Global Terrorism in the Early Twentieth Century

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History

While we often associate terrorism with the 9/11 attacks and events of similar nature thereafter, terrorism has much deeper roots in history. I am currently working on global terrorist networks and acts since the late nineteenth century. This project explores terrorism as an ideology, a tactic, and an end in itself by examining its historical developments and manifestations. I also investigate various forms of terrorism, such as anti-imperial terrorism, state terrorism, colonial and anti-colonial terrorism, and religion-motivated terrorism. I examine rhetorical tools used to accuse individuals, organizations, and governments of organizing, supporting, and encouraging terrorist activities. This research moreover focuses on how modernizations, in terms of technology (firearms, explosives, etc.) and of communication (telegrams, newspapers, telephones, etc.), have transformed terrorism and counter-terrorism.

Since my area of expertise is violence in East Asia, this project will have a regional focus on terrorism and counter-terrorism in early twentieth-century East and Southeast Asia. Please note that it will cover other parts of the world. Primarily, relying on newspapers, memoirs, and government documents, I hope to expose networks of terror-conspirators and their financiers that organized attacks on the imperial and colonial government officials and collaborators in cosmopolitan cities, especially those with multiple contending authorities such as Beijing, Shanghai, Hanoi, Taipei, and Hong Kong. This research interrogates transnational Asia at the intersection of modern weapon technologies, firearm trade across the Pacific Ocean and Eurasia, sociological and psychological impacts of violence on the population, and governance techniques of counteracting terrorist acts.

Research assistant's duties:
Student will read newspaper reports and compile and summarize these incidents. An ideal candidate is someone with attention to detail, patience, resilience, and ability to maintain interest over time. In addition, the ideal candidate should also be interested in the subject matter and be committed to future developments of the research.

Required skills or qualifications:
Research can be done in English and/or Chinese/Japanese/Korean/Vietnamese and other languages. Please indicate your language abilities in the application. If you could do data analysis, or have programming knowledge of data analysis and visualization, that would be a plus.

Skills student will acquire:
Students will learn how to conduct archival research, summarize materials, and analyze data. Students will also receive mentorship on how to interpret historical data, and create presentation talks and posters. I would like to jointly present research results with student researchers at workshops and conferences.