

Understanding the Fear of Terrorism in Türkiye and Taiwan*

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Citation

Tulga, A. Y. (2025). Understanding the Fear of Terrorism in Türkiye and Taiwan. *Bölge Çalışmaları Dergisi*, 4(1), 58-88.

Article Type

Research Article

Article History

Submitted: 30 October 2024

Accepted: 22 January 2025

Plagiarism/ Ethic

This article has been reviewed by at least two referees and it has been confirmed that it is plagiarism-free and complies with research and publication ethics.

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Publisher

Social Sciences University of Ankara

Abstract

This study investigates the heightened fear of terrorism in Türkiye and Taiwan, two countries with distinct histories of terrorism yet similar levels of fear, despite differing exposure to terrorist incidents. Utilizing data from the seventh wave of the World Values Survey, the research employs Ordinal Logistic Regression (OLR) to examine the effects of various media sources -television, newspapers, and the internet- on fear of terrorism in both countries. The findings indicate that while internet usage increases fear of terrorism in Türkiye, it has no significant effect in Taiwan. Conversely, exposure to television elevates fear of terrorism in Taiwan but not in Türkiye. Furthermore, the study underscores the influence of demographic and sociocultural factors, such as gender and the importance of religion, in shaping perceptions of terrorism. Women in both countries report higher levels of fear, and participants with stronger religious beliefs demonstrate increased fear. This research contributes to the existing literature by providing a comparative analysis of two geographically and politically distinct nations, highlighting the role of media and contextual factors in understanding public fear of terrorism. The findings offer valuable insights for policymakers in developing targeted interventions to address these fears.

Keywords: Taiwan, Türkiye, Fear of Terrorism, Ordinal Logistic Regression.

* The article was prepared within the scope of the project titled "Comparative Analysis and Explanation of the Fear of Terrorism in Taiwan and Turkey" and is funded by The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye (TUBITAK), Grant number: 1059B192301644.

Introduction

Terrorism has emerged as one of the most significant challenges for individuals, societies, and countries, posing an escalating threat to global security in recent years (Tulga, 2022: 85-108; Tulga, 2024: 27-48). The impact of modern terrorism is no longer limited to specific locations or regions where terrorist groups carry out their attacks, as was the case in the past (Tulga, 2022: 85-108; Tulga, 2024: 27-48). With advancements in television, the internet, satellite communication, social media, and artificial intelligence, millions of people worldwide can access visuals, videos, and information about terrorist attacks more rapidly (Oksanen et al., 2020: 1047-1066; Tulga, 2024: 27-48). Terrorist organizations are cognizant of this speed and effectively integrate emerging technologies into their strategies (Lavanco et al., 2008: 305-308).

For these reasons, today's terrorist organizations differ significantly from earlier groups, and their impact is more global (Tulga, 2022: 85-108). Based on these arguments, it can be argued that modern terrorist groups employ a far more diverse array of resources, motivations, and tactics than their predecessors (Tulga, 2022: 85-108). In other words, contemporary terrorist organizations, unlike earlier groups, adversely affect individuals in various countries not only through weapons or suicide attacks but also through propaganda and posts on social media and the internet (Tulga, 2020: 47-64; Tulga, 2024: 27-48). Reflecting this situation, although terrorist attacks have decreased worldwide in recent years, the results of the 6th and 7th waves of the World Values Survey indicate that the fear of terrorism has increased globally.

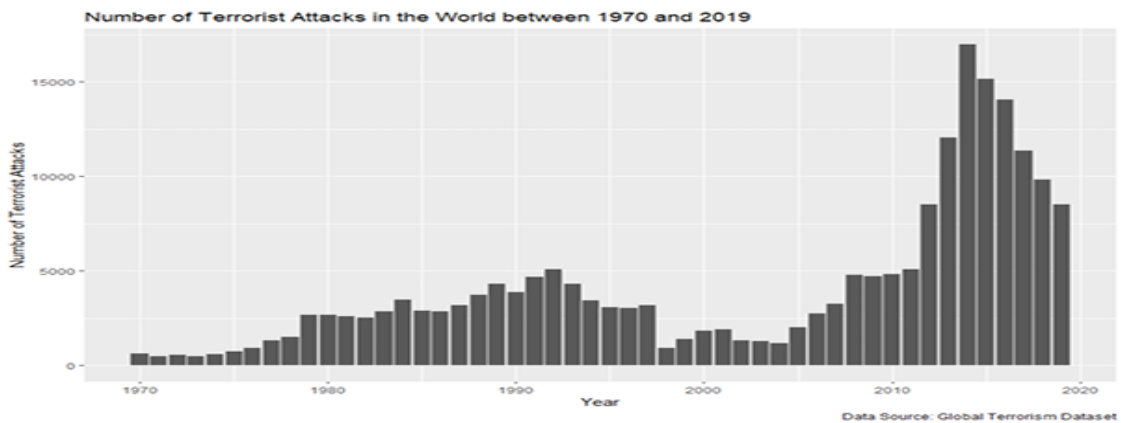


Figure 1. Number of Terrorism Attacks in the World (START, 2022)

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However, classical terrorism literature is inadequate in explaining the negative effects of terrorism on individuals across different countries. In addition to that, the number of studies examining the negative effects of terrorism on individuals using comparative methods is also limited. Consequently, in recent years, to address these gaps, academic studies have increasingly focused on the impact of terrorism on the behavior, thoughts, and psychology of individuals in various nations (Conway et al., 2019: 141-160; Tulga, 2020: 47-64). Despite these efforts, few studies specifically investigate nations that are not direct targets of global terrorism yet still experience a significant fear of terrorism.

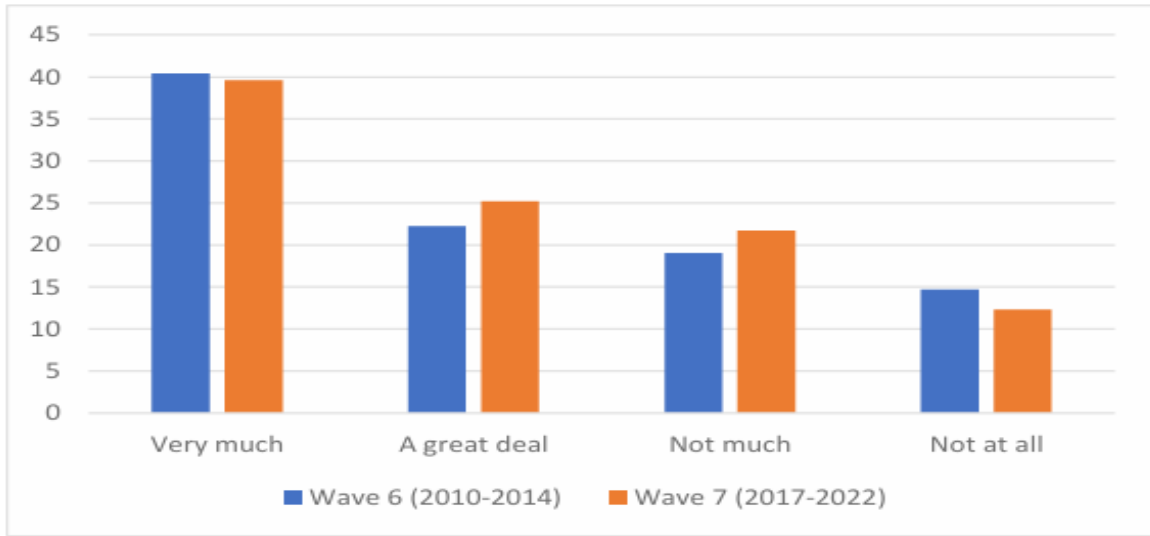


Figure 2. Fear of Terrorism in the World (Inglehart et al., 2022)

In this context, this study focuses on Taiwan, which is not a direct target of global terrorism and has experienced few terrorist attacks, yet exhibits a high level of fear of terrorism, and the case of Türkiye, which has witnessed a significant decline in terrorist attacks, in line with global trends, but shows an increase in fear of terrorism. The cases of Türkiye and Taiwan, which have distinct political histories and experiences with terrorism, and are located in different geographical regions, were analyzed using a comparative method. Specifically, this study examines the relationships between traditional media tools, such as television and newspapers, and emerging technologies and platforms, such as the internet and social media, which are believed to influence the heightened fear of terrorism in both countries, using a quantitative approach. Data from the seventh wave of the World Values Survey (WVS) were utilized for these analyses, and the survey results were examined employing the Ordinal Logistic Regression (OLR) approach.

The first part of this study reviews the academic literature on the factors that influence the fear of terrorism. The next section provides a detailed explanation of why the cases of Taiwan and Türkiye were selected, emphasizing the significance of these two cases. The subsequent section outlines the methodology used in the analysis, the distribution of key variables, and the variables included in the study. The following sections present the analysis results for the cases of Türkiye and Taiwan, discuss the significance of these findings, and compare them with existing literature. The study concludes with a final section that presents its conclusions.

1. Literature Review

Terrorism refers to politically motivated violence perpetrated against non-combatant targets by subnational groups or clandestine agents, typically aimed at influencing a broader audience. In recent years, terrorism has evolved into a more global and complex issue, especially following the terrorist attacks in the United States on September 11, 2001 (Tulga, 2020: 47-64; Tulga, 2024: 27-48). This problem has garnered significant attention from the academic community and has emerged as a critical topic that scholars closely examine.

