

# Americans Irrationally Fear Terrorist Attacks

By [Stephen Lendman](#)

Global Research, November 23, 2015

Region: [USA](#)  
Theme: [Terrorism](#)

*Most people don't think or reason. They react, often irrationally. Chances of being struck by lightning are much greater than becoming a terrorist attack victim.*

*Death by auto accident, preventable diseases, violence at home by one family member against another, alcoholism or excessive use of harmful legal drugs is infinitely higher - what media propaganda never explains.*

*Media hyped fear convinces most people of nonexistent dangers. Early November [Gallup data](#) showed only 3% of Americans called terrorism the nation's top problem - polling done before the Paris attacks, compared to 46% in October 2001. Expect a much higher fear level when new polling results are available.*

Four earlier 2015 Gallup measures "showed an increased (public) concern about terrorism" - from 39% last year to 51% in 2015.

Opinions on 15 issues were polled. A possible future terrorist attack was the third-ranked public concern after the "availability and affordability of healthcare" and "the economy."

Nearly half of Americans fear they or a family member will be victimized by terrorism at some future time. The highest level recorded was 59% post-9/11 - people not realizing their fears were and continue to be entirely unjustified.

In June, Gallup found only two-thirds of Americans expressed confidence in Washington protecting them from a future terrorist attack - "the lowest level of trust recorded in the history of this trend question (first asked) in late 2001."

Gallup attributes the low figure to the public's lack of "confidence in the government in general." Americans call ISIS and international terrorism overall "critical threats to the vital interests of the United States" - the greatest one on a list of eight possible ones, including the "military power of Russia" and "economic power of China."

By a two-to-one margin, Americans want terrorism confronted without sacrificing civil liberties - as compared to the months post-9/11 when they were split on this issue around 50 - 50.

Polling data didn't reveal public ignorance about state-sponsored terrorism. Propaganda works, convincing most people about nonexistent threats, including ISIS possibly invading their communities.

Gallup data showed 43% of Americans favor "sending (US) ground troops to Iraq and Syria" to fight ISIS, unaware it's a US creation.

A post-Paris attack [Washington Post/ABC News poll](#) showed increased public fear of terrorist attacks, greater willingness to use US combat troops in the Middle East, opposition to admitting refugees, and willingness to sacrifice civil liberties for security.

81% of Americans believe a future terrorist attack on US soil is likely, large numbers of lives lost. Most respondents don't think government can stop it.

Over 70% want federal action against possible terrorist threats, even if it means personal privacy intrusions.

60% support use of US combat troops against ISIS - 73% back more airstrikes. Americans are easy marks to dupe into favoring what demands opposition.

The late Michael Mandel's important book, titled "[How America Gets Away With Murder: Illegal Wars, Collateral Damage, and Crimes Against Humanity](#)" discussed its lawless enterprise, its fabricated humanitarian intervention claims, and by implication how easy it is to convince most people to support what harms their welfare and self-interest.

Polling data confirm it. Most Americans are chumps. No matter how many times they were fooled before, deceiving them again is easy. Propaganda works.

**Stephen Lendman** lives in Chicago. He can be reached at [lendmanstephen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lendmanstephen@sbcglobal.net).

His new book as editor and contributor is titled "Flashpoint in Ukraine: US Drive for Hegemony Risks WW III."

<http://www.claritypress.com/LendmanIII.html>

Visit his blog site at [sjlendman.blogspot.com](http://sjlendman.blogspot.com).

Listen to cutting-edge discussions with distinguished guests on the Progressive Radio News Hour on the Progressive Radio Network.

It airs three times weekly: live on Sundays at 1PM Central time plus two prerecorded archived programs.

The original source of this article is Global Research  
Copyright © [Stephen Lendman](#), Global Research, 2015

---

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: **[Stephen Lendman](#)**

### **About the author:**

Stephen Lendman lives in Chicago. He can be reached at [lendmanstephen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lendmanstephen@sbcglobal.net). His new book as editor and contributor is titled "Flashpoint in Ukraine:

US Drive for Hegemony Risks WW III."

<http://www.claritypress.com/LendmanIII.html> Visit his blog site at [sjlendman.blogspot.com](http://sjlendman.blogspot.com). Listen to cutting-edge discussions with distinguished guests on the Progressive Radio News Hour on the Progressive Radio Network. It airs three times weekly: live on Sundays at 1PM Central time plus two prerecorded archived programs.

**Disclaimer:** The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: [publications@globalresearch.ca](mailto:publications@globalresearch.ca)

[www.globalresearch.ca](http://www.globalresearch.ca) contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: [publications@globalresearch.ca](mailto:publications@globalresearch.ca)