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

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

Introduction/Background

5 Elements of Terrorism
- Political Agenda
- Tactic: Violence
- Target: Civilians
- Publicity
- Non-State Actors

Results/Findings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>Radical Right (RRW)</th>
<th>Radical Islamic (RI)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attack Method</td>
<td>Mostly firearms &amp; explosives</td>
<td>Mostly explosives &amp; firearms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Demo. Profile</td>
<td>White Christian males, lower socio-economic and less educated</td>
<td>Younger, single men, middle/upper middle class, and more education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Structure</td>
<td>No hierarchy, decentralized</td>
<td>Hierarchical, decentralized</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication</td>
<td>Internet</td>
<td>Various</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- 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.

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.

US Response

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