

Evaluating the Full Spectrum of Efforts by the State to Control Terrorism

Laura Dugan
University of Maryland
Erica Chenoweth
Wesleyan University

How we Typically Think of Counterterrorism



Effects might Depend on Regional Diversity

- Government Legitimacy
- Economic and Social Well-Being of Citizens—or terrorist constituency
- Political Literacy
- Religious Influences

Effects Might Depend on Terrorist Organizational Diversity

- Apocalyptic
- Single Issue
- Religious
- Nationalist
- Dependent on Constituency
- Highly Competitive with Other Organizations
- And so on...

Dealing with the Devil: START funded research with Erica Chenoweth

Considers the full range of approaches to countering terrorism from fully conciliatory to excessively repressive, with an eye toward developing a global counterterrorism database.

Only by understanding the optimal counterterrorism strategy that is best suited across a spectrum of conditions can we improve our chances of reducing global terrorism.

More Specifically

We have collected data from five Middle East countries on a wide range of government actions directed toward perpetrators of terrorism.

Algeria

Israel

Egypt

Turkey

Lebanon

Sample Actions

beating

Martial law

Boycott supporters

sniper

raid

deploy

patrol

harass

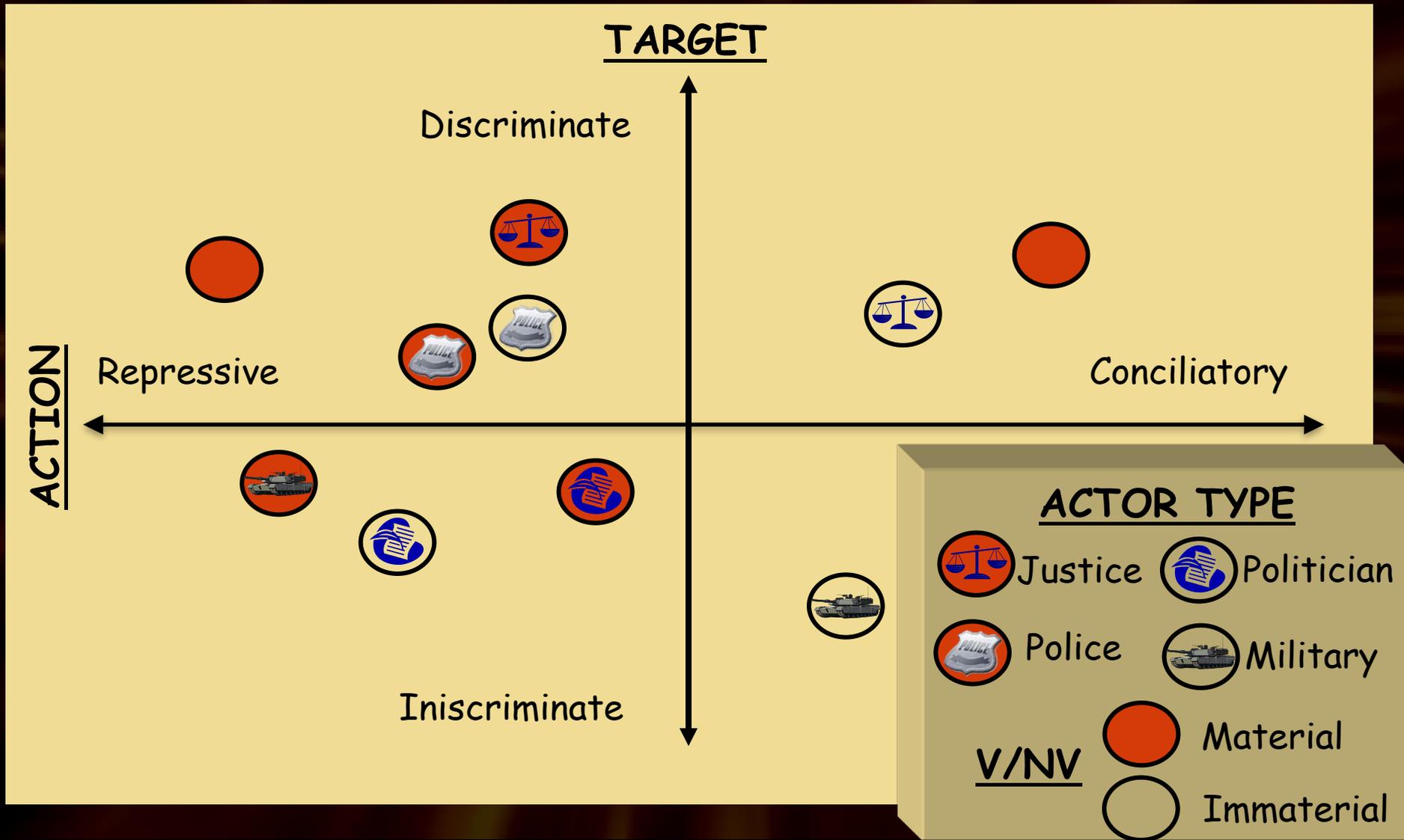
Stakeouts

release

internment

Investigating Abuses

Dimensions of Countering Terrorism



Conciliatory-Repressive Scale

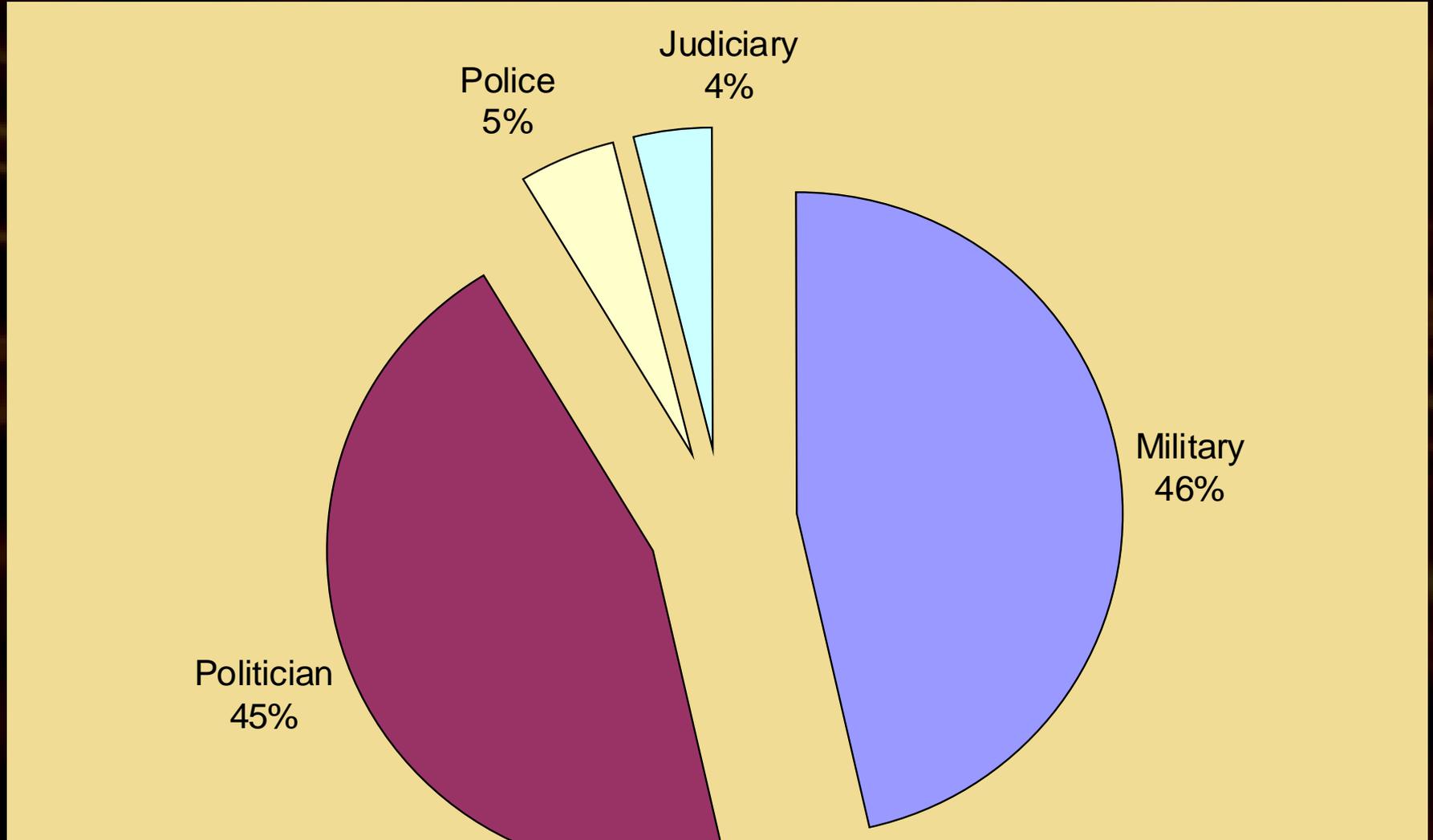
1. Accommodation
2. Conciliatory action
3. Conciliatory statement or intention
4. Neutral or ambiguous
5. Verbal conflict
6. Physical conflict
7. Extreme repression (intent to kill)

Data Collection Strategy

- Literature Search
- Textual Analysis by Augmented Replacement Instructions (TABARI)
 1. Searches lead sentences of news sources based on complex dictionary that specifies subject, verb and object (actor-action-target). (international event data)
 2. Filters hits into a new file and a database that captures key variables.
 3. Keep action by State Actors against Sub-State Actors

