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A Comparative Study of Extreme Religious Nationalist Terrorist Groups in the United States

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Introduction/ Background

5 Elements of Terrorism

- Political Agenda
- Tactic: Violence
- Target: Civilians
- Publicity
- Non-State Actors



Purpose/Method

Conducted to analyze US perspective/actions of these groups. Compare: *Ideology, Motives, Attack Methods, Demographic Profile, Structure and Communication Method.*

Results/Findings

Characteristic	Radical Right (RRW)	Radical Islamic (RI)
Ideology and Motives	Pure Christians, Anti- gov. women, diversity. Racial purification	Pure Muslims, Anti-modernity/ westernization. Racial purification
Attack Method	Mostly firearms & explosives	Mostly explosives & firearms
Demo. Profile	White Christian males, lower socio-economic and less educated	Younger, single men, middle/ upper middle class, and more education
Structure	No hierarchy, decentralized	Hierarchical, decentralized
Communication	Internet	Various

- RRW engage in more attacks, RI have killed more (w/ 9-11).
- RRW groups are broken up in different categories (anti abortion, white supremacist, etc.) while RI are clumped into one (RI) which skews data & manipulates perception.
- Excluding the OK City Bombing and 9/11 attacks, RRW killed more than RI from 1990-2017.

US Response

RI: Global War on Terror, DHS, Patriot Act, Stricter Airport Regulations Travel Bans, etc.
RRW: Nothing Significant



Conclusion

RRW and RI groups are nearly identical and fall under the same terrorism category but the US has taken extensive measures against RI and has not against RRW even though local law enforcement say that RRW terrorism is more of a threat to communities than RI; other data and findings of this study concur.