The Historical Roots of Political Violence

Following the protest movements and radicalism of the late 1960s, many affluent countries experienced lethal revolutionary terrorism. Groups like the Red Brigades in Italy and the Red Army Faction in Germany provoked political crises in their countries. Other affluent countries, however, did not experience this same kind of violence. This book offers a historical-comparative explanation of this cross-national variation, focusing on the development paths followed by countries during the interwar period. The countries that followed a non-liberal path (marked by anarchist terrorism, democratic breakdowns, civil wars, land inequality, non-liberal capitalism, and late industrialization) suffered lethal left-wing terrorism decades later. Terrorism is thus explained as a feature of the political and economic system. Drawing on several fields, including comparative politics, political economy, international relations, and historical sociology, this book offers novel hypotheses about the determinants of violent conflict.

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Revolutionary Terrorism in Affluent Countries

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This book has kept me busy (almost obsessed) for a number of years. It offers a new approach to the analysis of political violence and, more specifically, of terrorism, based on a mix of statistical, comparative, and historical analyses. I have drawn on a number of very different literatures and subfields in the social sciences and I have generated new data on terrorism. The final result is a bold thesis about the long-term roots of political violence. Terrorism is conceived as the result of complex paths of political and economic development; these paths reflect the degree of resistance to the spread of capitalism and democracy.

Throughout the process of thinking, analyzing and writing, I have incurred numerous debts. Let me mention my main creditors. From an institutional point of view, I have been extremely lucky in recent years to work in an integrated academic environment formed by political scientists, sociologists, and economic historians. Both the Carlos III-Juan March Institute of Social Sciences and the Department of Social Sciences at Carlos III University have been privileged places for me. Thinking now of specific people, the list is considerable. Firstly, the assistants who helped me with data collection: Macarena Lescornez, Lydia Kostopoulos, and especially Pablo Cabrera. Secondly, Paul Rigg, who helped me in all sorts of ways polishing my rusty English, and Magdalena Nebreda, who assisted me in the preparation and formatting of the manuscript. Thirdly, my long-time coauthor, Luis de la Calle: Even though this is my own work, our research together has been a source of inspiration and learning for many years; and specifically he has provided me with very useful comments on this manuscript. Thirdly, Adam Przeworski, who read an initial draft of the book: His many comments and his general skepticism
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Abbreviations

17-NRO 17-November Revolutionary Organization
AD Direct Action (Action Directe)
APO Extra-parliamentary opposition (Ausserrparlamentarische Opposition)
BLA Black Liberation Army
BPP Black Panther Party for Self-Defense
Br Red Brigades (Brigate Rosse)
CCC Communist Combatant Cells (Cellules Communistes Combattantes)
CDU/CSU Christian Democratic Union of Germany
   (ChristlichDemokratische Union Deutschlands)/
   Christian Social Union in Bavaria (Christlich-Soziale Union in Bayern)
CGIL Italian General Confederation of Labor
   (Confederazione Generale Italiana del Lavoro)
CGT General Confederation of Labor (Conféderation g´nerale du travail)
CNT National Confederation of Labor (Confederación Nacional del Trabajo)
COW Correlates of War
CPA(ML) Communist Party of Australia (Marxist-Leninist)
Cpm Metropolitan Political Collective (Colletivo politico metropolitano)
DTV Domestic Terrorism Victims Dataset
EAAJA East Asian Anti-Japan Armed Front
List of Abbreviations

ETA Basque Homeland and Freedom (Euskadi ta Askatasuna)
FARC Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia
FLN-T National Liberation Front – Tupamaros (Frente de Liberación Nacional – Tupamaros)
FLQ Quebec Liberation Front (Front de Libération du Québec)
FP-25 April 25 Popular Forces (Forças Populares 25 de Abril)
FRAP Patriotic and Anti-Fascist Revolutionary Front (Frente Revolucionario Antifascista y Patriota)
GAP Groups of Partisan Action (Gruppi d’Azione Partigiana)
GARI Internationalist Revolutionary Action Groups (Groupes d’action révolutionnaires internationalists)
GP Proletarian Left (Gauche Proletarianne)
GRAPO October First Anti-Fascist Resistance Groups (Grupos de Resistencia Anti-Fascista Primero de Octubre)
HIEL Historical Index of Economic Freedom
HIHD Historical Index of Human Development
ILO International Labour Organization
IRA Irish Republican Army
JCP Japanese Communist Party
JRA Japanese Red Army (Nihon Sekigun)
KPD Communist Party of Germany (Komunistische Partei Deutschlands)
LTTE Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam
MIL Iberian Liberation Movement (Movimiento Ibérico de Liberación)
Msi Italian Social Movement (Movimento Sociale Italiano)
NAPAP Armed Nuclei for Popular Autonomy (Noyaux armés pour l’autonomie populaire)
NRP New Popular Resistance (Nouvelle résistance populaire)
OMLE Organization of Spanish Marxist-Leninists (Organización Marxista-Leninista de España)
PCE Spanish Communist Party (Partido Comunista de España)
PCEm-l Spanish Communist Party (Marxist-Leninist) (Partido Comunista de España marxista-leninista)
List of Abbreviations

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<th>Abbreviation</th>
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<td>PCEr</td>
<td>Spanish Communist Party Reconstituted (Partido Comunista de España reconstituido)</td>
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<td>Pci</td>
<td>Italian Communist Party (Partito comunista italiano)</td>
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<td>PFLP</td>
<td>Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine</td>
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<tr>
<td>PKK</td>
<td>Kurdistan Workers’ Party</td>
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<tr>
<td>PI</td>
<td>Front Line (Prima Linea)</td>
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<tr>
<td>RAF</td>
<td>Red Army Faction (Rote Arme Fraktion)</td>
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<td>RYM</td>
<td>Revolutionary Youth Movement</td>
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<tr>
<td>SDS (Germany)</td>
<td>Socialist Student League (Sozialistischer Deutscher Studentbund)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDS (US)</td>
<td>Students for a Democratic Society</td>
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<tr>
<td>SLA</td>
<td>Symbionese Liberation Army</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPD</td>
<td>Social Democratic Party of Germany (Sozialdemokratische Partei Deutschlands)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPK</td>
<td>Socialist Patient Collective (Sozialistische Patientkollektiv)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TSCS</td>
<td>Time-series cross-section</td>
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<tr>
<td>URA</td>
<td>United Red Army (Rengo Sekigun)</td>
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<tr>
<td>WUO</td>
<td>Weather Underground Organization</td>
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<td>YIT</td>
<td>Year of Industrial Transition</td>
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