Some of those that were forces
are the same that burn crosses!
(Rage Against the Machine)

It has always been very clear to me what terrorism is, who terrorists are and what
they have been doing. So I decided to take the challenge of co-ordinating a workshop
entitled Origins of terrorism, as (of course!) I already knew everything about it. How
wrong was I!

There are hundreds of definitions describing terrorism but somehow it manages to
skip every one of them. The word terror originates from Latin and it means “(great)
fear” (Rošker 1998: 76). The political co-notation was added to it after the French
revolution in 1789 (Čuček 1980: 17). And, as there are many definitions there are also
many tries to put terrorism in a historical perspective and in a somehow chronological
order, as it follows to date. Today (or better since New York and Washington happened)
every (political or social) discussion on terrorism refers to the Middle East or to the
Muslims. To put it in more radical terms, one has to admit that we see terrorism like
America (Bush) or the media (CNN) wants us to see and understand it, as they offer
nothing but the truth.

What I would like to stress is that terrorism originates from people who are
deprivileged, from those 80% of the world’s population, which live in poverty. From
those who understandably fear globalisation and are aware that the world order in which
we live in is ruled by (CNN, Hollywood, MTV) capitalists who force us to a non-
thinking way of live. The terrorism originates from those who have no power and have to
use their force to prove their rights (Kuzmanić 2002: 162).

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1 The workshop will take place on 20th March 2002 during the international conference called Good
morning, terrorism in Ljubljana, Slovenia.
2 This is what terrorism is all about. When we will be able to define it, it will disappear (i.e. there
was no terrorism before we defined it). So, the discussion that follows is on one hand meaningless, but on
the other it is essential for the deeper understanding of our field of interest.
3 There are many (American) authors who try to prove that terrorism is very old but history teaches
us differently. If you search the Net you can find thousands of pages related to terrorism and every page
offering different views (see references).
4 So help us God!
5 That is why the first attack was on a trade building and not on a political (ideological) institution
(more about it in Kuzmanić 2002: 157-183)
6 Another view could be that terrorism originates from those who think that the world is not turning
the way they think it should (i.e. their way) (Rošker 1998: 76).
The limitation of the space allows me the conclusion that terrorism originates from those who claim that they are the greatest fighters against it, and that makes them the greatest terrorists themselves (Alkalaj 2002: 19).
REFERENCES

INTERNET