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TERRORISM STRATEGIES. AN ATTEMPT AT CONCEPTUALISATION

Carl von Clausevitz, in his classic definition of strategy, described it as the science of using battles for purposes of war². Terrorism is well researched both at the "battle" level (referred to here as a concrete assassination attempt)³ as well as the ultimate goal (which is an ideological motivation)⁴. Relatively the weakest recognition is given to the level of strategy defining how terrorist attacks are supposed to lead to the realisation of the ultimate goal. This is understandable, as only in a few cases have terrorist organisations been able to achieve their goal partly (Irish Republican Army) or temporarily (Islamic State)⁵. Also in theory, terrorists rarely present a coherent strategy. The few visions they have presented for achieving the ultimate goal are generally very broad, which is a natural consequence of the mismatch between the small forces and ambitious targets of terrorist

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² Clausewitz C, Warsaw 1958, O wojnie, Vol. I, p. 85. For different variants of the definition of "strategy" *see*: Sabak Z, *Strategia*. Ewolucja paradygmatu. Warsaw, 2012, pp. 119–136; *Cf.*: Koziej S, Teoria sztuki wojennej. Warsaw, 2011, pp. 29–33; Polak A, Sztuka wojenna. Zeszyty Naukowe AON, 2013, No. 3.

³ E.g. Wojtasik K, Anatomia zamachu. Warsaw, 2019.

 $^{^4\,}$ E.g. Tomasiewicz J, Zło w imię dobra. Zjawisko przemocy w polityce. Warsaw—Bielsko-Biała, 2012.

⁵ I refer to all groups and informal movements whose followers use terrorism both as a primary and secondary method as terrorists. I use the concept of terrorism as defined in the article. Tomasiewicz J, Od skrytobójstwa do miatieżewojny. Ewolucja terroryzmu politycznego w Europie—aspekty ideologiczne, taktyczne i organizacyjne. *Przegląd Bezpieczeństwa Wewnętrznego*, 2014, No. 11.

organisations. The Rote Armee Fraktion (RAF) has openly proclaimed the "primacy of practice", recognising that the reality of armed resistance can only be tested in action⁶. Terrorists are also generally characterised by hypocrisy, ordering them to mask criminal practices with lofty slogans. In this situation, we are doomed to reconstruct the terrorists' strategic plan on the basis of both their declarations and actions. With the input (*i.e.* tactics) and the output (*i.e.* target) we must reconstruct the intermediate stages.

The aim of the study is to develop assumptions that will serve the analysis of a long-term terrorist strategy. Of course, it is an initial and provisional proposal of a tool, the creation of which requires further, preferably collaborative, research. The analytical schema presented here should be developed, supplemented, specified and modified with the broadest possible historical, geographical and ideological comparative material. It is particularly important to maintain a historical perspective, as the analysis of long-term trends—and not just the current situation—allows for the extrapolation of the future⁷.

Some preliminary assumptions should be made for this task. First of all, we must break with the perception of terrorists as irrational psychopaths (some treat terrorism as a fascination with evil, a manifestation of mental illness and primary wildness)8. However, without denying the fact that the psycho- and sociopathic element is over-represented in terrorist groups, it must be assumed that terrorists act rationally within their logic (even if this is sometimes a secondary rationalisation). To paraphrase Clausevitz, terrorism is a war waged by other means. The assumption about the irrationalism of terrorists corresponds to the statement that the aim of terrorists is to intimidate the enemy⁹. This is also a misunderstanding—intimidation is only a means leading to a real goal. Therefore we cannot ignore the ideological factor, sometimes treated as a kind of smokescreen, that conceals the real (in the guise: mundane) motives of terrorists. Let us remember that a person who risks or even sacrifices his or her freedom, health, or even life needs a strong motivation, and this is what ideology can provide 10. In addition, ideology to a large extent determines not only strategy, but also tactics (e.g. the choice of the object of attack and, consequently, the methods of action). Finally, the importance of conspiracy theories should not be overestimated,

⁶ The Red Army Faction: A Documentary History, Vol. 1, Montreal—Oakland, pp. 92–96.

⁷ On the application of trajectory theory to terrorism, *see more* in: Tomasiewicz J, Trajektoria współczesnego terroryzmu międzynarodowego — nowe wyzwania. *Studia Lubuskie*, 2016, Vol. 12. Based on past experience, it is possible, for example, to predict an increase in the amount of ecological terrorism in the near future.

⁸ Borkowski R, Terroryzm ponowoczesny. Toruń, 2006, p. 39.

⁹ Ibid., p. 41; Bolechów B, Terroryzm w świecie podwubiegunowym. Toruń, 2003, p. 35

¹⁰ Although of course this is not the only motivation—such motivation may be material benefits or, for example, personal revenge.

as they see terrorism as "a slow tool in the hands" of the the KGB¹¹ or the CIA¹² – although the links between terrorists and the secret services are undeniable, subversive groups have usually tried to achieve their own goals¹³.

The final goal

The ultimate goal of terrorists is determined by their ideology. The ideology defines values (the desired vision of the world), diagnoses the situation by presenting and explaining the picture of reality (*e.g.* identifying the enemy), and finally shows the possibility of transition from the existing to the desired state (which includes the justification for violence). It may be suspected that in some cases the ultimate goal is of a declarative nature, *i.e.* the terrorists themselves do not believe in its full implementation, but nevertheless it should be treated as if it were a real goal. Sometimes the achievement of a partial or phased objective (like the Good Friday Agreement in Northern Ireland in 1998) may satisfy the terrorists ¹⁴, but in other cases, it becomes a starting point for further escalation (the overthrow of the Frankish dictatorship in Spain only intensified the terror of Eucadi Ta Askatasuna ¹⁵).

