

Terrorism

Threats & Trends

Terrorism is a Political Act

- A weapon of psychological warfare for political purposes
- “...premeditated, politically motivated violence perpetrated against noncombatant targets by subnational or clandestine agents, usually intended to influence an audience.”
 - Title 22 of USC, Sec. 2656f(d)

Terrorism is a Political Act

- to create extreme fear & anxiety in a target group larger than the immediate victims
 - with the purpose of coercing the larger target group into meeting some political demand
 - Use "extra-normal" violence in a symbolic act
 - specific victims have no particular significance to terrorist

Terrorism is Not *Irrational*

- Terrorism has its own logic that links
 - Goals
 - Objectives
 - Strategy

Political Goals of Terrorism

- Political goals:
 - To create a sense of vulnerability in larger target population
 - To publicize terrorists' plight; gain recognition
 - To embolden their allies and supporters; gain support
 - provoke adversary into an inappropriate violent reaction
 - demonstrate the vulnerability & weakness of their adversary
 - To push adversary into self-constraining acts
 - martial law
 - To force policy change by adversary via public pressure
 - turn public wrath against authorities (why are we vulnerable?)

Terrorism in Historical Perspective

- Acts of terrorism recorded over 2000 years ago in Middle East
- Term “terrorism” coined during the French Revolution (1790s)

“Traditional” Terrorism

- Terrorists’ Concern for legitimacy
 - → moderated strategy of violence
- Violence calibrated in relation to political objectives
 - Leaves future possibility for negotiation & political settlement
 - PLO & Israel (until 2001)
 - Excessive violence reduces legitimacy & claims for support
- Terrorists Always claimed credit for their acts

“Traditional” Terrorism

- <10% Terrorists Caught or killed
 - <50% caught went to jail
 - ∴ low personal risk
- Origins & Actions
 - Nation-based

