This reading focuses on how the Internet assists terrorists in learning how to create explosives.

Explosives are the most frequently used devices by terrorists.

½ of the terrorist attacks in the world.

5 Points of Major Focus:
- Al Qaeda's shift to individual jihad
- General learning of bomb-making
- "E-learning" courses of bomb-making
- Evolution of Al Qaeda's learning tools
- A general overview of a US “cell” of potential terrorists

Al Qaeda’s Shift
Pressure on terrorist sanctuaries have lead to the push in the leaderless jihad.
Not a new concept
1990s: Lectured/presented by jihadi strategist Abu Mus‘ab al-Suri as well as presented in jihad training camps for recruits.
Known also as the Global Islamic Resistance, it praises the lone wolf concept of those who carried out Al Qaeda’s global ideology on a on their own, while having no real personal connection to the organization.
Videos that praise those who carry out this type of terrorism consist of the following:
- Recognition of those who have carried out individual jihad
- Acknowledgement of the acts as controversial whereas traditional jihad should go hand in hand with this.
- Gives a brief operational guide that focuses on types of targets that should be attacked (Media outlets, monuments, economic joints of the country, etc)

Bomb Making 101
Encyclopedia of Jihad
Most famous collection of writings that recorded all experiences of Afghan-Soviet jihad to ensure that knowledge of past attacks and techniques would not be lost on future generations
Written records prove problematic due to partiality, so what is the solution?
Explosive Courses
Taught in camps by experts
Learned bomb making from past professionals
Hands on course
Similar to that of a trade/technical school
Preferred by most Europeans that enlist in terrorist groups
Individual jihad learning strategy
Trial and error experimentation with explosives is the most common. “High motivations, patience, and intelligence” → Required
Average of 200 hours to collect the “recipe” through the internet, acquire ingredients, and create the bombs
This led to “e-learning” courses to help those that could not do the one on one training and those that were not intelligent/driven enough to figure it out on their own.

E-Learning
Adnan Shukri’s Special Explosives Course for Beginners
Anonymous person created a forum for beginners posting lessons, assigning “homework”, and replied to questions through open response and personal message.
Most effective modern method to date. Evolution of Learning
Essentially the evolution of learning for jihad has been from the marketing of training camps and literature to a shift to the E-Learning experience to gain more of a global reach
The internet plays an important role in transferring insurgent tactics and technologies between battlefields
Rapid distribution
“Crucial” feedback given on public forums for further assistance
**Most visible development**

Terrorist Cell
Real life radicals may exploit online training materials and it may further them in their radicalization, but it can also indicate that the cell’s members were not able to absorb the online training material on their own due to feedback from various jihadists on forums playing a role in their learning and radical transition.
E-learning courses are a “marginal phenomenon” that should not be ignored
Attract a large interest in US cells and global jihadists
Most intellectuals agree that a state’s support affects an armed non-state organization’s capabilities, but rarely studies are done on their resulting significant impact on the organization’s decisions.

DeVore explains that this specific exploration is to “address the impact that state sponsorship has on the decision-making process within violent non-state groups.”

An increasingly relevant matter as wars among states have become outnumbered, twenty-to-one, by intra-state wars and internationalized civil wars.

Main Perspectives:

Indirectly
1) State support has impact on violent non-state actor’s decisions through “shaping their options”, with the resources they provide.

Directly
2) Also through “persuading” = In this case, essentially, threatening to withhold support until the state’s demands are met.

4 Forms of Support:
1) Financial Assistance – Allowing for stability, organization, and the ability to win popularity among their constituents.
2) The Provision of Weaponry – Must rely on a state for this, because otherwise, the amount and quality of weaponry that a successful organization requires would be extremely hard to obtain.
3) Sanctuary – A “safe haven” is vital to an organization’s communication, administration, and planning.
4) Political Support – “Providing [an organization] an aura of legitimacy.”

