With the destruction of the twin towers in New York City on September 11, 2001, counter-terrorism moved to the forefront of national security priorities for the United States. Analyzing the strategies and tactics of a terrorist group is useful in order to effectively combat the terrorist group. This research takes a step further to provide an equally valuable tool for recognizing and countering terrorist groups, and that is to understand the terrorist mentality common to each terrorist group. This analysis compares the terrorist mentality of the leaders of the French Reign of Terror, the Narodnaya Volya and the Muslim Brotherhood. This work will provide the historical background and development of each group. Also, the ideologies that formed through the writings and/or speeches of the radical leader(s) for each group will then be carefully analyzed. In addition, an examination of the beliefs that formed the terrorist mentality of each group will be compared and clarified. This thesis will show how terrorist groups are identifiable at the onset of their development and provide strategies for recognizing the characteristics of terrorism.
The history of terrorism is a history of well-known and historically significant individuals, entities, and incidents associated, whether rightly or wrongly, with terrorism. The term terrorist is believed to have originated during the Reign of Terror (September 5, 1793 – July 28, 1794) in France. Many members had been part of Narodnaya Volya or the Hunchakian Revolutionary Party.[60] The group published newsletters, smuggled arms, and hijacked buildings as it sought to bring in European intervention that would force the Ottoman Empire to surrender control of its Armenian territories.[61] On August 24, 1896, 17-year-old Babken Suni led twenty-six members in capturing the Imperial Ottoman. First came Narodnaya Volya (The People's Will), a group of Russian social revolutionaries and self-proclaimed terrorists, who in 1881 succeeded in assassinating Tsar Alexander II with a dynamite bomb. The assassination of Alexander II of Russia, 1881. The Russian terrorists' struggle against the repressive Russian state was to some degree accepted and even admired by several Western observers. Mark Twain, for example, declared that if the Russian “government cannot be overthrown otherwise than by dynamite, then thank God for dynamite!” These first modern terrorists were like present day terrorists in that their actions were made possible through the use of industrial products of Western modernity. It was the French Revolution in 1789, however, that popularized the term terrorism. During this period, terrorism was associated with the state, as the guillotine was used to behead publicly those who were declared enemies of the state. In later years, even more highly developed forms of state terrorism were practiced in both the Stalinist Soviet Union and Nazi Germany in the 1930s and 1940s. The “knock at the door” by state authorities, the use of show trials and executions, and purges of large numbers of people were used by these regimes to instill fear in domestic populations, thus assuring... to the fore. Under the banner of national self-determination, terrorist violence was particularly pronounced in Eastern and Central Europe. Terrorist mentality: a common link throughout history? A Comparison of Narodnaya Volya, the French Reign of Terror, And the Muslim Brotherhood. Открыть. Hopkins_ku_0099M_10701_DATA_1.pdf (583.9Kb). This analysis compares the terrorist mentality of the leaders of the French Reign of Terror, the Narodnaya Volya and the Muslim Brotherhood. This work will provide the historical background and development of each group. Also, the ideologies that formed through the writings and/or speeches of the radical leader(s) for each group will then be carefully analyzed. In addition, an examination of the beliefs that formed the terrorist mentality of each group will be compared and clarified.