Terrorism

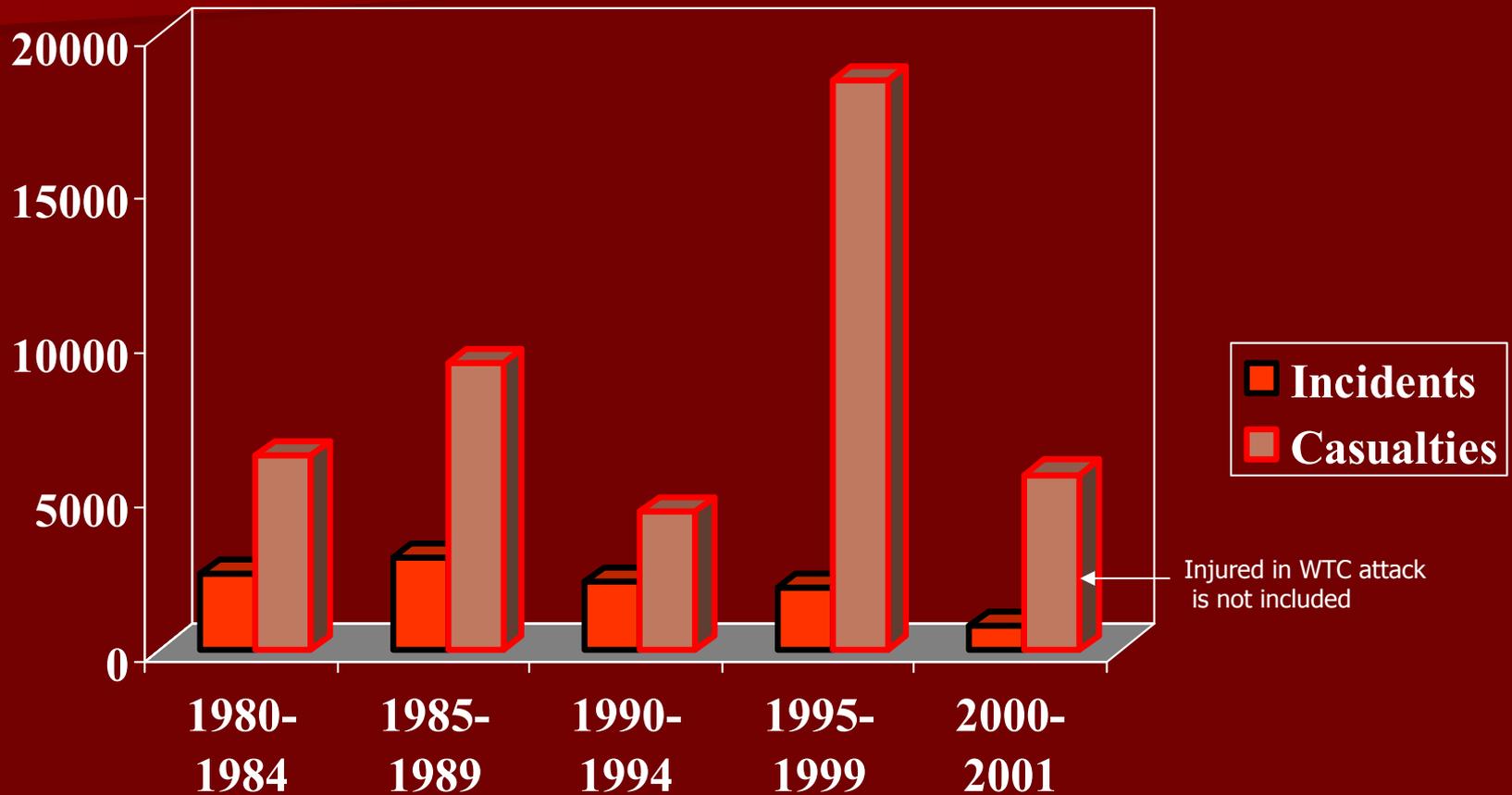
By the Numbers

Recent Terrorist Acts Against the U.S.

