



DISASTERS

# TERRORISM

ANN WEIL

## CONTENTS

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<b>Chapter 1</b>	Introduction. . . . .	4
<b>Chapter 2</b>	The Munich Massacre, 1972 . . . . .	8
<b>Chapter 3</b>	Sara Jane Olson: A Secret Life . . . . .	16
<b>Chapter 4</b>	<i>Achille Lauro</i> , 1985 . . . . .	26
<b>Chapter 5</b>	Unabomber . . . . .	32
<b>Chapter 6</b>	Oklahoma City Bombing, 1995. . . . .	44
<b>Chapter 7</b>	September 11, 2001 . . . . .	52
<b>Chapter 8</b>	London Bombing . . . . .	62
<b>Chapter 9</b>	Madrid Subway Bombing . . . . .	70
<b>Chapter 10</b>	Oslo Killings . . . . .	80
	Glossary . . . . .	90
	Index . . . . .	92

## CHAPTER 1 | Introduction

# DATAFILE

### Timeline

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**April 18, 1983**

Bomb explodes at the US Embassy in Beirut.

**October 23, 1983**

Bomb explodes at US Marine Barracks in Beirut.

### Where is Beirut?





### **Did You Know?**

The word “terrorism” was first used during the French Revolution (1789–1799). The years 1783–1784 were called the Reign of Terror.

### **Key Terms**

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**hijack**—to take control of a car, bus, plane, or train, etc., by force

**hostage**—a person held against his or her will by a terrorist

**terrorism**—using force or threats against people

## **CHAPTER 1** | Introduction

Some disasters happen by accident. But terrorists destroy things on purpose. And that's when loss of life is most cruel.

Thousands died in terror attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon on September 11, 2001. It was the deadliest terror disaster in history.

### **What is terrorism?**

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Terrorism is violence against normal people. It is not the same as war. Terrorists do not belong to a country's armed forces. They don't often act for any one country.

Most terror groups are small. Only a few people may be involved in any one attack. They hijack planes. They hold people hostage. They threaten to kill hostages, and sometimes do.

They explode bombs. They destroy property and kill people. Many times, families and children are the victims.

Terror groups want to scare people. They do this to get power. Sometimes they have a goal in mind. They may want to free others who are in prison.

Some think that they are helping others by killing. They call themselves “freedom fighters.” They say they are fighting for freedom. But they are spreading pain.

The United States and others around the world are working to stop terror so people can live in peace and without fear of attack.

## CHAPTER 2 | The Munich Massacre, 1972

# DATAFILE

### Timeline

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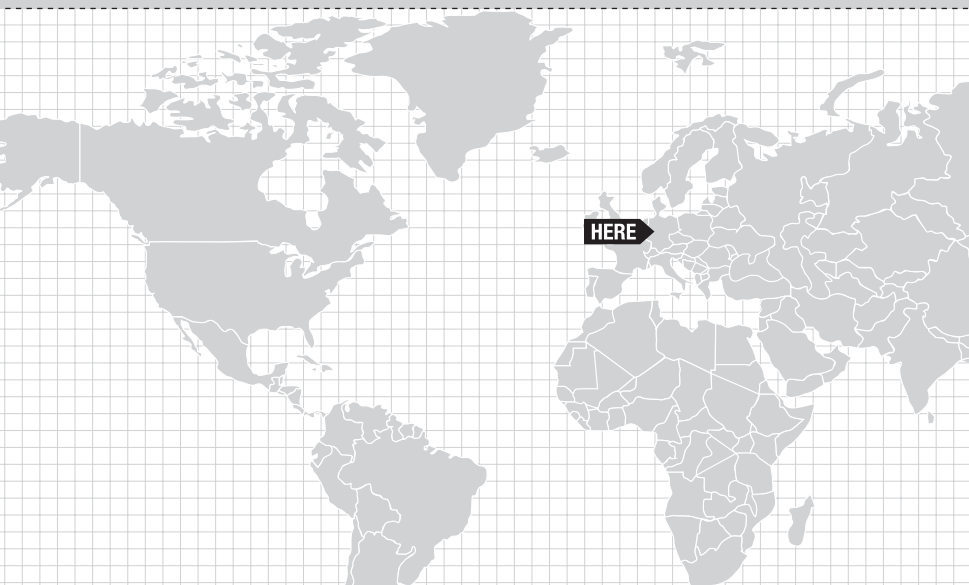
#### September 5, 1972

Terrorists kill 11 Israeli athletes at the Olympic Games in Munich.

#### November 1972

Richard M. Nixon, 37th president of the United States, is elected to serve a second term.

### Where is Munich?





### **Did You Know?**

Abu Daoud planned the 1972 Munich terror attack. In 1981, he was shot six times in an assassination attempt. He died on July 3, 2010.

### **Key Terms**

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**grenade**—a small bomb often thrown by hand

**mastermind**—a clever person who plans and directs a group project

**Palestinians**—citizens of Palestine, a region west of the Jordan River at the eastern end of the Mediterranean Sea. Palestine existed as a British mandated territory from 1917 until Israel was founded in 1948.



## **CHAPTER 2** | The Munich Massacre, 1972

The Olympic Games stand for good will among all people and nations. Millions watch the games on TV. People enjoy seeing athletes from all over the world compete.

But the 1972 games were different. The TV image many recall is not of an athlete with a gold medal. It is of a terrorist in a ski mask with a gun.

### **September 5, 1972**

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At about 4:30 a.m., five men climbed a fence into the Olympic Village. Three more men were already inside. They knocked on the door of Israel's wrestling coach. When the door opened, they rushed in.

The wrestling coach and a weightlifter tried to block the door. This helped others to escape. But the two brave men were killed.

Nine Israelis were taken hostage. The men who took the athletes said that they were Palestinians. They demanded that Israel release more than 200 Arabs from prison.

They said they would kill the Israeli athletes if their demand was not met. The men also wanted a plane to fly them out of Germany.

Many tense hours passed. Then, it was agreed that a bus would take the men and hostages to a helicopter. The helicopter would fly them to an air base. A plane would be waiting. The plane would fly everyone to Cairo, Egypt.

But the German police had another plan. They thought they might be able to shoot the terrorists at the airport.

There was a bloody gun battle. They killed the five terrorists who had jumped the fence. However, they didn't know that there were really eight.

At first, people thought the hostages were safe. But the news reports were too early. The hostages were still in the helicopters.

A terrorist pulled a grenade. He used it to blow up one of the helicopters. Another terrorist shot the hostages on the other helicopter. All were killed.

A German policeman died. The three terrorists who were left alive were captured.

## **The Games Go On**

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The next day, there was a special service for the 11 victims. The games were put off for one day.