

Political Science 120: Introduction to International Relations (Spring 2008)

Reading guide questions for February 29 class on terrorism

1. Define Terrorism; as part of this consider:

- Can states/military commit terrorist acts?
- Can noble ends justify terrorist means? Is terrorism ever acceptable?

2. What factors might lead to terrorism? i.e. what causes terrorism?

- As part of this, what would drive individuals to terrorism? Do we need to consider the possible religious dimension? Look back at the transnational religion reading section that included discussion of Islam and be sure to consider the difference between secularism and religious fundamentalism

3. What types of weapons/attacks might terrorists use?

4. In reverse, how should terrorism be countered?

- Consider this question in relation to Issue 13: "Does the United States Have a Sound Strategy for the War on Terrorism?"