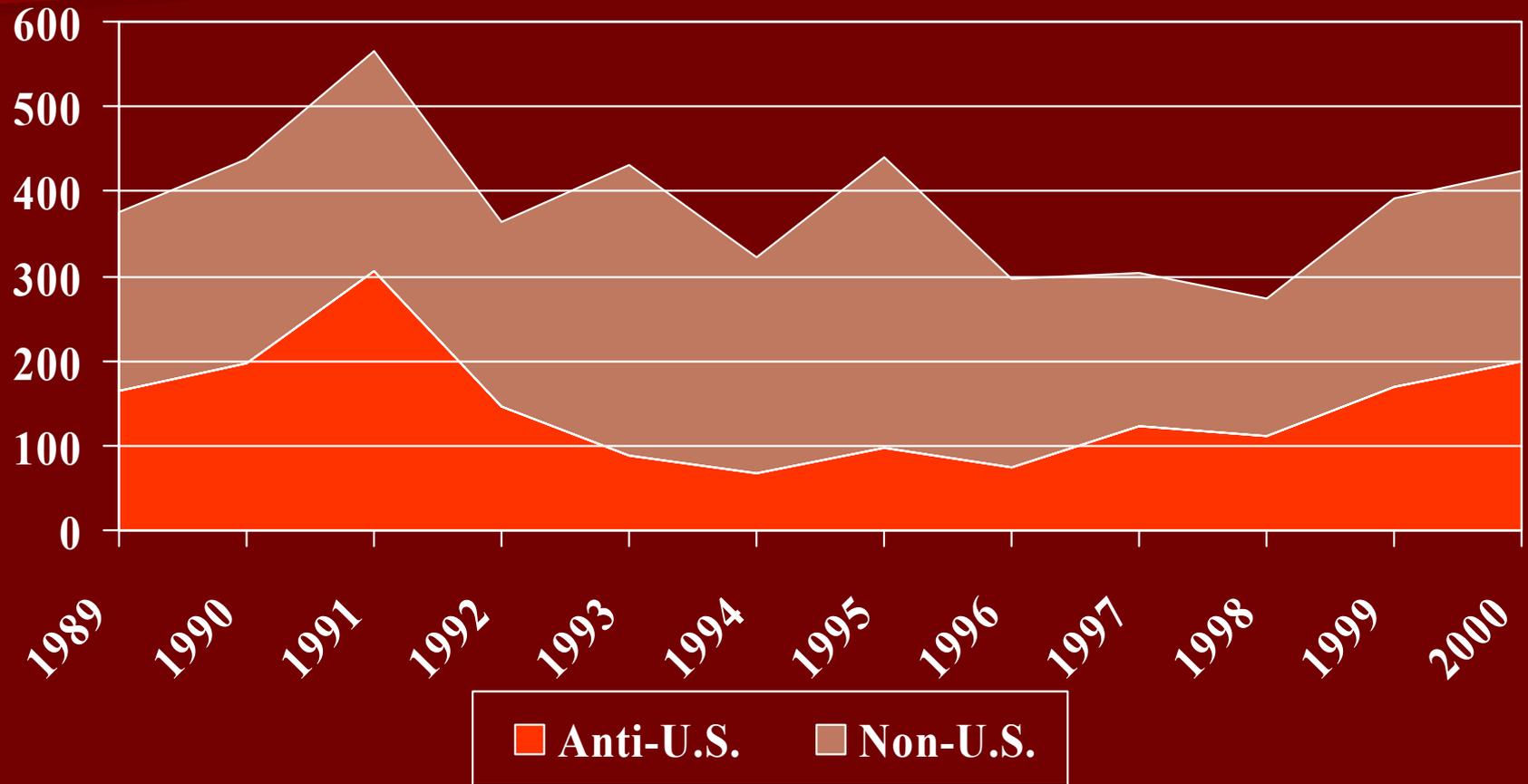
- 1983 U.S. Embassy & Marine Barracks, Lebanon
- 1989 Lockerbe PA103 bombing
- 1993 World Trade Center
- [1996 Oklahoma City]
- 1996 Khobar Towers, Saudi Arabia
- 1998 East Africa Embassy Bombings
- 2000 USS Cole (Yemen)
- 2001 WTC & Pentagon

