



Profiles of Individual Radicalization in the United States (PIRUS)

An Empirical Assessment of Domestic Radicalization*

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START

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Project Team

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The Need for Research

- Few large scale quantitative studies
- Few theoretically informed etiological studies
- Few comparisons of radicalization across ideologies
- Few studies that include both quantitative and qualitative approaches

Key Questions

- Differences in violent vs. nonviolent?
- Relationship between beliefs and behaviors?
- Differences across ideologies?
- Testing the theories
 - Social Movement Theory (SMT)
 - Quest for Significance
 - Group Dynamics
 - Deliberate Recruitment
 - Life course perspectives

Generating New Data – PIRUS

- Cross-sectional quantitative dataset (~1,650)
 - Islamist, Far Right, Far Left
 - 153 numerical and text variables per case
 - Includes plot/consequence, group nature, radicalization/ideology, demographics, socioeconomic, and personal background variables
- Case studies of individual radicalization (~110)

Project Timeline

- Wave 1 – Summer 2013 (~600 coded)
- Wave 2 – Fall 2013 (~600 coded)
- Wave 3 – Spring 2014 (~500 coded)
- Currently about 110 case studies complete
- Fall 2014: Finish data cleaning, case study coding
- 2015: Ensuring data quality, quantitative and qualitative analysis, releasing the data, transition materials, and final report