Terrorists can set themselves the following goals:

- C1. **anarchy**: destruction of the apparatus of power (*e.g.* classic 19th/20th century anarchists¹⁶);
- C2. **revolution**: seizure of power and change of regime within a state (*e.g.* Партия социалистов-революционеров in Russia¹⁷) or even a group of states (*e.g.* Daesh¹⁸);
- C3. **separation/irredentism**: separation of part of the territory of a State (*e.g.* ETA or IRA¹⁹);
 - 11 Sterling C, Sieć terroru. Warsaw, 1990.
 - ¹² Willan P, Puppetmasters. London, 1991.
- ¹³ Ultra-left wing terrorists remained critical of the USSR, *e.g.* the RAF in its manifesto "The Urban Guerilla Concept" criticised the "alliance between US imperialism and the Soviet Union". The Red Army..., *op. cit.*, p. 88. Of course, it didn't interfere with tactical cooperation. *Bartali R*, Red Brigades (1969–1974): An Italian Phenomenon and a Product of the Cold War. "Modern Italy" 2007, No. 3. Even Bartali, though he remains convinced of the Cold War genesis of the BR, admits that the KGB did not steer the Red Brigade but more or less episodically used them. *Ibid.*, p. 357. *Compare*: The Red Brigades: A Primer, *CIA*-FoIA RD-P83B00231 R0001 00240002-6, p. 14; F. Orlandi, KGB and the Red Brigades: No Ties that Bind, *East* 2011, No. 34.
 - ¹⁴ O'Brien B, IRA. Warsaw, 2001, pp. 240-257.
- ¹⁵ Baskijska choroba. *Forum*, 1978, No. 36; Encyklopedia "Świat w przekroju 1979". Warsaw, 1979, pp. 116–117.
- ¹⁶ Grinberg D, Ruch anarchistyczny w Europie Zachodniej 1870-1914. Warsaw, 1994, pp. 78–84.
 - ¹⁷ Pipes R, Rewolucja rosyjska. Warsaw, 1994, pp. 116–119.
 - ¹⁸ Hanne O, Flichy de La Neuville T, Państwo Islamskie. Warsaw, 2015.
- ¹⁹ Tomasiewicz J, Współczesne ruchy regionalistyczne w Europie zachodniej. *Sprawy Narodowościowe*, 1997, No. 2.

- C4. **reform**: (through political or economic concessions by the authorities) of the prevailing system or correction of its policies (*inter alia*, certain groups of the western European extreme left²⁰, Mexican Zapatista rebels²¹, Movimiento 19 de Abril in Colombia²²);
- C5. **defense of the status quo**: *i.e.* the prevailing socio-political system and/or balance of power (*e.g.* Black Sotnia in Russia at the beginning of the 20th century²³, the Ku-Klux-Klan in the USA²⁴, Movimento di Azione Rivoluzionaria in Italy in the 1970s²⁵);
- C6. **Fifth column**: weakening of enemy forces in order to enable the ally to take over the control of another area [C2, C3] (*e.g.* West German Rote Armee Fraktion fighting in the name of solidarity with the Vietnamese and Palestinian Revolution²⁶) or facilitating external intervention (*e.g.* German diversionary groups in Poland in 1939²⁷);
- C7. **cultural hegemony**: change of social awareness without the necessary change of the political system (*e.g.* Animal Liberation Front²⁸);
- C8. **lack of positive goal**: retaliation (*e.g.* Wehrwolf²⁹), self-fulfillment (*e.g.* insurrectionists-nihilists³⁰) etc. One of the Italian right-wing terrorists, Mario Tuti, mentioned: "When we grabbed our weapons […] we knew perfectly well that we had no chance of winning"; another neo-fascist said that "armed action is simply a demonstration of existence"³¹.

To achieve these goals, terrorism can be a primary or secondary method (supporting *e.g.* regular war, armed uprising, rural guerrillage, coup d'état, civil disobedience or even elections). In practice, this strategy is a result of the intentions and capabilities of the terrorists—sometimes terrorism was simply a substitute for rural guerrillas or armed uprisings, as

 $^{^{20}\,}$ $\mathit{Ibid.},$ Terroryzm na tle przemocy politycznej. Zarys encyklopedyczny. Katowice, 2000, p. 110, 123.

Weinberg B, Homage to Chiapas. London—New York, 2000, p. 299.

²² W imie Bolivara. Forum, 1986, No. 6.

²³ Jaśkiewicz L, Absolutyzm rosyjski w dobie rewolucji 1905-1907. Warsaw, 1982, pp. 140–141.

²⁴ Sobieraj J, Ku Klux Klan. Warsaw, 2004, pp. 19–20, 55, 91.

²⁵ Cento Bull A, Italian Neofascism. The Strategy of Tension and the Politics of Nonreconciliation. New York—Oxford, 2007, p. 38.

The Red Army..., *op. cit.*, p. 174, 178; Komunikat po zbombardowaniu amerykańskiej ambasady w Bonn 13 lutego 1991, Lewica Bez Cenzury. *Electronic source*: http://www.geocities.com/lbc_1917_1/54RAF2.html, *accessed*: 23.12.2007.

 $^{^{\}overline{27}}$ Cygański M, Hitlerowska V kolumna w województwach śląskim i krakowskim w 1939 roku. Opole, 1972, pp. 132–135.

²⁸ Posłuszna E, Ekstremizm ekologiczny. Warsaw, 2012, pp. 65–101.

²⁹ Biddiscombe P, Ostatni naziści. Warsaw, 2003, pp. 215–259.

³⁰ Posłuszna E, Terroryzm anarchistyczny—istota, taktyka, organizacja. Bezpieczeństwo Narodowe, 2013, No. 28, p. 104.

³¹ Cento Bull A, Cooke P, Ending Terrorism in Italy, Abingdon—New York 2013, p. 92, 94. The motivation to fight the neo-fascists found in the heroic "spirit of the legionary". *Spirito legionario*, "*Quex (la rivista dei carcerati nazional-rivoluzionari)*", 1980, No. 3.

evidenced by the examples of Irish Phoenicians, Croatian mouths, EOKA in Cyprus, and left-wing terrorists in Brazil and Uruguay³².

Terrorist attack

These objectives are pursued by terrorists through terrorist attacks, which can be either a single act or a whole complex of acts carried out simultaneously or sequentially. An example of the first case is the attack by Chechen terrorists on the Moscow theatre in Dubrovka in 2002³³, the second is "Bloody Wednesday" on 15 August 1906 (attacks by PPS militias in 19 cities)³⁴, and the third is the two assaults initiated by Anders Breivik on 22 July 2011³⁵. An assassination can be carried out by one person, a team of people or a number of teams working in parallel³⁶. Sometimes the people who make the decision to carry out the assassination attempt are the attackers (jihadist "lone wolves", insurrectionists), in other cases, the roles of the decision-maker and the performer are separated³⁷. Nevertheless, even the "lone wolves" are usually part of a broader movement, to which they are connected by an ideological bond. Assassinations are usually planned and prepared in advance, but they also occur spontaneously.

