

US SENATE (AD HOC)

*Specialized
(TOP
SECRET)*



TOPIC: Increasing Domestic Security in the Rise of Extremism

CHAIRS: Ava Herczeg and Ty Ahrens

LAIMUN XXXI

December 6-7



Committee Description

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Rise of Extremism

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Committee Description

Welcome Senators! In this AD HOC committee, you will be representing the interest of an entire state in the US Senate. You will have **30 minutes** after receiving this packet to research and prepare for debate. Make sure to research topics like state policy, current developments, and historical actions taken by the senate, starting with reading the topic synopsis on the next page. Do not hesitate to reach out to your chairs for any questions you may have.

Some things to keep in mind for debate: Make sure to stay on state policy, use the resources available to you (your computers are your friends), and be ready for improvised speaking! This debate will be faster and more unpredictable than a usual committee, and there will be a couple crisis updates.

While the use of technology for research is allowed and encouraged, **the use of AI is STRICTLY prohibited**. Any delegate found to be in violation of this rule will be subject to disciplinary action, including suspension from debate, ineligibility for awards, and notification of advisor.

Some general differences between this committee and a standard committee: Instead of writing resolutions, you will create a bill (the overall procedure for creating a bill will be nearly identical to that of a resolution, just with different formatting). Since you are the Senate you'll have more power to implement policies than a typical UN committee. Additionally, proposed solutions should generally be constitutional and represent the actual powers of the senate.



Topic: Increasing Domestic Security in the Rise of Extremism

I. Background

Recently, the United States has seen a 357% increase in domestic terrorism attacks over the past 10 years. This has brought panic and underscored the increase in violence throughout the United States. This issue has brought concern amongst American citizens and politicians, making the United States focus on the topic of extremism now more than ever. With the increase of extremism, the United States has adopted many initiatives to help prevent foreign terrorism. These initiatives partner with nations and bodies such as the European Union, African Union, and United Nations. With these international partnerships the United States has ensured that the protocol for addressing foreign extremism is cohesive across international borders.¹ The United States has also created a country wide definition of foreign terrorism and labeled terrorism as the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI's) most important and most serious threat. Alongside the international initiatives that the U.S. has adopted, the United States government has also laid out guidelines for the FBI concerning foreign attacks, allowing the FBI to conduct investigations, establish meetings and agreements with problematic countries, and develop technologies to help increase safety.²

¹"Programs and Initiatives - United States Department of State." U.S. Department of State, <https://www.state.gov/bureau-of-counterterrorism-programs-and-initiatives/>.

²"Terrorism — FBI." FBI, <https://www.fbi.gov/investigate/terrorism>.



Since 2001, after the tragic events on September 11th, security against international terrorism and domestic has been of the utmost importance to many governmental agencies. The United States law has specifically stated that domestic terrorism is considered a crime and can be defined as involving criminal actions taking place on U.S. soil that can threaten the lives of civilians.³ Unlike international terrorism, the United States struggles with the logistics of containing domestic terrorism, making security a major issue. There also has been an increase in racially targeted domestic terrorism, increasing by 35% over the past 3 years. With the increase of these attacks, the United States has realized the need for increasing domestic security.

Over the past 20 years there has been a major shift in the ideologies of terrorism and extremism in the United States. From 1994-2004, an overwhelming amount of extremism attacks were mainly on the topic of specific governmental actions. For example, The Oklahoma City Bombing of 1995, which was the bombing of a truck outside of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City. This incident destroyed half of the building and killed 168 people and injured 759 people. The motive behind this act of extremism was to fight against the federal government and spread anti government ideologies.⁴

With the rise in domestic threats, the FBI and the Department of Homeland Security issued the first national strategy for combating domestic terrorism and extremism attacks, in 2021. This strategy focused on four key points: preventing mobilization and recruitment of

³ Bąkowski, Piotr. "United States: Domestic violent extremism on the rise." European Parliament, 6 October 2023, [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2023/754561/EPRS_BRI\(2023\)754561_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2023/754561/EPRS_BRI(2023)754561_EN.pdf).