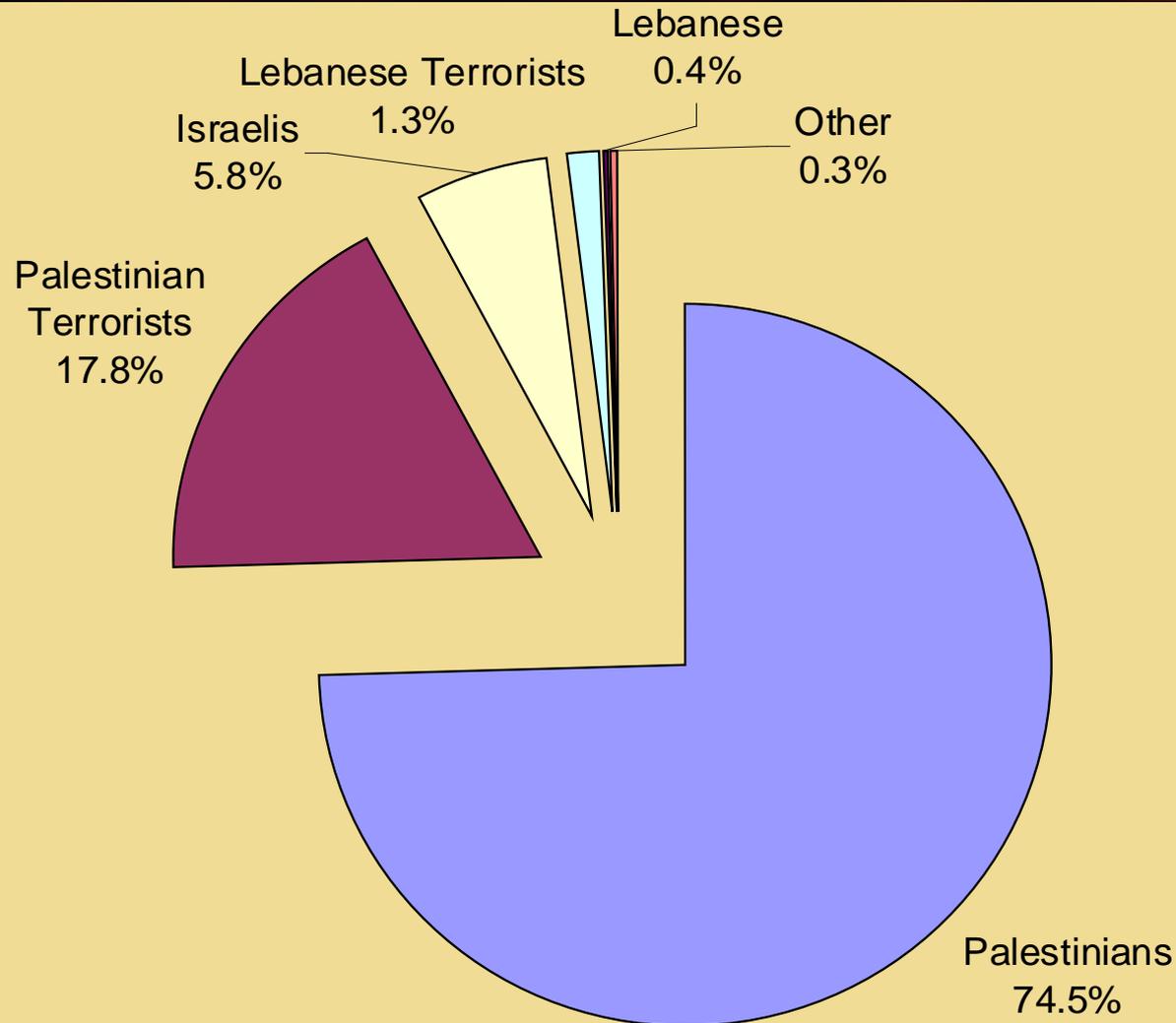
Preliminary Findings for Israel - Actors