The target of the assassination may be people, animals (although terrorists have not carried out such actions so far, but there have been criminal actions of this type)³⁸, material objects (mainly public—infrastructural or symbolic—but also private property) and information resources. The criteria for the selection of the object are: spectacularity, severity and, last but not least, accessibility. In order to carry out an attack, terrorists

³² Gruszka W, Konflikt w Irlandii Północnej. Warsaw, 1977, pp. 33–34; Borejsza J.W, Rzym a wspólnota faszystowska. Warsaw, 1981, pp. 136–138; Nitecka-Jagiełło B, Cypr. Anatomia konfliktu. Warsaw, 1975, p. 36; Kowalewski Z.M, Guerilla latynoamerykańska. Wrocław, 1978, pp. 138–140.

³³ Kraj K, Rosja w walce z terroryzmem. Krakow, 2009, pp. 84-86.

³⁴ Pająk J, Organizacje bojowe partii politycznych w Królestwie Polskim 1904-1911. Warsaw, 1985, pp. 146–147.

³⁵ Tomasiewicz J, Nowa populistyczna prawica jako źródło zagrożenia terrorystycznego w Europie. *Przegląd Bezpieczeństwa Wewnętrznego*, 2013, No. 9.

³⁶ See: Wojtasik K, op. cit., pp. 11-13, 31, 61-63.

³⁷ While we may consider the contractor to be a direct perpetrator, the organisation to which he belongs or the movement with which he identifies himself will be referred to as an indirect perpetrator.

Scheiał wytruć stado świń, Fakt.pl. Electronic source: https://www.fakt.pl/wydarzenia/polska/slask/rozbojnik-juz-w-rekach-policji/nrqlwvn, accessed: 08.08.2015; Kto wytruł pszczoły w pasiece w Głuchałazach? Farmer.pl. Electronic source: https://www.farmer.pl/fakty/polska/kto-wytrul-pszczoly-w-pasiece-w-gluchalazach-nagroda-za-wskazanie-sprawcy,89465.html, accessed: 12.01.2020. In this context, mention can be made of the release of animals by ecoterrorists. Posłuszna E, Ekstremizm..., op. cit., pp. 101–132.

use cold weapons³⁹, firearms⁴⁰, explosives⁴¹, incendiary materials⁴², means of transport (car⁴³, ship⁴⁴, plane⁴⁵), information technology (viruses, logic bombs, Trojans, DDoS and others⁴⁶), and unconventional weapons (including chemical and biological weapons⁴⁷).

We can distinguish between the following types of offensive actions carried out by terrorists⁴⁸:

- Z1. assassinations (assassination, mutilation, abduction) of elite representatives (political, military, religious, business leaders) e.g. the assassination of President Anwar Sadat by jihadists in 1981^{49} or the kidnapping of former Prime Minister Aldo Moro by the Red Brigades in 1978^{50} ;
- Z2. assassinations of officers of the power apparatus (*e.g.* the murders by Mohamed Mahamed Maharah in 2012)⁵¹ but also economic institutions (Red Brigades in Italy)⁵², information (jihadist attack on "Charlie Hebdo")⁵³,
- ³⁹ Paris police attack: Four killed by knife-wielding employee, BBC News. *Electronic source*: https://www.bbc.com/news/49921145, *accessed*: 03.10.2019.
 - 40 Wojtasik K, op. cit., pp. 80-83.
 - 41 *Ibid.*, pp. 61-63.
 - ⁴² Armed Struggle in Italy 1976-78—a chronology, bdw, 2008, p. 23.
 - 43 Wojtasik K, op. cit., pp. 96-97.
- ⁴⁴ USS Cole bombing, GlobalSecurity.org. *Electronic source*: https://www.globalsecurity.org/security/profiles/uss_cole_bombing.htm, *accessed*: 02.01.2020.
 - ⁴⁵ Landau E, Osama ben Laden. Warsaw, 2001, pp. 13–16.
- ⁴⁶ Bógdał-Brzezińska A, Gawrycki M.F, Cyberterroryzm i problemy bezpieczeństwa informacyjnego we współczesnym świecie. Warsaw, 2003, pp. 144–155.
 - 47 Williams P.L, Al-Kaida. Poznań, 2007, pp. 250–267.
- ⁴⁸ It is worth considering whether acts of self-destruction such as Yukio Mishima's ritual suicide after the failed coup in 1970 (Albery N, Nobuko Albery pozdrawia ducha Mishimy, powieściopisarza samobójcy. *Literatura na Świecie*, 1989, No. 3; see: Mishima Y, Piękna śmierć. *Fronda*, 1995, No. 4–5) or the self-immolation of Buddhist monks in Vietnam (Dmochowski A, Wietnam wojna bez zwycięzców. Cracow, 1991, p. 82) can be classified as one more type of assassination. Although we are not dealing here with intimidation of the recipient, the psychological effect is comparable.
- ⁴⁹ Domarańczyk Z, Strzały w Kairze. Warsaw, 1985, pp.5–16. Detailed descriptions of the assassinations of heads of state and government in the nineteenth and first half of the twentieth century are contained in the book Szmidt L.T, Terroryzm a państwo. Lublin, 1979.
- ⁵⁰ Hof T, The "Moro Affair" left-wing terrorism and conspiracy in Italy in the late 1970s. *Historical Social Research*, 2013, No. 1. Uprowadzenia ważnych osobistości stały się znakiem firmowym urugwajskich Tupamaros. M.E. Gilio, *Tupamaros*. Warsaw, 1973, p.32.
- ⁵¹ Toulouse gunman Mohamed Merah 'no lone wolf', BBC News. *Electronic source*: http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-19360803, *accessed*: 23.08.2012.
- ⁵² Buckingham L.A, The Red Brigades: A Description Of A Terrorist Organization (Thesis). California State University, Sacramento, 1982, mps., p. 25.
- ⁵³ Najpierw zabijali w redakcji, potem zastrzelili policjanta, TVN24. *Electronic source*: https://tvn24.pl/wiadomosci-ze-swiata,2/zamach-na-charlie-hebdo-tak-przebiegal-atak,504096.html, *accessed*: 07.01.2015.