⁴McCabe, Riley. "The Rising Threat of Anti-Government Domestic Terrorism: What the Data Tells Us." CSIS, 21 October 2024, <https://www.csis.org/analysis/rising-threat-anti-government-domestic-terrorism-what-data-tells-us>.



terrorist organizations, addressing long term implications of terrorist attacks (such as rebuilding infrastructure and cities after these attacks), understanding and sharing information on what specifically is considered a terrorist attack, and plans for creating a domestic security plan specifically on the topic of terrorism.

II. U.S. Involvement

The US Senate has recognized the increasing domestic extremism and how it poses a growing threat to national security. In 2001, shortly after the attacks on 9/11, Congress passed the USA PATRIOT act which helped give law enforcement more freedom in their investigation on possible terrorist threats. This power consists of being able to tap into multidevice networks, being able to carry out a search without the person’s acknowledgement, and increased access to personal documentation, like traveling, financial, and communication records.⁵ In 2002, the Homeland Security Act of 2002 created the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, or DHS. DHS would work with other federal agencies to help strengthen domestic security and prevent future terrorist attacks.⁶

Although both of these acts did help increase domestic security, there are numerous actions that did not succeed. An example of this is the Domestic Terrorism Prevention Act. This act aimed to bring agencies like DHS, DOJ, and the FBI together to focus on tracking down and

⁵ American Library Association, “USA PATRIOT Act,” Advocacy, Legislation & Issues, May 29, 2020, <https://www.ala.org/advocacy/patriot-act>.

⁶ “1.1 the Homeland Security Act | USCIS,” www.uscis.gov, July 13, 2023, <https://www.uscis.gov/i-9-central/form-i-9-resources/handbook-for-employers-m-274/10-why-employers-must-verify-employment-authorization-and-identity-of-new-employees/11-the-homeland-security-act>.



terminating threats of domestic terrorism. However, despite passing through the House of Representative, it did not pass in the Senate, with only 47 votes in favor, well short of the 60 needed to pass. It was opposed because there were worries that the increase in data being collected would go against the privacy rights of American citizens, people would be targeted wrongfully, and that it was overall unnecessary as there are already previous laws that were seen as sufficient.⁷ Another example of an action that failed is the Disabling Enemy Flight Entry and Neutralizing Suspect Equipment Act, or DEFENSE Act. This act would have given law enforcement agencies the ability to take down drones seen as a possible threat at major events. The act eventually failed as the Senate Armed Services Committee requested for it to not be included under the National Defense Authorization Act. It also was tailored to typically Republican views on combating extremism, however the Democrats controlled the senate. This ultimately made the DEFENSE Act have no advancement as it needed both parties' support.⁸ An example of an act that was implemented but ultimately wasn't successful is the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act, or JASTA. The US courts were allowed to entertain lawsuits from victims of terrorism against foreign nations. When implemented, this act achieved the goal of giving victims more legal resources. However, it ultimately wasn't successful because these cases were nearly impossible to win, often stalling due to lack of adequate enforcement. Lastly, The

⁷ "Domestic Terrorism Prevention Act," Sikh Coalition, n.d., <https://www.sikhcoalition.org/our-work/legal-and-policy/domestic-terrorism-prevention-act/>.

⁸ "Steube Introduces Bill to Counter Drone Threats at Stadiums and Public Events – Congressman Steube," House.gov, 2025, <https://steube.house.gov/press-releases/steube-titus-introduce-bill-to-counter-drone-threats-at-stadiums-and-public-events/>.



American SAFE Act of 2015 was also a failed act similar to the others. This act would implement the requirement that every refugee would have to be thoroughly checked by the FBI and shown to not be a threat, before gaining admittance to the United States. In the Senate, it failed due to again being seen as an infringement on the civil liberties of refugees.