Israeli Actors



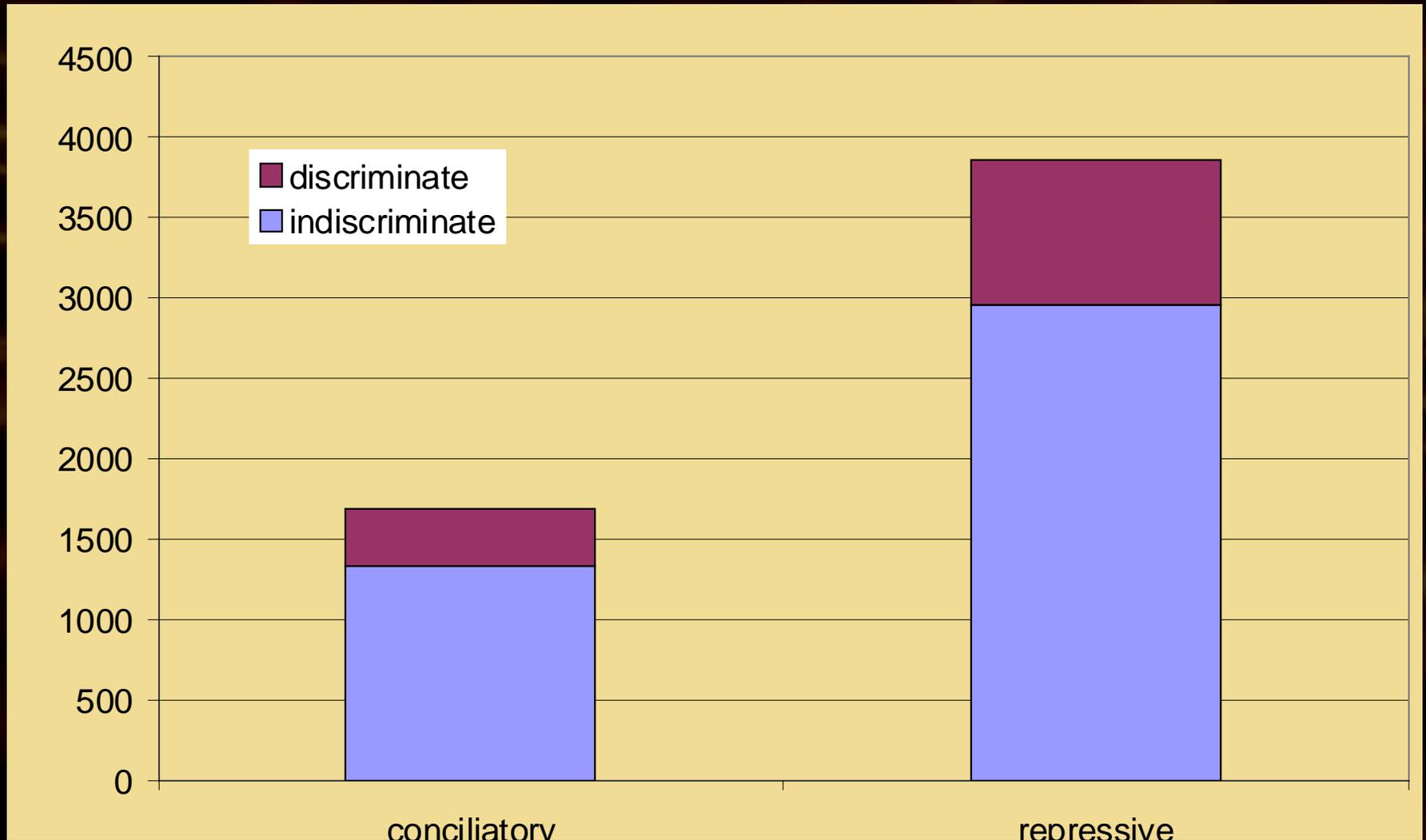
Israeli Targets

Israeli Action Targets



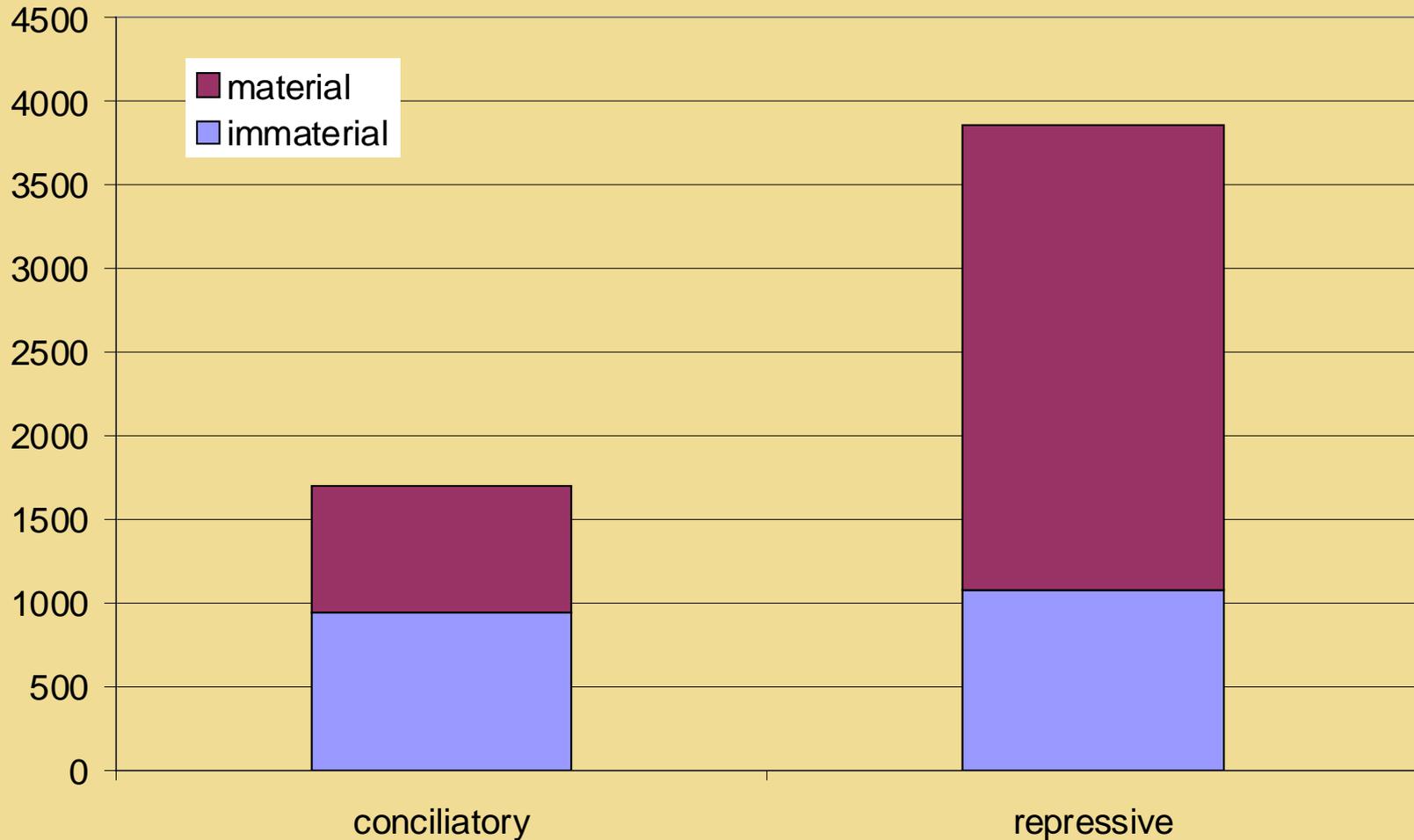
Discriminate and Indiscriminate Actions

Actions by Israel



Material and Immaterial Actions

Actions by Israel



Actions Captured by TABARI

Accommodation/Full Concessions

Withdrew from town

Signed peace accord

Handed town to Palestinians

Conciliatory Action

Met to discuss

Released

Lifted curfew

Pulled out

Investigate abuse

Conciliatory Statement or Intentions

Expressed optimism

Agreed to hold talks

Praised Palestinians

Expressed desire to cooperate

Admitted mistake

Neutral or Ambiguous

Infighting over

Failed to reach agreement

Host a visit

Appealed for third party assistance

Investigating

Verbal Conflict

Make pessimistic comment

Dismissed

Blame for attack

Deny responsibility

Threaten military force

Physical Conflict

Demolished

Barred

Sealed off

Imposed Curfew

Arrested

Extreme Repression (deaths)

