

The Terrorist Mind: Domestic Terrorism

Pathological Anger and Pathological Violence

C.A. Childress, Psy.D.

The Pathology of Terrorism: Acts of terrorism are not motivated by the desire to cause fear, they are motivated by the desire to cause suffering – a cold and sadistic gratification in creating suffering in others. Calling the pathology “terrorism” misunderstands the core of the pathology.

We should define “terrorism” more broadly, within the larger pathology of pathological anger and pathological violence. Acts of “terror” are acts of anger and violence that have their foundations in sadistic self-shame and damaged empathy, both born in complex trauma. The source of the terrorist mind is in damaged empathy and social bonding networks in the attachment system of the brain (the love-and-bonding system of the brain), created in childhood trauma.

The Las Vegas shooter, the Parkland school shooting, Boston Marathon bombing, San Bernardino shooting, Virginia Beach shooting, First Baptist Church in Texas, 911, Charleston Church shooting, Oklahoma City, Pulse nightclub, Columbine, all are variants of a core structure to pathological anger and pathological violence.

Trauma: Death-related trauma overwhelming the brain’s capacity to remain in an organized state, such as combat veterans PTSD, first responders, rape and sexual violence,.

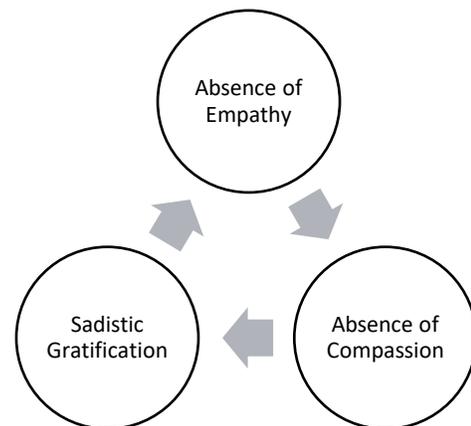
Complex Trauma: Relationship-based trauma of prolonged exposure to high levels of stress, but the brain remains organized.

Pathological anger, pathological violence, and the terrorist mine mind is a complex trauma pathology housed in the attachment networks of the brain – the love and bonding system of the brain.

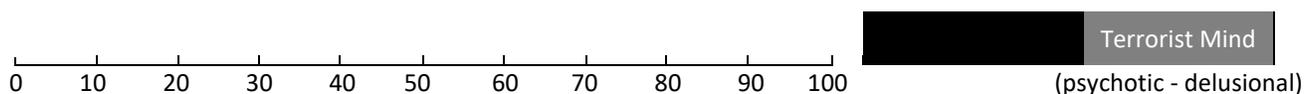
Three features:

- 1. Absence of Empathy**
 - (absence of compassion)
- 2. Absence of Shared Morality**
 - (self- and social alienation)
- 3. Sadism**
 - (shame)

Stone and Water: The stone of abuse, the splash of trauma, the the ripple through the world and through the generations; the trans-generational transmission of trauma.



Anger & Violence Continuum



Christian Theology: the reprobate mind, one whom God rejects; hell as the frozen absence of God.

Blog: terroristmind.wordpress.com/
drcraigchildress@gmail.com

Domestic Terrorism: Social Variant of Pathological Anger – Pathological Violence