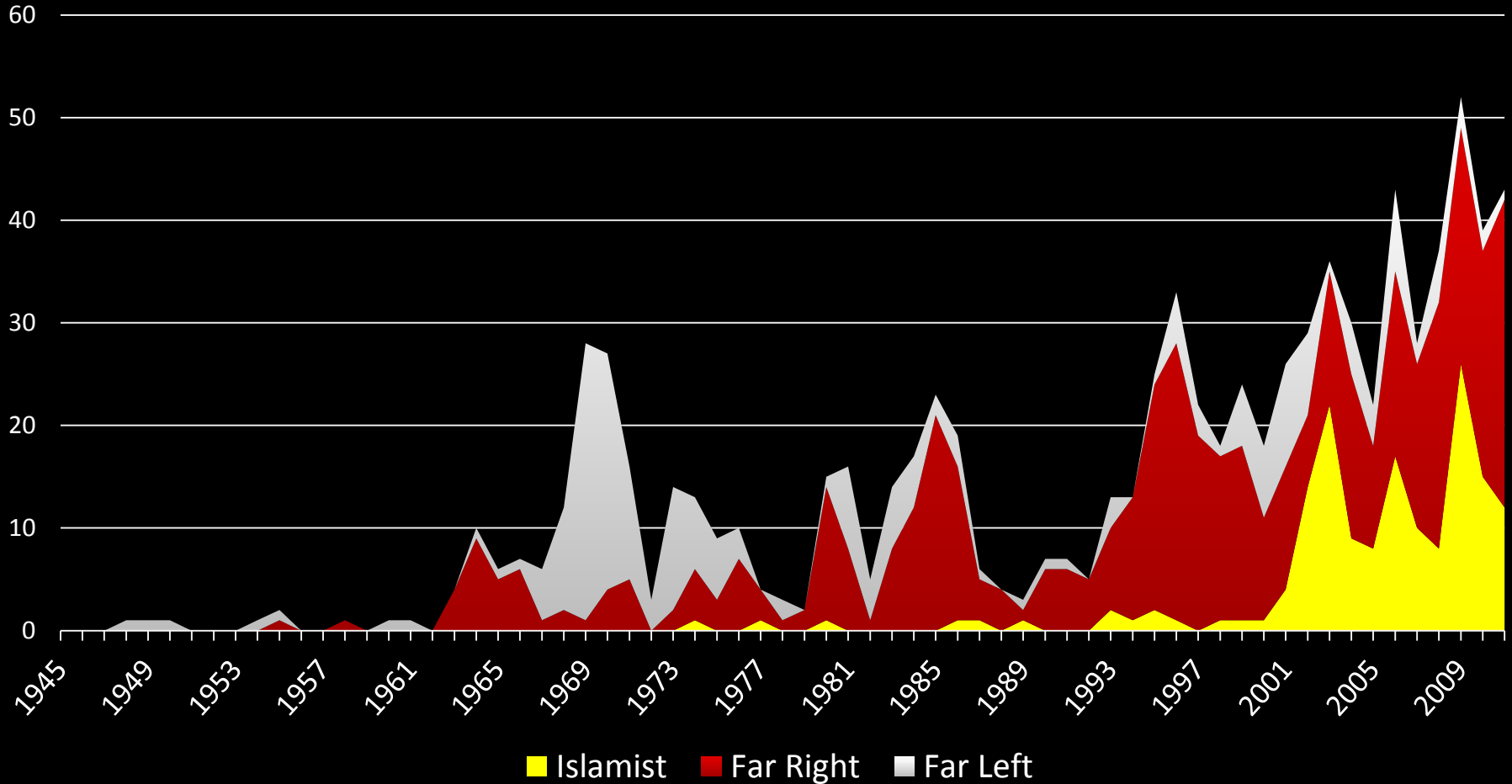
Qualitative Analysis

- Inductive and deductive coding of the 110 case studies
 - **Qualitative content analysis:** a method for the systematic analysis of large quantities of text.
 - **Grounded Theory:** an inductive method that allows the 'discovery' of new theories and/or theoretical categories directly from data.
 - **fsQCA:** a methodological tool that allows us to determine which theories and indicators produce specific outcomes (e.g. violence against people, deradicalization)

Challenges/Weaknesses

- Missing data
- Public release of data
- Lack of “non-radical” control group
- Completely open-source data collection