Accordingly, the number of studies focusing on terrorism worldwide has steadily increased each year since the September 11 terrorist attacks (Tulga, 2022: 85-108). For instance, Richard Jackson (2012: 1-16) notes that terrorism studies gained global prominence following these attacks, resulting in the establishment of terrorism programs at universities, the emergence of think tanks specializing in terrorism, and a significant rise in the number of academic articles and research on the subject. Jackson (2012: 1-16) further argues that these developments have expanded, evolved, and enriched the literature on terrorism studies worldwide. Similarly, Aradau and Van Munster (2008: 191-210) observe that the volume of academic research on terrorism has consistently grown since the September 11 attacks.

The definition of terrorism is a central topic frequently addressed in terrorism studies. Desmarais et al. (2017: 187) state that academic articles published between 1990 and 2015 predominantly focused on defining terrorism. Similarly, Schuurman (2020: 1020) contends that terrorism research primarily focuses on defining and conceptualizing terrorism through literature reviews. However, numerous academic studies have proposed varying definitions of terrorism. For instance, Easson and Schmid (2011: 149) examined different definitions of terrorism in the literature and discovered that there are over 250 distinct definitions. The diverse, evolving, and broad nature of these definitions has hindered the literature from achieving a consensus on a common definition of terrorism (Arblaster, 1977: 420).

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This situation has prompted scholars to concentrate on various issues, such as the purposes of terrorism, rather than its definition. However, similar to studies on the definition of terrorism, research on its purposes reveals a spectrum of perspectives and contends that terrorist organizations pursue diverse and multifaceted objectives (Akçınaroğlu and Tokdemir, 2018: 165-182). Nevertheless, the most dominant view regarding the purpose of terrorism is that it aims to instill an atmosphere of fear and panic among individuals to achieve its goals (Schmid, 2005: 140; Wessely et al., 2001: 878). In this context, Alexander (1976: 59) argues that fostering an atmosphere of fear among individuals is a strategy employed to attain the political aims of terrorism. The author argues that terrorist organizations can achieve their political objectives by using violence against random civilian targets to intimidate people or instill fear within the community (Alexander, 1976: 70). Consequently, terrorist organizations often strive to cultivate a pervasive atmosphere of fear among the population (Weinberg, 2009: 76).

Some studies examining how terrorist organizations create an atmosphere of fear to achieve their goals argue that terrorist groups utilize traditional media channels, such as newspapers and television, to spread fear (Altheide, 2007: 300; Wilkinson, 1997: 51-64; Kavoori and Fraley, 2006: 47). Other research suggests that terrorist organizations exploit emerging technologies and platforms, including the internet and social media, to instill fear among the populace (Smelser, 2007: 221-229; Oksanen et al., 2020: 1047-1066; Näsi et al., 2020: 582).

Accordingly, there are two primary perspectives in the literature regarding the relationship between terrorism and traditional media tools, such as newspapers, television, and radio (Barnhurst, 1991: 120). The first perspective suggests that terrorist organizations escalate their attacks to garner media attention (Nacos, 2000: 174-178; Sui et al., 2017: 895-908). The second perspective posits a “symbiotic” relationship between terrorism and traditional media sources (Wilkinson, 1997: 51-64; Camphuijsen and Vissers, 2012: 20). Scholars who support the second perspective argue that the relationship between traditional media and terrorism is complex and interdependent. The media seeks compelling stories, while terrorists provide frightening and violent narratives that capture public attention (Hoffman, 2006: 103-121; Wilkinson, 1997: 51-64). For instance, Hoffman (2006: 110) argues that, with the assistance of the media, terrorism can easily reach a global audience, and the media benefits from reporting on these attacks.

Focusing on the relationship between terrorism and traditional media tools—such as newspapers, television, and radio—these two perspectives largely agree that traditional media significantly amplifies the negative effects of terrorism on individuals, particularly in terms of fear. In this context, Godefroidt and Langer (2018: 1492) argue that consuming news from traditional media sources broadens the scope and impact of terrorism, directly influencing the negative emotions experienced by individuals exposed to terrorism-related news. Specifically, over the past 40 years, the development of mass media has enabled graphic images of terrorist incidents to reach millions of homes instantly, allowing people to follow the brutal details of attacks from the comfort of their own residences (Somer et al., 2005: 165-182). These details in traditional media sources heighten the fear of terrorism among individuals across various regions of the world (Hoffman, 2017: 84-92; Mahat-Shamir et al., 2018: 306-312).

However, in contrast to these studies, other academic research in the literature asserts that traditional media tools are ineffective in fostering an atmosphere of fear related to terrorism (Menkhaus, 2014: 160). Nellis and Savage (2012: 758) argue that there is no statistical relationship between exposure to terrorism-related news on traditional media sources and personal fear of terrorism. In this context, studies indicating that traditional media sources have little or no effect on individuals' fear of terrorism tend to emphasize the relationship between terrorism and emerging platforms, such as the internet and social media, rather than traditional media channels (Smelser, 2007: 225). Research on this relationship argues that the internet and social media are more personal, and therefore, exposure to shocking content on these platforms has a more direct impact than similar content presented on television news or in newspapers (Oksanen et al., 2020: 1050). In other words, social media and the internet exert a more immediate and detrimental effect on people's fear of terrorism and related behavioral changes than traditional media sources (Lemyre et al., 2005: 316-330; Tulga, 2022: 85-108).

In this regard, Goodwin et al. (2017: 111-115) found that individuals who used social media and internet platforms following traumatic terrorist attacks experienced higher levels of terrorism-related stress and fear compared to those who relied solely on traditional media. Similarly, Näsi et al. (2020: 585) discovered that individuals who followed news about terrorist attacks through social media and online sources perceived terrorism as a greater threat to themselves than those who obtained information exclusively from traditional media channels. Finally, Finseraas and Listhaug (2013: 220) argue that the internet and social media enable people to receive news and information about terrorist attacks occurring in other parts of the

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world more rapidly, resulting in greater negative psychological impacts from attacks that do not take place within their own country.

Some studies in the literature argue that the primary factor contributing to the fear of terrorism is geographical proximity to the location of terrorist attacks, rather than exposure to traditional media, such as newspapers and television, or emerging media, such as the internet and social media (Ruigrok and Van Atteveldt, 2007: 78; Legewie, 2013: 1239). In this context, Mahat-Shamir et al. (2018: 306-312) found that being physically close to terrorist attacks rather than being exposed to terrorism-related news and content through newspapers, television, social media, or the internet is strongly associated with both psychological distress and fear of terrorism. Böhmelt et al. (2019: 80) suggested that the highest levels of fear were observed among residents of the city where the attack occurred, as well as those living in surrounding areas. Similarly, Agerberg and Sohlberg (2021: 2534) found that the 2017 terrorist attack in Stockholm had more significant negative effects on individuals residing in close geographical proximity to the city.

Most studies in the literature that focus on the various reasons behind the fear of terrorism primarily examine the fear experienced following significant terrorist attacks, such as the September 11 and Oklahoma City attacks in the United States (e.g., Ahern et al., 2002: 289-300), the September 11 terrorist attack in Australia (e.g., Aly and Balnaves, 2007: 113-122), the July 7, 2005 attacks in London (Choudhury and Fenwick, 2011: 151-181), and the Mumbai attacks in Western Europe (Finseraas and Listhaug, 2011: 213-228). Additionally, while there are studies in the literature that investigate the fear of terrorism in Türkiye, few focus on the reasons for the increasing fear of terrorism despite a decrease in terrorist attacks; thus, the underlying causes of this fear remain underexplored (e.g., Çardak and Bilgin, 2022: 347-386; Çınğı and Suğur, 2020: 514-536; Türk and Hamzaoglu, 2019: 176-193). Similarly, there is a limited body of research on the reasons behind the fear of terrorism in a country like Taiwan, which has not been a direct target of global terrorism and has experienced few terrorist attacks, reports a high level of fear regarding terrorism.

Moreover, most comparative studies on the fear of terrorism focus on countries with similar characteristics or neighboring regions (Ross and Gurr, 1989: 405-426; Van Der Does et al., 2021: 1276-1294). In other words, there is a lack of research analyzing countries such as Taiwan and Türkiye, which have differing histories of terrorism and geographical contexts, yet exhibit similarly high levels of fear regarding terrorism. This study aims to address these gaps in the literature by examining Taiwan, where a significant fear of terrorism is observed despite

the absence of direct threats from global terrorism, and Türkiye, where fear of terrorism has persisted even as the number of terrorist attacks has declined in recent years. Using quantitative methods, this study will investigate the underlying reasons for the high fear of terrorism in these two cases, which possess distinct terrorism backgrounds and are located in different geographical regions.

2. Case Selection

This section aims to provide a more in-depth explanation of why Taiwan and Türkiye have been selected as case studies in this research. To achieve this, a cluster analysis was conducted using data from 77 countries included in the seventh wave of the World Values Survey, which is also utilized in this study. The countries were grouped into different clusters based on their number of terrorist attacks and their levels of fear regarding terrorism. The silhouette method was employed to determine the optimal number of clusters. The analysis indicated that three clusters offered the best fit, leading to the division of the 77 countries into these three clusters.

