Glossary of Terms for Politics, War, and Crime Used on the News

1. Political & Ideological Movements (The philosophical and political underpinnings of rebellion and terrorism)

- **Accelerationism** – The belief that worsening societal conditions will hasten revolutionary change.

- **Anarcho-Terrorism** – The use of terroristic tactics to dismantle state structures.

- **Anti-Colonial Struggles** – Rebellions and insurrections against colonial powers (e.g., Algerian War, Mau Mau Uprising).

- **Autonomy Movement** – A push for regional self-governance.

- **Coup d'état** – A sudden and decisive seizure of governmental power.

- **Communism & Marxism-Leninism** – Political movements that have historically fueled revolutions and insurgencies.

- **Defection** – Desertion from one's country, cause, or duty.

- **Dissident** – A person who opposes official policy, especially in an authoritarian state.

- **Domestic Extremism** – Radical political movements within a country advocating for systemic change through violence.

- **Ethno-Nationalism** – Separatist or supremacist movements based on ethnicity.

- **Fascism** – Authoritarian nationalism, often leading to state-sponsored terror.

- **Insurrection** – A violent uprising against an authority or government.

- **Mutiny** – Rebellion against authority, especially in a military or naval context.

- **Populism & Nationalism** – Political movements that can sometimes incite insurrection.

- **Proxy War** – A conflict where two or more powerful actors support opposing sides, often indirectly, to achieve strategic objectives without direct confrontation.

- **Rebellion** – Open resistance to an established government or ruler.

- **Revolutionary Vanguard** – A concept from Marxism where a small elite leads a larger uprising.

- **Sedition** – Conduct or speech inciting rebellion against authority.

- **Secession** – The act of withdrawing from a nation or organization.

- **Soft Power** – The ability to influence others through cultural, economic, and diplomatic means rather than military force.

- **State Actor** – A government or its military and security forces engaged in conflict or operations.

- **Subversion** – Undermining the power and authority of an established system.

- **Treason** – Betrayal of one's country, especially by aiding enemies.

- **Theocracy & Religious Extremism** – Government and militant movements using religion as justification for rule or violence.

- **Zionism & Anti-Zionism** – Movements that have been tied to conflict, rebellion, and terrorism.

2. Cyber & Technological Warfare (Modern threats that go beyond physical terrorism)

- **Autonomous Weapons** – Weapons systems that can select and engage targets without human intervention, raising ethical concerns about accountability and control.

- **Bot Armies & Troll Farms** – Automated accounts used to spread propaganda and misinformation.

- **Cyber Warfare** – The use of cyberattacks, such as hacking, malware, or ransomware, to disrupt, damage, or gain control over an adversary's digital systems or infrastructure.

- **Deepfake** – AI-generated media that manipulates images, audio, or video to create realistic but false depictions, often used in propaganda or disinformation campaigns.

- **Digital Surveillance & Counter-Surveillance** – Government and insurgent efforts to track or evade monitoring.

- **Disinformation** – False or misleading information deliberately spread to deceive or manipulate public perception.

- **Dual-Use Technology** – Technologies that have both civilian and military applications, such as drones or artificial intelligence.

- **Electronic Warfare** – The use of electromagnetic spectrum for combat, jamming signals, and cyber operations.

- **Grey Zone Conflict** – A type of conflict that operates below the threshold of conventional warfare, involving covert operations, economic coercion, and disinformation campaigns.

- **Information Warfare** – The use of information and communication technologies to manipulate, disrupt, or dominate an adversary's decision-making processes.

- **Ransomware** – A type of malware used in cyber warfare that encrypts an organization's data and demands payment for its release.

- **Social Media Radicalization** – The use of platforms like Facebook, Twitter, and Telegram to recruit terrorists or insurgents.

- **Space Warfare** – Military operations conducted in or targeting space, including anti-satellite weapons and cyberattacks on space-based infrastructure.

- **Zero-Trust Security Model** – A cybersecurity approach that assumes no user or system is inherently trustworthy, requiring continuous verification to access resources.

3. Organized Crime & Terrorism Nexus (Where criminal enterprises and insurgencies overlap)

- **Arms Smuggling** – The illegal flow of weapons fueling insurgencies.

- **Bioweapons** – Biological agents, such as viruses or bacteria, used as weapons to incapacitate or kill people, animals, or plants.

- **Crypto-Terrorism** – The use of cryptocurrencies to finance radical groups.

- **Drug-Fueled Insurgencies** – How narcotics trade funds rebellions (e.g., FARC, Taliban heroin trade).

- **Extortion & Kidnapping** – Criminal tactics used by insurgents and terrorist groups to generate funding.

- **Human Trafficking & Terrorism** – The use of forced labor and sexual exploitation to fund operations.

- **Mafia & Cartels** – Criminal organizations that engage in insurrection-like behavior.

- **Money Laundering for Terrorism** – Financial networks that fund rebellion and terror.

- **Piracy & Maritime Terrorism** – Groups like Somali pirates engaging in paramilitary tactics.

4. Insurgent & Asymmetric Warfare Strategies (The tactics used by rebels, insurgents, and terrorists)

- **Asymmetrical Warfare** – A form of conflict where one side uses unconventional tactics to exploit the vulnerabilities of a more powerful adversary.

- **Collateral Damage** – Unintended harm or destruction caused to civilians or civilian property during a military operation.

- **Counterinsurgency (COIN)** – A set of military, political, and economic strategies aimed at defeating insurgencies and winning the support of local populations.

- **Guerrilla Warfare** – A form of irregular warfare in which small, mobile groups use tactics like ambushes, sabotage, and hit-and-run attacks to challenge a larger, conventional force.

- **Hybrid Warfare** – A blend of conventional and unconventional tactics, including military force, cyber operations, and information warfare, to achieve strategic objectives.

- **Improvised Explosive Device (IED)** – A homemade bomb often used by insurgents and non-state actors to target military or civilian personnel.

- **Insurgency** – A rebellion or uprising by non-state actors against a government or occupying force, often using asymmetrical tactics.