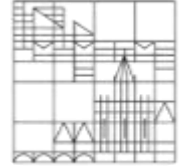




**CHARLES
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Master Thesis :
The Decline of Terrorism in European Soil:
Comparative Political Analysis

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Abstract:

This paper focuses on the effectiveness of counterterrorism policies and strategies implemented by European Union (EU) member nations. The study examines the types of policies and measures put in place, the effectiveness of intelligence gathering and sharing, and the level of funding provided for security efforts. The research question guiding this study is: Which policies, security strategies, and measures implemented by European Union member nations have most effectively reduced the frequency or success rate of terrorist attacks on their territory, including completed, failed, and foiled attacks? The study aims to provide valuable insights for policymakers and security experts to develop evidence-based strategies to prevent and combat terrorism in the EU. The literature review critically examines the securitization of terrorism in Europe and its implications for civil liberties and democratic governance. The theoretical section explores policy-making theory, examining the factors that influence policymaking, such as the role of different actors, the political context, and the impact of external factors such as international norms and standards. This paper finds that the multiple policies implemented across the European Union have motivated the decrease in terroristic activities across the region; however, the differences in investment throughout the years did not prove to be significant to influence the frequency of failed, foiled or completed terrorist attacks. The study concludes by discussing the potential impact of counterterrorism policies and measures on civil liberties and democratic governance and identifying gaps in existing literature.

Keywords: Terrorism – Comparative Analysis – Policymaking – Europe