International Terrorism

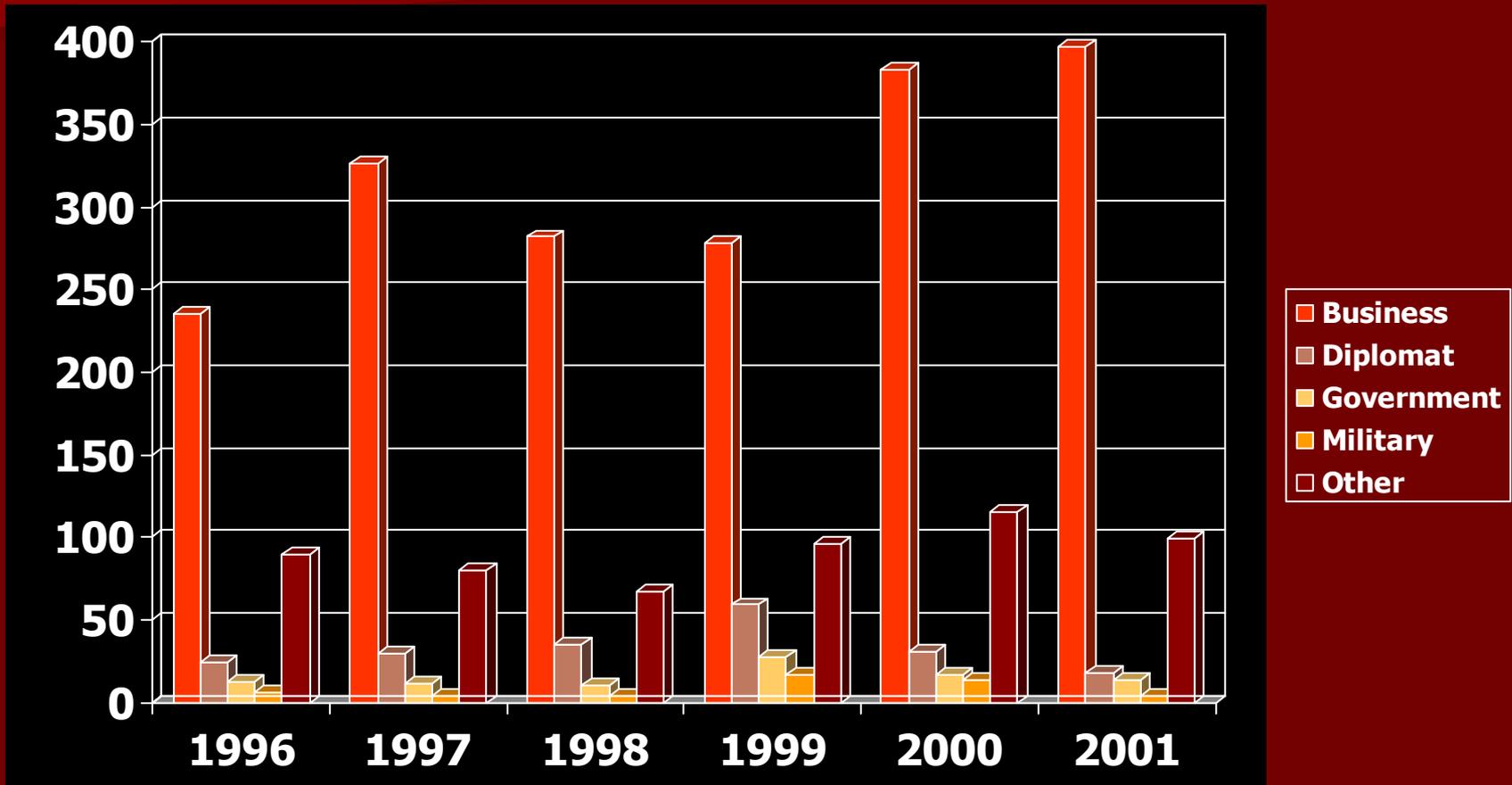
Incidents & Casualties



