

Spring 5-14-2015

Terrorism Through American Eyes

Jacob Blaznek

Chapman University, Blazn101@mail.chapman.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.chapman.edu/cusrd_abstracts



Part of the [American Politics Commons](#), and the [International Relations Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Blaznek, Jacob, "Terrorism Through American Eyes" (2015). *Student Scholar Symposium Abstracts and Posters*. 126.

https://digitalcommons.chapman.edu/cusrd_abstracts/126

This Poster is brought to you for free and open access by the Center for Undergraduate Excellence at Chapman University Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Student Scholar Symposium Abstracts and Posters by an authorized administrator of Chapman University Digital Commons. For more information, please contact laughtin@chapman.edu.



Terrorism Through American Eyes

Jacob Blaznek

Department of Political Science, Chapman University; Orange, California

Introduction to Research

- This study looks into the relationship of the defense budget and foreign relations. Whether the war was worth the cost and efforts of government to reduce terrorism. Finally efforts to reduce terrorism and the wars effect on terrorism.
- All of these are what Americans opinions are of the topic and how they feel about each topic.
- On average most people approve of the governments efforts to reduce terrorism.
 - However many don't believe the war was worth it and it does not matter their view of the governments effort to reduce terrorism.
 - Also people believe that the war did noting to increase or decrease the threat of terrorism more than they believe it increased or decreased.
- There is a belief that people who want an increase to the defense budget do not think that the President is not handling foreign relations well and vise versa.
 - I have realized a lot of the opinions that Americans had from 2001-2006 have changed tremendously from what they are in 2012-2015.
 - People today are questioning the Presidents handling of foreign relations, and now believing that the war was not worth the cost and did nothing to increase or decrease the threat of terrorism.

Public Opinion Before and Now

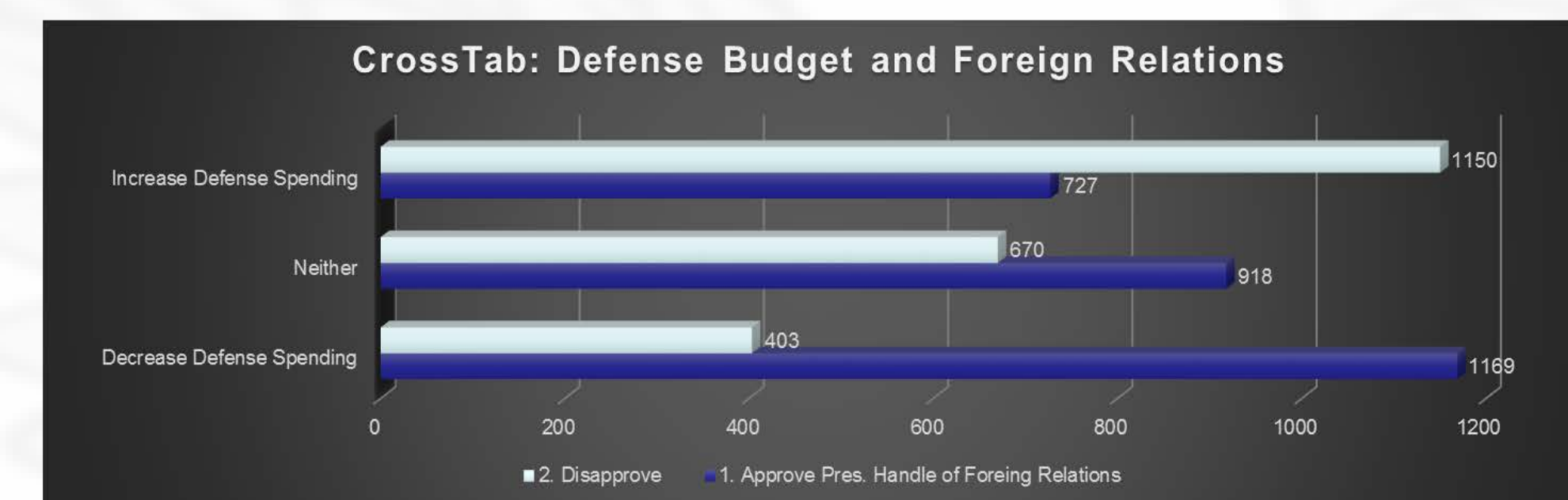
- In 2003 72% of people thought that using military force in Iraq was the right decision but in 2008 that number dropped to 38% and in 2012 is decreased all the way to 30%.
- In 2006 70% of people felt that the US made the right decision to use military force in Afghanistan and in 2011 only 57% of people felt the same way.
- In 2001 88% of people felt the government was doing a good job in reducing the threat of terrorism, but in 2010 only 69% of people think that they are still doing a good job.
- In 2002 47% of Americans felt the government should take the steps necessary to reduce terrorism even if it meant violating civil liberties but by 2011 only 25% of people felt this way.
- In 2002 46% of Americans said that terrorism was the most important problem facing the US, in 2014 only 4% of Americans think that it is the most important problem facing the US.
- In 2002 41% of Americans thought that the US spent to little on the defense budget but in 2014 38% think that the US spends too much.
 - This does not account for the answer of just enough however.

