

A person in a crowd is wearing a mask that features the stars and stripes of the United States flag. The person is seen from the side, and the background is a blurred crowd of people. The overall image has a dark, muted color palette.

TERRORISM AND EXTREMISM IN THE UNITED STATES



INTRODUCTION TO HOMEGROWN TERRORISM

- **Definition of Homegrown Terrorism:** The characteristics and motivations unique to terrorism originating within a country, as opposed to external threats.
- **Distinguishing Features:** Homegrown terrorism differs from other forms of domestic violence in terms of intent, scale, and ideological underpinnings (Jones et al., 2021).
- **Objective:** Analyzing homegrown terrorism's historical evolution and its changing motives, underlining its importance for national security and policy-making.



DISTINCTION BETWEEN HOMEGROWN TERRORISM AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

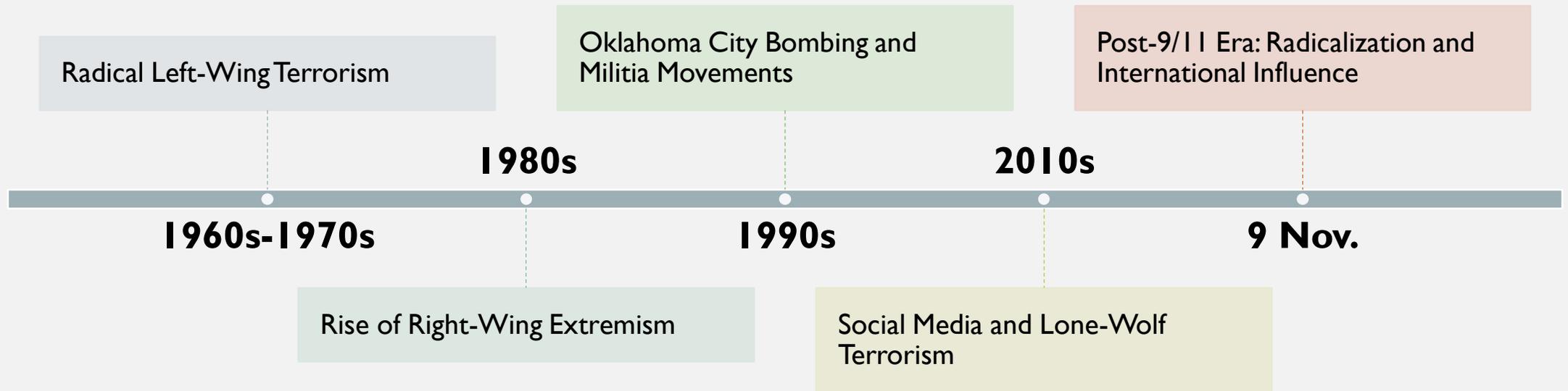
- **Motivational Differences:** Homegrown terrorism is driven by political, religious, or ideological beliefs aimed at influencing policy, contrasting with domestic violence's typically personal or psychological origins.
- **Impact on Strategies:** These distinctions are vital for law enforcement and policymakers in developing targeted responses and prevention strategies.
- **Influencing Perceptions:** These differences are key to accurate media reporting and shaping public perception, promoting a more informed approach to both issues (Koehler, 2023).



MOTIVATIONS BEHIND HOMEGROWN TERRORISM

- **Ideological Beliefs:** Ranging from extreme political views to radical religious convictions, forming a core part of the motivations.
- **Personal Grievances:** Includes perceived injustices or experiences of social alienation that fuel the drive towards terrorism.
- **Psychological Factors:** Desires for identity, belonging, or recognition that often play a significant role in motivating individuals towards extremist actions (Rahman et al., 2020).

TIMELINE OF HOMEGROWN TERRORISM EVOLUTION





ANALYSIS OF FIRST TURNING POINT

- **1960s-1970s: Emergence of Radical Left-Wing Terrorism**
 - Political and Social Motives: Driven by desires for political change, anti-war efforts, and civil rights movements.
 - Evolution from Crime to Politics: Transitioned from traditional criminal activities to terrorism with political motivations.
 - Impact of Societal Movements: Reflecting the era's social and political unrest, manifesting in radical actions (Jones et al., 2021).



ANALYSIS OF SECOND TURNING POINT

- **1980s: Rise of Right-Wing Extremism**
 - Government Opposition Motives: Fueled by a reaction against federal government policies and racial, and ethnic hatred.
 - Evolution to Violence: Shift to more violent and sophisticated tactics, influenced by global terrorism trends.
 - Global Influence: Incorporating elements from international terrorist movements, expanding scope and methods (Koehler, 2023).



ANALYSIS OF THIRD TURNING POINT

- **1990s: Oklahoma City Bombing and Militia Movements**
 - Anti-Government Sentiments: Motivated by a strong opposition to federal actions, exemplified by events like the Waco Siege.
 - Increased Distrust and Coordination: A growing mistrust in the government leads to larger, more coordinated attacks.
 - Militia Movement Growth: The Rise of militia movements as a significant force in domestic terrorism (Rahman et al., 2020).



ANALYSIS OF FOURTH TURNING POINT

- **Post-9/11 Era: Radicalization and the Influence of International Terrorism**
 - Global Influences: Motivations heavily influenced by global jihadist movements and reactions to U.S. foreign policies.
 - Adoption of Global Ideologies: Shift towards embracing global jihadist ideologies and methodologies.
 - Technological Radicalization: Increased use of technology and the internet for radicalization and recruitment purposes (McCann & Pimley, 2022).



ANALYSIS OF FIFTH TURNING POINT

- **2010s: Rise of Social Media and Lone-Wolf Terrorism**
 - Social Media Radicalization: Individual radicalization through social media platforms, influenced by a variety of ideologies.
 - Decentralization and Unpredictability: A move towards more decentralized terrorist activities with increased unpredictability.
 - Internet as a Tool: Heavy reliance on the internet for communication, propaganda, and coordination (Jones et al., 2021).

EVOLUTION OF TERRORISM MOTIVES

Key Driving Factors: Exploring societal and political movements, government policies and racial tensions, distrust in government, global terrorist influences, technological advancements, and societal divisions and political polarization.

Importance in Counterterrorism: Emphasizing the significance of understanding these evolving motives for the development of effective counterterrorism measures (Koehler, 2023).

Dynamic Nature of Terrorism: Highlighting the need for continuous adaptation and vigilance in response strategies to effectively address the changing landscape of terrorism threats.



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