

Reader's Guide

Who are the individuals who wreak havoc and violence upon society? What are their motivations? What are their backgrounds? *Terrorism: Biographies* profiles twenty-six people who figure prominently in the story and history of terrorism. Included are terrorists from the Middle East such as Osama bin Laden, Ramzi Yousef, and Abu Nidal; individual actors such as Theodore “Ted” Kaczynski and Timothy McVeigh; those involved in terrorizing minority classes such as Robert M. “Bobby” Shelton; and people some view as freedom fighters, such as John Brown and Michael Collins. In addition, statesmen such as George J. Mitchell and Tom Ridge are profiled, reflecting the efforts of negotiators and protectors of peace in response to terrorism. Informative sidebar boxes as well as more than seventy photographs and maps augment the text. Each entry concludes with a list of further readings. Also included in the volume are a timeline, a “Words to Know” section, and an index providing easy access to subjects discussed throughout *Terrorism: Biographies*.



Related Reference Sources

- *Terrorism: Almanac* presents a history of terrorism from the French Revolution until today. The volume examines the motivation behind various forms of terrorism, as well as the strategies governments use to combat terrorism.
- *Terrorism: Primary Sources* presents fifteen full or excerpted speeches and written works that illuminate the philosophy behind individuals and groups that practice terrorism, those who have been victims of terrorist acts, and those who fight it. Each entry includes an introduction, things to remember while reading the excerpt, the excerpt itself, information on what happened after the work was published or the event took place, and a list of further reading.

Acknowledgments

The authors extend their thanks to U•X•L senior editor Diane Sawinski and U•X•L publisher Tom Romig at the Gale Group for their assistance throughout the production of this series.

Comments and Suggestions

We welcome your comments on *Terrorism: Biographies* and suggestions for other topics in this area to consider. Please write: Editors, *Terrorism: Biographies*, U•X•L, 27500 Drake Road, Farmington Hills, Michigan 483313535; call toll-free 800-877-4253; fax to 248-414-5043; or send email via <http://www.gale.com>.

Timeline

- January 28, 1793** Maximilien Robespierre is elected to the Committee of Public Safety in France, emerging as its leader.
- March 1794** Maximilien Robespierre solidifies his power on the Committee of Public Safety by arresting and executing his two chief rivals.
- July 28, 1794** Maximilien Robespierre is put to death by guillotine.
- 1851** Mikhail Bakunin is sentenced to prison in Russia for revolutionary activities.
- May 24, 1855** John Brown and his gang of abolitionists attack a pro-slavery settlement on Pottawatomie Creek in Kansas, killing five.
- October 16, 1859** John Brown leads a raid on the armory at Harpers Ferry, Virginia.
- December 2, 1859** John Brown is hanged in Charlestown, Virginia.
- 1866** Mikhail Bakunin publishes *Revolutionary Catechism*.



- 1909** Michael Collins joins a Irish independence group, the Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB).
- April 24, 1916** Irish nationalists, including Michael Collins, stage an uprising in Dublin, Ireland. A few days later, British forces retaliate; 450 people die and more than 2,600 are injured.
- August 22, 1922** During an attack by the Irish Republican Army (IRA), Michael Collins is killed by a gunshot.
- July 22, 1946** The King David Hotel in Jerusalem is bombed on the orders of Menachem Begin, leader of the Israeli resistance group Irgun Zvai Leumi.
- 1948** Yasir Arafat leaves the university and joins in combat against the new state of Israel.
- 1954** Edward Abbey publishes his first novel.
- 1961** Robert M. "Bobby" Shelton, influential member of the Ku Klux Klan in Alabama, is placed under a court order not to interfere with whites trying to integrate interstate bus transportation.
- 1962** Edward Abbey's novel *The Brave Cowboy* is made into a motion picture starring Kirk Douglas and Walter Matthau.
- 1963** Robert M. "Bobby" Shelton seeks to quell violent tactics of the Ku Klux Klan, but a bomb planted by the Klan explodes at the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama.
- 1964** Gerry Adams begins working actively with Sinn Féin.
- 1966** The U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Un-American Activities finds Robert M. "Bobby" Shelton in contempt of Congress when he refuses to answer questions during the committee's investigation of the Klan. Shelton serves a year in prison.
- 1967** The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) is formed by George Habash.
- 1968** The PFLP stages its first terrorist attack, hijacking an El Al (Israel's national airline) flight from Rome, Italy, forcing it to land in Algiers.

Words to Know

A

Abolitionist: A person who wants to outlaw slavery.

Abortion: The act of ending a pregnancy by removing the fertilized egg from a woman's uterus.

Absentia: In their absence.

Anarchism: A theory that says society should be organized around voluntary associations, rather than large government organizations.

Anarchist: A person who believes that society should be organized around voluntary associations, rather than large government organizations.

Anthrax: An infectious disease that can be fatal unless a person gets treatment soon after he or she has been exposed.

Antisocial personality disorder: A condition in which a person does not have a conscience about his or her actions. People with this disorder are aggressive and more concerned with their needs than with the needs of others.



Aristocracy: A class of people with special privileges inherited from birth.

Aristocrats: The upper classes of society that controlled some governments.

Armory: A place where weapons are stored.

Atheist: A person who believes there is no God.

Autism: A mental disorder beginning in infancy. Its symptoms include an inability to interact socially, repetitive behavior, withdrawal from reality, and being absorbed in mental activities such as daydreams, fantasies, and delusions.

B

British Commonwealth: Association of countries that were formally British colonies or possessions that continue to maintain close governmental, military, and legal ties to Great Britain.

Buddhism: A religion of eastern Asia based on the teachings of Gautama Buddha; it teaches that suffering, though a part of life, can be overcome by mental and spiritual purification.

C

Capital crimes: Crimes for which execution is a possible penalty.

Capitalism: An economic system in which factories and other businesses are owned and controlled by private individuals.

Chronic schizophrenia: A form of schizophrenia in which the altered thought processes are constant.

Civil rights: The nonpolitical rights of citizens protected under the law.

Class: A group of people in society who share the same political and economic status.

Communist: A person who believes in an economic theory that does not include the concept of private property; instead, the people—represented by a central government—owns the goods and means of production.