Trends. Terror Management about Terrorism: Continued Victories for the 9/11 Terrorists

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Terror management is a theory wherein explanations for human psychology and behavior are based on a posited human need to avoid the terror of a perceived meaningless and unpredictable world. Thus, many beliefs and belief-based behaviors—including, perhaps, the belief in and advocacy of terror management theory—may have more to do with internal than external adaptation and threat management. In addition, as far as terror management as a motivator is activated through terrorism, terrorists garner a long-term benefit of instilling a psychological response set within their targets that may render these targets less successful in proactively and reactively responding to external terrorist threat. In fact, the targets may become oblivious to the very psychological response set that may render them less successful in responding to external threat.