

1. Summarize the following passage, tracing the main arguments and reducing it about one-third of its present length.

The attention we give to terrorism often seems disproportionate to its real importance. Terrorism incidents make superb copy for journalists, but kill and maim fewer people than road accidents. Nor is terrorism politically effective. Empires rise and fall according to the real determinants of politics -- namely overwhelming force or strong popular support -- not according to a bit of mayhem caused by isolated fanatics whom one would take seriously enough to vote for it. Indeed, the very variety of incidents that might be described as "terrorism" has been such as to lead critics to suggest that no single subject for investigation exists at all. Might we not regard terrorism as a kind of minor blotch on the skin of an industrial civilization whose very heart is filled with violent dreams and aspirations. Who would call in the dermatologist when the heart itself is sick.

But popular opinion takes terrorism very seriously indeed and popular opinion is probably right. For the significance of terrorism lies not only in the grotesque nastiness of terroristic outrages but also in the moral claims they imply. Terrorism is the most dramatic exemplification of the moral fault of blind willfulness. Terrorism is a solipsistic denial of the obligation of self-control we all must recognize when we live in civilized communities.

Certainly the sovereign high road to misunderstanding terrorism is the pseudo-scientific project of attempting to discover its causes. Terrorists themselves talk of the frustrations which have supposedly necessitated their actions but to transform these facile justifications into scientific hypotheses is to succumb to the terrorists own fantasies. To kill and maim people is a choice people make, and glib invocations of necessity are baseless. Other people living in the same situation see no such necessity at all. Hence there are no "causes" of terrorism; only decision to terrorize. It is a moral phenomenon and only a moral discussion can be adequate to it.

Precis 1980

Title: Divergent Stances of Terrorism

Terrorism gets relatively less attention than its actual severity. The downturn of empires occur due to the coercion of majority. Moreover, no one takes the events of terrorism serious and proffers for investigation. So, any case, one may not deem terrorism as trivial and without possible consequences. Nevertheless, the majority of populace considers terrorism a violent crime and approves it as a moral fault. Besides, the divergent opinions over causes of terrorism lead to misconception. Resultantly, unlike other people, by making the cause a reason, terrorists delve into chaos. Therefore, terrorism is a moral concept and one must deal it morally. (103 words)