

## Contemporary Terrorism: Root Causes and Misconceptions

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**Abstract :** The years since 9/11 2001 have given us a plethora of research papers with the word 'terrorism' in the title. Yet only a small subset of these papers has produced new data, which explains why more than 20 years of research since 9/11 have done little to increase our understanding of the mechanisms that lead to terrorism. Specifically, terrorism scholars are divided by political, temporal, geographical and financial demarcation lines which prevent a clear definition of terrorism. As a consequence, the true root causes of terrorism remain unexamined. Instead, the psychopathological conditions of the individual have been emphasized despite ample empirical evidence pointing in a different direction. This paper examines the underlying reasons and motives that prevent open discourse about the root causes of terrorism and proposes that terrorism is linked to the current international system of resource allocation and systematic violations of human rights.

**Keywords :** terrorism, root causes of terrorism, prevention of terrorism, racism, human rights violations

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