religious (Forghan group in Iran)⁵⁴, and even educational (Taliban in Afghanistan⁵⁵);

- Z3. assaults on private representatives of the "hostile" community (*e.g.* the IRA attack on a bar in the Protestant district of Belfast on 23 May 1970⁵⁶, the attack by Brenton Tarrant on a mosque in Christchurch on 15 March 2019⁵⁷);
- Z4. assaults on random people (most jihadist attacks in Europe and North America)⁵⁸;
- Z5. destruction of infrastructure objects (industrial⁵⁹, energy⁶⁰, communication⁶¹, administrative⁶², commercial⁶³, scientific⁶⁴, educational⁶⁵ and even entertainment⁶⁶) or private property of the opponent (*e.g.* flats or cars⁶⁷) as well as the destruction of information resources and the disruption of the flow of information⁶⁸;
- Z6. Destruction of symbolic objects (Alsatian separatists attacked the monument to Marshal Turenne in Strasbourg in 1975⁶⁹, the assassination of Breton separatists at Versailles Palace in 1978⁷⁰);
- ⁵⁴ Giełżyński W, Rewolucja w imię Allaha. Warsaw, 1979, pp. 272–273; Schmidt A.P, Jongman A.J, Political Terrorism. Amsterdam, 1988, p. 578; Cohen R.A, Revolution Under Attack. New York, 2015, pp. 79–100.
- ⁵⁵ Afganistan: Narastające i systematyczne ataki Talibów skierowane przeciw ludności cywilnej, Amnesty International. *Electronic source*: https://amnesty.org.pl/afganistan-narastaj%C4%85ce-i-systematyczne-ataki-talib%C3%B3w-skierowane-przeciw-ludno%C5%9Bci-cywilnej/, *accessed*: 20.04.2007.
 - ⁵⁶ Gruszka W, op. cit., p. 148.
- ⁵⁷ Christchurch shootings: The people killed as they prayed, BBC News. *Electronic source*: https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-47593693, *accessed*: 21.03.2018.
 - ⁵⁸ Wojtasik K, op. cit., pp. 31–58, 96–118.
- ⁵⁹ Moszyński P, Znów zamach we Francji, Wyborcza.pl. *Electronic source*: https://wyborcza.pl/1,75399,18259513,Znow_zamach_we_Francji.html, *accessed*: 2015-06-27.
 - ⁶⁰ Smith B.L, Terrorism in America. New York, 1994, p. 27.
- ⁶¹ Francja: śmierć drogowym radarom, Wyborcza.pl. *Electronic source*: http://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/wiadomosci/1,114881,4766442.html, *accessed*: 15.12.2007.
 - 62 Bombiarze łódzcy skazani. Ilustrowana Republika, 1933, No. 32.
 - ⁶³ Nowakowski J, Kronika terroru. Warsaw, 1981, pp. 7-10.
 - ⁶⁴ Foreman D, Wyznania wojownika Ziemi. Łódź, 2004, p. 176.
- ⁶⁵ Indonezja: Konspiracja Zemsty/FAI podpaliła uniwersytet w solidarności z eksmitowanym skłotem. Grecja w Ogniu. *Electronic source*: http://grecjawogniu.info/?p=22756, *accessed*: 01.10.2015.
 - 66 Armed..., op. cit., p. 24, 44, 57, 65.
 - 67 Ibid., p. 100.
 - ⁶⁸ Bógdał-Brzezińska A, Gawrycki M.F, op. cit., pp. 172-174.
 - ⁶⁹ Bielecki R, Jedność czy autonomia. Warsaw, 1977, p. 219.
- Nationalists were largely behind the bombing of national monuments..., UPI. *Electronic source:* https://www.upi.com/Archives/1982/12/08/Nationalists-largely-were-behind-the-bombing-of-national-monuments/1233408171600/, *accessed:* 20.01.2019.

- Z7. demonstration of force in physical space (*e.g.* the occupation of a building in Aleria in 1975 by Corsican separatists⁷¹ or the island of Alcatraz by the American Indian Movement 1969–1971⁷², demonstration funerals of IRA fighters⁷³, the INLA street parade in Belfast in 2015⁷⁴) or virtual (*e.g.* placing your message on a non-friend website⁷⁵);
- Z8. propaganda campaign (periodicals⁷⁶, leaflets⁷⁷, inscriptions on walls, internet propaganda⁷⁸ and others).

In addition, terrorist organisations also undertake actions aimed at maintaining and reproducing their own forces (although they have at least partly a propaganda dimension):

- Z9. defensive clashes with law enforcement forces (during arrests, raids, chases, *etc.*⁷⁹);
- Z10. assaults on traitors and interlocutors (*e.g.* Gapon's pop by Russian socialist revolutionaries in 1906⁸⁰ or the dissident fascist Stelescu by Romanian iron guards in 1936⁸¹);
- Z11. recapture of its members (e.g. A. Baader in 1970; also, the apparently "offensive" abduction of H.M. Schleyer in 1977 was aimed at freeing imprisoned RAF members⁸²);
 - Z12. expropriations (robberies) (e.g. the action under Bezdany in 1908^{83}); Z13. helping imprisoned members⁸⁴.

