# Resilience and Preparedness to Strategic Terrorism

August 10, 2009

Institute for
Alternative
Futures

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# Interdisciplinary approach

- Political science:
  - Historical and journalistic account of the effects of terror on populations but does not address how successful strategic terrorism is in generating terror

- Behavioral sciences:
  - More rigorous but very focused, lacking the political context

......Bring the two together.

# Strategic Terrorism

- Use of terror to coerce political system
  - "Independent deliberate acts of **violence**, or threats of violence **against a populace**, intended to produce a particular psychological effect - **terror** - on the assumption that, second, this will **influence** the target's whole **political system** through **shifting** its **attitudes and behaviour.**" (Lawrence Freedman, 2005)

- Terrorism designed to cause dislocation and disorientation of society

Lawrence Freedman, 'Strategic Terror and Amateur Psychology', *The Political* Quarterly, Vol. 76, No. 2, April (2005), pp 161-170

# Risk Analysis ....in terrorism

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| | |
|---|---|
| Risk Perception | Public's prior experience of terrorism [e.g. 2$^{nd}$ Intifada] knowledge of devices - lethality [e.g. RDDs, BWs] |
| Social Amplification of Risk | Emergency services/government response [e.g. 1995 Sarin attack, Mumbai 2008] |
| Trust | Adherence to government advice [CBR attack] |
| Risk Characterization | Risk profile of device(s)/delivery: lethality [e.g. 2001 anthrax] |
| Risk Communication | Reduce the terror and adverse changes in public's behaviors and attitudes (elicit desired responses) |

**Mitigate adverse behavioral responses from terrorism and as a tool of political coercion**

Explore. Aspire. Create. Evolve.

**UNKNOWN RISK:**
**Not observable,**
**Unknown to those exposed,**
**Effect delayed,**
**New risk,**
**Risks unknown to science**

CBRN

Food irradiation ●

Lasers ●

Nuclear power ●

● Chemical disinfectants

**DREAD RISK:**
**Uncontrollable,**
**Dread,**
**Global catastrophic,**
**Consequences fatal,**
**High risk to future generations,**
**Risk increasing,**
**Not equitable,**
**Catestrophic,**
**Involuntary,**
**Not easily reduced,**
**Affects me**

**NON DREAD RISK:**
**Controllable,**
**Not global**
**catastrophic,**
**Consequences not**
**fatal,**
**Equitable,**
**Individual,**
**Low risk to future**
**generations,**
**Easily reduced,**
**Risk decreasing,**
**Voluntary,**
**Doesn't affect me**

