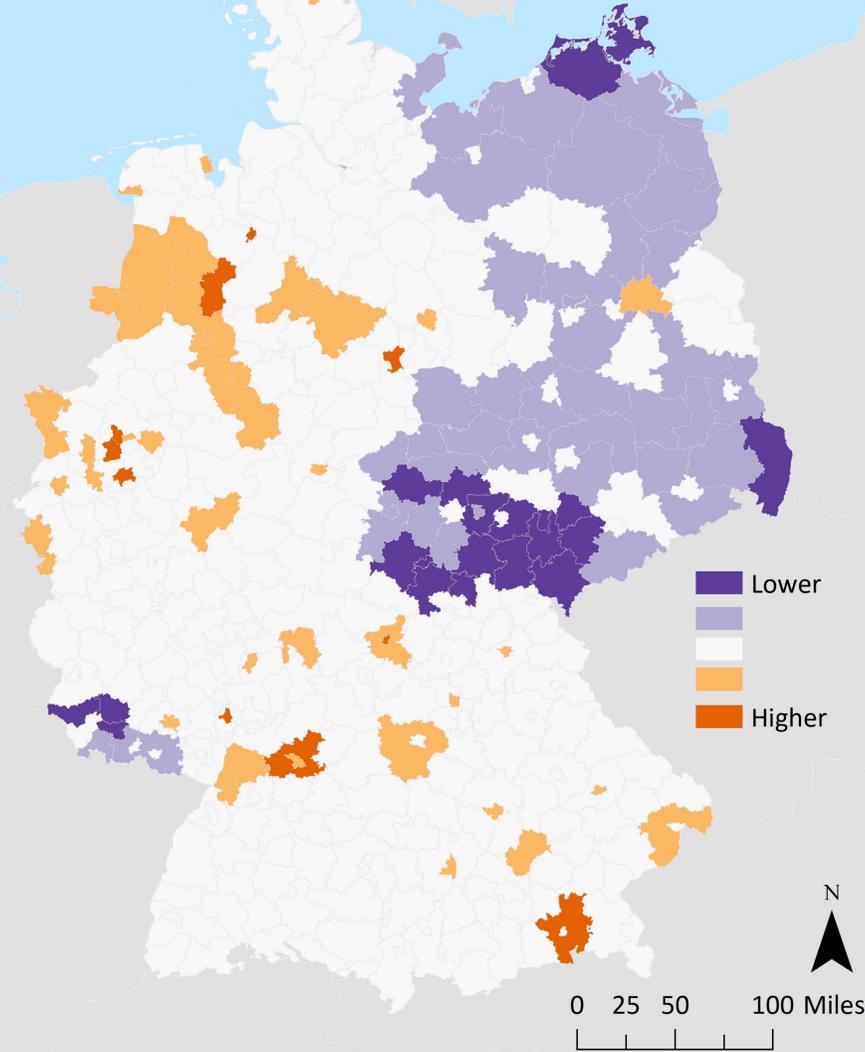


Radicalized? Analyzing Germany's Vulnerability To Radicalization, 2013-2017

Vulnerability to Radicalization



Research Questions

- Where have the majority of terrorist attacks occurred in Germany since 2014?
- Which areas of Germany are asylum seekers and immigrants most likely to live?
- Has Germany's immigration crisis had any impact on radicalization?
- What areas are at higher risk of radicalization in Germany.

Introduction

Germany has experienced eight deadly terror attacks since 2014. During the same time period, Germany has also experienced an immigration crisis. *The Wall Street Journal* blames the rise in Islamic terrorism, stating that "the bulk of successful or attempted Islamist terrorist attacks in Germany ... have been committed by recently arrived asylum seekers." However, right-wing movements have historically been behind Germany's terror. This project models where asylum seekers and immigrants are most likely to live in Germany in order to analyze the change in immigration and increase in terrorist attacks over time. It also examines additional demographic factors that are also commonly associated with terrorism such as age, gender, education and income to see if there is any link to factors that increase the risk of radicalization.

