


What is Terrorism?

As recent tragedies have occurred, the idea of what terrorism *really* is comes up often in society

By Madeline Paul
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From all wings of the political spectrum, the American people can agree on one thing: terrorism is the foundation that cowards and bullies can stand upon to feel power by feeding off the fear of their victims.

And it's a disgusting act.

But what, technically, is terrorism? Terrorism can be defined as the unlawful -- and unethical -- use of violence and intimidation, especially against civilians, in the pursuit of political aims.

Rather than working out their issues with the government in the debate room, terrorists find it necessary to take innocent lives in order to get their message across. These messages typically involve some intent to overthrow the current government in place.

This intent was formed during the 20th Century, a time that began the exploration of the ideologies found in terrorism today. After World War I, borders were redrawn, leading minorities to believe that they would receive more political representation. When this representation was not given, anger and resentment were formed. Eastern minority groups began campaigning for independence and self-rule.

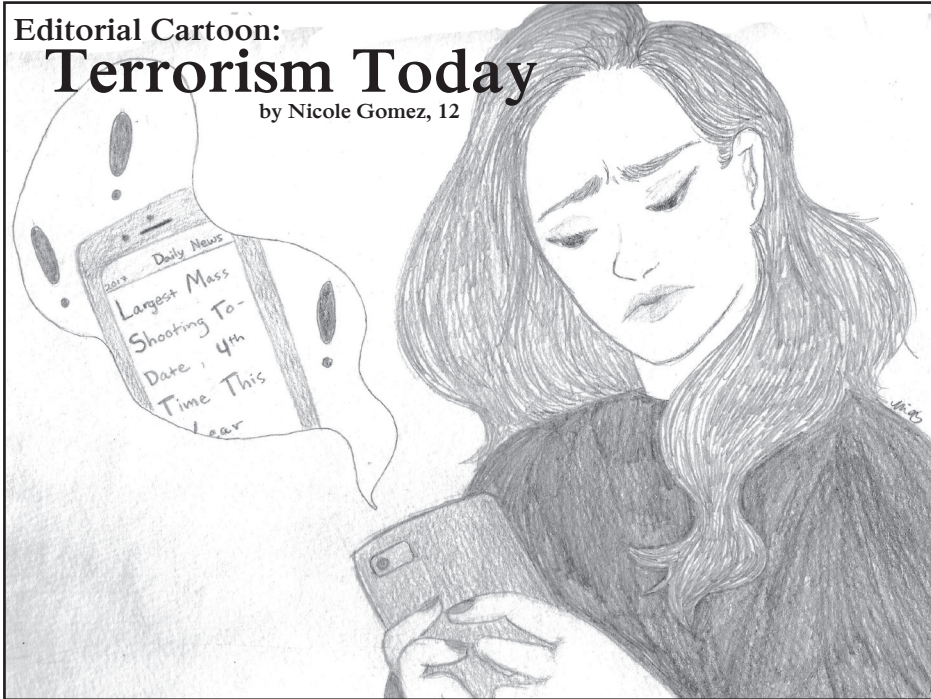
Since these minorities felt as though they were being overlooked by the government, anarchism became an attraction for many of the campaigners due to its lack of a central political system. Anarchism advocates violent social change, making strong believers of the movement behave radically. What started as a campaign for independence became criminal when met with violence.

The year 2017 has seen more terrorist attacks than ever. That hate present in all civilizations has fostered a hostile environment where scare-tactics are becoming more present each day. In fact, a person could easily Google "2017 terrorist attacks" and find that there is some sort of terror attack taking place nearly everyday.

As of print, this year has seen 1,061+ attacks with 6,713+ fatalities. These have taken place all over the globe: no nation, no race, and no identity can excuse themselves from this.

The most dangerous terrorist groups in the world today include Boko Haram, the Islamic State, PKK, Al-Qaeda, Al-Shabaab, and the Taliban. These groups belong to war-torn countries such as Nigeria, Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan, and other Eastern countries.

Rather than letting these cowardice cults take pride in the human weakness, the world bands together, showing strength.