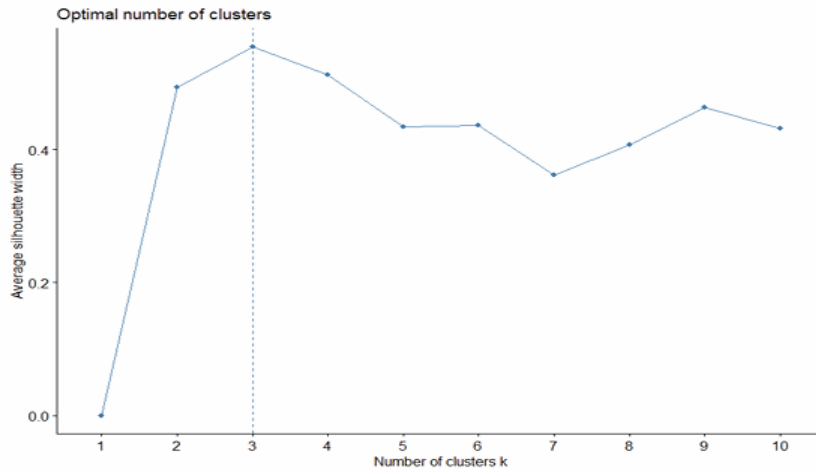


Figure 3. Optimal Number of Clusters

The countries in the first cluster, represented by the red circle, share the common characteristic of experiencing a low incidence of terrorist attacks. Correspondingly, the fear of terrorism among citizens in this cluster is relatively low compared to those in other clusters. In the second cluster, represented by the blue circle, citizens exhibit a heightened fear of terrorism compared to those in the first cluster. Meanwhile, the third cluster, represented by the green circle, demonstrates the highest levels of fear of terrorism among citizens, exceeding the levels observed in both the first and second clusters. However, the countries in the third cluster display diverse characteristics regarding the number of terrorist attacks. For instance,

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countries such as the Maldives (MV) and Zimbabwe (ZW), which have experienced few terrorist attacks, are grouped in the same cluster as Nigeria (NG) and Pakistan (PK), which have faced a significantly higher number of attacks.

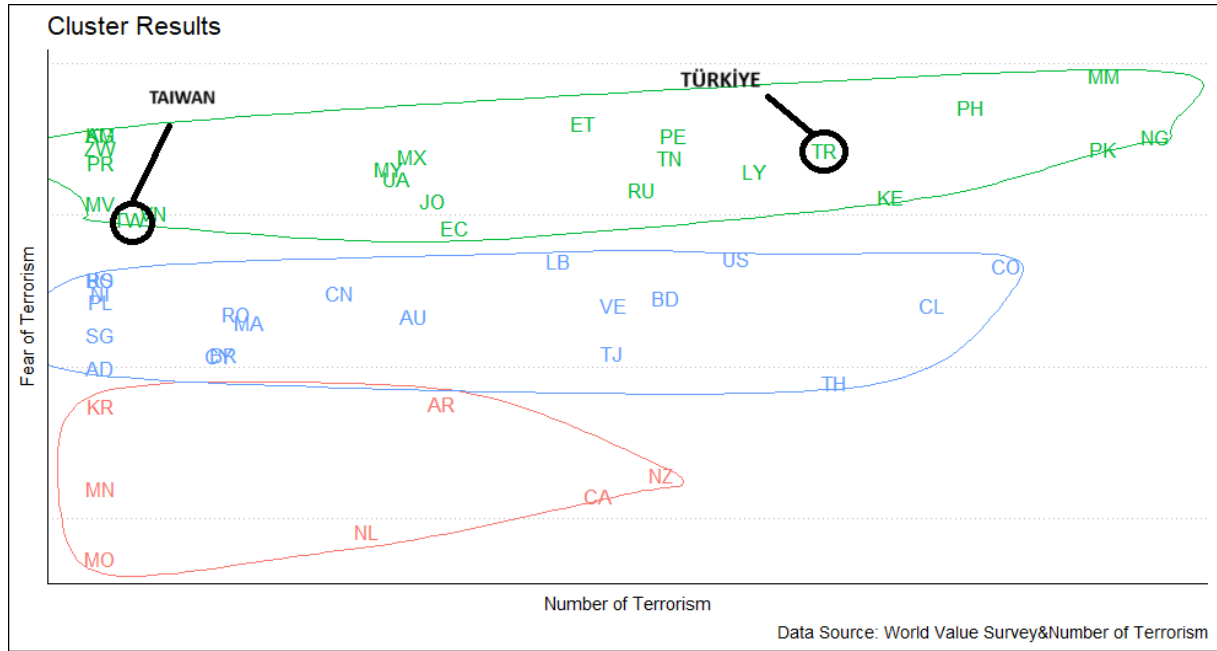


Figure 4. Cluster Analysis Results

Considering the characteristics of countries across all clusters, this study focuses on those in the third cluster, where a high level of fear of terrorism is observed. Türkiye and Taiwan, both part of this cluster, are particularly noteworthy due to their distinctive features. For instance, although Taiwan has experienced relatively few terrorist attacks—similar to countries such as Singapore (SG), Poland (PL), and South Korea (KR)—the Taiwanese population exhibits a greater fear of terrorism compared to the citizens of these countries.

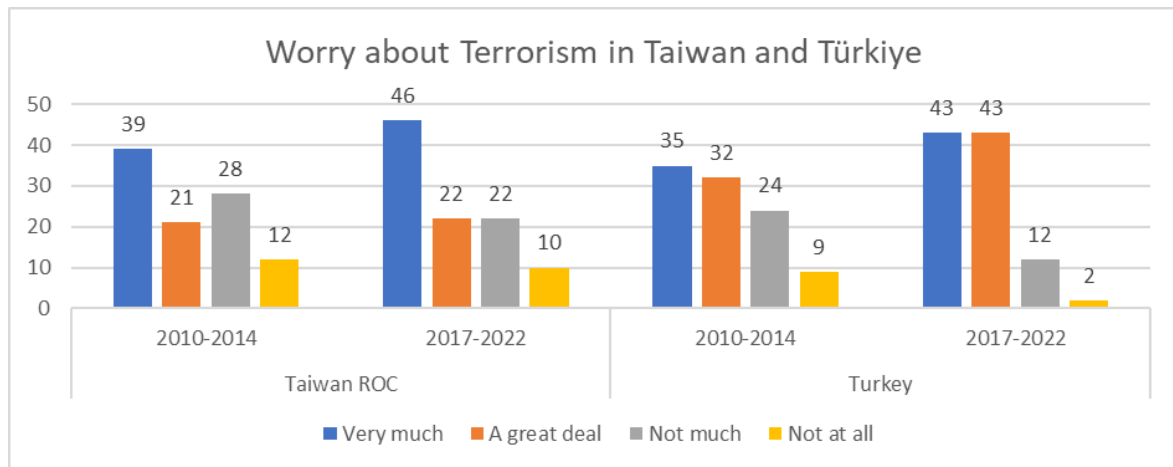


Figure 5. Fear of Terrorism in Türkiye and Taiwan (Inglehart et al., 2022)

On the other hand, Türkiye, which is part of the third cluster, has experienced fewer terrorist attacks than countries in the second cluster, such as Colombia (CO) and Thailand (TH), as well as Pakistan (PK) and Nigeria (NG) within the third cluster. However, the fear of terrorism among Turkish citizens is greater than that in these countries. Furthermore, although terrorist attacks in Türkiye have significantly decreased in recent years due to successful operations carried out by the Turkish Security Forces against terrorist organizations, the fear of terrorism among the Turkish population has notably increased.

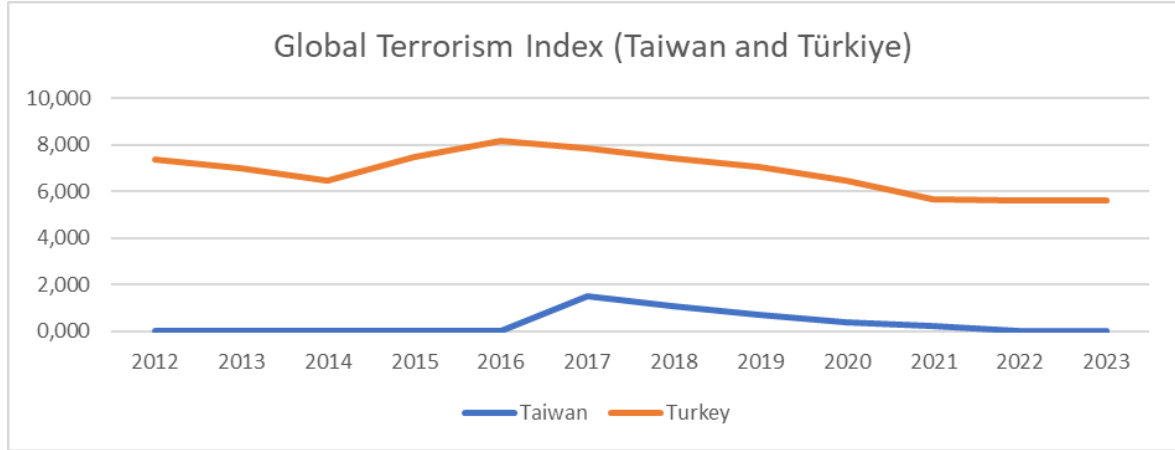


Figure 6. Global Terrorism Index (Taiwan and Türkiye) (START, 2022)

The high level of fear of terrorism, coupled with the relatively low or declining number of terrorist attacks and the distinct experiences of both countries, renders these two cases particularly significant. Moreover, Taiwan's situation diverges from many studies in the existing literature, as it demonstrates a high level of fear of terrorism despite its geographical distance from regions targeted by global terrorist organizations. Similarly, Türkiye experiences fewer terrorist attacks compared to other countries in its vicinity. Additionally, the body of literature comparing the fear of terrorism across different nations is quite limited, with most studies concentrating on countries with similar characteristics or neighboring regions (e.g., Ross and Gurr, 1989: 405-426). In other words, research employing comparative methods to analyze countries such as Taiwan and Türkiye—where the historical context of terrorism and geographical circumstances differ, yet fear of terrorism is observed at comparable levels—is scarce. For these reasons, this study focuses on these two countries, examines the factors contributing to their heightened fear of terrorism, and analyzes these factors through a comparative approach.