A terrorist attack is generally carried out by the organisation/movement on behalf of which it was carried out (a side-effect is that different

- ⁷² Kelly C.R, Détournement, Decolonization, and the American Indian Occupation of Alcatraz Island (1969–1971). *Rhetoric Society Quarterly*, 2014, No. 2.
- ⁷³ IRA Funerals, YouTube. *Electronic source*: https://www.youtube.com/play-list?list=PLUVDUgjpi6HhntiWPT_AB6gmh_i5HMPRu, *accessed*: 23.01.2019.
- ⁷⁴ INLA parade: Nothing will change until we find these sorry sights absurd. Belfast Telegraph. *Electronic source*: https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/opinion/columnists/inla-parade-nothing-will-change-until-we-find-these-sorry-sights-absurd-31394037.html, *accessed*: 22.07.2015; *INLA parade* Stock Photo, Alamy.com. *Electronic source*: https://www.alamy.com/stock-photo-inla-parade-109739776.html, *accessed*: 23.01.2019.
 - ⁷⁵ Bógdal-Brzezińska A, Gawrycki M.F, op. cit., p. 167.
- ⁷⁶ E.g. The People's Liberation Front, active in the early 1990s in Poland, published a magazine "Wybór Polityczny" a copy in the author's possession.
- ⁷⁷ See: The Freedom Archives. *Electronic source*: https://freedomarchives.org/, accessed: 02.02.2017.
- ⁷⁸ Fisher A, Swarmcast, How Jihadist Networks Maintain a Persistent Online Presence. *Perspectives on Terrorism*, 2015, No. 3.
- ⁷⁹ Yallop D, W pogoni za Szakalem. Warsaw, 1994, pp. 155–158; Szczepański T, Grupa Mścicieli-Rewolucjonistów. *Mat' Pariadk@*, 1994, No. 2.
 - ⁸⁰ Kozłowski J, Zubatowszczyzna. Res Publica, 1988, No. 6.
 - ⁸¹ Dubicki T, Dach K, Żelazny Legion Michała Archanioła. Warsaw, 1996, p. 95.
 - Moszczeński J, Wągrowska M, 50 dni grozy. Warsaw, 1978, pp. 7-19.
 - ⁸³ Lada W, Polscy terroryści. Krakow, 2014, pp. 75–79.
- ⁸⁴ For this purpose, entire structures are created such as Anarchist Black Cross. "ACK Biuletyn Informacyjny" 1997–2002, 2007.

⁷¹ Bielecki R, op. cit., pp. 124-126.

organisations admit to having carried out one attack – *e.g.* the Istanbul attack on 6 September 1986 was carried out by eight organisations)⁸⁵. However, it is not uncommon for assaults to be carried out anonymously or under a false flag (to discredit the opponent)⁸⁶.

Direct effect

The direct result of terrorist assassinations may be:

- B1. **Disruption** of the opponent's structures (*e.g.* the state apparatus) as a result of the elimination of leaders [Z1] and/or decimation of officers [Z2]. This effect has never been achieved by terrorists, but it was planned by 19th-century Russian nationalists⁸⁷;
- B2. **Weaknesses** in the human resources potential [Z2] and economic potential [Z5] of the opponent by making him/her lose as much as possible. The Soviet losses in Afghanistan (although terrorism was only an auxiliary activity of the Mujahedeen) reached 15,000 dead, the Soviet Army also lost a lot of equipment⁸⁸;
- B3. **Breakdown** of the enemy's morale or background. A classic example of this is the defeat of the USA in the Vietnam War (although the terrorist actions of the Viet Congo had in its case a secondary character in relation to the rural partisans)⁸⁹;
- B4. **Discrediting** the opponent (*e.g.* showing that the government is not able to effectively prevent an attack [Z1–7]) in the eyes of public opinion. Every chronic terrorist activity confirms the validity of Henry Kissinger's thesis: "The guerrilla wins if he doesn't lose. The conventional army loses if it doesn't win.";
- B5. Increase in the **popularity** of the terrorists [Z6–8]—especially in conditions of strong social polarisation (hostility to the authorities [Z1–2] or a foreign community [Z3]). Since the times of Carlo Pisacane, "propaganda by deed" has been the basic principle of terrorism⁹⁰. A Polish Radio and Television correspondent described the increase in prestige of the Red Brigades after Moro's kidnapping, as a result of which young lumpenproletarians "joined the organisation for various motives, also to add splendour

⁸⁵ Tomasiewicz J, Terroryzm..., op. cit., p. 10.

⁸⁶ Gerhard J, Zoolityka. Warsaw, 1965, p. 64, 147, 160, 262–263. The opposite is true—the mafia murder of the Christian politician Mattarella in Sicily, who was murdered by left- and right-wing terrorists, but it invariably deepens the climate of chaos. Pizzini-Gambetta V, Red Brigades and their Mimics: Italy 1969-1980. Fiesole 2014, p. 14.

Wawrykowa M, Rewolucyjne narodnictwo w latach siedemdziesiątych XIX wieku. Warsaw, 1963, p. 466, 481, 488–489; Kucharzewski J, Od białego caratu do czerwonego, Vol. 5. Warsaw, 2000, pp. 247–249, 255, 261–262.

⁸⁸ Grau L.W, Jalali A.A, The Soviet-Afghan War. VFW Magazine, 2002, No. 1.

⁸⁹ Dmochowski A, op. cit., pp. 145–146, 152, 176.

⁹⁰ Grinberg D, op. cit., p. 220.

to themselves, to gain success with pretty girls"⁹¹. A member of the PPS, in his diary, explained this psychological mechanism in the following way: "When from time to time some spike [...] got a beating, the socialists were feared like a fire, and at the same time their seriousness and sympathy in the masses grew. [...] People are always impressed by power"⁹².

- B6. **Provoking** the opponent's repression [Z1–3], which is to lead to an escalation of the conflict. This tactic proved its worth in the case of the Algerian National Liberation Front (FLN), which deliberately attacked European settlers (including women and children) so that the blind retaliation of the French army would lead to an increase in the dissatisfaction of the Muslim population and their ultimate involvement in the insurgent struggle⁹³;
- B7. Making the society **chaotic** and anonymous [Z1–5]. This goal has also never been achieved at full scale by terrorists, although they have sometimes approached it (as in Italy in the "lead years").

It should be noted that direct effects affect each other, because *e.g.* disorganisation of the enemy forces [B1–2] or chaos [B6] facilitating the actions of terrorists may lead to an escalation of the conflict [B6], and vice versa. The political discreditation of the opponent [B4] contributes both to the increase in popularity of the terrorists [B5] and to the weakening of his forces [B2] (*e.g.* the withdrawal of support for Batista by the capital in the calculation of the threat by Castro's forces⁹⁴). Generally speaking: the physical and moral disintegration of the opponent's forces [B1–3] and its disgrace [B4] leads to chaos [B7], while if this is accompanied by an increase in popularity (and thus forces) of the terrorists [B5], we are dealing with an escalation of the conflict [B6].