Techniques

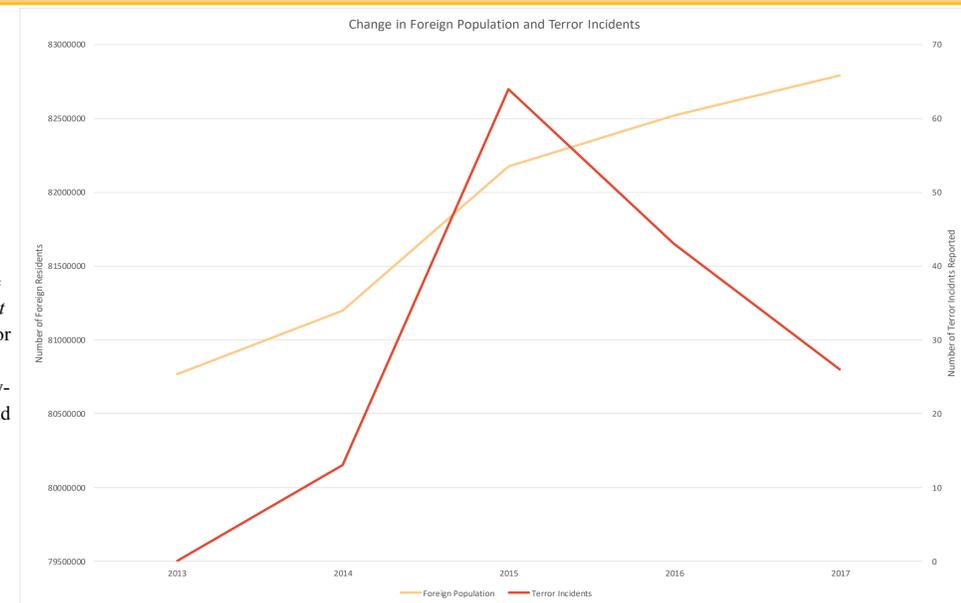
All data was compiled, joined, and analyzed by Kreise (administrative districts). Data that was not available at the Kreise level was either analyzed via a spatial join (for city/town data) or transferred to the Kreise level (Länder or state data). When population data was used, it was normalized using the total population. Data from 2017 was used throughout (unless otherwise noted) as several datasets from 2018 have not yet been made available. Although more recent data would have been preferable, 2017 was used to ensure consistency in analysis. The individual demographic factors examined were each ranked on a scale of 0-4, with 0 being the lowest vulnerability and 4 being the highest vulnerability. These were then compiled to calculate the overall vulnerability based upon the examined factors for radicalization. Out of a possible vulnerability score of 28, the maximum score was 18 and the mean was 10.

Results

The results showed little or no correlation between the demographic factors examined and radicalization. This was expected. There is no single clear, causal link as to what causes radicalization in Germany, and this analysis confirmed that. There are several factors that may contribute, as shown in the data collected here, but there is no single factor or combination of factors to predict where the next terrorist attack may hit. While the increase in immigration coupled with several high-profile attacks in 2014 and 2015 may have impacted perception of both issues, no evidence was found to strongly correlate them. If anything, the analysis concludes that areas with a higher percentage of foreigners or asylum seekers had a decreased chance of having experienced a terrorist attack.

Limitations

There were some limitations in compiling this research. First, not all information initially sought was available at the Kreise (administrative district) level, and had to be obtained a level up at the Länder (state) level. Secondly, most material was only available in German and represents a close but not exact translation (for example, "foreigners residing in Germany" vs. immigrants). Lastly, not all potential possible indicators of radicalization were included in this analysis. Future indications could include analysis on marital status, income, place of birth, religion, and associations with other radicalized communities.



Conclusions

This project concludes that there are no substantial indicators of radicalization in Germany. While immigration and terror incidents have both increased since 2013, the presence of one does not predict the other. Although the analysis did not conclude any one indicator may predict radicalization, all the factors taken together may leave some areas slightly more vulnerable than others.

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Data Sources: Bundesamt für Kartographie und Geodäsie (2018) , ESRI Data Maps 10, Global Terrorism Database (2013-2017), NUTS 2 (2018), Statistisches Bundesamt (2013-2017)
 Projection: ETRS_1989_UTM_Zone_32N