Shot dead

Fired missiles

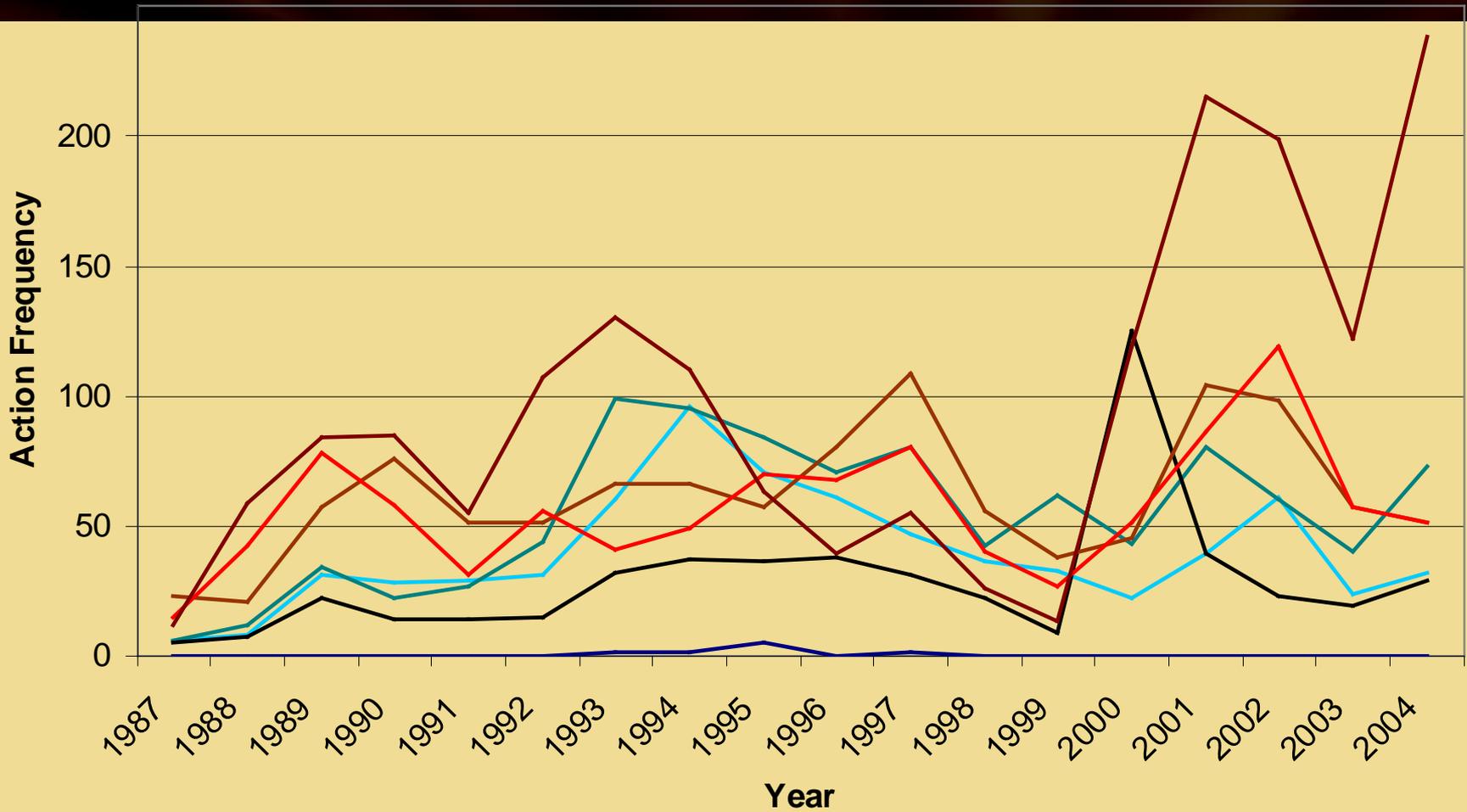
Clashed with

Raided

Helicopter attack

Actions by Israel

Actions By Israel

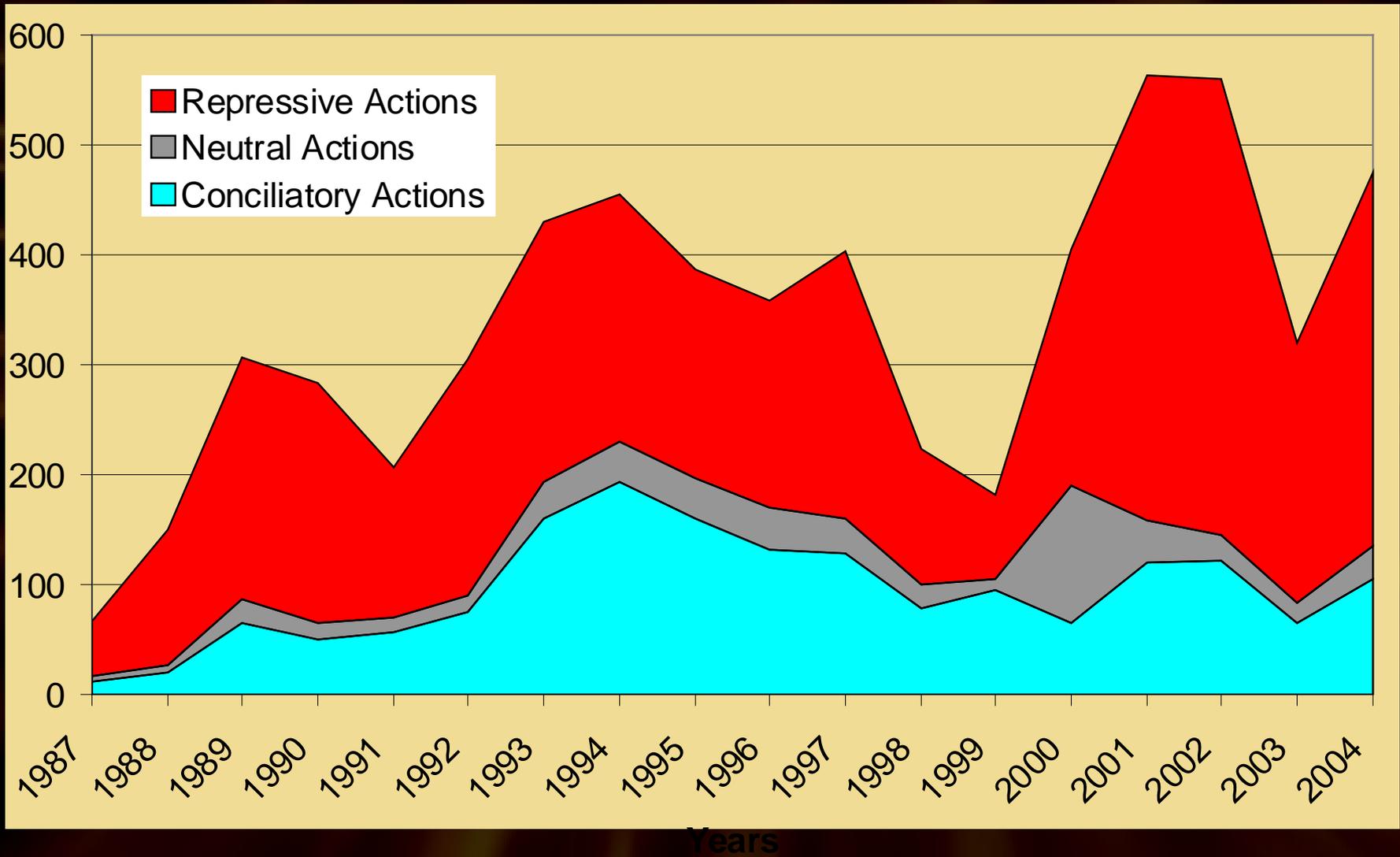


Accomodation/Full Concessions
Conciliatory Statement or Intentions
Verbal Conflict
Extreme Repression (deaths)

Conciliatory Action
Neutral or Ambiguous
Physical Conflict

Actions by Israel

Israel Actions Toward Sub-State Actors



Measuring Terrorism

Global Terrorism Database (GTD)

- Origins of the GTD
 - "GTD1" 1970-1997 (PGIS/START)
 - "GTD2" 1998-2007 (CETIS/START)
 - 2008- (ISVG/START)
- Sources
 - Pinkerton Global Intelligence Service (PGIS)
 - Newspapers/ Newswires
 - Radio/TV Transcripts
 - Terrorism Chronologies
 - State Department Reports

Definition of Terrorism

GTD1: "Acts by non-state actors involving the threatened or actual use of illegal force or violence to attain a political, economic, religious or social goal through fear, coercion or intimidation."

GTD2:

- The incident must be intentional - the result of a conscious calculation on the part of a perpetrator.
- The incident must entail some level of violence (includes property violence) or the threat of violence.
- There must be sub-national perpetrators
 - 1) The act must be aimed at attaining a political, economic, religious, or social goal. In terms of economic goals, the exclusive pursuit of profit does not satisfy this criterion
 - 2) There must be evidence of an intention to coerce, intimidate, or convey some other message to a larger audience (or audiences) than the immediate victims.
 - 3) The action must be outside the context of legitimate warfare activities, i.e. the act must be outside the parameters permitted by international humanitarian law (particularly the admonition against deliberately targeting civilians or non-combatants).