Indirect effect

The direct impact of an attack is generally not yet a premise for achieving the final objective. Theoretically, the paralysis of the power apparatus and social chaos may lead to the collapse of power as a whole, which is the ultimate goal of anarchists, but in practice, this has never happened. It is realistic to force partial reforms in the frames of the system (the establishment of a canton of the Jury—which was the goal of, among others, the terrorists from the Front for Challenging the Jury—within the Swiss Confederation has not changed its system⁹⁵), although, as a rule, terrorist actions accompany a wider social movement (*e.g.* the environmental movement⁹⁶). However, assassinations alone are not enough to gain power

⁹¹ Ambroziewicz J, Aniołowie Śmierci. Warsaw, 1988, pp. 234–235.

⁹² Kaczyńska E, Terroryzm i dusza anielska. Po Prostu, 1990, No. 28.

⁹³ Johnson P, Historia polityczna świata od lat dwudziestych do osiemdziesiątych. Warsaw, 1989, Vol. 2, pp. 106–108.

⁹⁴ Raffy S, Fidel Castro. Warsaw, 2006, p. 144.

⁹⁵ Bielecki R, op. cit., pp. 170-172.

⁹⁶ For the relationship between terrorism and social movements, *see*: Tomasiewicz J, Strategia oporu niekierowanego w wojnie asymetrycznej. *Przegląd Geopolityczny*, 2009, Vol. 1.

in the sense of taking control of the territory, which is the goal of most terrorists⁹⁷. Therefore, the direct effects of an attack only allow us to move on to the next stage, when strictly terrorist actions will be ancillary.

Terrorist attacks are intended to escalate social and political conflict and/or chaos. When the escalation of the conflict results in a relative balance of power between the authorities and the terrorists, the latter's activities have a chance to grow into a (short-term) mass **armed uprising** [P1] or a (long-term) **civil war** [P2]⁹⁸. The transition stage in conditions of relative balance may also be a state of dual authority [P3], consisting in the control of terrorists over part of the territory (the no-go zones in Ulster 1969–1972⁹⁹, the situation in Tehran in 1979¹⁰⁰, the "Shia rule" in the Cairo district of Heliopolis in 1988¹⁰¹). This armed revolution may end in defeat (as in the case of the Tamil Tigers¹⁰²), victory (Iran) or negotiation and compromise (Maoist "People's War" in Nepal¹⁰³).

If the society and its institutions are disintegrated and paralysed, but the terrorist forces remain relatively small, a **revolutionary coup d'état** [P4] (Portugal 1974¹⁰⁴) or, on the contrary, a return to the status quo ante (Chile 1973¹⁰⁵) will be the way to achieve the ultimate goal. Terrorists may also act to provoke or facilitate **external intervention** [P5], as was the case with the Sudetendeutsches Freikorps¹⁰⁶. A possible solution is also the **resignation** of a weakened and discredited government [P6], which leads to a change in the political system *e.g.* through elections (such a situation occurred in Chile, despite the fact that the actions of FPMR terrorists were of secondary importance here¹⁰⁷). Terrorist actions may

The only case where the nuisance of terrorist attacks has led the opponent to withdraw from part of the territory (without negotiations) is the case of the Gaza Strip, abandoned by Israel under pressure by Hamas in 2005. Israel's Disengagement Plan: Renewing the Peace Process, Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs. *Electronic source*: https://mfa.gov.il/mfa/foreignpolicy/peace/guide/pages/israels%20disengagement%20plan-%20renewing%20the%20peace%20process%20apr%202005.aspx, *accessed*: 22.12.2019.

⁹⁸ For the Egyptian jihadists, the assassination of President Sadat was supposed to be a signal of the outbreak of an armed uprising, but it ended in a fiasco. Zdanowski J, Bracia Muzułmanie i inni. Szczecin, 1986, pp. 143–145.

⁹⁹ Kuczyński M, Krwawiąca Europa. Warsaw, 2001, pp. 105, 108-109.

¹⁰⁰ Giełżyński W, op. cit., pp. 149-154, 161.

¹⁰¹ Kepel G, Święta wojna. Warsaw, 2003, p. 285.

Weiberg-Salzmann M, Ending Ethnic Civil Wars: By Negotiations or by Military Defeat? *Journal of Asian and African Studies*, 2015, No. 2.

Tomasiewicz J, Czerwony Sztandar na Dachu Świata, Instytut Sobieskiego. *Electronic source*: https://sobieski.org.pl/komentarz-is-11/, *accessed*: 19.07.2006; Thapa G.B, Sharma J, From Insurgency to Democracy: The Challenges of Peace and Democracy-Building in Nepal. *International Political Science Review*, 2009, No. 2.

¹⁰⁴ Iwiński T, Portugalia na zakręcie historii. Warsaw, 1975, pp. 82–84, 103–104.

¹⁰⁵ Labarca Goddard E, Chile w czerwieni. Warsaw, 1973, pp. 10–63.

¹⁰⁶ Bębnik G, Sokoły kapitana Ebbinghausa. Katowice – Krakow, 2014, pp. 55–58.

¹⁰⁷ Calvert P, Terroryzm w Chile, [in:] Encyklopedia terroryzmu. Warsaw, 2004, pp. 422, 425.

in this case accompany a wider social movement (*e.g.* civil disobedience campaigns, general strikes) paving the way for other forces as in the case of the 1905 revolution in Russia (although this was rather unintended ¹⁰⁸). The authorities, unable to defeat the terrorists, may also start **negotiations** with them [P7], which will lead to at least partial achievement of the terrorists' goals (Oslo Agreement ¹⁰⁹).

Examples of strategy

The various combinations of these elements: assaults, direct and indirect effects, and final objectives form the strategic plan of a terrorist organisation. The different elements are interdependent — e.g. a dictatorship, for which an active minority will suffice; in this case, attacks on random people are more likely. These correlations, however, only result in an increased probability, not absolute determination (e.g. despite their misanthropic ideology, ecoterrorists are shying away from fatalities). The opposite effect should also be borne in mind: the ideology is also influenced by the conditions in which the terrorists operate, e.g. isolated groups may be willing to accept elitist concepts (see the insurrectionists-nihilists).