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3. Research Design

This study examines and compares the factors contributing to the heightened fear of terrorism in Türkiye and Taiwan using quantitative methods, drawing on data from the seventh wave of the World Values Survey. The World Values Survey is a global research project involving numerous social scientists that investigates individuals' values and beliefs, changes in their perspectives over time, and the opinions of people from various countries regarding social and political developments (Inglehart et al., 2022; Tulga, 2022: 91).

The seventh wave of the World Values Survey spans the period from 2017 to 2022 and was conducted across 77 countries, despite the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic (Tulga, 2022: 91). This wave includes a total of 69,578 observations and 536 variables. However, as it was not necessary to use all 536 variables for this study; therefore, 14 variables were selected for analysis (see Tables 1 and 2).

Variables	Number of Observation	mean	Sd	min	max
Importance of Religion	2409	1,52303861	0,72076791	1	4
National Pride	2382	1,58102435	0,94845357	1	5
Urban or Rural	2415	1,26376812	0,44076631	1	2
Fear of Terrorism	2398	1,72727273	0,74198157	1	4
Internet	2401	1,88629738	1,45085595	1	5
Social Media	2405	1,92349272	1,48955357	1	5
Radio News	2394	3,43859649	1,50545376	1	5
TV News	2406	1,36699917	0,84147671	1	5
Daily Newspaper	2392	3,00585284	1,57084452	1	5
Talk with friends or Colleagues	2400	2,06916667	1,24131301	1	5
Age	2414	38,8318144	12,6741122	18	95
Gender	2415	1,50020704	0,50010351	1	2
Education	2406	2,33374896	1,92294382	0	6
Income	2329	5,34349506	1,72150387	1	10

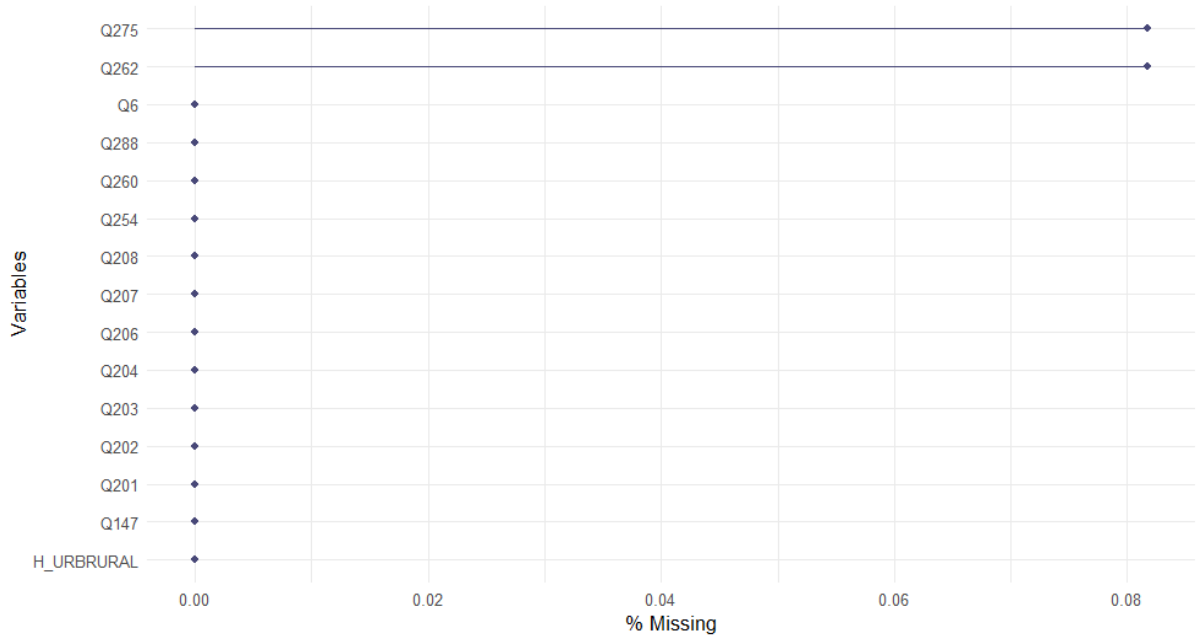
Table 1. Descriptive Information (Türkiye)

Since the study focused exclusively on Türkiye and Taiwan, only participants from these two countries were included in the sample. A total of 1,223 participants from Taiwan and 2,415 participants from Türkiye participated in the seventh wave of the survey, and the analysis was conducted using data from these participants.

Variables	Number of Observation	mean	Sd	min	max
Importance of Religion	1223	2,40392478	0,87540552	1	4
National Pride	1223	2,04905969	0,73993874	1	5
Urban or Rural	1223	1,12428455	0,33004085	1	2
Fear of Terrorism	1223	2,01390025	1,00602266	1	4
Internet	1223	2,23793949	1,71155685	1	5
Social Media	1223	2,64431725	1,79704203	1	5
Radio News	1223	3,44399019	1,59323276	1	5
TV News	1223	1,64186427	1,14752154	1	5
Daily Newspaper	1223	3,50449714	1,56624721	1	5
Talk with friends or Colleagues	1223	3,25756337	1,42799561	1	5
Age	1222	48,2888707	16,8089673	18	85
Gender	1223	1,51430908	0,49999967	1	2
Education	1222	4,16530278	2,00625738	0	8
Income	1223	4,50286182	1,74704332	1	10

Table 2. Descriptive Information (Taiwan)

In this context, before proceeding with the regression analysis, it is essential to examine missing values to ensure the reliability of the results. For Taiwan, the variables with the highest amounts of missing data among the selected variables are “education level (Q275)” and “age (Q262).” Each of these variables has one missing value, which corresponds to 0.08% of the total data. There are no missing values in the other variables.

**Figure 7.** Missing Data Percentage (Taiwan)

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On the other hand, among the variables selected for the analysis of the Türkiye, the variable with the highest proportion of missing data is “income (Q288),” with 4% of its data missing. The variable with the second-highest proportion of missing data is “national pride (Q254),” which has 33 missing values, corresponding to 1% of the total data. The other variables have between 0 and 23 missing values, with missing data percentages ranging from 0% to 1%.

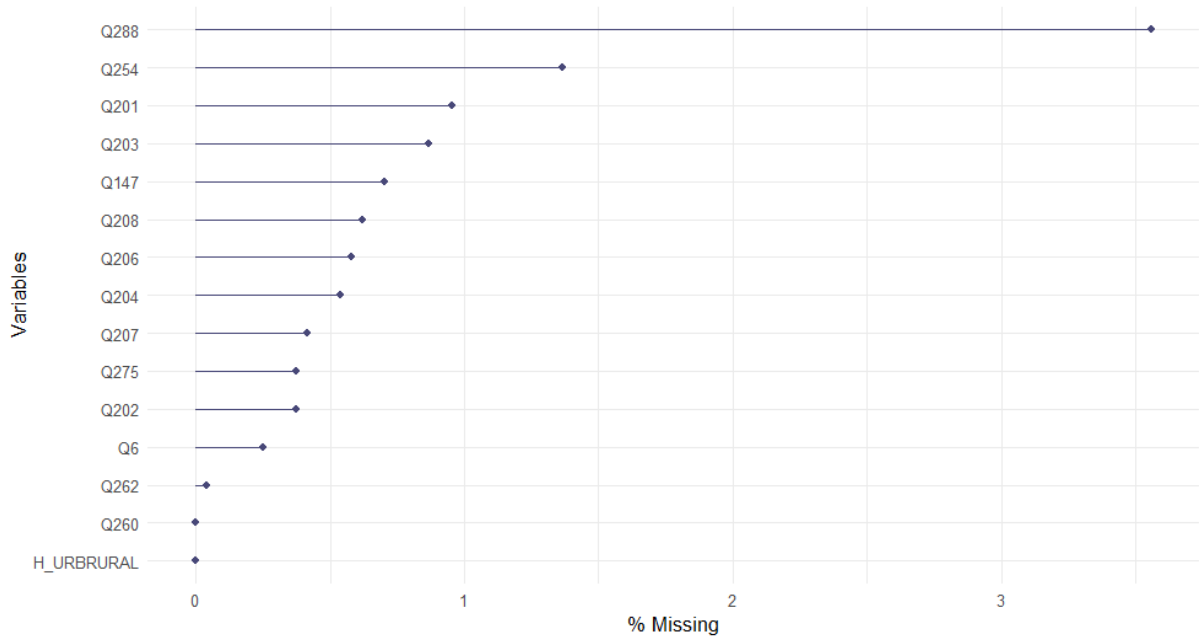


Figure 8. Missing Data Percentage (Türkiye)

Scholars such as Schafer (1999: 3-15) and Bennett (2001: 464-469) argue that a missing data rate of less than 10% is acceptable for analysis. Accordingly, the variables selected for this study are suitable for analysis, as the percentage of missing data ranges from 0% to 4%.

