

Waseda University Doctoral Student Network (WUDSN)

**Presentation by Joseph T. Walsh, University of Alabama, May 17th, 2010:**

**“A Bad Rap: Democracies as Terrorist Targets”**

Abstract:

Nearly every study conducted the past twenty years finds that terrorists are more likely to attack democracies, yet this literature fails to account for the wide variation of attacks found within regime types. I argue that contested territory is a cause of regime type and terrorism, and therefore the democracy-terrorism link may be spurious. Using the Global Terrorism Database to identify transnational terrorist attacks from 1970 to 2001, I find little evidence that democracies are more prone to terrorist attacks than other regimes but strong evidence that states with territorial disputes are.

Joseph T. Walsh is a PhD student at University of Alabama, USA. He obtained his M.A. in Peace and Conflict Studies at Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, Japan and B.A. in Liberal Studies at University of Michigan, USA.