

Domestic Racial Terrorism

There have been some stupid things said about the South Carolina terrorist attack. So far, no one has been quoted as saying, "*It could have been worse. He only killed black people*", but it wouldn't surprise me if someone said that. There are no end of subtle coded comments whenever black people are killed by white people, trying to minimize the significance, or blame the victims.

An NRA official blamed one of the victims for opposing a state law allowing handguns to be carried in churches. Huckabee agrees with him. I'm not a religious person, but I don't think anyone's experience in a church service would be enhanced by not only carrying loaded weapons but being ready at any moment to draw and shoot in defense from an armed assault. Just having a gun in your pocket or holster is not enough. Be alert and watchful, eyes open at all times. Relax too much and you'll get taken by surprise. Most people know that. Perpetual paranoia impairs one's quality of life. Civilians carrying guns is not the answer. Mass shooters, or killers of any kind, are not likely to announce their intentions first.

[Guns in America: For every criminal killed in self-defense, 34 innocent people die](#)

This is yet another multiple killing that should motivate us as a society to at least put rational and effective controls on who is allowed to own and carry firearms. There have been far more than enough such lessons, but they remain unlearned. With determined stupidity, a number of people cling to a belief that we all have a right to possess the means to inflict instant death on one another.

It is more than a gun control issue. This was an act of terrorism.

We hear that word frequently when Muslims are involved, and the "war on terror" has led to the curtailing of our rights and principles of justice, with the presumed purpose of catching potential terrorists before they act, and dealing with them as harshly as possible. Among the targets of this "war" are those who enable, and those who recruit potential perpetrators.

In this case, some will claim to believe that the killer acted alone, not directed or encouraged by anyone. That will not be true. This is a case of state-sponsored terrorism. The state of South Carolina provided him with a fertile environment to acquire extreme racist beliefs and gave tacit approval to the idea that loyalty to the Confederacy and its glorious days of black slavery and white masters, was an acceptable sentiment. Did it not indeed fly the Confederate flag at the capital?

[Right-wing Terrorists Kill More Americans Than Islamic Extremists](#)

The state of South Carolina probably didn't order him to kill. Saudi Arabia, which spawned most of those who carried out the September 11 attacks, probably gave no official orders, either. It wasn't necessary. The Saudis' official theology is the Wahabi sect. South Carolina flies the flag

of its slave-owning past.

More specific training and ideology are handled by whatever hate groups the recruit happens to run across. They may or may not suggest specific acts or types of attacks that a recruit should carry out. They will hone and intensify his hatred, showing him he is not alone in his beliefs. Not all who are so influenced will kill, but they are fashioned into a deadly human weapon that might, with little more provocation, explode.

When war was declared on terrorism, which meant the Islamist extremist variety, some attention was paid to contributing entities. Because of the oil relationship, Saudi Arabia was ignored, but extremist groups like Al Qaeda were targeted as likely recruiters and directors of terrorist acts.

So, what do we do about our own domestic terrorist organizations? What do we do about South Carolina?

I would hope we could avoid the mistakes of the Bush/Cheney response, but perhaps it is time to at least identify the enablers and mount a serious informational assault. What are we doing now to combat racism? Tolerance may be taught in schools, but, depending on where those schools are, and who runs them, is that done sincerely and effectively? Is it even done at all? When school children go home, what message do they get from their parents?

[American Schools Are STILL Racist, Government Report Finds](#)

[Creating an Anti-Racist Classroom](#)

Tanks, detention, torture, and drone attacks are not the way.

As with Islamists, they only make things worse. But domestic racists and religious extremists are just as reprehensible and dangerous as the foreign variety, and they have no place in our society.

I would propose a well-funded, professionally produced series of public service educational advertisements. Call it propaganda if you like. The bigots have their own. Corporations fund lots of propaganda, and they prefer it when we're divided by prejudice. Why can't we put the truth on the media, on signs, so that nearly everyone will get the message?

This campaign should continue throughout the nation for as long as the need exists, frequently changing in style so that no single message is "worn out".

Dedicated haters may not change, but at least they won't be the only voices heard.

--Cosmic Rat June 20 2015