After examining the missing data, the demographic distributions of the Turkish and Taiwanese participants were analyzed. The first demographic variable considered was gender. Among the Turkish participants, 50% were female and 50% were male. In contrast, 50.7% of the Taiwanese participants were female, while 49.3% were male.

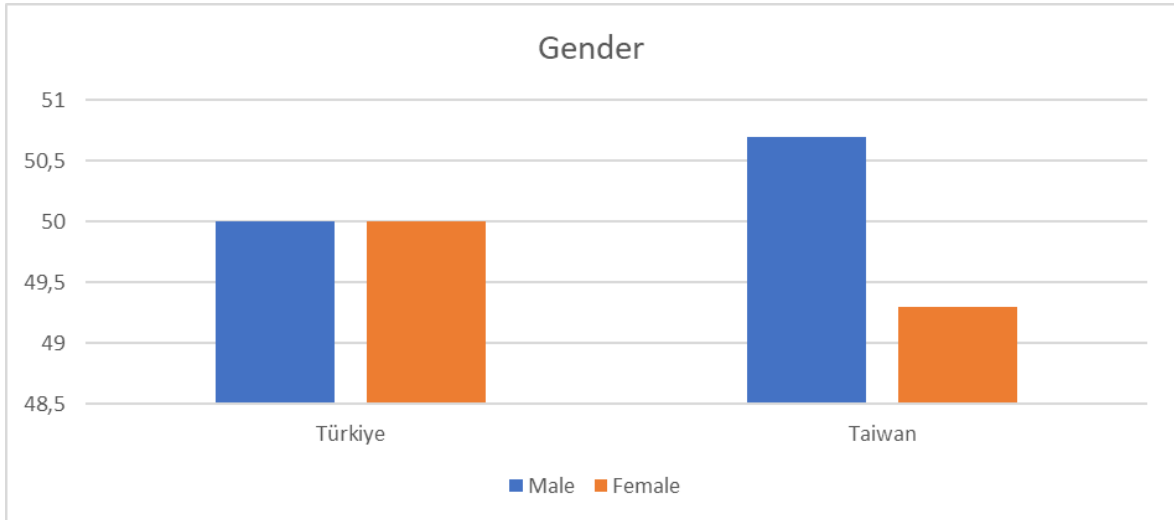


Figure 9. Distribution of Gender (Inglehart et al., 2022)

Secondly, the age distribution of the participants was analyzed. Among the Turkish participants, 29.5% were aged 18 to 29, 45% were aged 30 to 49, and 25.5% were aged 50 and older. In contrast, 42.6% of the Taiwanese participants were aged 50 and older, 38.1% were aged 30 to 49, and 19.3% were aged 18 to 29.

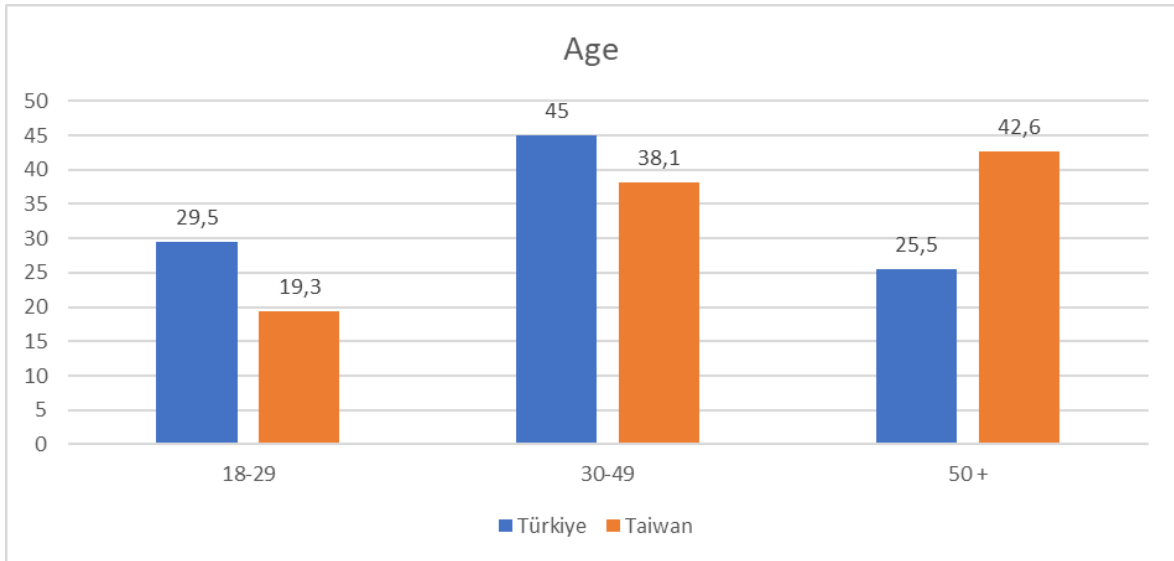


Figure 10. Distribution of Age (Inglehart et al., 2022)

Thirdly, the distribution of participants' education levels was analyzed. Among the Turkish participants, 58.3% had a low education level, 24.2% had a medium education level, and 17.1% had a high education level. In contrast, 62.5% of the Taiwanese participants reported a low education level, 22.1% reported a medium education level, and 15.4% reported a high education level.

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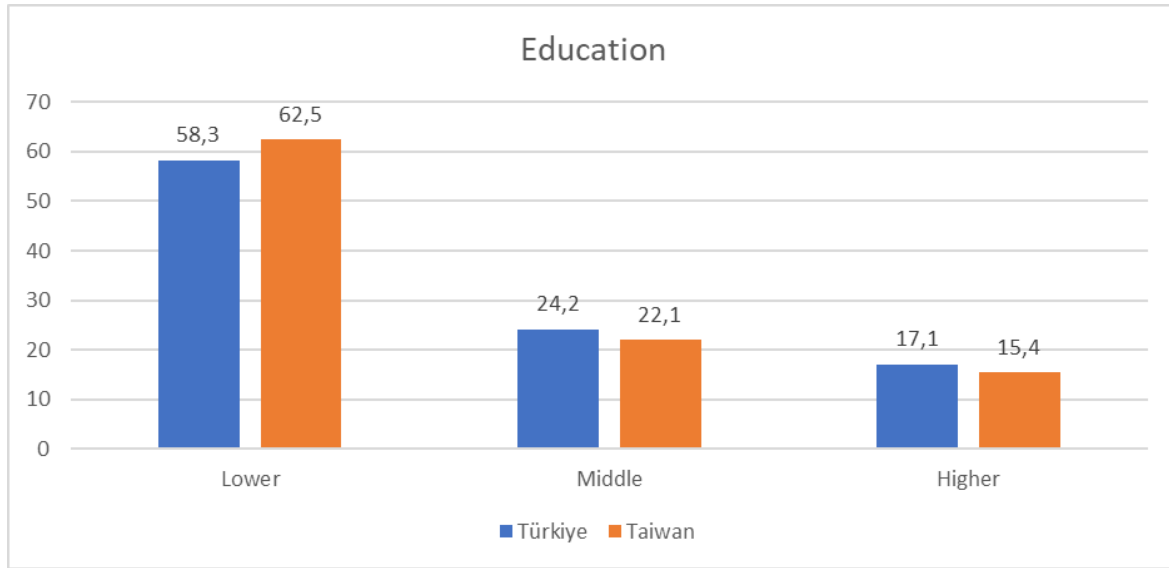


Figure 11. Distribution of Education (Inglehart et al., 2022)

Fourth, the distribution of participants' income levels was analyzed. The majority of the Turkish participants, 72%, belonged to the middle-income category, while 14.4% were classified as low-income and 10.1% as high-income. Similarly, among the Taiwanese participants, 67.6% were from the middle-income category, 29.4% were classified as low-income, and 3% were categorized as high-income.