As an example, let us try to reconstruct the strategy of the Italian Red Brigades (BR). This organisation was relatively well rooted in Italian society: the number of active supporters of left-wing terrorism was estimated at 10,000, while a certain proportion of young people in education and unskilled workers (red-white foremen were elected to works councils) passively sympathised with them¹¹⁰. This allowed the BR to outline an ambitious strategic plan, assuming a phased armed revolution [C2]. The Red Brigades said straightforwardly, "What do we want? We want power!"¹¹¹. This was supposed to lead to a gradual escalation of terrorist attacks. In the first phase, the so-called "armed propaganda" (Italian: *propaganda armata*) was to support the local spontaneous fight of the workers. Only material (rather symbolic) attacks were carried out [Z6] and bloodless attacks on enemies, which included activists of hostile political groups and lower and middle economic staff [Z2]¹¹². In phase two, the terrorists began to mutilate and kill their political opponents, while at the same time starting

¹⁰⁸ Pipes D, op. cit., pp. 3-40.

¹⁰⁹ Chojnowski A, Tomaszewski J, Izrael. Warsaw, 2001, pp. 362–380.

The Red Brigades..., op. cit., p. 8, 11; De Graaf B, Decline and Dissolution of Italian Terrorism: the case of the Brigate Rosse, 1970-2001 (mps referatu na IV Jornadas internacionales sobre terrorismo los finales del terrorismo, 15 XI 2010), p. 4; Włochy po 16 marca. Tygodniowy Biuletyn Specjalny PAP, [TBS] 1978, No. 1957.

Orsini A, Anatomy of the Red Brigades. Ithaca, 2011, p. 23.

¹¹² *Ibid.*, p. 11; Sundquist V.H, Political Terrorism: An Historical Case Study of the Italian Red Brigades. Journal of Strategic Security, 2010, No. 3, p. 58; de Graaf B, *op. cit.*, s. 9–10; Buckingham, *op. cit.*, p. 25

attacks on state officials¹¹³. In the third phase, the BR decided to strike "a blow to the heart of the state" *i.e.* the representatives of the political and military elite [Z1], which resulted, among others, in the kidnapping of A. Moro and General James Dozier¹¹⁴.

On the one hand, these actions were to lead to an increase in the repression of the state, so that the working class would free itself from "reformist illusions". [B6] recognising that the "organisation of violence is a necessity of class struggle"115, on the other hand, to the increase in popularity of the extreme left [B5], which in turn was to have an imitation effect. There would be a "militarisation of class struggle" (a term formulated by the RAF in 1972¹¹⁶), i.e. the spread of political violence on the streets, in factories, and in universities (which in 1976-1978 did indeed happen to a significant extent)¹¹⁷. The creation of local proletarian "counterpower" (contropotere) bodies would lead to a de facto diarchy (a system of double government) [P3]118. Mass political violence would finally turn into a Maoist-type "people's civil war" [P2]119, as a result of which, a revolutionary proletariat would establish its dictatorship under the leadership of the "fighting communist party" (partito communista combatante) or Red Brigades. This strategy was subordinated to the organisational structure of the BR as a centralised "armed party" 120. Characteristically, the Red Brigades—unlike for example the RAF or Action Directe—focused on the Italian perspective.

This is just one of the options for a terrorist strategy. The West German and French comrades of the Red Brigadiers, with much weaker public support, pursued a strategy that is both more ambitious and more vague. In their vision, Western Europe was only one of the theatres of the global revolution [C2] – "the global struggle between the international

Sundquist V.H, *op. cit.*, p. 57; de Graaf B, *op. cit.*, pp. 10–11; Buckingham, *op. cit.*, pp. 27–28. At the same time, the spectrum of opponents has expanded: they were no longer only representatives of the extreme right wing, but also the Christian Democrats and even activists of the mainstream Italian Communist Party like Guido Rossa. The Red Brigades..., *op. cit.*, p. 23.

Sundquist V.H, *op. cit.*, pp. 59–61; Buckingham, *op. cit.*, pp. 29–32, 45–50; de Graaf B, *op. cit.*, pp. 11–13. This stage lasted until 1982, when a weakened BR proclaimed a "strategic retreat" (Ritirata Strategica). de Graaf B, *op. cit.*, pp. 13–14.

¹¹⁵ Orsini A, op. cit., p. 16.

¹¹⁶ The Red Army..., op. cit., p. 139.

Armed..., op. cit., pp. 20-31; Szaleństwo zamachów, TBS 1977, No. 1940; Czerwone Brygady uderzają w serce Włoch, TBS 1978, No. 1950-1951; Pełzająca guerilla, TBS 1978, No. 1987; Strzelanie w tłum, TBS 1979, No. 2018-2019; Spokojna Italia. Forum, 1977, No. 21; Kronika jednego miesiąca. Forum, 1977, No. 21; Anarchia po włosku. Forum, 1977, No. 33; Hartwig H, Zawód terrorysta. Warsaw, 1979, pp. 201–203.

Sönmez G, Factors behind the Rise and Fall of Left-Wing Terrorism in Western Europe. Güvenlik Stratejileri Dergisi, 2019, No. 31, p. 26.

The Red Brigades..., op. cit., pp. 3, 8.

¹²⁰ Sundquist V.H, *op. cit.*, pp. 56-57; Orsini A, *op. cit.*, pp. 54-58; Buckingham, *op. cit.*, pp. 32–34.

proletariat and the imperialist bourgeoisie"121. The basic front of this battle was located on the "outskirts" of the imperialist system, i.e. in the Third World (Vietnam, Palestine, Africa, Latin America) exploited by the "metropolis" of world capitalism (the USA, Japan and Western Europe, with Germany at the forefront)¹²². The Third World People's Masses were the avant-garde of the revolution, in relation to which the Western revolutionaries had only an ancillary role¹²³. According to the RAF, "the fight in the metropolis is the fight of the international brigades of the People's War [that is] in Quang Tri and Hue [villages in Vietnam – J.T.], Palestine, [...] Angola"124. Their task was to transfer this fight to Western countries by attacking the apparatus [Z1-2] and infrastructure [Z5] of the opponent in order to physically and psychologically weaken [B2-3] its forces; an additional goal was to popularise the terrorist cause [B5]125. A critical evaluation of the German working class ("imperialist workers' aristocracy") participating in the exploitation of the Third World¹²⁶ led to seeking support from marginal groups of the "subproletariat" and ethically motivated students 127. It is not clear whether the final revolution in the metropolis was predicted by way of civil war [P2] (Baader mentioned the formation of "regular units of the Red Army in the People's War"128) or external intervention [P5].

