Research Questions

• Does the resolution of civil wars affect terrorist activity?
• Do group goals matter for terrorist activity in the post-war period?
• Why might groups with goals of regime change have behave differently from groups with goals of territory change?

Heterogeneous Group Goals

Terrorist groups employ violence to coerce political change and instill fear. However, these groups represent diverse agendas. Examples include:

• Maintenance of the status quo
• Territorial changes
• Policy changes
• Regime change and/or social revolution

Methodology

• Pooled-panel, cross-section of terrorist groups 1970-2014
• Over 600 group-year observations
• Negative binomial model
• Subpopulations of terrorist groups based on goals of territory or regime changes
• Dependent variables: Number and lethality of terrorist attacks
• Quasi-experimental method using difference-in-difference design
• Treatment condition: War ends in compromise or rebel victory

Prevalence of Terrorist Groups

Types of Civil War Resolutions

• Government victory
• Stalemate
• Compromise
• Rebel victory
• Low-level violence
• Transition to a different type of conflict

Research Implications

This research provides a better understanding of the ways that war outcomes affect terrorist group activities. It provides a framework for policymakers and counter terrorist organizations to evaluate and predict terrorist strategies. Ultimately, this research strives to mitigate political violence.

Primary Findings

• Groups with territorial goals increase the lethality of attacks following civil wars that end in a compromise or rebel victory
• Groups with regime change goals decrease the number and lethality of attacks under similar conditions
• Differential effects arise due perceived success of the war effort and relative scope of group goals

Difference-in-Difference Model

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<th>Overall Population</th>
<th>Terrorist Change</th>
<th>Regime Change</th>
<th>Overall Population</th>
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*p < 0.05, **p < 0.01, ***p < 0.001