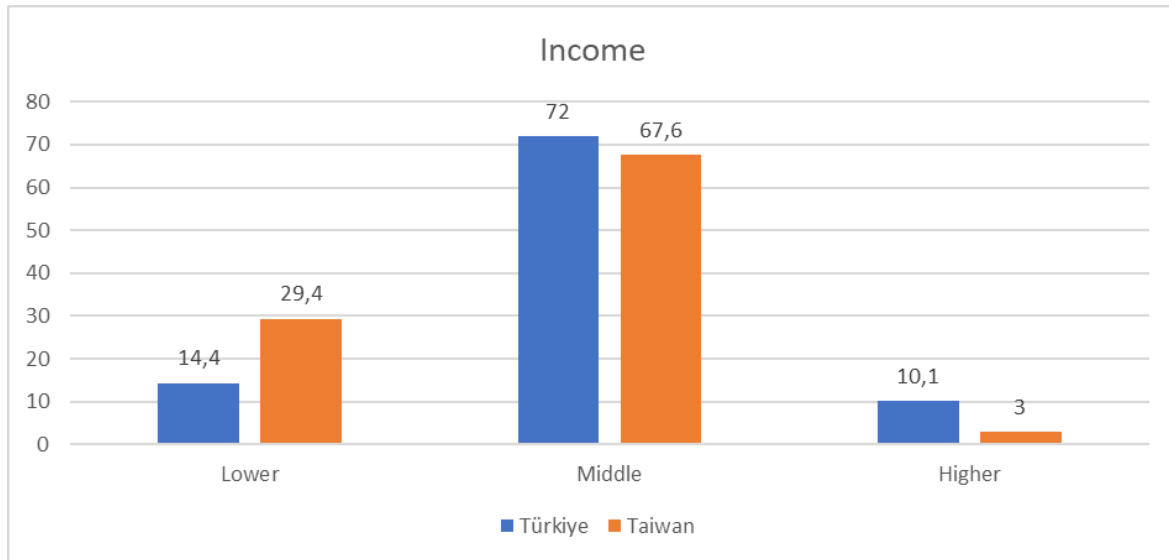


Figure 12. Distribution of Income (Inglehart et al., 2022)

The final demographic variable examined is the participants' residence, specifically whether they live in urban or rural areas. Among the Turkish participants, 73.6% reside in urban areas, whereas 26.4% live in rural areas. In contrast, 90.2% of the Taiwanese participants inhabit urban areas, while only 9.8% reside in rural areas.

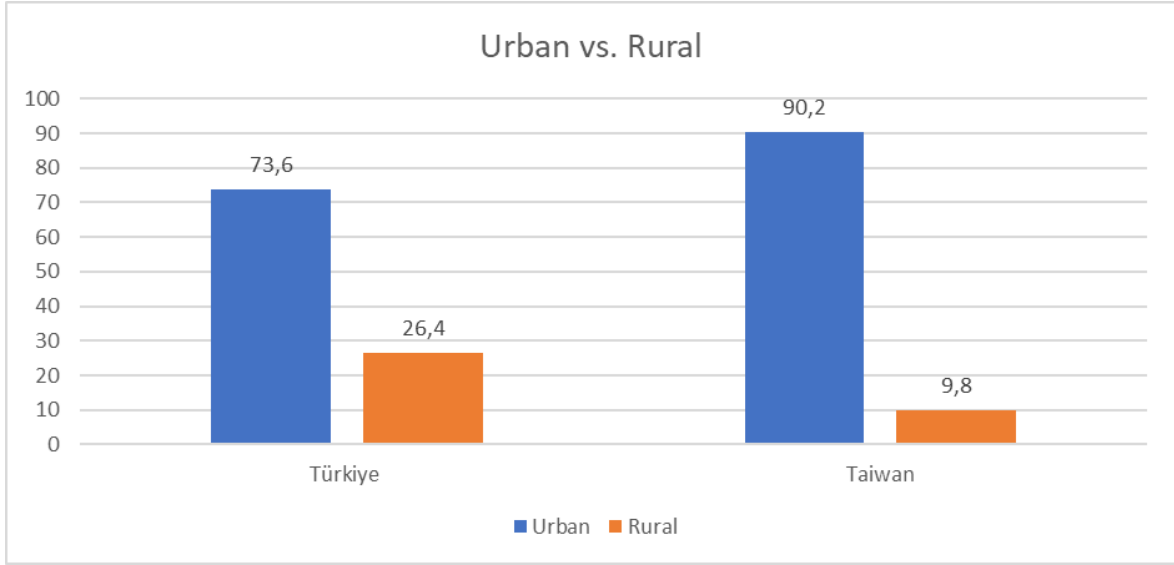


Figure 13. Distribution of Urban vs. Rural (Inglehart et al., 2022)

The dependent variable for all analyses concerning the cases of Taiwan and Türkiye is "fear of terrorist attacks." Among the Turkish participants, 85.6% reported being very much or a great deal afraid of a terrorist attack in their country, while 13.8% indicated that they are not afraid. In contrast, 67.4% of the Taiwanese participants expressed fear of a terrorist attack in their country, whereas 8.6% stated that they are not afraid.

The analyses were conducted using six distinct models, with the first three focusing on the case of Taiwan and the last three on the case of Türkiye. Three distinct independent variables were selected from the literature for their potential negative impact on the fear of terrorism. Specifically, the internet was chosen as the independent variable representing developing technological tools and platforms in both the first model concerning Taiwan and the fourth model concerning Türkiye. In these models, the independent variable is defined as obtaining information from the internet. Given the high correlation between "getting information from social media," another developing technological tool, and "getting information from the internet," the study concentrated solely on the internet variable, as the analysis results would be nearly identical. It was observed that 60% of Taiwanese participants accessed information from the internet daily, while 9.1% did so weekly, 3.3% monthly, 4.3% rarely, and 23.3% never. In contrast, 64.7% of Turkish participants reported obtaining information from the internet daily, 13.1% weekly, 4.4% monthly, 2.7% rarely, and 14.5% never.

The independent variable in the second model, which focuses on Taiwan, and the fifth model, which centers on Türkiye, is getting news from newspapers. Among Taiwanese

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participants, 19.1% report obtaining news from newspapers daily, 11.7% weekly, 5.6% monthly, and 24.2% rarely. Additionally, 39.4% of participants indicated that they never obtain news from newspapers. In contrast, 24.5% of Turkish participants receive news from newspapers daily, 19.2% weekly, 16% monthly, and 10.1% rarely, while 29.3% of participants report that they never get news from newspapers.

The independent variable for the third model, which focuses on the Taiwan case, and the sixth and final model, which centers on the Turkish case, is obtaining news via television. Among the Taiwanese participants, 67.5% reported obtaining news from television daily, 17.5% weekly, 3% monthly, and 7% rarely, while 5% indicated that they never receive news from television. In contrast, 78.3% of Turkish participants reported obtaining news from television daily, 12.4% weekly, 4.7% monthly, and 2.1% rarely, with 2.1% stating that they never receive news from television.

In the analysis, in addition to the dependent and independent variables, the variables that include information obtained from radio and friends, or colleagues, as well as national pride and the importance of religion, were selected as control variables. Due to the decline in the use and significance of radio, which is one of the traditional media tools, it was not included as an independent variable in this study; instead, it was treated as a control variable. Alongside these control variables, all demographic variables, whose distributions were described at the beginning of this section, were also incorporated into the analysis models.

Since the dependent variable is categorical, the Ordinal Logistic Regression (OLR) method was employed for the analysis. The regression analysis consists of six primary models: the first three focus on the Taiwan case, while the last three concentrate on the Türkiye case. The first and fourth models examine the internet variable, which represents emerging technologies and platforms. The second and fifth models focus on the variable of obtaining information from newspapers, one of the traditional media tools. Finally, the third and sixth models address the television variable, another significant traditional media tool.

4. Results

	<i>Dependent variable (Ordinal Logistic Regression):</i>					
	Fear of Terrorism (Q147)					
	Model 1	Taiwan Model 2	Model 3	Model 4	Türkiye Model 5	Model 6
Internet	-0.001 (0.042)			0.075** (0.031)		
Daily Newspaper		-0.022 (0.036)			-0.061** (0.030)	
TV News			0.128*** (0.048)			0.035 (0.048)
Age	-0.014 (0.017)	-0.015 (0.017)	-0.014 (0.017)	-0.013 (0.014)	-0.012 (0.014)	-0.011 (0.014)
Gender	-0.592*** (0.108)	-0.586*** (0.108)	-0.600*** (0.108)	-0.315*** (0.082)	-0.256*** (0.084)	-0.300*** (0.082)
Education	0.483*** (0.093)	0.483*** (0.082)	0.455*** (0.083)	0.063 (0.057)	0.027 (0.056)	0.039 (0.056)
Income	0.142 (0.114)	0.139 (0.114)	0.153 (0.114)	-0.003 (0.025)	-0.009 (0.025)	-0.007 (0.025)
Radio News	-0.005 (0.034)	-0.0001 (0.035)	-0.022 (0.035)	0.045** (0.028)	0.076** (0.031)	0.053** (0.028)
Talk with friends/Colleagues	0.030 (0.043)	0.032 (0.041)	0.023 (0.041)	-0.109** (0.036)	-0.077** (0.035)	-0.084** (0.035)
Proud of Nationality	0.122 (0.075)	0.124 (0.075)	0.117 (0.075)	0.303*** (0.046)	0.319*** (0.046)	0.307*** (0.046)
Importance of Religion	0.183*** (0.064)	0.185*** (0.063)	0.181*** (0.063)	0.399*** (0.058)	0.363*** (0.058)	0.366*** (0.058)
Urban/ Rural	0.074 (0.163)	0.075 (0.164)	0.080 (0.163)	-0.411*** (0.094)	-0.400*** (0.094)	-0.416*** (0.094)
1 2	0.845** (0.493)	0.805** (0.469)	0.913** (0.464)	-0.089 (0.272)	-0.258 (0.268)	-0.187 (0.269)
2 3	1.959*** (0.496)	1.918*** (0.472)	2.032*** (0.467)	2.124*** (0.277)	1.953*** (0.272)	2.018*** (0.274)
3 4	3.688*** (0.505)	3.647*** (0.482)	3.769*** (0.478)	4.343*** (0.314)	4.200*** (0.310)	4.244*** (0.311)
Observations	1,221	1,221	1,221	2,264	2,258	2,266
Log Likelihood	-1,502.590	-1,502.399	-1,499.084	-2,313.104	-2,307.285	-2,319.757

Note: *p<0.1; **p<0.05; ***p<0.01

Table 3. Regression Analysis Results

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The regression analysis provides insights into the factors contributing to the heightened fear of terrorism in Türkiye and Taiwan, and it compares the variables that influence this fear in both countries. The results from the Ordinal Logistic Regression (OLR) analysis, which uses information sources such as the internet, daily newspapers, and television as independent variables related to fear of terrorism in Türkiye and Taiwan, reveal several findings.