Beta Release

Search the Database

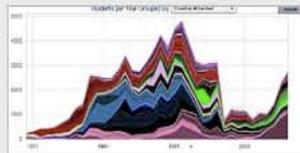
I'm a New User

Browse by:

Information on Over 80,000 Terrorist Attacks

The Global Terrorism Database (GTD) is an open-source database including information on terrorist events around the world from 1970 through 2007 (with annual updates planned for the future). Unlike many other event databases, the GTD includes systematic data on domestic as well as international terrorist incidents that have occurred during this time period and now includes more than 80,000 cases. [Learn more](#)

GTD DATA RIVERS



The **GTD Data Rivers** is an interactive visual exploratory tool that allows users to investigate temporal trends in terrorism in the Global Terrorism Database (GTD). The GTD Data Rivers aggregates important variables from the database and visualizes them as a comprehensible *stack chart*.

[Learn more about GTD Data Rivers](#)

THIS DATE IN TERRORISM

June 1

2007 Ashkelon, Israel

06/01/2007: No casualties were reported when Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) perpetrators fired at least three Qassam rockets from the Gaza Strip into Israeli territory. In this incident, one of those rockets struck and damaged a warehouse at a kibbutz south of Ashkelon, Israel.

[Learn more](#)

2004 Pagadian city, Philippines

06/01/2004: Seven people were injured when a bomb exploded outside a department store in the southern Philippines in Pagadian city. There were no immediate suspects, and no one was killed in the attack.

[Learn more](#)

FEATURED



The Spatial Concentration and Patterns of Left-Wing Terrorism in Colombia (1977-1997)

Using data from the GTD, an analysis was conducted on the spatial concentrations and patterns of left-wing terrorism in Colombia from 1977 to 1997.

[Read more](#)



