

MODERN CONFLICT KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

What is terrorism?

The most commonly accepted definition of terrorism is: "It is the threat or use of violence with the intent of causing fear in a target group, in order to achieve political objectives."

Different types of terrorism

Bioreterrorism = This is the deliberate release of viruses, bacteria or chemicals to cause illness/death. They can be spread by touch, through the air, or in food/water. Several deadly 'bio-weapons' include anthrax, smallpox, the plague and Ebola.

State terrorism = Countries/states can be terrorists too. Politicians have used violence to terrorise their citizens and achieve their aims. Countries can also terrorise other nations. State terrorism can also be a form of war.

Ecoterrorism = This refers to acts of terrorism, violence or sabotage motivated by environmental issues or animal rights. Some people argue they are not terrorists because they don't target violence against living things, just property.

Religious terrorism = Some people are so committed to their religion they commit terrorist acts against people with different beliefs. These 'extremists' use their interpretations of religious texts to justify their action or gain new recruits.

Cyberterrorism = Cyberterrorists use computer programs, systems and networks to cause disruption – or physical violence. Targets could include the banking industry, military bases, power plants, air traffic control centres and water systems.

Key People

Osama bin Laden (1957-2011)

Osama bin Laden was a founder and a financier of al-Qaeda from its formation in 1988. He was a Saudi Arabian citizen until 1994 and a member of the wealthy bin Laden family. bin Laden studied at university in Saudi Arabia until 1979, when he joined Mujahideen forces in Pakistan fighting against the Soviet Union in Afghanistan. He helped to fund the Mujahideen with arms, money and fighters from the Arab world into Afghanistan, which helped him to gain popularity. He was banished from Saudi Arabia in 1992, and shifted his base to Sudan, until U.S. pressure forced him to leave Sudan in 1996. He declared war on America and encouraged Muslims to do the same in order to "liberate" their countries. He was killed in Pakistan by US Navy SEALs, which was a CIA-led operation.



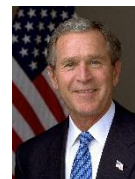
Saddam Hussein (1937-2006)

Saddam Hussein was the ruler of Iraq from 1976 until 2003. He went to war with Iran in 1980, where he initially had support (money and weapons) from the USA. However, in 1990, Hussein invaded Kuwait, an ally of the USA. The USA led a war against Iraq and defeated Hussein in the first Gulf War of 1991.



George Bush (1946-present)

George W. Bush was President of the United States from 2001 to 2009. He was responsible for the response to 9/11 and declaring the War on Terror. After 9/11, America called on countries to make fund-raising for terrorism a criminal offence and asked to confiscate any money from those suspected of involvement in terrorist activities.



Sayyid Qutb (1906-1966)



An extremist group called the Muslim Brotherhood was formed in Egypt in the 1950s, and Sayyid Qutb was a leading member. He was shocked by some parts of American life, including gun violence and sexual freedom. Qutb called anything non-Muslim 'evil and corrupt', and was arrested and executed in 1966.

Mohammed Omar (1960-2013)

Mohammed Omar was the founder leader of the Taliban, an Islamic group made up of many Mujahideen soldiers. He offered al-Qaeda protection from 1996 after they were expelled from Sudan and Saudi Arabia. He also founded the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan in 1996.