At the same time, the Italian far right pursued the so-called "tension strategy" (strategia della tensione) based on the doctrine of "revolutionary war" (guerre révolutionnaire) developed in the 1950s by the V Psychological Action Bureau of the French army based on the experience of Viet Minh and FLN¹²⁹. Neo-fascist terrorists carried out attacks on random people [Z4] ("crowd shooting") such as the 1980 Bologna station bombing¹³⁰. As Mario Tuti, one of the terrorists, justified: "to shake the inert masses, it is sometimes necessary to hit them blindly"¹³¹, while Guido Giannettini explained in his textbook "Tecniche della guerra rivoluzionaria" that both indiscriminate and selective terrorism is intended to "provoke severe retaliation, which will increase tension, creating an irreversible phenomenon leading to civil war"¹³². Another document from the circle

¹²¹ Cordes B, When Terrorists Do The Talking, RAND Corporation P-7365, (August 1987), p. 11.

¹²² The Red Army..., op. cit., pp. 87–89, 207.

¹²³ Ibid., pp. 219, 222.

¹²⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 226.

¹²⁵ Ibid., p. 98.

¹²⁶ *Ibid.*, pp. 126, 207, 214.

¹²⁷ *Ibid.*, pp. 82, 89–92, 101.

¹²⁸ *Ibid*, p. 121.

Moszkiewicz B, Spiskowcy V Republiki. Warsaw, 1963, pp. 9, 54-55, 181.

¹³⁰ Cento B, Italian..., op. cit., p. 9.

Bomba była czarna. Forum, 1980, No. 34;. Tomasiewicz J, Terroryzm..., op. cit., p. 22.

¹³² McKenzie Bale J, The "Black" Terrorist International (Dissertation). University of California, 1994, p. 179.

of neo-fascist "black internationalism" leaves no doubt: "We believe that the first phase of our political action should create chaos in all power structures. [...] the first action we should take is the de-structuring of state institutions under the cover of communist and Maoist activity"¹³³. That is why many acts of terror under the "tension strategy" (since the attack on Piazza Fontana in Milan in 1969) were conducted as false flag operations ¹³⁴. In this way, Italy would be brought to the edge of chaos [B7], which would lead to paralysis of the democratic state [B1] and create social consent to carry out a right-wing coup d'état [P4] and establish an anti-revolutionary regime [C5]¹³⁵. In 1970, the Italian Republic found itself one step ahead of such a coup¹³⁶.

Other strategies can be seen in the activities of insurrectionists¹³⁷, ecologists¹³⁸, Islamists¹³⁹, white racists¹⁴⁰ and Kurdish separatists¹⁴¹. However, one can risk the claim that each of them uses the elements listed in this article.

- ¹³³ McKenzie Bale J, op. cit., p. 186.
- ¹³⁴ Cento Bull, Italian..., op. cit., pp. 34–35
- ¹³⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 37. In Italian neo-fascist circles, there was also an alternative strategy of an anti-organic "alliance of extremes" formulated by Franco Fred in his book "*La disintegrazione del sistema*" (see: *Electronic source*: https://disintegrationofthesystem.wordpress.com/, *accessed*: 16.04.2016); *Cf.*: Cento Bull, Italian..., *op. cit.*, p. 140.
- 136 McKenzie Bale, *op. cit.*, pp. 250–460. A separate issue is the role of special services and paramilitary structures such as Nuclei par la Defesa dello Stato—According to Cento Bull, the neo-fascist militia were only an operational level and not a decision-making level of the "na-five strategy". Cento Bull, Italian..., *op. cit.*, pp. 35, 38. *See*: Ganser D, NATO's Secret Armies, London—New York 2005. pp. 63–83.
- Tomasiewicz J, Partyzanci przyjemności. Insurekcjonizm: anarchizm wobec kryzysu czy kryzys anarchizmu?, [in:] Gruszczyk M, Krzyżanowski L, Skrzypek M (Eds), Europa XX-XXI wieku. Społeczno-polityczne konsekwencje kryzysów. Katowice, 2017.
- ¹³⁸ *Ibid.*, Przemoc w ruchu ekologicznym: od obywatelskiego nieposłuszeństwa do terroryzmu (przypadek Earth Liberation Front). *Krakowskie Studia Międzynarodowe*, 2004, No. 1.
- ¹³⁹ Ibid., Od rewolucjonistów do kondotierów. Rozwój i upadek Mudżahedinów Ludowych w Iranie, [in:] Borkowski R (Ed.), Czy zmierzch terroryzmu? Oświęcim, 2008; Ibid., Al-Islam huwa al-hall? Egipskie Bractwo Muzułmańskie zagrożenie czy szansa demokracji?, [in:] Kapiszewski A (Ed.), Świat arabski w procesie przemian. Krakow, 2008.
- ¹⁴⁰ Ibid., Biały Wilk. Profil nazistowskiego terrorysty nowej generacji, [in:] Piątek J.J, Podgórzańska R (Eds), Wybrane aspekty bezpieczeństwa, Vol.2, Szczecin 2007; Ibidem, Combat 18 terroryści czy chuligani?, [in:] Malinowski M.J, Ożarowski R, Grabowski W (Eds), Ewolucja terroryzmu na przełomie XX i XXI wieku. Gdańsk, 2009.
- ¹⁴¹ *Ibid.*, Partia Pracujących Kurdystanu: od terroryzmu do państwowości?, [in:] Wiatr M, Stelmach J (Eds), Siły zbrojne wobec zagrożenia terroryzmem. Wrocław, 2016.

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Keywords: terrorism, extremism, strategy, guerilla, coup d'etat

Summary: The article is an attempt to create an instrument for evaluating long-term terrorist strategy. The author analyses the categories of terrorist attacks, direct effects, indirect effects and final goals. He also reconstructs some terrorist strategies.