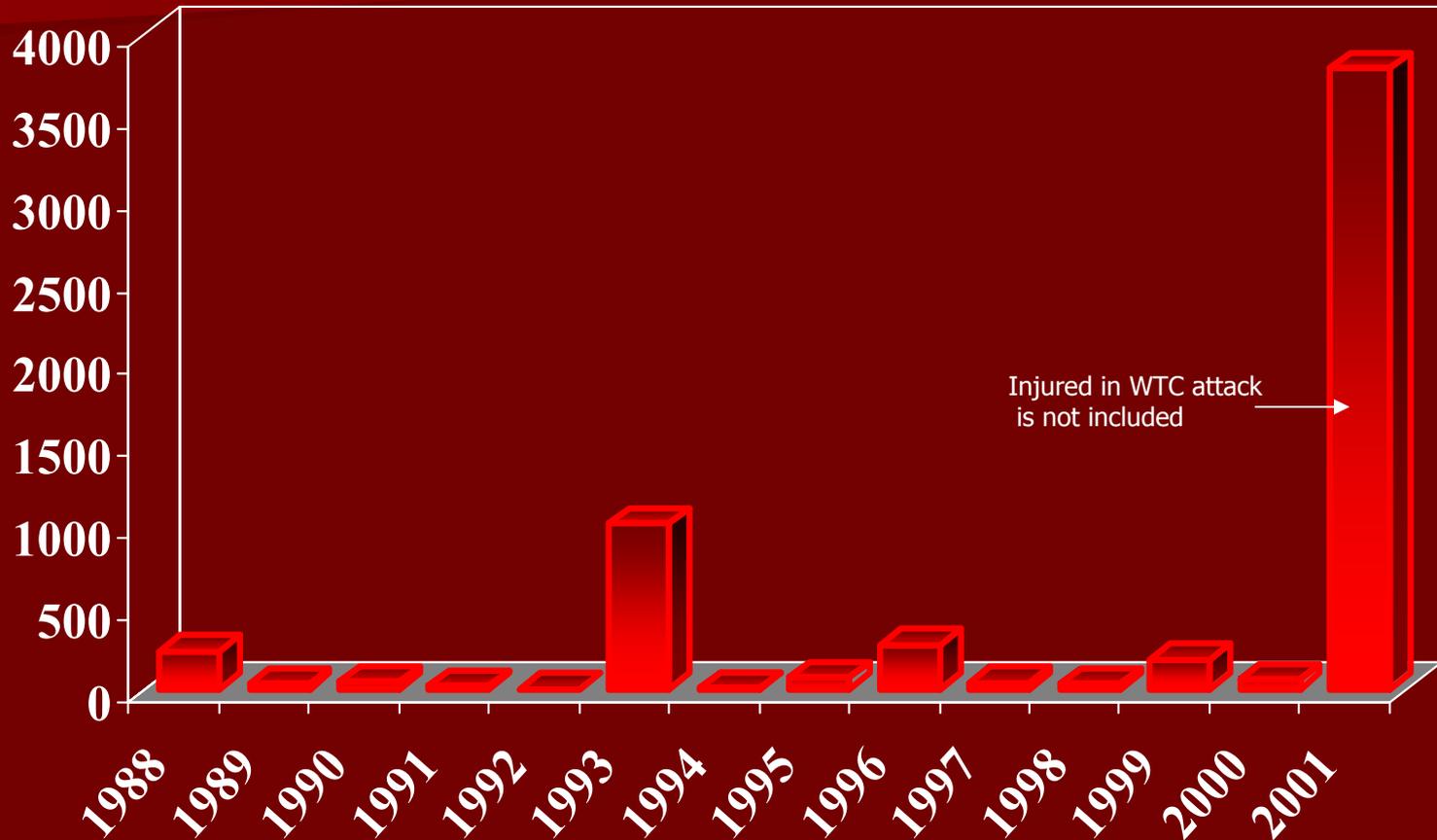
Terrorist Incidents



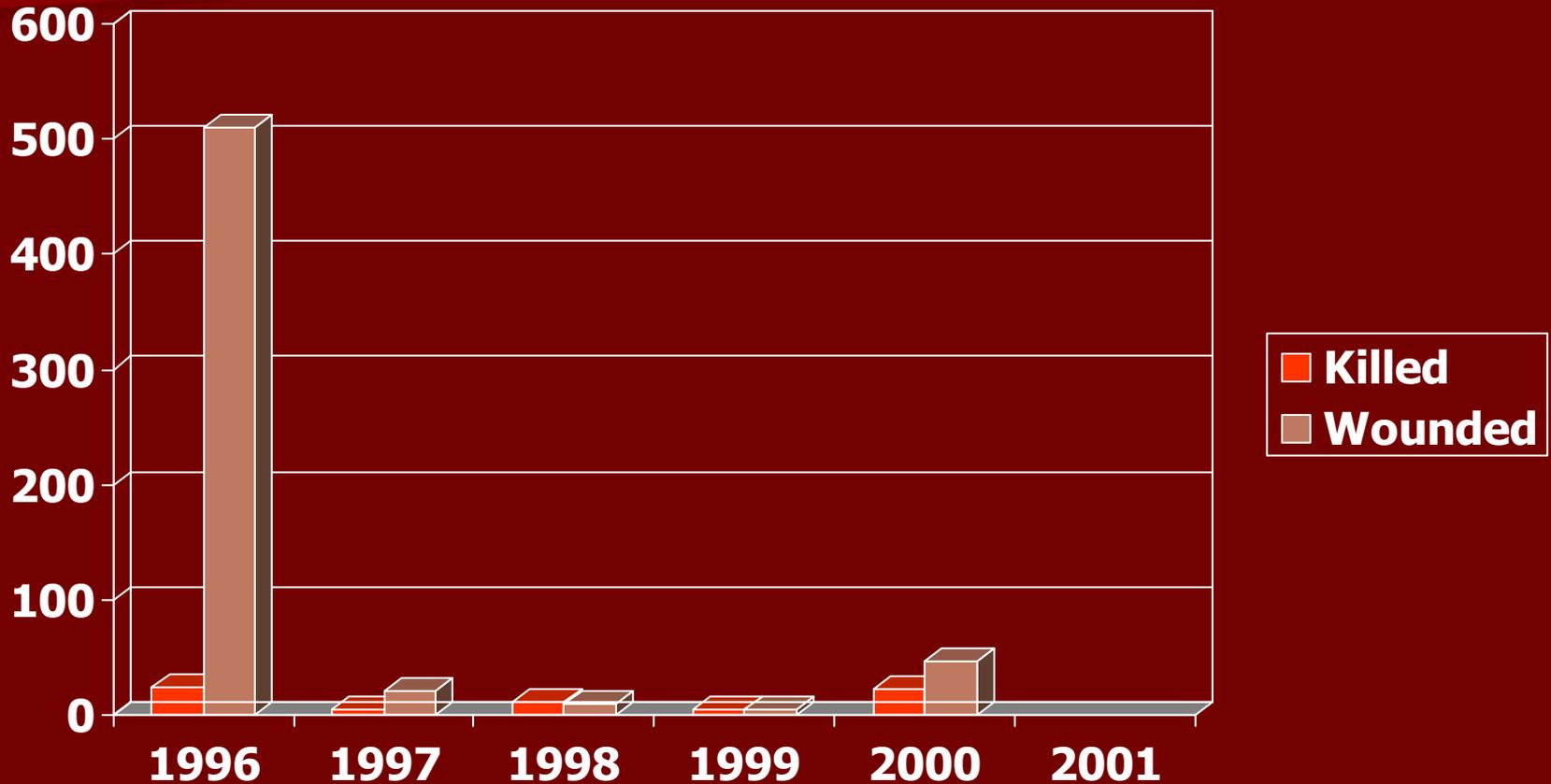
Types of Facilities Attacked in International Terrorist Incidents