The first finding indicates a statistically significant, positive, and strong relationship between obtaining information from the internet—one of the emerging technologies—and fear of terrorism in Türkiye ($\beta = 0.075$, $p < 0.05$). In other words, as the frequency of obtaining news from the internet increases, fear of terrorism among Turkish participants also rises. However, in the case of Taiwan, no statistically significant relationship was found between internet usage and fear of terrorism.

In the second model focusing on Taiwan, no statistically significant relationship was found between daily newspapers and fear of terrorism. Conversely, in the fifth model focusing on Türkiye, a statistically significant, negative, and strong relationship was observed between daily newspapers and fear of terrorism ($\beta = -0.061$, $p < 0.05$). Interestingly, contrary to the generally expected effect, the frequency of obtaining information from daily newspapers in Türkiye appears to reduce fear of terrorism.

There is a statistically strong, positive, and significant relationship between the fear of terrorism and television, a traditional media tool, in Taiwan ($\beta = 0.128$, $p < 0.01$). In other words, as the frequency with which Taiwanese participants obtain news from television increases, their fear of terrorism also rises. However, in contrast to the case of Taiwan, no statistically significant relationship was found between the fear of terrorism and the consumption of television news in Türkiye.

To provide a more detailed understanding of the regression analysis results, the relationships between the independent variables and the dependent variable were visualized using the estimated coefficients (log-likelihoods). Visualizing these estimated coefficients highlights the differences in effect sizes between the two countries.

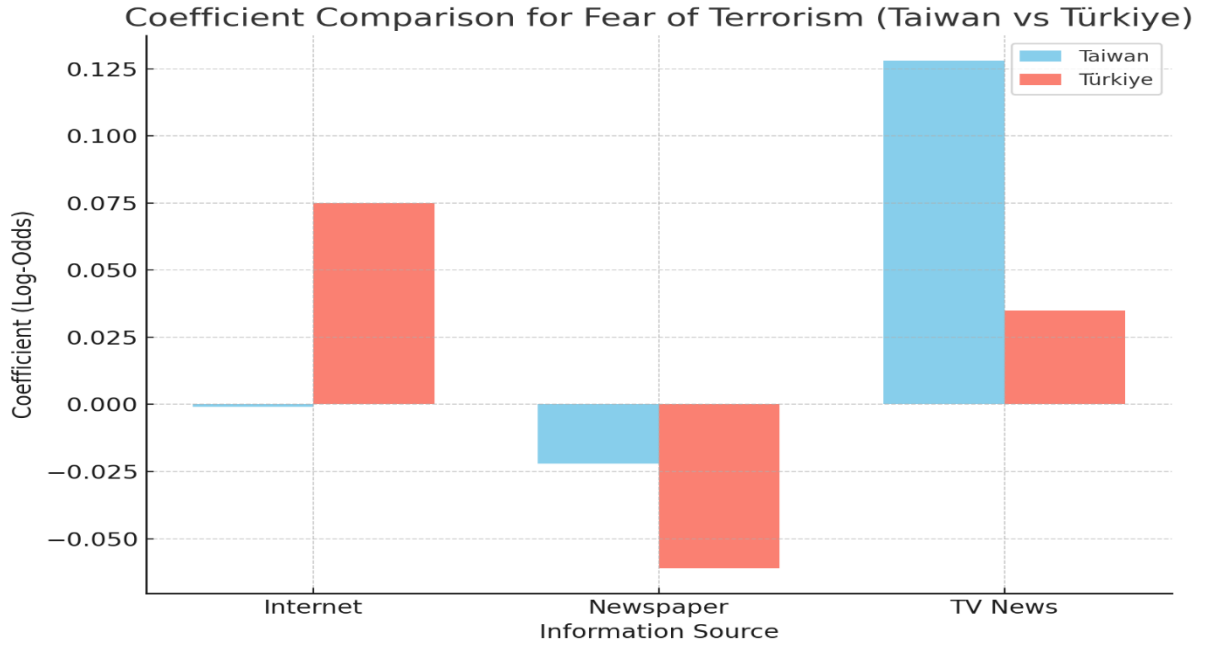


Figure 14. Coefficient Comparison for Fear of Terrorism in Türkiye and Taiwan

The coefficients comparison regarding the impact of various information sources (Internet, newspapers, and TV news) on the fear of terrorism in Taiwan and Türkiye reveals that obtaining information from the Internet has almost no statistical effect in Taiwan, whereas it has a statistically significant positive effect in Türkiye. Receiving information from daily newspapers negatively influences the fear of terrorism in both countries; however, this effect is statistically significant only in the Turkish context. Finally, while TV news exerts a statistically significant positive effect on the fear of terrorism in Taiwan, its effect is not statistically significant in Türkiye.

An examination of the relationships between the demographic variables utilized in all models of the regression analysis and fear of terrorism reveals that there is no statistical relationship between age and income and fear of terrorism in either country. Conversely, a statistically significant, strong, and negative relationship exists between gender and fear of terrorism in both countries. As numerous studies in the literature have indicated, women are more fearful of terrorism than men in the cases of Taiwan and Türkiye. On the other hand, in Taiwan, a statistically significant and robust relationship is observed between education level and fear of terrorism across all models. However, unlike the relationship between gender and fear of terrorism, the relationship between education level and fear of terrorism is positive. In other words, as education levels decrease, fear of terrorism increases. Conversely, in Türkiye, there is no statistically significant relationship between education level and fear of terrorism. Finally, in Türkiye, a negative and highly significant relationship was found between the final

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demographic variable, Urban/Rural, and fear of terrorism. Specifically, participants residing in rural areas in Türkiye exhibited a greater fear of terrorism. Conversely, no statistically significant relationship was found between the Urban/Rural variable and fear of terrorism in Taiwan.

The analysis indicates that there is no statistical relationship between receiving information from the radio—used as a control variable in all models—and fear of terrorism in Taiwan. This finding is consistent across all models focused on Taiwan. In contrast, a statistically significant, positive, and strong relationship exists between receiving information from the radio and fear of terrorism in Türkiye. In other words, as the frequency of receiving information from the radio increases in Türkiye, the fear of terrorism also rises. Furthermore, while a statistically significant, negative, and strong relationship is observed between receiving information from friends or colleagues (another control variable) and fear of terrorism in Türkiye, no statistically significant relationship is found between receiving information from friends or colleagues and fear of terrorism in Taiwan.

Another control variable, national pride, exhibits a positive and highly significant relationship with the fear of terrorism in Türkiye. In other words, as national pride increases among Turkish respondents, their fear of terrorism also rises. However, this positive and highly significant relationship between national pride and fear of terrorism is not observed in Taiwan, where no statistically significant relationship was found between the two variables.

Finally, a positive and significant relationship was identified between the importance of religion and fear of terrorism in both countries. In other words, as the importance of religion increased among participants in both countries, their fear of terrorism also increased significantly.

5. Discussion

The regression analysis, which examined and compared the cases of Türkiye and Taiwan, yielded several significant findings. This section will discuss the implications of these findings, compare the results from both cases, and explore the similarities and differences between these findings and those reported in the existing literature.

The first finding indicates that different media platforms influence the fear of terrorism in both cases. In Türkiye, there is a strong, positive, and statistically significant relationship between emerging technologies—such as the internet and social media—and the fear of terrorism. In other words, as Turkish participants receive more information from the

internet and social media, their fear of terrorism increases significantly. Conversely, in the case of Taiwan, these emerging technologies do not have a statistically significant effect on fear of terrorism. Instead, a strong, positive, and statistically significant relationship was found between information received from television—one of the traditional media tools—and fear of terrorism. In other words, as Taiwanese participants received information from television more frequently, their fear of terrorism also increased significantly. However, this strong, positive, and statistically significant relationship between receiving information from television and fear of terrorism in Taiwan does not apply to the Türkiye case, where receiving information from television has no statistically significant effect on fear of terrorism.

In summary, in Taiwan, increased exposure to television content elevates concerns about terrorism, while the internet and social media have no statistically significant effect on fear of terrorism. In Türkiye, however, internet and social media usage heightens fear of terrorism, whereas information from television does not have a statistically significant impact. These findings, specific to the cases of Türkiye and Taiwan, align with some studies in the literature but diverge from others. For example, Mahat-Shamir et al. (2018: 306-312) found no statistical relationship between information from social media or the internet and fear of terrorism, suggesting that other factors contribute to the fear of terrorism and its associated negative psychological effects. Similarly, Debrael et al. (2021: 158) concluded that television content influences fear of terrorism, while another traditional media tool—printed newspapers—has no statistically significant effect. These findings align with the Taiwan case but differ from those observed in Türkiye. However, other studies support the findings related to the Türkiye case. For instance, Da'san and Alsawalqa (2021: 302) found that social media and the internet can increase the negative effects of terrorism on individuals, such as heightened fear, and contribute to adverse social and psychological consequences.