Lebanon’s Hezbollah:
Known among intellectuals as “an exceptionally capable organization” for...
- Conducting attacks against larger enemies.
- Continued effectiveness over the course of a three-decade conflict with Israel.
- Considered to be “the world’s most innovative armed non-state actors.” (From the idea of a “world stage”)

Iran and its Support:
Iran has become one of the most active supporters of such groups, likely being motivated by 3 of their Unique Characteristics:
1) By majorly supporting anti-Israeli groups, Iranians have been able to “inject” their voice into a world that otherwise, they would not be involved in.
2) As an attempt to better represent the greatly oppressed Shia-Muslims that they claim to be the “champion” of.
3) Iran’s conventional military weakness, leading it to rely on proxies to attack/deter its enemies.
When combining Iran’s enthusiasm in supporting these groups, and Hezbollah’s reputation as “capable”, it makes sense that together, they accomplish much.

- Iran’s Indirect Impact on Hezbollah’s Decision-Making -
  Providing:
  Financial support = Allowing Hezbollah to take a long-range approach in planning, provides more professionalism in the organization, and supplies them with the resources to offer benefits to their constituents.
  Safe Havens = (Even within Lebanon) Enabled Hezbollah’s politico-military command structure to organize far better, and eventually permitted the development of infrastructure.
  Constant Political Support = Provided a sine qua non for Hezbollah to operate freely in Lebanon.

However, Iran’s impact indirectly begins with the origins of Lebanon’s Hezbollah. Thus, those are observed.

Origins of the Hezbollah:
- Many of its members, mostly Lebanese Shiites, joined after being involved with other similar groups and thus already had extensive military training/experience.
  - Quite a few of these new members coming from Amal, a violent non-state actor, and the previous leader of the “Shiite movement”. This group split in 1982 when their leader gave controversial orders; to not resist the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. Many of those that disobeyed these orders wanted to do more, and thus, several small, splintered groups were formed.
  - The beginnings of Hezbollah were simply these separate groups attempting to defend against Israel. There was no coordination among the groups, and even the Shiite population was not unified against Israel.
  - This went on until three Lebanese clerics appealed to Ayatollah Ruholla Khomeini (an Iranian Shia Muslim religious leader, philosopher, revolutionary, and politician), for his support of Lebanon’s Hezbollah. He, along with other leaders, so enthusiastically agreed that right away, they provided finances, sanctuary, and political support.
  - Iranian aid had an almost immediate impact on Hezbollah’s decision-making process. Since essentially, it allowed the process to begin where before, there was no process at all, no universal decisions were being made.
  - Iran’s Financial Aid = “While Iran’s sanctuary and organizational aid were crucial to Hezbollah’s development of centralized decision-making bodies, its long-term commitment to providing financial aid fundamentally shaped the strategic options available to Hezbollah’s policymakers.” When given the privilege to choose to plan short-term or long-term, Hezbollah wisely chose long-term. Additionally, because of the wealth Iran was providing the organization, they could launch their “hearts and minds” campaign. This was a grand attempt at winning the favor of their constituents through providing social-services.

Iran’s Direct Impact on Hezbollah’s Decision-Making -
Geopolitical Factors:
Periodically, Iran has wanted to use Hezbollah as a proxy to attack its enemies and therefore, has tried to “coax” them into enlarging their list of objectives to include ones they never would have considered.