Major Events

Event	Image	Description	Dates	Fact
al-Qaeda is formed		al-Qaeda were a radical Islamic terrorist group that believed in a strict reading of the Qur'an, the Islamic holy book. They were made up of Mujahideen members to expand their struggle for Islam. 'Jihad' is a term used in the Qur'an meaning the struggle that Muslims have to practise their faith. al-Qaeda interpret 'jihad' to mean a war against non-believers. al-Qaeda was based in Afghanistan, led by Osama bin Laden.	1988	The name al-Qaeda means 'the base' or 'the foundation'.
The fall of the Berlin Wall		The Berlin Wall had separated the communist eastern section of Berlin Germany from west Berlin since 1961. However, the Soviet Union was beginning to collapse, and was struggling to hold onto East Germany. In November 1989, the Central Committee of East Germany opened up free movement across the wall. In doing so, one of the major symbols of the Cold War itself was abolished. This led to a new stage in the world, and left space for new extremist groups.	9 th November 1989	After the collapse of communism, the USA saw terrorism as a new threat.
Gorbachev resigns		Mikhail Gorbachev knew the USSR was in crisis and tried to help. He allowed the development of capitalism. Gorbachev's new approach also changed the situation in Eastern Europe. He told the governments that the Soviet army wouldn't be used to help keep communism alive. The leaders didn't take him seriously, but the people did. In the summer of 1989 they started to dismantle crossings between east and west. By mid-1990 all the communist regimes had been overthrown. Gorbachev couldn't hold the USSR together, so he resigned and was seen as a failure by the Russians.	25 th December 1991	In 1990, Gorbachev was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for helping to end the Cold War.
First Gulf War		The USA led a war against Iraq and defeated Saddam Hussein in the first Gulf War of 1991. This was because in 1990, Hussein invaded Kuwait, an ally of the USA. The USA stated that it was fighting to defend a country that had been illegally attacked. Most Muslims in the region thought that the USA was trying to control the region and its valuable oil supplies.	1991	The First Gulf War is also known as the Persian Gulf War, Desert Storm and Desert Shield.
al-Qaeda flees to Sudan		After being expelled from Saudi Arabia, al-Qaeda settled in Sudan. Sudan had recently been taken over by Islamic troops who wanted to create an extremist country, which gave al-Qaeda a safe base. For the next four years, bin Laden used his wealth to build the power of al-Qaeda, and worked on projects for the Sudanese government, which supported his move and welcomed the financial support.	1992	The Sudanese government say being barred from Sudan turned bin Laden into a terrorist.
bin Laden declares war		bin Laden and leaders of other groups linked to al-Qaeda signed the declaration of war that was published in an Arabic newspaper in London. The declaration complained about military presence in Iraq, and American support for Israel. Six months after this declaration, al-Qaeda bombed two US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, which killed 224 people in total.	23 rd February 1998	At the time, few people paid attention to this declaration.
9/11 attacks		The 9/11 attacks were a series of attacks by al-Qaeda in the USA. The Twin Towers in New York were targeted, as was the World Trade Centre and the Pentagon in Washington. The final death toll was 2,976. After these attacks, airport security increased, and Muslims were seen as a threat to society, even though it was a small minority of radicals who misinterpret the Qur'an.	11 th September 2001	At the time, President Washington was reading to school children.
War on Terror		America responded to the 9/11 attacks by declaring a 'War on Terror'. They called on all countries to work together to prevent more terror attacks. Governments were urged to stop funding and arming terrorist groups and allowing them to operate in their countries. The targets of the War on Terror were Islamic extremist groups around the world, with the most prominent being al-Qaeda and the Taliban.	11 th September 2001 – Present	Some say the War on Terror is an excuse for America to gain influence in the Middle East.
Afghanistan War		On 7 October 2001, the USA and its allies invaded Afghanistan to root out al-Qaeda and Osama bin Laden. More than 1,000 US soldiers were on the ground, with numbers growing and reaching up to more than 10,000 soldiers by December 2003. The UK was a key ally, offering military support. In March 2002, US Canadian and Afghan forces began 'Operation Anaconda', which resulted in a victory.	7 th October 2001 – February 2020	Technically, the Afghanistan War isn't over yet.
Peace talks		On 29 February 2020, the US and the Taliban signed a landmark peace agreement after nearly 20 years. The deal paved the way for talks between Afghans to end one of the longest-running conflicts in the world. The Taliban agreed to sever ties with al-Qaeda and other international terror groups and sit down for peace talks with other Afghans, including the government. The US agreed to start a phased withdrawal of troops and close bases. If both sides keep to their commitment, all US military forces could leave Afghanistan by spring 2021.	29 th February 2020 – Present	No Afghans apart from the militants were part of the talks.

Modern Conflict Timeline

1988 – al-Qaeda is formed by Osama bin Laden.

1990 – Iraq invaded Kuwait, an ally of the USA.

1996 – the Taliban leader offered al-Qaeda protection in Afghanistan.

1998 – bin Laden announced the formation of the World Islamic Front.

1998 – bin Laden declares war on the West (mainly the USA).

2001 – 9/11 attacks.

2001 – Afghanistan War begins between US, UK and Afghanistan.

2020 – Present – Peace talks begin between the US and the Taliban.