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## Terrorist Black Holes: The Case of Northern Ireland

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# Terrorist Black Holes: The Northern Ireland Case

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Image taken from BBC



# Overview

1. Define the term 'Terrorist Black Hole'
2. My Argument
3. Rem Korteweg and David Erhardt's Study
4. Why Northern Ireland?
5. Conclusion
6. Questions?

# Terrorist Black Hole

“a geographic entity where, due to the absent or ineffective exercise of state governance, criminal or terrorist elements can deploy activities in support of, or otherwise directly relating to criminal or terrorist acts including the act itself”.

(Korteweg and Erhardt, 2005)

## Two Types of Black Holes:

- I. ‘Battlefield’ black hole
- II. ‘Support’ black hole

# Argument

*Terrorist black holes are prominent, along with the capability of their presence in the West.*

When observing Terrorist Black Holes, the Western world should not be overlooked.

Western territories are capable of possessing Terrorist Black Holes.

# Rem Korteweg and David Erhardt's Framework

## State Fragility

- Social Tension
- Legacy from Civil Conflict
- Geography
- Corruption and Policy Failure
- External Interference

## Terrorist Comparative Advantage

- Religion and Ethnicity
- Economic Underdevelopment
- Legacy from Civil Conflict
- Geography
- Economic Opportunities
- Regional Stimuli

# Why Northern Ireland?

Conflict can be traced back as far as the 12<sup>th</sup> century

The partition of Ireland

Known terrorist activity in the region

The Troubles

Under sovereign authority of Great Britain

NATO and EU member

World power

Biggest ally to the United States

Strong currency

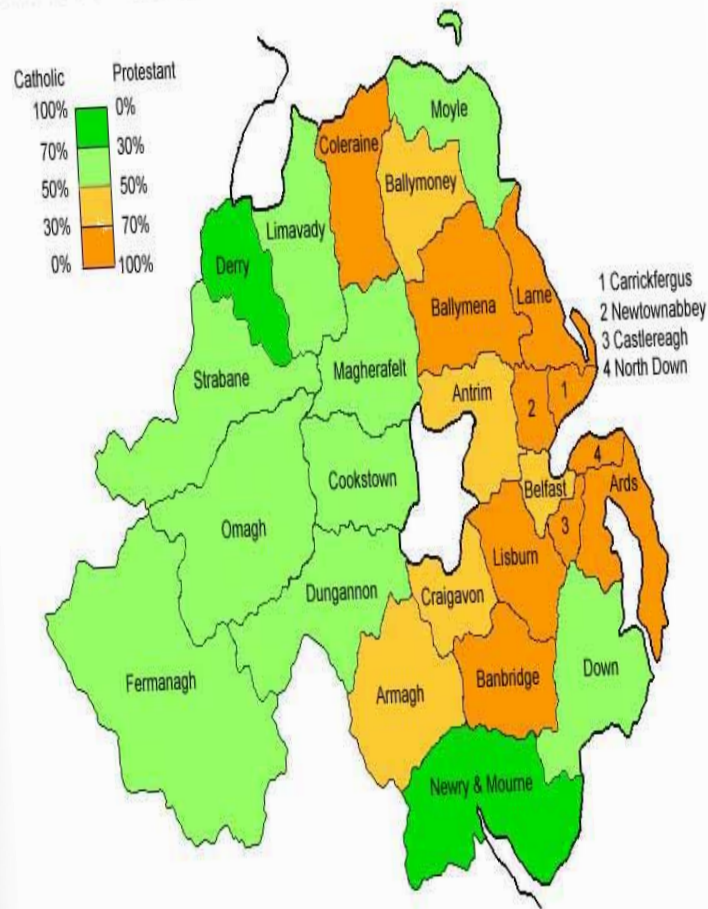


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[loretoenglish.wikispaces.com](http://loretoenglish.wikispaces.com)



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Catholics and Protestants as a Percentage of the Population, District Council Areas, 1991



Source: Information based on the Religion Report of the 1991 Census

# My Research

- ✓ Social Tension
- ✓ Legacy from Civil Conflict
- ✓ Geography
- ✓ Corruption and Policy Failure
- ✓ External Interference

Image taken from CAIN



# Conclusion

- Substantial evidence of a Terrorist Black Hole can be seen in one of the world's leading powers, the United Kingdom.
- Although the United Kingdom is not a fragile state, all five factors of state fragility are present in Northern Ireland
- When examining Terrorist Black Holes in the Western world, it is important to look at the legislative realm of the region.



*Image taken from Belfast Telegraph*

# Thank You

Any Questions?

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