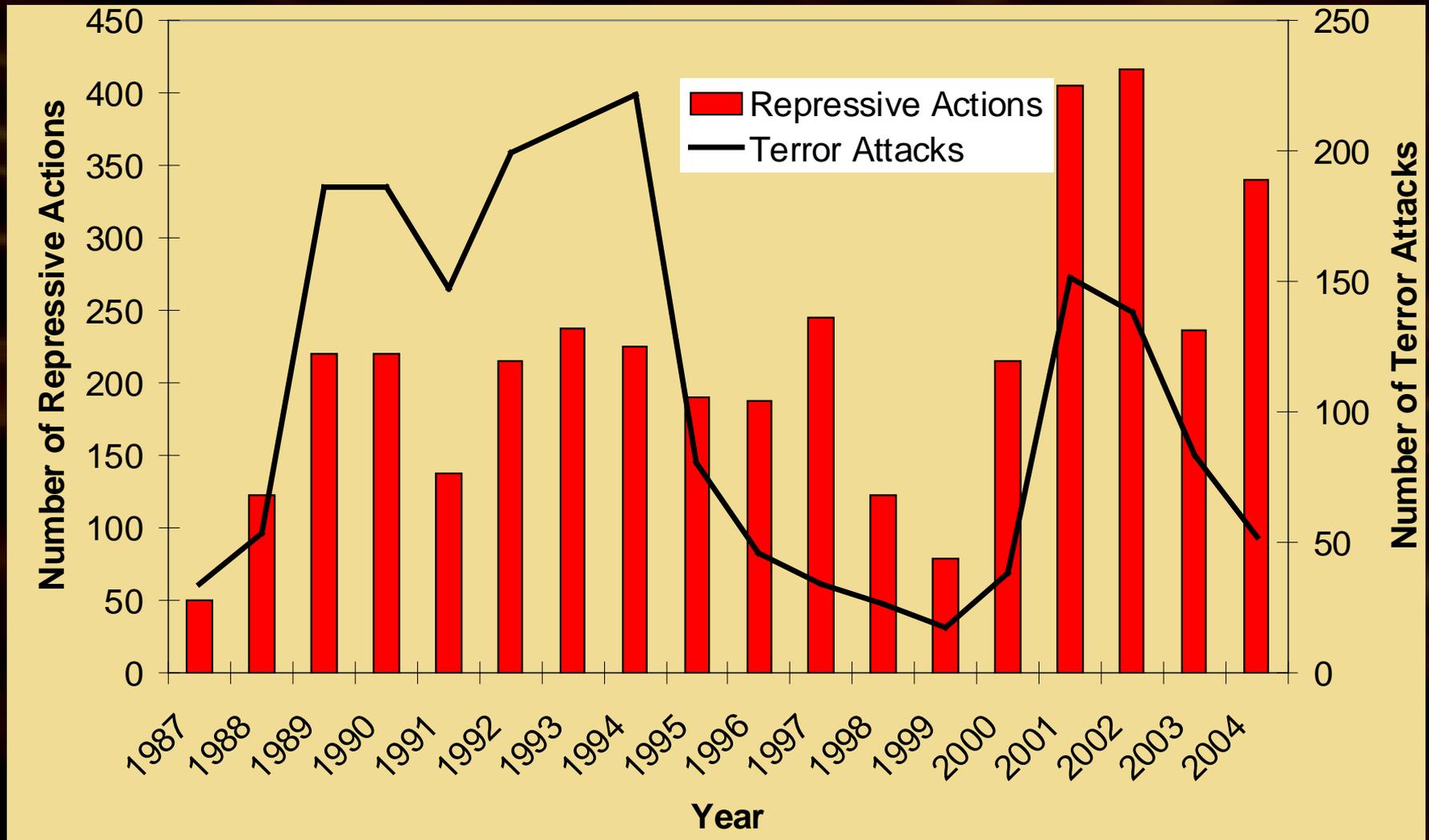
infostart@start.umd.edu
<http://www.start.umd.edu/>



So now we have independent
and dependent variables...

