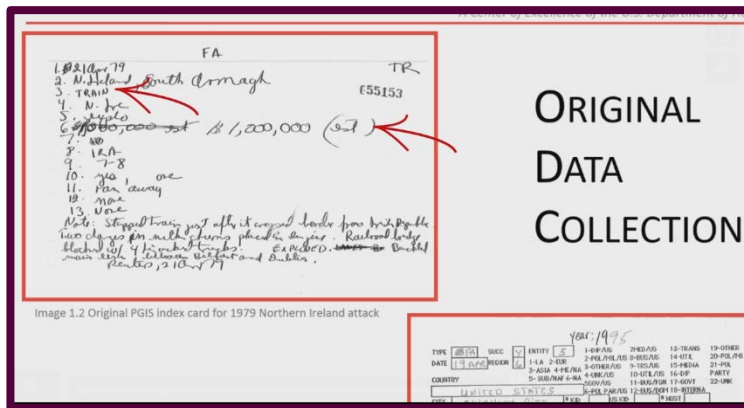
Violence in support of a particular faith-based belief system and its corresponding cultural practices and views, sometimes in opposition to competing belief systems. Characterized by opposition to purported enemies of God, nonbelievers, or perceived evildoers; striving to forcibly insert religion into the political or social sphere through the imposition of strict religious tenets or laws; and/or bring about end times. (Subcategories: Christian, Jewish, Islamic)

Single-issue extremism

Violence in support of advancing a specific or narrowly defined cause. This belief may be associated with any space on the political spectrum.

GLOBAL TERRORISM DATABASE ONLINE TRAINING

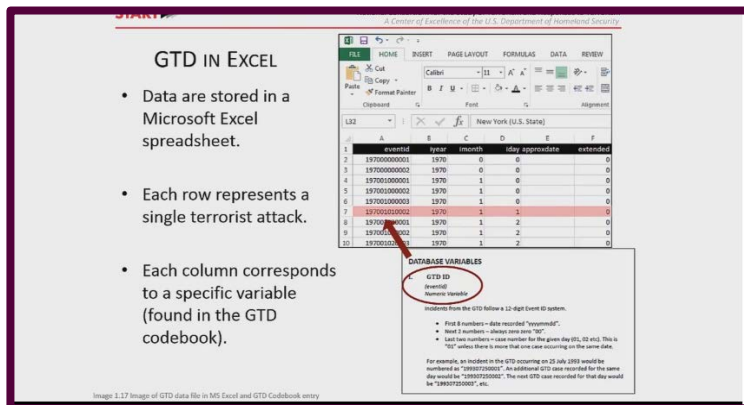
WWW.TER.PS/GTDTRAINING



Historical Background of the GTD



Current Data Collection Methods



How to Navigate the GTD Data File