Casualties in Anti-U.S. Attacks



U.S. Citizen Casualties in International Terrorist Attacks



Major Anti-U.S. Terrorist Incidents

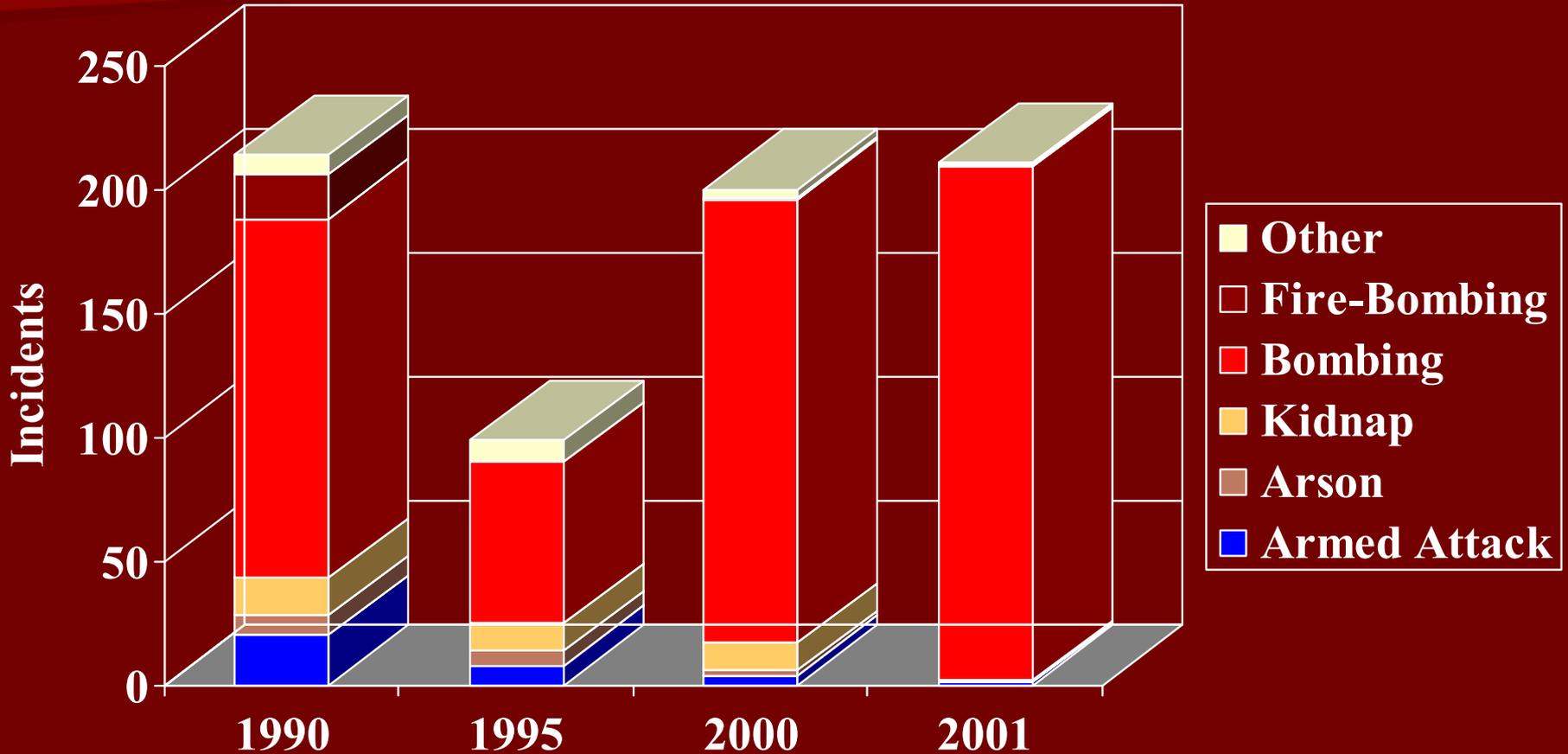
U.S. Casualties

	Year	Killed	Wounded
U.S. Embassy & Marine Barracks	1983	305	110
Pan Am 103	1988	189	-
World Trade Center	1993	6	1000
Khobar	1996	19	500 (U.S. & others)
Nairobi & Dar es Salaam	1998	12	11; 5000 (non-US)
USS Cole	2000	17	39
WTC & Pentagon	2001	3350	?