Hypotheses:

- H 1: If someone thinks there should be an increase to the Defense Budget than they disapprove the Pres. handling of Foreign Relations.
- H 2: People who approve of governments efforts to reduce terrorism, believe that the war was worth the cost.
- H 3: People who approve of governments efforts to reduce terrorism, believe that the war decreased the threat of terrorism.

Data

H 1: Defense Budget vs. Foreign Relations



Of the 1926 people who want an increase in defense spending: 1150 people disapprove of Presidents handling of foreign relations and 727 approve.
Of the 1623 people who want to decrease spending 1169 approve of the Presidents handling of Foreign relations while 403 disapprove.

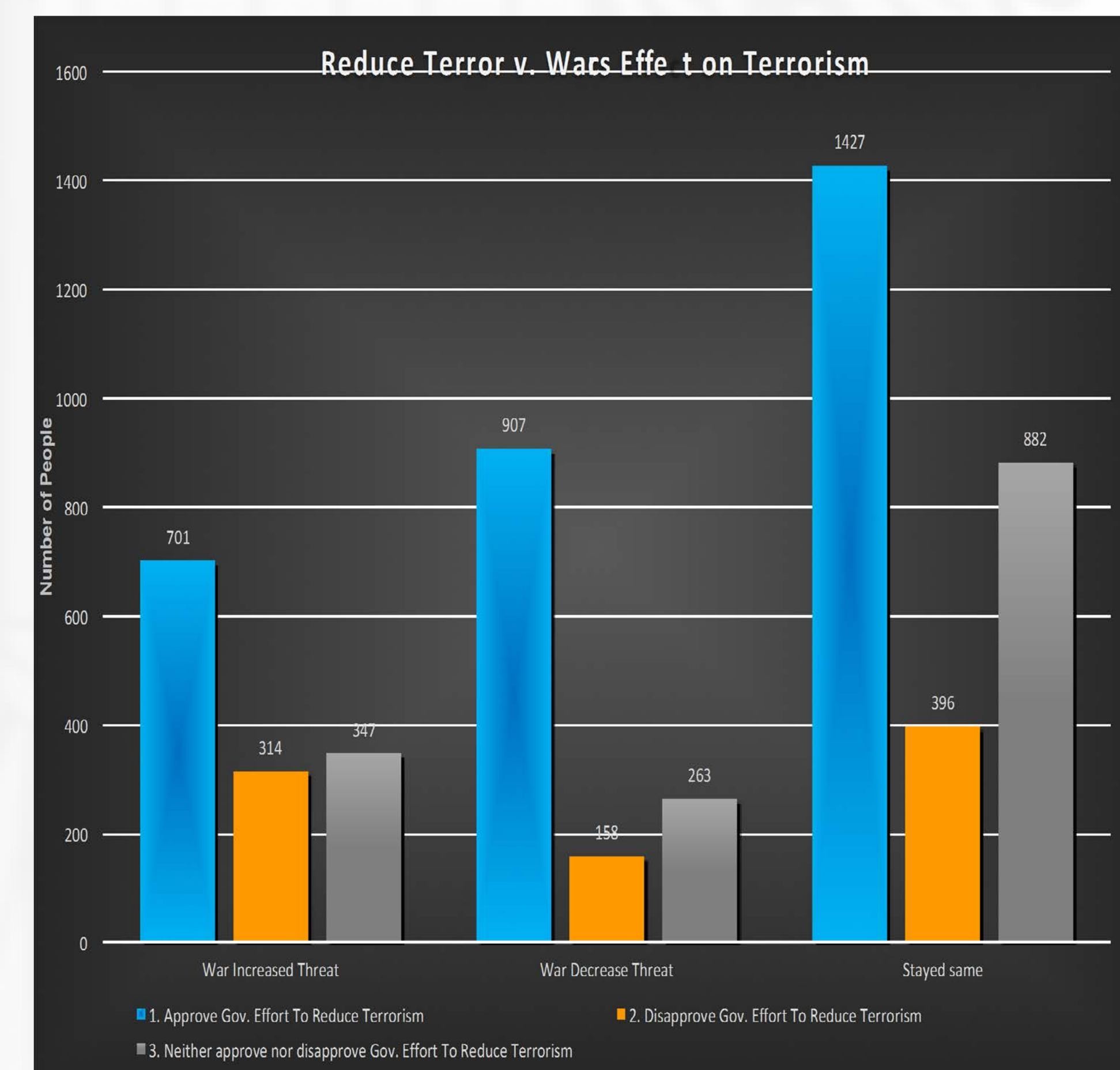
Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error			
(Constant)	2.760	.063		43.819	.000
War increased or decreased threat of terrorism	.137	.025	.073	5.477	.000
Was war worth the cost	-.038	.019	-.027	-1.997	.046
Approve/disappr gov efforts to reduce terrorism	.027	.013	.026	2.039	.041
Approve or disapprove President handling foreign rel	.278	.017	.215	16.717	.000