Specific Terror Attacks

The following list includes cities in the United States that have experienced a terrorist attack in 2017, including casualties and possible perpetrators:

- Fort Lauderdale, Fla. (Jan. 6):** five dead, six injured; Islamic State (*ISIS*) claimed
- Kansas City, Mo. (Feb. 23):** one dead, unclaimed
- New York City (March 25):** one dead; White Supremacist
- Fresno, Cal. (April 13):** four dead; Kori Ali Muhammad
- Tulsa, Okla. (July 10):** no fatalities; unclaimed
- Denver, Colo. (Jan. 31):** one dead; unclaimed
- Alexandria, Va. (June 14):** five injured, including U.S. Representative Steve Scalise; Lone Wolf (*working alone*)
- Bloomington, Minn. (Aug. 5):** no fatalities; Right-wing extremists (*suspected*)
- Charlottesville, Va. (Aug. 12):** one dead, 19 injured; James Alex Fields (*suspected*)
- Antioch, Tenn. (Sept. 24):** one dead, eight injured; Lone wolf
- (*Las Vegas shooting not listed due to the lack of political motivation*)
- New York City (Oct. 31):** eight dead; Islamic State inspired
- Sutherland Springs, Texas (Nov. 5):** 26 dead, 20 wounded; Devin Kelly (*suspected*)

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A year removed: Obama and Trump's journey

By Emily Tully
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Amidst another year of political elections, Editor Emily Tully takes a look at some of the achievements and differences after last year's Presidential Election, which brought Donald Trump into office, and sent Barack Obama home

January 20, 2017: the day that changed the American citizen's life.

For eight years, Barack Obama was the 44th President of the United States of America. But on that fateful day, everything millennials knew about the presidency was about to change.

In a high school full of millennials, students knew nothing else in the means of government -- they grew up under former President Obama.

For most, the 2016 candidates for the upcoming presidency were a 'criminal' and a 'reality television star'. Aside from the two-term presidency of former actor Ronald Reagan, no other election had such ridiculed candidates.

When Donald Trump was inaugurated as president, the school's hallway was full of political chatter.

"Why was someone elected who brags about assaulting women?"

"Finally we have a president that cares about the American people!"

The emotions of the students ranged from good, to bad, to indifferent. This election had the potential to be revolutionary, and in some cases it was. It was one of the only times the candidate who won the popular vote did not obtain the presidency.

A main component of President Trump's campaign was his promise to roll back Obama-era administration regulations and laws. He has done so in some cases, for example withdrawing the United States from the Paris Climate Agreement.

Since Trump's presidency began, he has attempted to fulfill his campaign promises --

to tighten national security, to bring jobs back to America and instill a sense of nationality within the citizens.

Some of these have been successful, others haven't.

The fight to have more national security has been a tough one for Trump. His promises for a wall separating the border between Mexico and America have yet to be acted upon, although there are prototypes being made for what kind of wall could eventually be placed on the border.

According to Fox News, Trump has also attempted to pass three different 'travel bans' - a ban restricting entry of citizens from Muslim majority countries. The first, starting early in the year, was met with lawsuits and federal judges blocking the order. There has been a tough legal journey between Trump and the federal court, ending with the most recent decision of a federal judge on Oct. 17 to temporarily block the newest ban.

When it comes to the economy, President Trump has had more success. The jobless rate in the United States has been reported as being as low as 4.3-percent, the lowest it has been since 2001.

According to the Bureau of Labor and Statistics, 209,000 jobs have been added to the economy in July, more than what was expected.

Despite economic growth, the President's approval rating was at 39-percent after six months in office, and has a disapproval rating of 56-percent, higher than any president in over two decades.



Illustrated by Sam Gatewood

Trump's biggest changes so far...

Travel Ban - One of the more controversial changes during Trump's presidency, the travel ban put sanctions on eight Middle Eastern countries, not allowing citizens from there to enter the U.S.

Climate Change - President Trump signed the order that the Environment Protection Agency (EPA) that reversed the Clean Power Plan, This action forced states to regulate power plants, which concerned Environmental Groups in the development of ecosystems and global warming.

Building a prototype wall - The 'Wall' may not be built yet, but the thought of it has caused controversy for Trump since his campaign began. As it stands now, the wall that separates the U.S. and Mexico will not be built unless Congress funds it.

Unemployment - The unemployment rate reached the lowest it has been in six years: 4.5-percent.

Coal Regulations - In February, Trump announced the change of coal waste management. This changes the ways that waterways are protected from coal waste. "Reversing the waterway systems will offer thousands of jobs for coal miners," Trump said in early 2017.

Stock Market Increase - Since Trump's election, the stock market has reached all-time highs. The Dow Jones has increased 25-percent in 2017, and other stocks have been better than they've been in years.

Paris Climate Deal - One of Trump's campaign promises was to pull out of the Paris Climate Deal. The deal switches the way emissions are used through the ecosystem, which lowers the cost of emissions and saves factories money.

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