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DEFINITION OF TERROISM

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Terrorism and Public Service Responses

(Wynne Jones)

05/03/2021

Starting off with 'what is terrorism?', there are hundreds of different definitions all around the world of what terrorism means.

According to the Oxford dictionary, the definition of terrorism is "the unlawful use of violence and intimidation, especially against civilians, in the pursuit of political aims".

There are also short definitions and long, detailed definitions.

Kelkar (2017) stated on 'PBS News' has said that terrorism began to make an appearance in other countries across the globe during the nineteenth century which had created different views from many legislative leaders to have an international debate to come up with different solutions and meanings for 'what is terrorism?'. Since this has happened there has been two hundred and sixty definitions of terrorism from all across the world.

There are many different types of terrorist groups that have been identified over the course of some years ranging from the IRA (Irish Republican Army), to the Taliban and to Al Qaeda.

Throughout this essay will be statements on the Irish Republican Army about their history, current status and their future predictions.

As said in the introduction, there are many different definitions of what terrorism means. In twenty seventeen, the UK government website published what terrorism means within the UK.

Terrorism within the UK is the use or threat of action, both in and outside of the country, designed to influence any international government organisation or to intimidate the public. Terrorism is also for the purpose of advancing a political, religious, racial or ideological cause. (Great Britain.The Crown Prosecution, Terrorism 2017).

Comparing this to the United States definition, the United States Official Government website states that “the unlawful use of force and violence against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof, in furtherance of political or social objectives” (U.S Department of Justice, 2005).

Putting both the definitions next to each other there is not much of a difference between them.

There are many examples of terrorism. One of them being serious violence against a person or damage to property. Another is putting a person's life in danger, creating a serious risk to the health or safety of the public or a section of the public. These examples can be related back to the IRA (Irish Republican Army).

The Irish Republican Army organization (IRA) were seeking the establishment of a republic meaning the end of the British rule in Northern Ireland, and the reunification of Ireland to become independent. (Dingley J, 2012) A.

The Irish Republican Army organization was created in nineteen ninety nine. The Irish Republican Army's purpose was to use armed force to render British rule in Ireland ineffective and to achieve the broader objective of an independent republic. (Dingley J, 2012) B. Later on this was pursued at the political level by Sinn Féin, the Irish nationalist party. However, the Irish Republican Army operated independently of political control and in some periods actually took the upper hand in the independence movement.

During the Irish Independent War in nineteen ninety nine to nineteen twenty one, the Irish Republican Army employed guerrilla tactics—including ambushes, raids, and sabotage to force the British government to negotiate (Silke A, Taylor M, 2002).

The resulting settlement established two new political entities: the Irish Free State, which comprised 26 counties and was granted dominion status within the British Empire; and Northern Ireland, made up of six counties and sometimes called the province of Ulster, which remained part of the United Kingdom. These terms, however, proved unacceptable to a substantial number of IRA members.

Once the war was ratified at the end of the Irish War of Independence, The organization consequently split into two factions, the Irish Republican Army split into pro-Treaty forces, known as the National Army, and anti-Treaty forces, known as the Republicans, supporting the treaty (officials) and the other opposing it (provisionals). The former group

became the core of the official Irish Free State Army, and the other group was known as “Irregulars,” who began to organize armed resistance against the new independent government. ()

Officials fought for their independence through peace and kindness, while the provisionals used violence to greater their efforts, which resulted in an estimated one thousand eight hundred deaths, including more than six hundred civilians. As the Provisional IRA and other groups waged an increasingly violent campaign throughout Ireland, the British Army decided that they had to retaliate, the period known as the ‘Troubles’ changed the region and went on for nearly 30 years.

The Irish Republican Army (provisionals) had many tactics that they thought would help them gain their independence in Ireland. They were so focused on sending direct and very clear messages to anyone that went against them and would attempt to stop and crush any sort of organization that stood in their way. They did not want to look for targets that would cause a huge number of casualties, but they always used to pick a target which was sure to deliver a message close to home. An example of this would be for them to retaliate by setting a bomb off near a official government building or making an assassination attempt on someone that hinders the Irish Republican Army’s overall goals of an independent Ireland.

One of the Irish Republican Army’s (provisionals) most common attacks was to set up a car bomb in a specific location, and depending on the situation,

they would either allow it to go off, or call in an anonymous telephone warning for officials to diffuse the bomb. These bombs could range from tiny pipe bombs all the way up to large 500 pound car bombs. The location of these bombs would be placed in an area where it sends a clear message about their cause. There is a lot of history within the Irish Republican Army that goes back many years where there had been tragic events of people being injured and lives taken just for the IRA to prove a point and gain their independence.

The IRA were aiming to protect the Catholic minority from discrimination from loyalist militants and the Protestant-Majority police force. The Provisional IRA soon was known as simply the IRA, while the other half of the IRA were known as the Original IRA.

A tragic occasion occurred on the thirtieth of January, nineteen seventy two. This day was known as 'Bloody Sunday' (Irish Republican army, 2020).

In their review of the literature (Dawson G, 2005), About 15,000 people gathered in the Creggan area of Derry on the morning of 30 January 1972 to take part in a civil rights march.

