

## Handout 1: Readings

### Introduction

Since the September 11 attacks, public discussion of international terrorism has largely been framed in conventional terms, and policy responses have relied on traditional state-based approaches (such as military force and secrecy). This module encourages you to explore other means of understanding and addressing terrorism – to think outside the box by employing your personal values and, working within the framework of global civil society, to develop ethical responses to this contemporary global problem.

Begin by completing the assigned readings. As you read and browse, consider the following questions:

- In what way(s) does the notion of global civil society change how you think about world politics? About international terrorism?
- How is terrorism different from other “isms”? Why do disagreements persist about how to define this phenomenon?
- How have your actions and interactions with others shaped your social context? How has your social context influenced your personal identity, interests, and behaviors?

### Study Questions

After reading assigned materials, reflect upon these questions:

- How important are states, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and individuals in world politics? How influential is each type of actor? Upon what understandings or personal experiences do you base your answers?
- Are all states significant? Are any non-state actors more powerful or influential than state actors? How big an impact can an NGO or individual have on world politics? Explain your answers.
- Name and describe the basic goals of an NGO with which you are affiliated or have had some personal contact. How do the organization’s mission and activities correspond to your personal values and ethics?
- What personal values and experiences influence your understanding of (a) world politics and (b) international terrorism? In what way(s)? How might someone who is another race or gender, lives in another country, or subscribes to another religion answer these same questions?
- How does a people-centered understanding of international politics differ from more conventional state-centered understandings? Toward which perspective do you lean? Why?
- Provide a specific example of how international politics is socially constructed. How difficult was it to come up with your example? What does this tell you about the nature of world politics?
- In what specific ways do you participate in civil society? What influence has doing so had on (a) your daily life and (b) your political activities and opinions?
- What does it mean, in practical terms, to say that global civil society’s channels of opportunity are ideologically variable? Is this a good thing or a bad thing? Why? Is your response different now than it would have been before September 11, 2001? Explain.

## Handout 2: State

You are playing the role of a state in this exercise. Your task is to formulate specific policy proposals, or present a particular course of action, that will effectively address the problem of international terrorism. Toward that end, consider the following questions:

- Can you use military force to respond to international terrorism? Should you? Why?
- What alternatives to military force are available? Are any of these more effective than military force? Why?
- Is it better to act alone or in concert with other states? Why? What are the practical implications of your answer?
- Should you encourage or request assistance from nonstate actors? Why or why not? If so, which actors and in what capacity? If not, what will be your response to nonstate actors who ask to be involved?
- In what ways can you capitalize on the dynamics and processes of socially constructed IR and global civil society to help ensure your success? What aspects of these contextual environments might present problems for you, and how can you minimize any adverse effects?
- What are the one or two easiest, but important steps you can take to effectively address international terrorism? Why?
- What are the one or two most difficult, yet necessary steps you can take to effectively address international terrorism? Why?

### Handout 3: NGO

You are playing the role of a nongovernmental organization (NGO) in this exercise. Your task is to formulate specific policy proposals, or some particular course of action, that can be implemented to effectively address the issue of international terrorism. Toward that end, consider the following questions:

- Should military force be used to respond to international terrorism? Why?
- What alternatives to military force are available? Are any of these more effective than military force? Why?
- Is it better to act alone or in concert with other NGOs? Why? What are the practical implications of your answer?
- Should you encourage or request assistance from state actors? Why or why not? If so, which states and in what capacity? If not, what will you do when state actors become involved – or, more likely, take the lead – in responding to terrorism?
- In what ways can you capitalize on the dynamics and processes of socially constructed IR and global civil society to help ensure your success? What aspects of these contextual environments might present problems for you, and how can you minimize any adverse effects?
- What are the one or two easiest, but important steps you can take to effectively address international terrorism? Why?
- What are the one or two most difficult, yet necessary steps you can take to effectively address international terrorism? Why?

#### **Handout 4: Citizen**

You are playing yourself – an ordinary citizen – in this exercise. Your task is to formulate a specific course of action to help ensure that – when it comes to the issue of international terrorism (or the “war on terrorism”) – your political voice will be heard and your interests properly represented. Toward that end, consider the following questions:

- Should military force be used to respond to international terrorism? Why?
- What alternatives to military force are available? Are any of these more effective than military force? Why?
- Is it better to act alone or in concert with other individuals? Why? What are the practical implications of your answer?
- Should you encourage your government’s involvement in response to international terrorism? Why or why not? If so, in what capacity? How will you accomplish this? If not, what do you propose in lieu of state action?
- In what ways can you capitalize on the dynamics and processes of socially constructed IR and global civil society to help ensure that your political voice is heard?
- What are the one or two easiest, but important steps you can take as an individual to help ensure that international terrorism is addressed effectively? Why?
- What are the one or two most difficult, yet necessary steps you can take as an individual to help ensure that international terrorism is addressed effectively? Why?
- What will you (personally) do now? Why? How?

## Handout 5: Terrorist

You are playing the role of a terrorist in this exercise. Your task is to formulate a specific course of action that can be implemented to effectively realize your demands. Toward that end, consider the following questions:

- Do you expect military force be used in response to your actions? Why?
- What alternatives to political violence are available? Are any of these more effective than political violence? Why?
- Is it better to act alone or in concert with other terrorists? Why? What are the practical implications of your answer?
- Should you encourage or request assistance from other actors? Why or why not? If so, which actors and in what capacity? If not, what will you do when other actors engage in activities or pursue an agenda similar to yours?
- In what ways can you capitalize on the dynamics and processes of socially constructed IR and global civil society to help ensure your success? What aspects of these contextual environments might present problems for you, and how can you minimize any adverse effects?
- What are the one or two easiest, but important steps you can take to effectively realize your objectives? Why?
- What are the one or two most difficult, yet necessary steps you can take to effectively realize your objectives? Why?

## Handout 6: Debriefing

- How significant or influential are (a) states, (b) NGOs, and (c) individuals in the grand scheme of world politics? Explain.
- How useful are constructivism, global civil society, and similar notions for making sense of contemporary world politics? Justify your position.
- What insights into global terrorism can be gleaned from the concept of global civil society? How might the widespread adoption or application of this concept, by various actors, influence the political dynamics and effectiveness of international terrorism?
- Which of your personal values or ethical principles proved most instrumental in helping you develop policies or strategies to address international terrorism?
- What personal values and ethics did the 9/11 terrorists articulate? How do these differ from your own?
- Are terrorists like the 9/11 hijackers inherently amoral or unethical, or are they simply rational actors whose values differ from our own? How does your answer influence your understanding of international terrorism and how to respond to it?
- Is terrorism ever justified? Under what circumstances, or why not?
- Imagine a world filled with civil actors that represent only your values or theirs. What would such a world look like? How would it differ from what we see today?
- Is communication between people and groups with radically different values possible? Why or why not? What are the implications of your answer for efforts to address global problems such as terrorism?
- What should be done with uncivil actors (such as international terrorists) in the context of global civil society? How would a truly civil society respond to terrorism? Explain your answers.
- In what ways did participating in this exercise (a) support and (b) contradict what you previously knew or believed?