of course, on some occasions, it is beneficial for the state to use this “influence” to encourage restraint. this has also been seen in the case of Iran and Hezbollah.
Questions I find interesting:
When is the amount of resources flowing from a state into a non-state actor worth the benefits that they may provide? and where is the line declaring that it is not worth it any longer? How often is that line crossed, When states cut funding to an organization?
Governments ruling Sahel desert - Algeria, Libya, Chad, Niger, Mali - are weak and corrupt.
Terrorists organizations, like AQIM, kidnap foreign workers from ships or oilfields for ransom. Then they use the ransom money for weapons or explosives. Algeria was a colony of France and gained independence through ~7.5 year war (1954-1962). Algeria exports oil to France. President George W. Bush created the Pan Sahel Initiative in 2002, which eventually formed into the Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Initiative. Us trains promising individuals. The individuals then go back to Africa are start drug smuggling, coup-making, and profitable collusion with pirates/terrorists. NATO helped collapse the Qaddafi government in Libya. This action action led to armed terrorists fleeing Libya and heading toward Mali.
The 1980s was a period of state-sponsored international terrorism
*this type of terrorism declined quickly because of political and
cultural changes in the major countries involved
- ex. Iran after the Islamic Revolution
-one reason for the decline was the fall of the Soviet Union
*their aid to countries like Syria seriously fell
-another reason for the decline was the negatives of being a "pariah" state
*both economic and political issues would arise
*"one of the most successful uses of international sanctions"
-the era of state-sponsored terrorism ended in 1999 when Muammar
Qaddafi, leader of Libya, handed over the 2 main suspects of the Pan
Am flight 103 bombing
*Abdel Basset Ali al-Megrahi who was convicted
*Al Amin Khalifa Fhimah who was acquitted
-Megrahi was acting under the orders of Qaddafi's regime in the
bombing that killed 270 people
*in 2009 he was released back to Libya for "humanitarian" reasons
due to prostate cancer that was suppose to kill him within weeks
-he lived 3 more years and died in 2012
-the Pan Am flight attack shows some realities about international terrorism
*ex. the attack shows how crucial timing was to the plan
-if the flight wasn't delayed and didn't leave late the bomb
would've gone off over the Atlantic leaving almost no evidence and no
ties to Magrahi or Libya
This article recognizes that developing a universally accepted definition of terrorism is unlikely. It starts by talking about September 11th, 2012 when a group of assailants attacked the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi. The focus moved to whether or not the event was a terrorists attack or a response to a video mocking Muhammad and the Islamic religion. The FBI defines terrorism as “the unlawful use of force or violence against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof, in furtherance of political or social objectives.”

“Not One, but many Terrorism” - Walter Laqueur’s observation that any attempt to define terrorism in specific terms “is bound to fail” for the simpler reason that there is “not one but many terrorism” The old adage “one man’s terrorists is another man’s freedom fighter” captures the present day challenge. The word “terrorism” has also changed over time

“For without a Consensus of what Constituted Terrorism, Nations could not Unite Against It”- Conversely, there is broad consensus that there needs to be a universally accepted definition of terrorism for both analytical and practical purposes. Simply it must be defined in order to setup counter terrorism.

An International Framework for an International Problem- Terrorist organizations recruit, finance, and operate across, and between, internationally recognized boundaries. An international framework is necessary to defeat an international problem. EU (European Union) defines terrorism as “serious damage a country or an international organization where committed with the aim of: seriously intimidating a population; or unduly compelling a Government or international organization to perform or abstain from performing any act.” NATO defines it as “the unlawful use or threatened use of force or violence against individuals or property in an attempt to coerce or intimidate governments or societies.” The nation-members of both EU and NATO could and should worked together to establish an international coalition that will commit to defining terrorism and outlining clearly stated objectives for such an agreement.
Introduction
Religion plays a vital and influential role in the Nigerian society.

- Even though religion is vital in Nigeria, studies show that historical roles of religion in the country have been negative, rather than positive.
- The socioeconomic, security and political stability of the country is constantly under threat due to the Boko Haram attacks.
- Many religious crises have taken place, which are attempts of imposing religious ideology on a secular state.

An Overview of the Concept of Terrorism
- Merari describes terrorism as the use of violence by sub-national groups for obtaining political-including social and religious goals especially when the violence is intended to intimidate or otherwise affect the emotions, attitudes and behavior of a target audience considerably larger than the actual victims.
- On the basis above, terrorism is significantly considered as a compulsive strategy of the relatively disadvantaged, the weak who seek reversal of authority, a use of force to achieve a desired policy, a theatrical warfare whose drama involves the actors who actually carry out the violent act, the group against whom the violent act is targeted and the authority due to be influenced or compelled to act.

The modern development of terrorism as a tool to achieve political and religious goals began during the French Revolution.