The second significant finding is that, when examining the impact of traditional media or emerging technologies on fear of terrorism, it is more effective to analyze each source individually rather than treating different media sources as a collective entity, as was done in this study. This finding aligns with some studies in the existing literature. De Coninck et al. (2018: 420) found that internet and traditional media sources exert different effects on individuals' fear of terrorism; therefore, it is beneficial to avoid generalizations and to examine each source separately.

Another significant finding is the statistically significant negative relationship between obtaining information from daily newspapers and fear of terrorism in the Turkish context. As

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Turkish participants consume more news from daily newspapers, their fear of terrorism decreases. The primary reason behind this intriguing finding appears to be the declining use of daily newspapers. For instance, in the 6th wave of the World Values Survey, 42% of Turkish participants reported obtaining news or information from newspapers daily, while 27% indicated that they never received information from newspapers (Inglehart et al., 2022). However, in the 7th wave of the World Values Survey, only 24% of Turkish participants reported obtaining information or news from newspapers daily, while 30% stated that they never received news from newspapers (Inglehart et al., 2022).

The fourth significant finding of the study reveals a strong, negative, and statistically significant relationship between gender and fear of terrorism in both the Taiwan and Türkiye cases. In other words, women exhibit a greater fear of terrorism than men in both cases. These results align with the findings of many studies in the existing literature. For over 25 years, academic research has indicated that gender is the strongest predictor of fear related to crime and terrorism, with the gender variable being twice as influential as other demographic factors (Ferraro, 1995: 680). Supporting this, Nellis (2009: 328), Corradi and Egan (2024), and May et al. (2011: 1-22) concluded that women are more afraid of terrorism and perceive the risk of terrorism to be significantly higher than that perceived by men.

It was found that there is no statistically significant relationship between other demographic variables, such as age and income, and fear of terrorism in either case. This finding aligns with the results of some studies in the literature. Tuba Gün Çıngı and Nadir Suğur (2020: 514-536) found that age and income are not statistically related to fear of terrorism. Conversely, Karakus et al. (2010: 174-184) identified a statistical relationship between education, income, and fear of terrorism. Similarly, Moore (2010: 19) also found a statistical relationship between income and fear of terrorism, concluding that there is a negative relationship between fear of terrorism and income; individuals with higher incomes are less likely to express fear of a terrorist attack compared to those with lower incomes.

The relationship between education and rural/urban variables within demographic factors and fear of terrorism differs in both cases. In the case of Taiwan, there is a strong, positive, and statistically significant relationship between the level of education and fear of terrorism, which aligns with findings of some studies in the literature. For instance, Boateng (2019: 580) found a statistical relationship between education level and fear of terrorism. Similarly, a study conducted in the United States reported a statistically significant association between education level and fear of terrorism (Brück and Müller, 2010: 1-15). Conversely, in

the case of Türkiye, no statistically significant relationship was found between education level and fear of terrorism. This finding aligns with existing studies focused on Türkiye. Çıngı and Suğur (2020: 514-536) concluded that fear of terrorism in Türkiye is not statistically related to demographic variables, including education level.

The difference between the two cases is also evident in the urban/rural variable. In contrast to the Taiwan case, the Turkish case demonstrates a negative and highly significant relationship between the urban/rural variable and fear of terrorism. Consistent with the findings of May et al. (2011: 1-22), participants residing in rural areas of Türkiye were found to exhibit greater fear of terrorism. However, this finding contradicts the results of Jacops and van Spanje (2023: 492), who argued that urban participants are more likely to perceive the risk of terrorism.

The final significant finding of the study concerns the relationships between the control variables used in the analyses and fear of terrorism. In both cases, there exists a positive and highly significant relationship between the importance of religion and fear of terrorism. Consistent with this finding, Leite et al. (2019: 316) found that more religious participants expressed greater concerns regarding terrorism. Similarly, Haner et al. (2019) identified a positive and significant relationship among Americans between the importance of religion, national pride, and fear of terrorism. Consistent with Haner et al. (2019), the analysis for Türkiye also revealed a positive and highly significant relationship among the importance of religion, national pride, and fear of terrorism. However, in the case of Taiwan, no statistically significant relationship was identified between national pride and fear of terrorism.

Conclusion

Terrorism represents one of the most significant challenges that has threatened countries across various regions in the world for many years. With advancements in technology, terrorism has become increasingly global and complex (Tulga, 2022: 85-108; Tulga, 2024: 27-48). Today, the negative effects of terrorism extend beyond the countries or regions where terrorist organizations conduct their attacks; individuals residing in nations that are not direct targets of global terrorism are also adversely affected (Tulga, 2024: 27-48). Furthermore, in some countries, despite a notable decrease in the number of terrorist attacks in recent years, there has been a marked increase in the fear of terrorism among their citizens (Tulga, 2024: 27-48). In this context, this study focuses on two cases: Taiwan, where a heightened fear of terrorism is observed despite not being a direct target of global terrorism,

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and Türkiye, where there has been a significant decline in terrorist attacks in recent years but a substantial increase in the fear of terrorism.

Although Taiwan is not a direct target of global terrorist organizations and has experienced relatively few terrorist attacks compared to many countries worldwide, the fear of terrorism in Taiwan remains high. In contrast, Türkiye has seen a significant decrease in the number of terrorist attacks since 2016, largely due to successful operations conducted by the Turkish Security Forces; however, public fear of terrorism has increased. Despite this, there is a limited number of academic studies in the existing literature that examine the phenomenon of heightened fear of terrorism in Taiwan and similar countries, despite their low incidence of attacks, or the rising fear of terrorism in countries like Türkiye, even as the frequency of attacks declines. Furthermore, most comparative studies on the heightened fear of terrorism tend to focus on countries with similar characteristics or neighboring regions. In other words, studies that use comparative methods to analyze countries such as Taiwan and Türkiye—where the histories of terrorism and geographical contexts differ, yet similarly high levels of fear of terrorism are observed—remain scarce.

In this context, to address the limitations present in the existing literature, this study focuses on the cases of Taiwan and Türkiye, examining and comparing the effects of various media sources on the heightened fear of terrorism in both countries. Specifically, the statistical relationship between fear of terrorism and traditional media tools, as well as emerging technologies, is analyzed using regression methods, utilizing data from the seventh wave of the World Values Survey.

The regression analysis yielded several significant findings. Firstly, different media sources exert varying effects on the fear of terrorism across countries. For instance, in Türkiye, emerging media tools such as social media and the internet have a statistically significant, strong, and positive effect on the fear of terrorism. In contrast, no statistically significant relationship was identified between emerging media sources and fear of terrorism in Taiwan. Conversely, in Taiwan, there exists a statistically significant, strong, and positive relationship between receiving news from television and fear of terrorism, whereas this relationship does not hold true in Türkiye.

The second finding of the study, which is related to the first finding, indicates that examining the relationships between fear of terrorism and various media tools, avoiding generalizations and analyzing each media source individually, as this study does, yields more meaningful results. For instance, in the case of Taiwan, a statistically significant and strong

relationship was found between receiving information from television—a traditional media tool—and fear of terrorism. Conversely, no statistically significant relationship was found between newspapers, another traditional media tool, and fear of terrorism. In contrast, in Türkiye, television had no effect on fear of terrorism; however, a statistically significant and negative relationship was observed between newspapers and fear of terrorism, which aligns with the decline in print newspaper readership in recent years.

The third significant finding of the study is that, consistent with numerous studies in the existing literature, there is a statistically significant, strong, and negative relationship between gender—a demographic variable—and fear of terrorism. In other words, women exhibit a greater fear of terrorism than men in both Taiwan and Türkiye. However, different relationships were identified between other demographic variables and fear of terrorism in each case. For instance, while a statistically significant relationship exists between the rural/urban variable and fear of terrorism in Türkiye, no such relationship is observed in Taiwan. Similarly, although a statistically significant relationship is found between education level and fear of terrorism in Taiwan, this relationship is not observed in Türkiye.

The final significant finding of the analysis is that there exists a statistically significant and strong relationship between the importance of religion and the fear of terrorism in both cases. Similar to demographic variables, the relationships between the fear of terrorism and other control variables vary between the two countries.

In summary, in the case of Türkiye, participants who received more information from the internet or social media, were female, lived in rural areas, were more religious, and exhibited higher levels of national pride reported greater fear of terrorism. In the case of Taiwan, participants who received more information from television news, were female, had lower levels of education, and were more religious also expressed heightened fear of terrorism. While some of these significant and noteworthy findings align with existing literature, others diverge from previous studies.

However, while the results clearly demonstrate the differing impacts of media sources on fear levels in the two countries, more in-depth examinations, such as face-to-face interviews, could elucidate how these variations reflect broader sociocultural and geopolitical contexts. For instance, understanding why television influences fear more significantly in Taiwan compared to the internet's role in Türkiye could offer insights into media consumption habits and trust in traditional versus digital media across different cultural settings. Additionally, demographic factors, such as gender and the importance of religion,

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which consistently associate with heightened levels of fear, warrant further investigation into how these elements intersect with historical experiences of terrorism.

In conclusion, it is essential to synthesize the study's findings with broader implications for future research. Future studies could build upon these findings by investigating the psychological mechanisms underlying media-induced fear and conducting face-to-face interviews to evaluate the long-term impact of media exposure on public perceptions of terrorism.

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