Cases per year



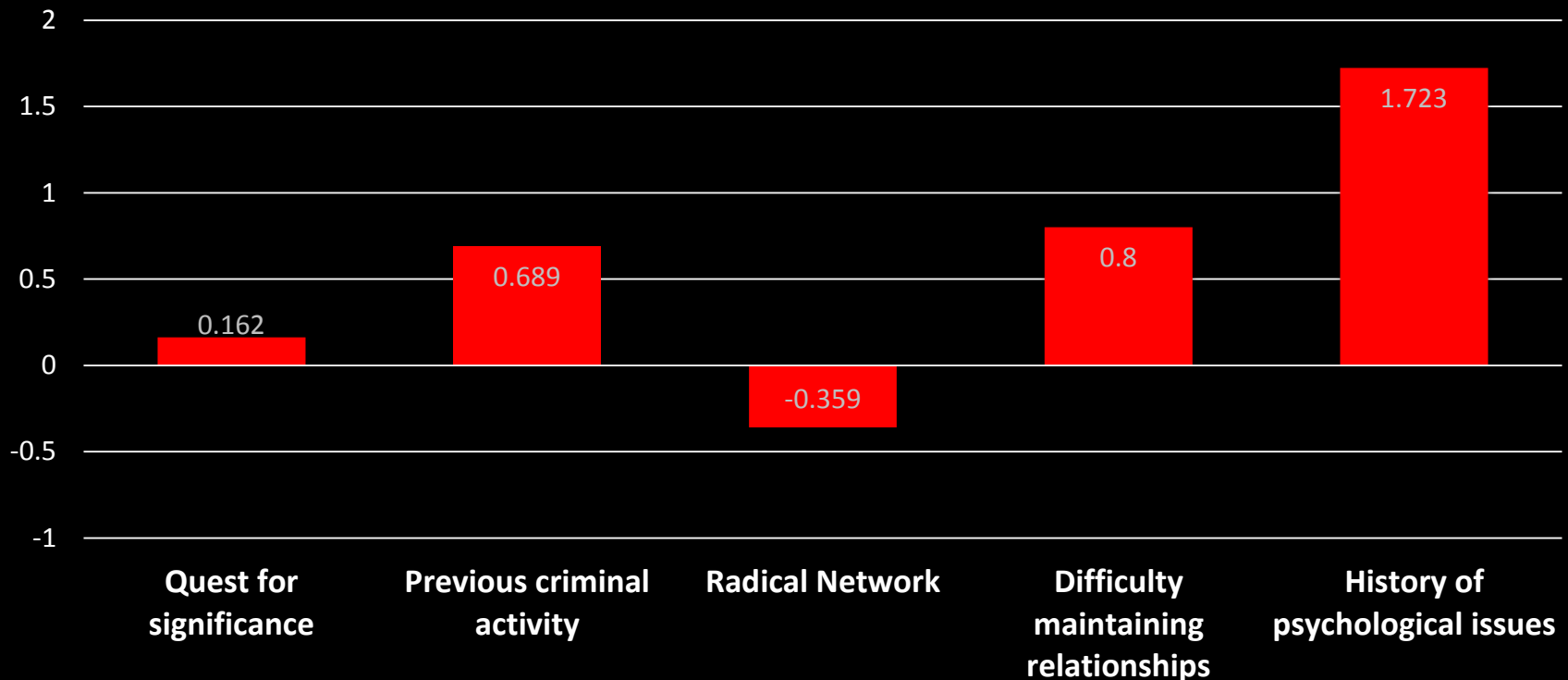
Potential Differences Among Ideologies

Ideology	Common characteristics
Islamist	Cliques, non-US citizens, least intra-group competition, converts, recruited
Far Left	Change in performance prior to radicalization, students
Far Right	Longest duration of radicalization, most intra-group competition
Same Across All	Psychological issues, loners, change in social standing, prison radicalization

Lone Actor Analysis

- Basic analysis on two questions:
 - What makes it more likely for radicals to act alone vs acting in a group?
 - How do lone actors differ from group actors?
- Analysis presented here are based on a random sample of the quantitative data that has been cleaned (n=1,080)
- Provides some interesting early answers to key questions

Predictors of acting alone



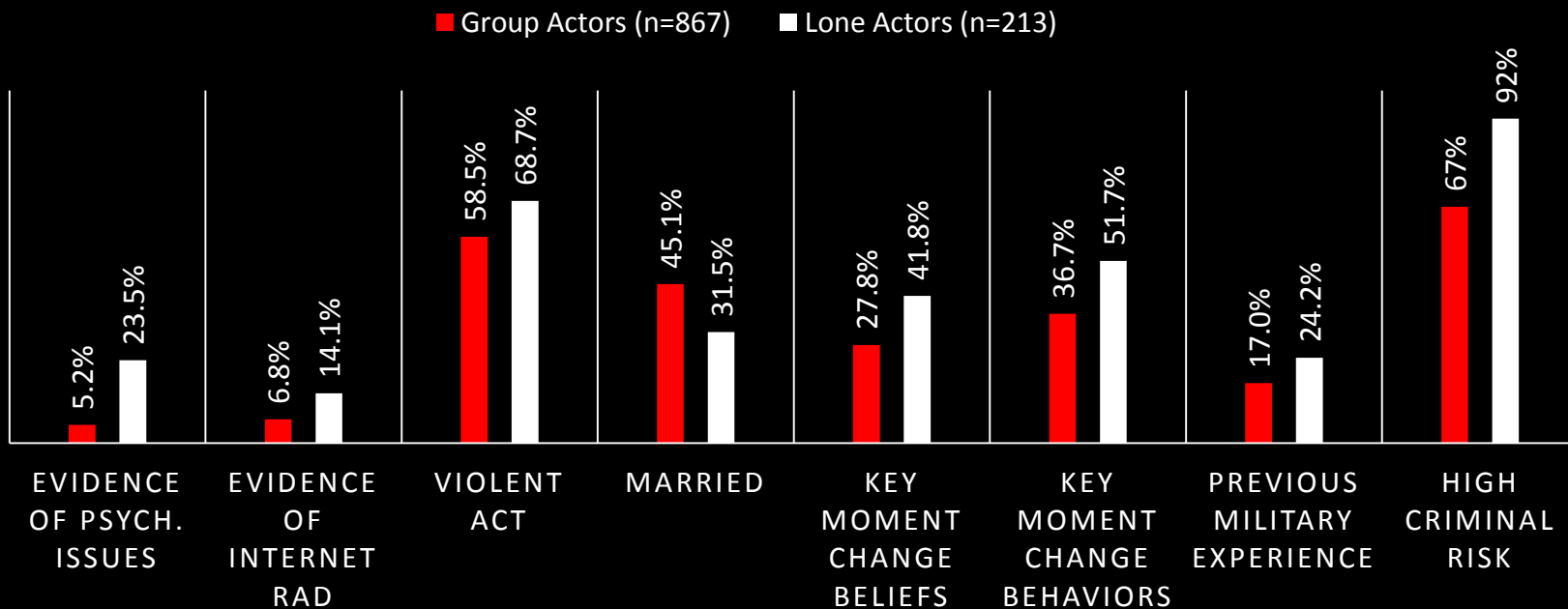
*Logit regression using Lone Actor as DV and scaled indexes (0-10) as the IVs