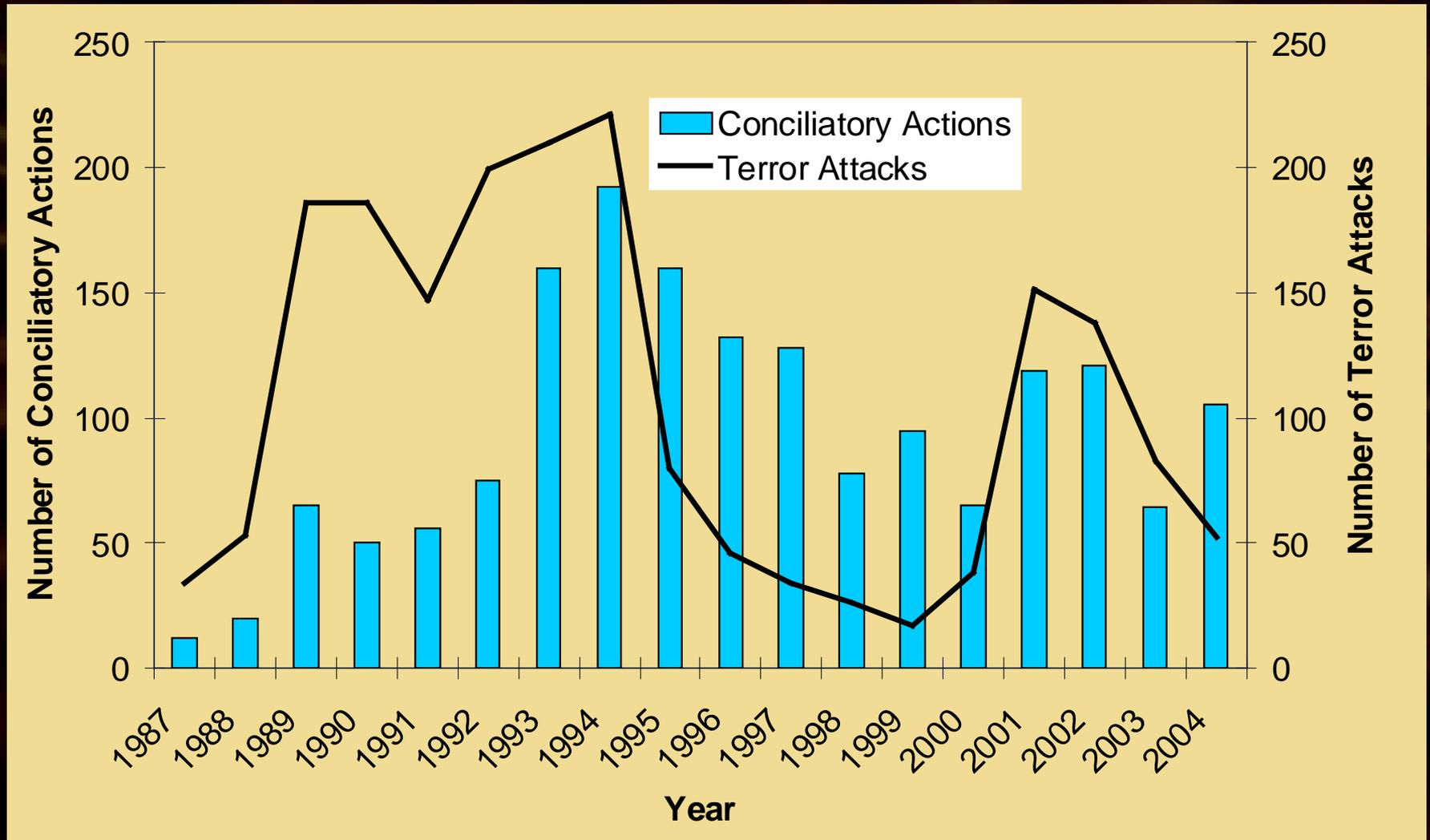
Repressive Actions & Terrorism

Repressive Actions by Government and Terror Attacks



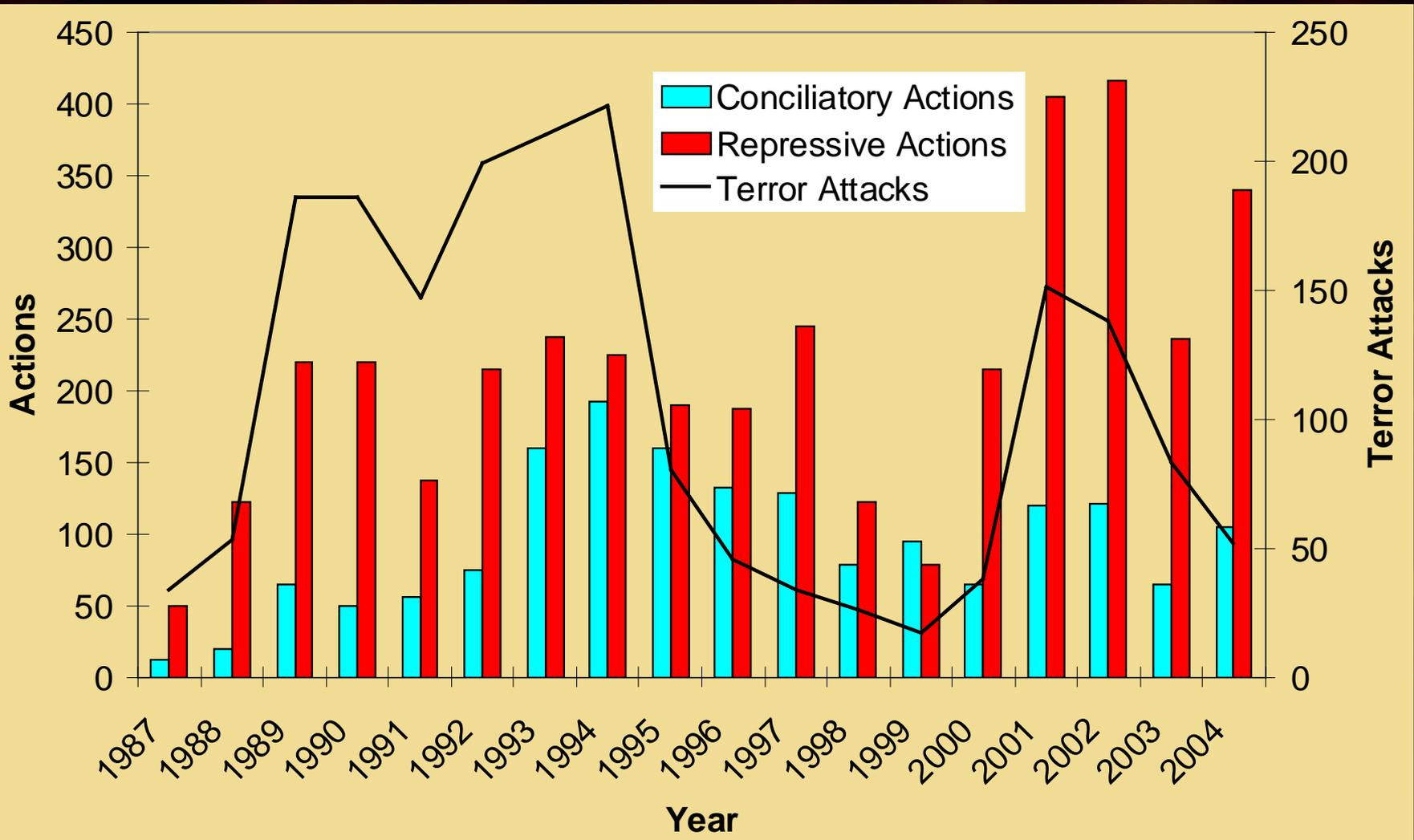
Conciliatory Actions & Terrorism

Conciliatory Actions by Government and Terror Attacks



All Actions & Terrorism

Actions and Terror Attacks



Methods to Assessing Efficacy

- Vector Autoregression: multiple time series of different types of actions and terrorist attacks by different perpetrators.
- Series Hazard Modeling: Analysis of more discrete campaigns countering terrorism on the hazard of continued attacks.

Next Steps

- Complete data for remaining 4 countries
- Use original articles to collect more details about actions and to link them through campaigns.
 - Fill in the detail
- Extend data collection to 7 additional countries including more democracies.