III. Topic Consider

A. The Influence of Modern Technology on Domestic Extremism

With the rapid increase in technology over the past 20 years, ideas have been able to spread faster than ever. The use of social media has become a major contributing factor to the rise of extremism and the spreading of extremist ideologies. With domestic terrorist groups utilizing social media to spread information and inspire others to follow their way of thinking, the United States has seen a 90% rise in extremism linked to online groups. While ideas that are shared through social media can be protected by the first amendment, not all speech is protected by the first amendment, for example, such as imminent speech provoking unlawful actions.⁹

A recent example of violent extremism due to social media influence, occurred on August 26th, 2023 in Jacksonville, Florida when a white supremacist killed three people in a predominantly black neighborhood. The perpetrator was influenced by a supremacist group that they followed online and had committed a similar crime just months before. The white supremacist group had spread reasoning and justification for these violent actions across social

⁹“Terrorism and violent extremism | OHCHR.” ohchr, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/topic/terrorism-and-violent-extremism>.



media, ultimately influencing the events in Jacksonville.¹⁰ This case in Florida demonstrates the dangerous influence that social media and technology can have on spreading extremist messaging and encouraging extremist action.

B. The Role of Politics Within Extremism

Since the 2020 presidential election, extremism in the United States has been closely related to politics. Whether it is based on the ideologies of the political parties or rhetoric and actions that a specific party has committed, extremism can not escape politics. A major example of this is the insurrection on the U.S. Capitol on January 6th. About 2,000 people stormed the steps of the U.S. Capitol on January 6th, due the claims of widespread voter fraud that former president, at the time, Donald Trump was spreading. This has now become one of the most well known cases of domestic extremism within the United States and is a prime example of politically motivated extremism. This case is classified as normative extremism, which means that it is based on the rhetoric that one political group promoted to the general public.¹¹

Another type of political extremism that has been a major issue within the United States is empirical extremism. An example of empirical extremism is in 2020 when there was a plot to kidnap the governor of Michigan, Gretchen Whitmer. This specific incident has been considered

¹⁰Siteman, Anthony. "How Misinformation and Disinformation Fuel Online Radicalization." *Quinnipiac University*, <https://iq.qu.edu/experiential-learning/course-projects-and-capstones/student-projects/political-extremism-and-online-radicalization/>.

¹¹Kleinfeld, Rachel. "The Rise of Political Violence in the United States." *Journal of Democracy*, <https://www.journalofdemocracy.org/articles/the-rise-of-political-violence-in-the-united-states/>. Accessed 17 September 2025.



empirical extremism due to the fact that the motive was focused on the clashing of the inherent political beliefs of the governor and the attempted kidnappers. This type of political extremism is different from normative extremism because it is purely based on the ideologies that political parties stand on and not on actions that political parties have committed. Showing the difference between the plot to kidnap Whitmer and January 6th, is that the kidnapping plot was proven to be based on the ideologies that the governor stood on that clashed with what those of the kidnapper, but January 6th was an act of violence based off of what Donald Trump specifically said about the opposing political party.¹²

¹²King, Jon, et al. "Final two sentences handed down in plot to kidnap and kill Whitmer • Michigan Advance." Michigan Advance, 8 December 2023, <https://michiganadvance.com/briefs/final-two-sentences-handed-down-in-plot-to-kidnap-and-kill-whitmer/>. Accessed 17 September 2025.



IV. Guiding Questions

1. What role can the United States play in increasing international cooperation on the topic of foreign extremism across different countries?
2. How has United States leadership affected internal improvement surrounding domestic security relating to extremism?
3. What steps can be taken to ensure safety within the U.S. during violent extremism attacks?
4. In what way can the United States increase international relations and alliances to help increase domestic security?
5. How have economic implications affected specific states within the U.S. concerning extremism threats?
6. How has the increasing use of technology and the spreading of misinformation contributed to extremism attacks?



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