*All observations are significant to at least the $p=0.02$ level

Group Actor = coded as either a member of “homegrown” extremist cell OR formal extremist organization

Lone Actor = coded as “acted alone; individually”

Comparing Lone and Group Actors

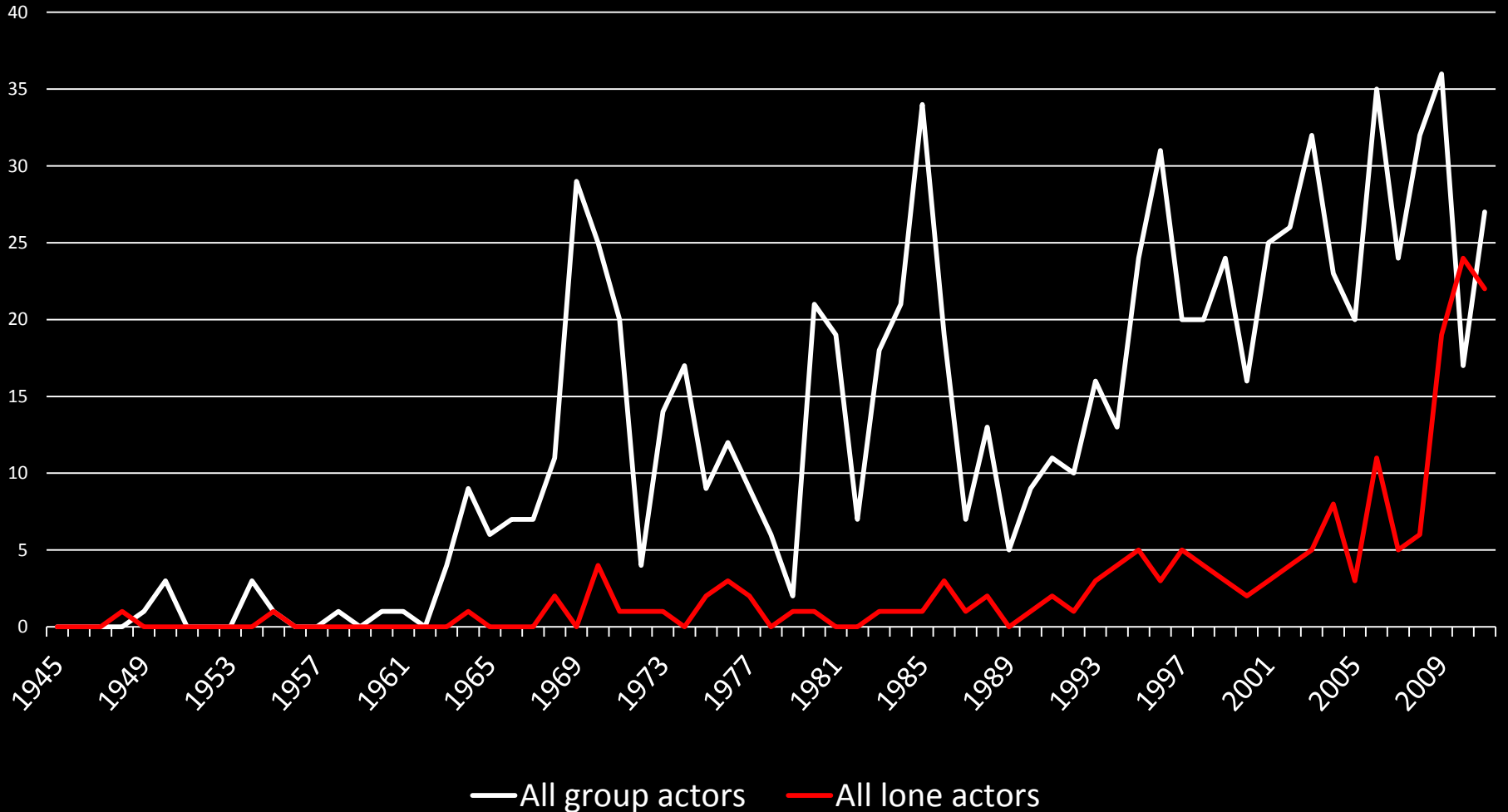


*All observations are significant using a chi-squared test to at least the .02 level

