



SUMMER SCHOOL IN GLOBAL POLITICS, DEVELOPMENT AND SECURITY 2019

The Historical Roots of Terrorism

Instructor: Ignacio Sánchez Cuenca (Universidad Carlos III de Madrid)

Date: June 26 - 28

Time: 3.00 Pm - 5.00 pm

Room: 24.224 - Mercè Rodoreda Building 24 (Floor 2)

This course is about terrorism onset. Following a comparative approach, the question is why terrorism emerges in some countries and periods but not in others. In order to answer this question, long-term or historical factors are analysed. This assumes that terrorism cannot be fully explained by contemporary variables. Particular attention will be paid to the wave of revolutionary (or radical Left) terrorism that hit affluent countries in the seventies and eighties of the 20th century. It will be shown that this terrorism has its roots in the ways in which the capital-labor conflict was dealt with in the interwar period. The potential application of historical explanations to other cases of terrorism will be discussed.

Session 1. Terrorism as underground violence

The first session deals with the nature of terrorist violence, arguing that it can be characterized with those armed attacks that are consistent with the perpetrators acting underground. This captures both the violence of underground organizations, the terrorist violence carried out by territorial insurgencies when they act within the enemy's territory, as well as cover actions of state repression.

Required reading:

De la Calle, Luis, and Ignacio Sánchez-Cuenca. 2011. What we talk about when we talk about terrorism. *Politics & Society*, 39 (3): 451-472.

De la Calle, Luis, and Ignacio Sánchez-Cuenca. 2015. How armed groups fight: Territorial control and violent tactics. *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism*, 38 (10): 795-813.

Session 2. The historical roots of revolutionary terrorism

The second session presents a comparative analysis of revolutionary terrorism in affluent countries during the period 1970-2000. The cross-national variation in the intensity of this type of terrorism can be explained reconstructing the cross-national variation in the development paths of these countries during the interwar years (1919-39). The countries that followed a non-liberal path in the interwar period are the ones who suffer lethal revolutionary terrorism in the post-1968 years.

Required reading:

Sánchez-Cuenca, Ignacio. 2019. *The Historical Roots of Political Violence. Revolutionary Terrorism in Affluent Countries (1970-2000)*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Introduction + Chapters 1-5.

Session 3. Terrorism as a reaction against liberal democracy and capitalism

The third session is more speculative, covering deep historical causes of terrorism. Revolutionary terrorism can be explained in terms of ancient social characteristics embodied in family structures and grammar rules. The possibility of extending this type of explanation to Islamist terrorism is contemplated.

Required reading:

Sánchez-Cuenca, Ignacio. 2019. *The Historical Roots of Political Violence. Revolutionary Terrorism in Affluent Countries (1970-2000)*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Chapters 6-7.