

that governments are involved in such instances. Sometimes, governments may even internally initiate such violence for their own purpose—blaming another state to intensify a brewing conflict or to get a tactical advantage over the adversary. Operation Northwoods (mentioned earlier) provides such an example in the United States. Another important point is that different agencies within the same government often have differing agendas, and such an operation may be sponsored by one department against the interests (or desires) of another.

In today's world, the rules are the same whether the state is capitalistic or communistic. According to journalist Masha Gessen, the 1999 “apartment-building bombings in Moscow and elsewhere were organized and carried out by the FSB, the [Russian] intelligence agency, in order to shore up Putin’s power grab.”¹²⁸

And, in a 2018 piece in the *London Review of Books*, Francis Wade provides an instructive example of the genocidal terrorism against the Rohingya Muslim minority by various elements—Buddhist religious establishment, political establishment, military, police, etc.—within the Myanmar (Burmese) society. An October 2016 editorial in the *New Light of Myanmar*, a state paper under the control of the Information Ministry, used the following to describe the Rohingya: “... fleas that we greatly loathe for their stench and for sucking our blood.”¹²⁹

Such brainwashing can turn an otherwise decent human being into a monster. Aung San Suu Kyi was the country’s leader at that time. Instead of the Nobel Peace Prize she possesses, a trial for crimes against humanity might have been more appropriate. The world, alas, works differently!

3. False-Flag (and Other Covert) Operations

Terroristic operations are sometimes created to implicate an opponent or a party to be discredited. That is why it is always a good idea to ask the quintessential “*Cui bono?*” question. When we can see who benefits from a certain instance of terrorism or violence, we are in a better position to estimate the source and further developments. Yet, this aspect can be only one component of various factors to be

evaluated. For an event to yield a favorable outcome for someone does not, on its own, mean they are responsible for it.

The Second World War's initiation was justified entirely by the use of false flag operations (known as Operation Himmler or Operation Konserve). The Reichstag fire of 1933 provides another good example. Even though a young man, Marinus van der Lubbe, was found and arrested inside the building, the Nazis immediately declared the fire to be a Communist conspiracy. Mass arrests began and an emergency decree suspended civil rights. Within weeks, Hitler would have absolute legislative power. The Communists were acquitted at the trial, though van der Lubbe was promptly executed upon conviction. It is now commonly believed that the Nazis themselves may have been involved in the fire. While there may be no certain way of knowing the truth, it is clear that Hitler and his party used this instance to greatly consolidate power within a short time. The possibility, therefore, cannot be dismissed. The 1964 Gulf of Tonkin incident is another example of how an attack by the enemy can be "manufactured" to be leveraged for political purposes, even, as here, in escalating a war.¹³⁰

On the domestic front in various countries, law enforcement is known to have used provocateurs to cause or initiate wanton violence, looting, rioting, etc. (When it comes to violence, it takes a minor spark to start a major conflagration.) This is a highly effective technique to discredit a group in the public's eyes. Various other techniques are used by governments to sabotage and undermine "undesirable" groups or movements. In the United States, the history of the FBI's COINTELPRO is a good example.¹³¹

The relationship between propaganda and false-flag operations is critical. Aldous Huxley deemed propaganda to be "largely at the mercy of circumstances."¹³² Emerging circumstances, thus, are to be fully exploited. And, where necessary, exploitable circumstances must be made to emerge.¹³³

4. Globalization of "Islamic" Terrorism: Understanding Kosovo¹³⁴

The violent movement begun in Afghanistan in the 1980s (chapter 1) became portable and transcendent in the 1990s. The focus