

# GV103: Introduction to International Relations

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Terrorism

# Introduction

- Three goals for this lecture
  - Define terrorism
  - Discuss its effectiveness
  - Identify five strategies

# Definition

## Terrorism

Politically-motivated violence occurring outside of combat.

# A Model of Government Coercion

- $D$  chooses how to pressure  $G$ : peacefully or violently
- If  $G$  resists, standoff continues
- But is forced to grant concessions anyway w/ probability  $\rho$
- Specifically  $\rho_p$  if peaceful pressure,  $\rho_v$  if violent
- Where  $\rho_v > \rho_p$

Outcomes	$u_D$	$u_G$
peaceful, give in	1	0
peaceful, resist	$\rho_p - \kappa_D$	$1 - \rho_p - \kappa_G$
violent, give in	$1 - c_D$	$-c_G$
violent, resist	$\rho_v - c_D - \kappa_D$	$1 - \rho_v - c_G - \kappa_G$

# Analysis

- $G$  gives in either way
  - $D$  chooses peace
  - Exists when  $\kappa_G \geq 1 - \rho_p$
- $G$  only gives in to violence
  - $D$  chooses violence
  - Exists when  $1 - \rho_v \leq \kappa_G < 1 - \rho_p$
- $G$  resists either way
  - $D$  chooses violence iff  $c_D < \rho_v - \rho_p$
  - Exists when  $\kappa_G < 1 - \rho_v$

# Five Strategies of Terrorism

- **Attrition:** raise target's perception of cost of SQ
  - Ex: Irgun and British gov't
- **Intimidation:** scare local population into lending support
  - Ex: ISIS and public executions
- **Provocation:** draw target gov't into military action
  - Ex: al-Qaida and 9/11 attacks
- **Spoiling:** prevent/unravel peace agreement
  - Ex: Real IRA and Omagh bombing
- **Outbidding:** draw away support from other organizations
  - Ex: Hamas and Fatah