



Teacher's Guide

Origins of Modern Terrorism **World At War**

Grade Levels:

7 - 12

Subject Areas:

World History

American History

Synopsis:

Provides a detailed introduction to the evolution of state-sponsored terrorism. Beginning with Israel's terrorist attacks and Palestinian reprisals, chronicles the establishment of the PLO, Fatah, the Fatah Revolutionary Council and the Abu Nidal group and the events of Black September, the hostage-taking event at the Munich Olympics, and the killings of Jewish teenagers at Marlot. As the Palestinian problem intensifies, investigates the involvement of Libya, Syria and Iran in the Rome and Venice attacks, the Iran-Iraq War, the bombing of TWA 847, and PamAm Flight 103. Follows the standoff between Libya and the United States over Libya's involvement in the Rome and Venice attacks. Sheds light on the power of Hezbollah and its ability to influence as powerful a nation as the United States in the Iran-Contra affair. Closes with a reference to special security forces and their ability to protect citizens of all countries from terrorist attacks.

Learning Objectives: Students will:

- Understand that modern terrorism is unique because it is often state-sponsored.
- Describe the political aims of the PLO, Fatah, Hezbollah and Islamic fundamentalists.
- Understand the political significance of the displacement of 700,000 Palestinians when the nation of Israel was created.
- Describe the role of Libya, Syria, Lebanon and Iran in state-sponsored terrorism.
- Understand that state-sponsored terrorism is a perplexing contemporary problem.

Vocabulary:

umbrella organization, anarchists, anarchism, Fatah, retaliatory, proxy forces, Mullah

Pre-Viewing Discussion:

Why are we so concerned with terrorism and the possibility of terrorist acts?

Is terrorism a recent problem or have terrorist groups always existed?

How would you define terrorism? Is there a difference between terrorists and criminals?

What recent events qualify as acts of terrorism?

Post-Viewing Discussion:

What terrorist group inspired Middle Eastern car bombers? How do suicide bombers differ from former members of the IRA?

What terrorist acts account for the present-day Palestinian situation? How was the United Nations in general, and Britain, in particular, indirectly responsible for the situation?

Why are Iran and Syria so involved with the Palestinian situation?

How did the United States become so involved with the Palestinian situation?

Further Activities:

Investigate the effects of either the PanAm bombing or the TWA hijacking on the families who were left behind.

Search the World Wide Web to find a personal narrative written by a teenager who has decided to become a suicide bomber.

Find out how Iranian mothers felt about sending their sons to the Iran-Iraq war in 1980-1988.

Investigate the reasons for the success of the Entebbe rescue.