

Strategy

Student's Name

Institutional Affiliation

Week Three Discussion: Strategy

For this assignment, I chose to analyze the strategy employed by Al-Qaeda, one of the most infamous terrorist organizations in modern history.

Al-Qaeda was founded in 1988 by Osama bin Laden during the Afghan-Soviet War. The group was formed to primarily support Muslim fighters against Soviet forces. Over time, Al-Qaeda evolved into a global jihadist movement with a broader agenda to combat Western influence in Muslim countries.

The primary goal of Al-Qaeda is to establish a global Islamic caliphate governed by Sharia law. This long-term objective is pursued through various short-term goals, including attacking Western interests, destabilizing governments in Muslim-majority countries, and inspiring a worldwide jihadist movement.

Al-Qaeda employs a combination of violent and non-violent tactics. Its most notorious method is the execution of large-scale terrorist attacks, such as the September 11, 2001 attacks on the United States. Additionally, the group uses guerrilla warfare, suicide bombings, and targeted assassinations. Non-violent tactics include propaganda and ideological indoctrination to recruit and radicalize followers.

Al-Qaeda's recruitment strategy is multifaceted, leveraging personal networks and digital platforms. The group produces high-quality propaganda materials, including videos and online publications, to spread its ideology and attract new members. Their messaging often focuses on grievances against Western foreign policies and the perceived oppression of Muslims worldwide.

The group's funding comes from a mix of legitimate and illegitimate sources. Donations from sympathetic individuals and charities, involvement in criminal activities such as drug

trafficking and extortion, and financial support from affiliated groups contribute to economic stability.

Al-Qaeda's strategy has had significant impacts, both in terms of human casualties and geopolitical consequences. While they have succeeded in executing high-profile attacks and inspiring other jihadist groups, they have also faced significant setbacks due to global counterterrorism efforts. The death of Osama bin Laden and continuous military pressure have weakened their operational capabilities.

In summary, Al-Qaeda's strategy combines historical context, clear objectives, varied tactics, effective recruitment and propaganda, diverse funding sources, and notable impacts. Analyzing these aspects provides a comprehensive understanding of their operations and highlights the importance of multi-faceted counterterrorism strategies.

Peer Responses

Please respond to at least two other students.

Response 01

Hey Sam, great analysis! You've effectively detailed Al-Qaeda's historical context, goals, and tactics. Your points on recruitment and funding are well-supported. Including recent developments to illustrate how their strategy has evolved would be beneficial. Overall, this comprehensive and insightful post enhances our understanding of terrorist strategies.

Response 02

Responding to peers is vital to the INTL 650 Week Three Discussion posts. We need to provide at least two peer responses. I have provided one example post. You can write your peer responses keeping the above points in mind.