● Hair dyes

Diagnostic X-rays ●

Pesticid

Jogging
● Vaccinations ●

apers

Government

Antibiotics ●
Anesthetics ●

dges

Nerve gas ●

RESILIENCE

Nuclear weapons ●

Roller coasters ●
Power lawn mowers ●

Swimning pools ●

● Commercial aviation

Railways ●

TERRORISM ●

Conventional/
non-CBRN

Government

Bicycles ●
● Football

Downhill skiing ●

Warfare ●
Crime ●

● Police work

Alcoholic beverages ●

● Firefighting

Motor vehicles ●

● Handguns

**KNOWN RISK:**
**Observable,**
**Known to those exposed,**
**Effect immediate,**
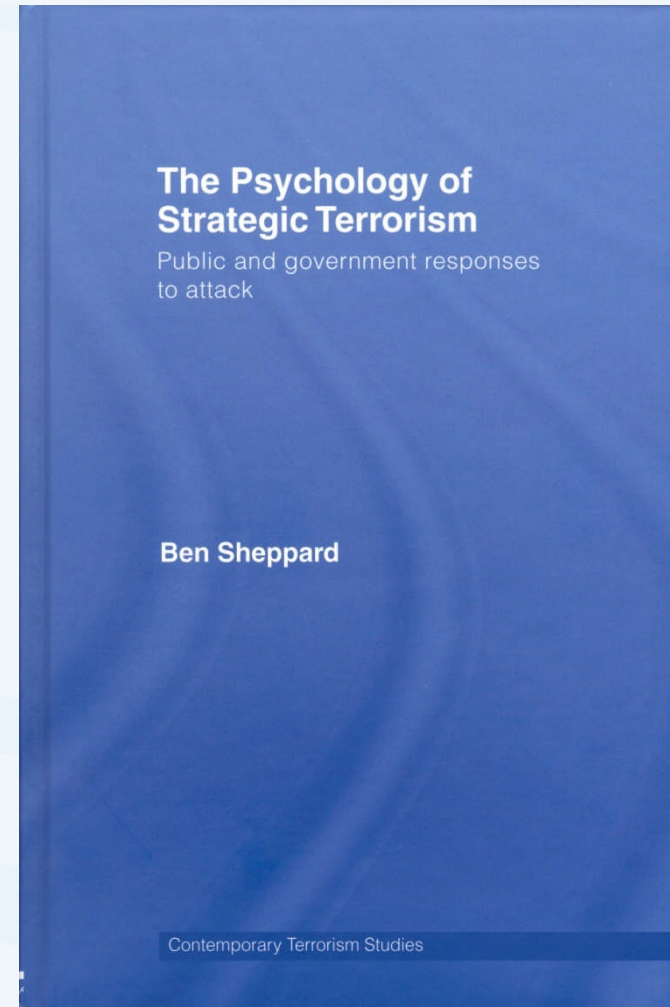**Old risk,**
**Risks known to science**
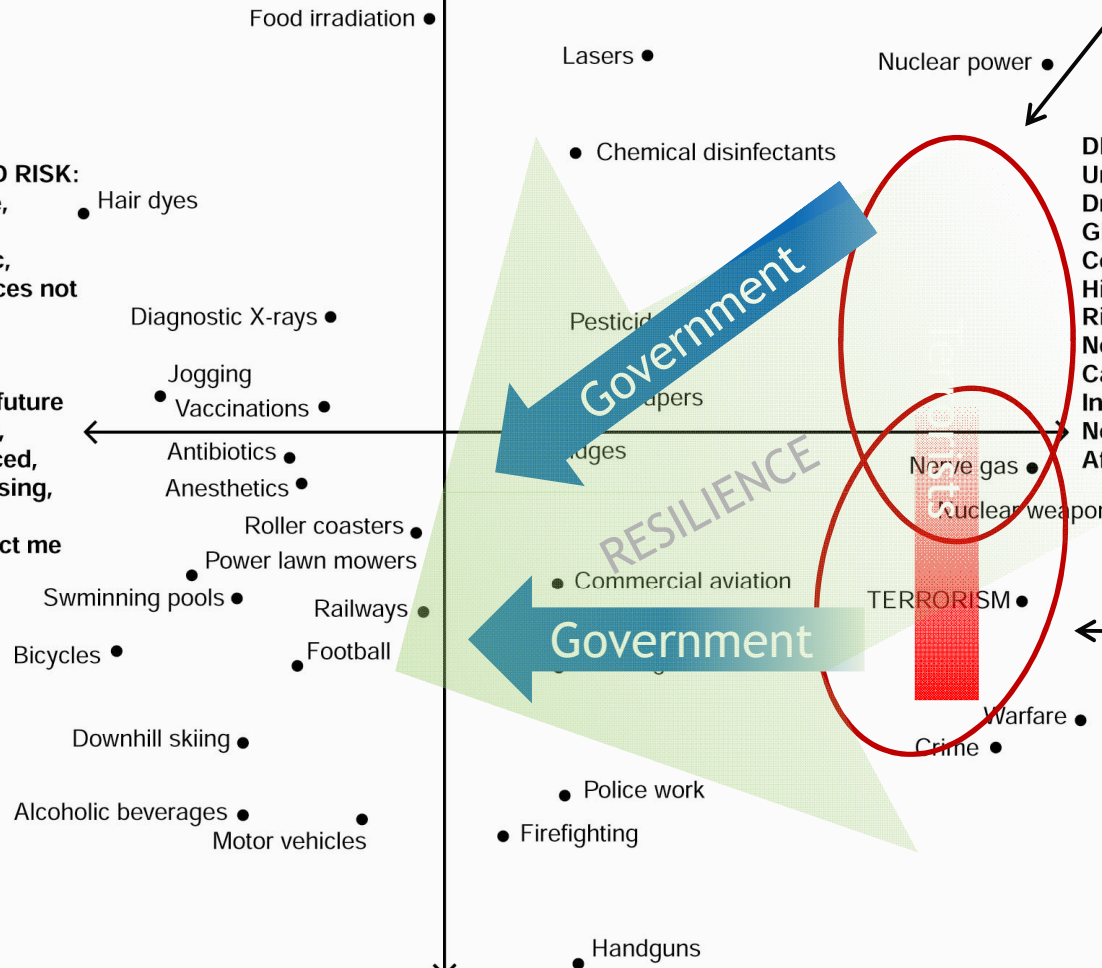
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The Psychology of Strategic Terrorism
Public and government responses to attack

Ben Sheppard

Contemporary Terrorism Studies

Ben Sheppard, "The Psychology of Strategic Terrorism" (Routledge, 2008)

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