a. Dependent Variable: 7pt scale defense spending self-placement
*Significance at <.05

Table Interpretation H1:

- Of the 4 variables that I used to see what changed people's minds on Defense spending, the Approve or Disapprove of President Handling Foreign Relations had the highest impact on what made them chose to increase or decrease the defense spending. Shown by the Beta of .215
- All of the four variables were significant however Approve/Disapprove had a significance of .000 which is the strongest significance.

H 3: Efforts to Reduce Terrorism vs. Wars effect on Terrorism



	Approve Gov Effort	Disapprove Gov Effort	Neither
Increase Threat	701	314	347
Decrease Threat	907	158	263
Stayed the same	1427	396	882

H 2: War Worth the Cost vs. Efforts to Reduce Terrorism



	Approve Gov Effort	Disapprove Gov Effort	Neither
War Worth The Cost	918	194	320
Not Worth The Cost	2048	664	1147

Findings

H 1: Defense Budget v. Foreign Relations
More than 60% of people who want to increase Defense spending disapprove of the Presidents handling of foreign relations. Where 72% of people who want a decrease in defense spending, approve of the Presidents handling of foreign relations. With the highest number of people around 38% wanting to increase spending there is 31% of people who don't want it to change and 31% want it to be decreased.

H 2: War Worth the Cost v. Efforts To Reduce Terrorism
It turned out that it did not really matter how people felt on the Governments efforts to reduce terrorism because most of the citizens feel like the war was not worth the cost. Of the 5914 people who answered both questions 4170 people claimed that the war was not worth the cost. Also people who approve Governments efforts to reduce terrorism had the highest disapproval number with 2048 people choosing that it was not worth the cost.

H 3: Efforts to Reduce Terrorism v. Wars Effect on Terrorism
Most of Americans believe that the War did nothing to increase or decrease the threat of terrorism, around 50%. However 70% of people who think the the war decreased the threat of terrorism also approve of the governments efforts to reduce terrorism. With a shocking 47% of people who believe the war increased the threat of terrorism also approve of the governments efforts to reduce terrorism.

Conclusions

- If someone wants an increase to the defense budget they disagree with the Presidents handling of foreign relations and if they want a decrease in the defense budget they agreed with the Presidents handling of foreign relations.
- It did not really matter how people felt about the governments effort to reduce terrorism because the majority of Americans felt the war was not worth it.
- Most people in America believe that the war made the threat of terrorism stay the same however the more they agreed with governments efforts to reduce terrorism they more they think the war decreased the threat of terrorism.

References

- Public Attitudes Toward the War in Iraq: 2003-2008. (2008, March 19). Retrieved May 1, 2015, from <http://www.pewresearch.org/2008/03/19/public-attitudes-toward-the-war-in-iraq-20032008/>
- The War on Terror: Ten Years of Polls on American Attitudes. (2011, September 1). Retrieved May 1, 2015, from <https://www.aei.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/Political-Report-Sept-11.pdf>
- Terrorism in the United States. (n.d.). Retrieved May 1, 2015, from <http://www.gallup.com/poll/4909/terrorism-united-states.aspx>
- Economic Cost Summary | Costs of War. (n.d.). Retrieved April 13, 2015, from <http://costsofwar.org/article/economic-cost-summary>
- The national security strategy of the United States of America. (2001). Washington: White House. From <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/63562.pdf>
- U.S. Opinion on Terrorism. (2009, Nov). Retrieved Apr, 2015.
- Walt, S. (n.d.). Beyond Bin Laden: Reshaping U.S. Foreign Policy. International Security, 26(3), 56-78.
- Lieven, A., & Hulsman, J. (2006). Neo-Conservatives, Liberal Hawks, and the War on Terror Lessons from the Cold War. World Policy Journal, 23(3), 64-78. Retrieved from <http://www.jstor.org/libproxy.chapman.edu/stable/4021003?>