Boko Haram Movement: Talibans and Talibanism in Nigeria? What We Need to Know
The ideology and philosophy of the Boko Haram movement was captured by Tell Magazine:
The mission of the sect was to establish an Islamic where orthodox Islam is practiced. Orthodox Islam according to Yusuf Mohammad, the leader of the sect, frowns at Western education and working in the civil service because it is sinful. Hence, for their aim to be achieved, all institutions represented by government including security agencies like police, military and other uniformed personnel should be crushed.
The Nigerian government has adopted approaches-military and Commission of Inquiry-without any positive results.
Nigeria needs to collaborate with countries who have had first hand experience of terrorism and have come up with reasonable means to reducing terrorism. Countries include: United States, France, Italy, United Kingdom, Israel.
Summary and Conclusion
- This article sets out to examine the dynamics of terrorism in the context of Boko Haram attacks in Nigeria which remains insufficiently explored.
- In view of the ideology and philosophy of Boko Haram, it became obvious that terrorism perpetuated by this group in all its ramifications is a serious threat to the national interest of the Nigerian state.
- Nigeria must further demonstrate her strong commitment to addressing the remote and immediate causes of the renewed Boko Haram attacks by joining hands with the international community.
- Nigeria must educate targeted youth who could easily become willing tools in the hand of Boko Haram members.
The Boston Marathon bombing killed three people and injured nearly 200 others. The Tsarnaev brothers were born in Kyrgyzstan and the Kalmyk Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic. The family was granted legal permanent residence in the United States. Dzhokhar said he and his brother were radicalized by watching lectures of Anwar al-Awlaki, an alleged senior leader of Al-Qaeda. Increased family tensions led to turn toward religion. Their father was drawn to sports and their mother towards religion. Before the bombings, the FBI interviewed Tamerlan several times and were presumably tipped off by Russia.
This article details the impacts of global Terrorism in North Africa. It talks heavily about the AQIM or Al-Qaeda Islamic Maghreb. It talks about the combined efforts of America and its allies to eradicate terrorism throughout the globe.

In order for terrorism to thrive, it must have good leadership. There were two good leaders who helped lead the AQIM named Abu Harith and Abu Hamza. Hamza was in charge of weapons training.

The article then describes the various activities that the AQIM does throughout the day. It describes exactly what time they rise and when they say their prayers and when they receive religious instruction.

Lastly, the article describes how two French bombings have destroyed the 'bait' that the AQIM set for them. The AQIM set up a fake base known as the Gendarmerie.
The fall of Greece's most elusive terrorist group 17 November (17N) showed:
That after a major terrorist group has fallen, after a period of time a new generation of terrorists emerge.
Shortly after 17N was dethroned a new group called the Revolutionary Struggle (RS) took over.
The quick turnover and rise in terrorist violence of the RS revealed that dethroning terrorist group did not discourage or demoralize their actions, but simply led to an increase of more guerrilla groups and revolutionary violence.

Greek Political Violence
Political violence in Greece struck during the mid-1970s due to complex political conditions and long-standing cultural influences.
Files were kept on each Greek citizen underlining critical information such as “leftist” or “communist”. This was enforced a set of emergency laws called a 'para-constitution'.
Until the fall of Greece's dictatorship in 1974 there was political surveillance on families and family responsibilities.
After 1974 Greeks move to a multi-party democracy called Metapolitefsi, but the struggle of this new system brought disappointment to the left-winged believers who felt it would bring more democratic change.

The Terrorists
Two main terrorist groups: 17N and Revolutionary Popular Struggle (ELA)
Both groups failed to change the attractiveness of prolonged terrorist violence as a psycho-political tool and revolutionary political behavior is still a part of Greece today.
Matters such as Greece's debt crisis continue to make matters worse, but are only a small part as to why things are the way that they are others include economic distress, uncontrolled immigration, and disaffected policing.
Peter W. Singer, says that you are more likely to be killed by a toilet than to be killed by a cyber attack.

he says that the FBI defines cyber terrorism “premeditated, politically motivated attack against information, computer systems, computer programs and data which results in violence against non-combatant targets by subnational groups or clandestine agents.” As one congressional staffer put it, the way we use a term like cyber terrorism “has as much clarity as cybersecurity — that is, none at all.”

he says we mix up our fears with the actual state of affairs. The deputy defense secretary was conflating fear and reality, not just about what stimulant-drinking programmers are actually hired to do, but also what is needed to pull off an attack that causes meaningful violence.

Singer says, "Policymakers must worry that real-world versions of such attacks might have a ripple effect that could, for example, knock out parts of the national power grid or shut down a municipal or even regional water supply."