17.471-02 American National Security

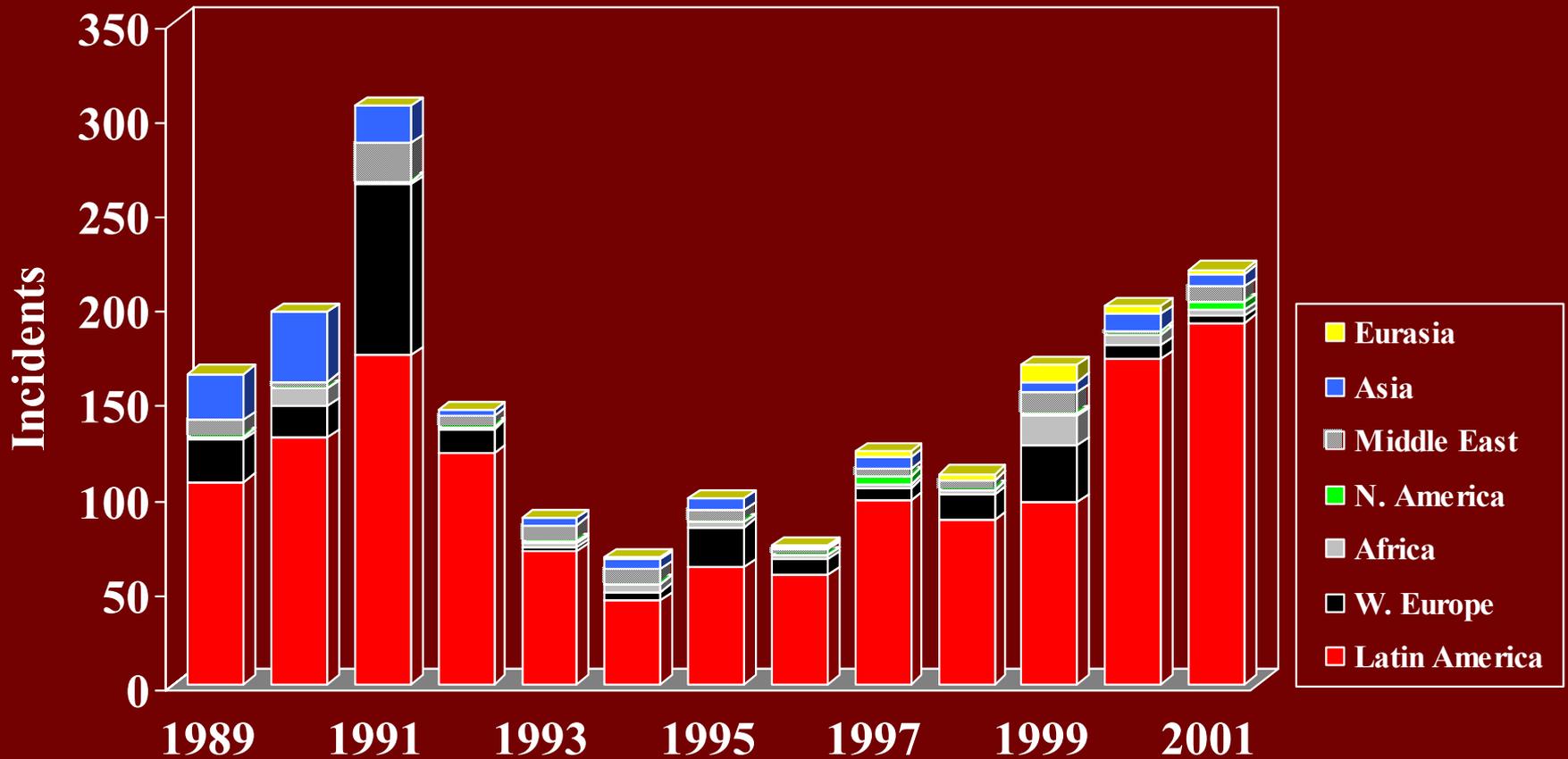
Anti-U.S. Terrorism

Types of Attacks



Anti-U.S. Terrorism

Regional Patterns



States Sponsoring Terrorism <2001

- Iran
- Iraq
- Syria
- Sudan
- Libya
- North Korea
- Cuba

The “New” Terrorism

"New" Terrorism

- Religion-based
 - Self legitimacy → no need for restraint
 - Sense of superiority → no need for restraint
 - Personal risk unimportant; sacred mission
- Greater Violence → Greater "Good"
 - death of victims reduces number of non-believers
 - 1995: 25% of terrorist attacks religion-based
 - Accounting for 60% of all fatalities [Simon & Benjamin (2000)]
- Claiming credit for specific acts less important
 - political message is vulnerability & destruction of adversary

"New" Terrorism

- Transnational
- Better technology & means for terror effects
 - Communications
 - financial
 - weaponry & explosives
 - WMD?

- Greater Vulnerability of Modern Urban Technological Societies
 - fragile complex systems
 - communications
 - Energy (electricity)
 - Transport (food, commodities, people)
 - financial flows