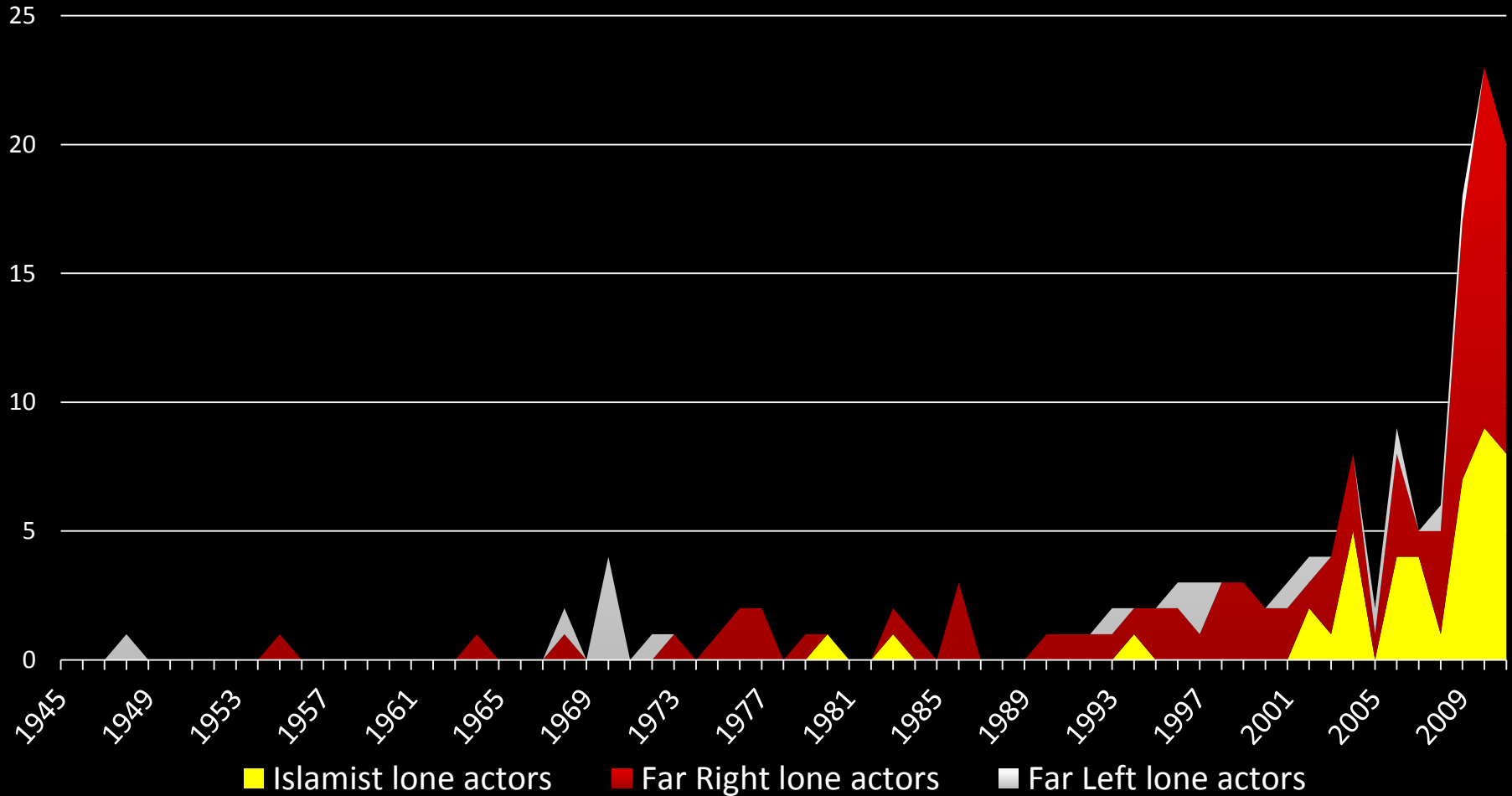
Group Actor = coded as either a member of “homegrown” extremist cell OR formal extremist organization

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Group v. Lone actors



Cases per year – Lone actors



Questions?

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For more information:

Profiles of Individual Radicalization in the United States: Preliminary Findings,” START Research Brief, January 2014 <http://www.start.umd.edu/news/preliminary-findings-profiles-individual-radicalization-us>

“Profiles of Individual Radicalization in the United States: An Empirical Assessment of Domestic Radicalization,” START Project Fact Sheet, January 2014 <http://www.start.umd.edu/publication/profiles-individual-radicalization-united-states-empirical-assessment-domestic>