British soldiers shot thirteen unarmed Irish nationalist civilians and seriously wounded fifteen others which had happened during a civil rights march in the city of Derry. The incident, "Bloody Sunday," is the most egregious example of state power violence committed by the British Army during its long revenge campaign in Northern Ireland. (Conway B, 2009).

On August twenty seventh nineteen seventy nine, a bomb set off by the Irish Republican army killed four people, One person which included a cousin of Queen Elizabeth II, Lord Mountbatten.

More events happened where the Irish Republican Army had carried out a terrorist attack to gain their independence. On March twentieth nineteen ninety three, two boys, ages 3 and 12 were killed and around another fifty people were injured during an IRA bombing at a shopping centre in Warrington England where lots of bombs were placed in trash cans around the shopping centre (BBC News, 2018).

There were many other occasions where there were people injured and people died during bombings and shootings in the past years when the IRA were trying to gain their independence. So, after twenty five years of bombings and shootings, the IRA announces a historic ceasefire with “a complete cessation of military operations.” However, three years later the Irish Republican Army ends the truce when it bombs the Docklands area of London, killing two people and injuring more than one hundred people, whilst causing an estimated one hundred and fifty million pounds worth of damage. After one year from when the bombing happened in London, for the first time since Ireland’s nineteen twenty two split, Britain's leaders met with Sinn Fein to negotiate in formal peace talks and to overall come to a conclusion where they could both meet their wants and needs. (BBC, 2018)

One year onwards from the peaceful discussions, the ‘Good Friday Agreement’, also known as the Belfast Agreement, was signed with the

referendum passing May twenty third following a vote in both the Irish Republic and Northern Ireland. However this agreement still made some of the IRA unhappy, and later on in nineteen ninety eight an IRA group called the 'Real IRA', carried out the deadliest attack in Northern Ireland during a car bombing in Omagh, leaving twenty nine dead and more than two hundred injured. Many years later, the Irish Republican Army announced that it had come to an end of their thirty six year campaign of gaining independence. (BBC, 2018)

The outcome for the IRA was not what they fought for. However, it had stopped the violence and created peace within Ireland. In nineteen ninety eight, after nearly two years of peaceful meetings and thirty years of bad conflict, the Good Friday agreement was signed between Ireland and Britain. A new government was formed which created a great outcome, as great power was seen and being shared between Unionists and Nationalists. The idea of the agreement was to get the two sides of the Irish Publication Army (unionists and nationalists) to work together in a group called the Northern Ireland Assembly. However, not all ended well here. There were allegations of spying and some of the political parties said they couldn't work with each other as there was no trust in their partnerships. Some people were in opposition that the peace that Ireland had gained through lots of processing could turn violent again. (Shanahan T, 2009).

The Northern Ireland Assembly was dissolved in two thousand and two, and its decision-making powers were transferred to the UK government.

Five years later, the Assembly was given back power and in two thousand and seven, the British army officially ended its operations in Northern Ireland.

However, in January twenty seventeen, the deal between the main parties in Northern Ireland collapsed and till this day it is yet to be restored. Despite the fact that politicians continue to disagree, there has been no return to the abuse that characterised Northern Ireland in the past. The Good Friday Agreement, according to many, has made it a much more peaceful location. The Irish Republican Army did not gain their independence that they wished for but they are still till this day trying to continue the peace throughout Ireland.

Many people question whether or not the Irish Republican Army were terrorists or not. If we were to look at the definition of what terrorism means in the United Kingdom, it can clearly be seen that the actions that were carried out by the IRA were deemed as terrorist acts. They acted out in violence and harmed the british government as well as innocent civilians. Again relating back to the United Kingdom's definition of terrorism, it mentions that terrorism can be related to political views and that is what the IRA were fighting over. The country had split up into two sectors where there would be people protesting peacefully and then others were setting up bombs and killing people.

In many other countries, their definitions also mention that terrorism is when someone or a group of people intentionally want to cause harm to civilians and the government.

However, the IRA as a whole started off as a group of people who wanted peace in their country and wanted independence, but later on the group had split into two. It can be said that the IRA are a terrorist group although not all of the people protesting caused harm to anyone. Between the Unionists and the Nationalists, the Unionists peacefully protested whereas the Nationalists were the ones who planted bombs and ruined lives. So to sum up what it said, The IRA as a whole is not a terrorist group but the Nationalists of the Irish Republican Army are.

To sum up everything that has been stated in this essay, the Irish Republican Army was a group of people that were fighting for independence for their country by leaving the British Rule. They had peaceful protests where there were just marches and people chanting and then there were drastic events that had created an impact on the United Kingdom that will forever be remembered. Bombing and shootings had killed and injured many innocent people's lives. After many years of fighting, Britain and Ireland came to a conclusion that they would have a peaceful government called the Northern Ireland Assembly. The Irish Republican Army were deemed in society as terrorists and they caused an out raw that will forever be remembered. The Northern Ireland Assembly tries to make the best decisions for the country to make sure the peace is still intact. However, there were still small car bombings in Ireland back in two thousand and ten which shows that the peace between Britain and Ireland is still not settled.

Ireland did not become an independent country but they do work with some United Kingdom leaders to ensure all their decisions does not create another Traumatic event.

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