

ABSTRACT

This thesis focuses on whether we can create a categorizational model for foreign intelligence communities and if we can identify factors that will help us predict those foreign intelligence communities' effectiveness in counterterrorism. In order to determine this, the author based one of her main factors on the 1995 Sederberg article that separates counterterrorism models into three main categories: (1) War Model, (2) Criminal Model, and (3) Disease Model. She also relates these models to three of the main geopolitical schools of thought as follows: (1) War Model - Realism, (2) Criminal Model - Liberalism, and (3) Disease Model - Constructivism.

The second main factor analyzed here is the centralization of the intelligence community. This clearly affects the consistency of the counterterrorism message being encouraged by the state, as well as the speed with which the Intelligence Community can respond to an emergency situation.

The key contributions of this thesis lie in the creation of the comparison model and the subsequent analysis of the six case studies. This model combines and acknowledges theories of counterterrorism effectiveness that have not been previously studied together and is also a useful comparison tool for foreign intelligence agencies without running into many of the same issues that usually hinders intelligence studies.

The thesis concluded that while centralization might play some role in a state's counterterrorism efficiency, the key variable is the specific macro model utilized by the counterterrorism effort as a whole. In a very quick snapshot, the War Model has the strongest short-term results but most harmful long-term results, the Criminal Model also has strong short-term results, but worrisome mid- and long-term results, and the Disease Model has weak short-term results but shows the strongest long-term results.

The thesis also suggests that the strongest model for counterterrorism would actually be a centralized hybrid model that mixes the Criminal and Disease Models. The author suggests that further research be concluded on this possibility.

¹ The most common issue within this type of study is the difficulty in gathering information based on the covert nature of intelligence work.