

## Araştırma Makalesi/Research Article

# Influence of Various Media Sources on the Fear of Terrorism: A Comparative Study of Japan and Taiwan\*

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**Abstract:** This study examines the relationship between media consumption and fear of terrorism in Japan and Taiwan, two countries that experience low exposure to terrorism yet exhibit high levels of fear regarding terrorism. The analysis investigates the effects of active media sources (such as newspapers and the internet) and passive media sources (such as television, radio, and social media) on fear of terrorism, using data from the seventh wave of the World Values Survey. Ordered Logistic Regression (OLR) analysis was conducted on data from 1,273 participants in Japan and 1,221 participants in Taiwan. The findings indicate that active media sources do not have a statistically significant effect on fear of terrorism in either country. In contrast, passive media sources are positively associated with increased fear of terrorism, with this effect being statistically stronger in Japan than in Taiwan. Additionally, demographic factors such as gender, age, and education influence fear of terrorism. In both countries, women report higher levels of fear regarding terrorism than men. In Japan, younger individuals exhibit lower levels of fear regarding terrorism. Education level significantly impacts fear of terrorism in Taiwan, where lower education levels are associated with higher fear regarding terrorism. These findings provide valuable insights into how media consumption and demographic factors influence perceptions and fears of terrorism in low-risk countries such as Taiwan and Japan.

**Keywords:** *Fear of Terrorism, Japan, Taiwan, Active Media Sources, Passive Media Sources.*

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## Çeşitli Medya Kaynaklarının Terörizm Korkusu Üzerindeki Etkisi: Japonya ve Tayvan Üzerine Karşılaştırmalı Bir Analiz

**Öz:** Bu çalışma, terörizme düşük düzeyde maruz kalmalarına karşın yüksek düzeyde terörizm korkusu görülen iki ülke olan Japonya ve Tayvan'da farklı medya türlerinin tüketimi ile terörizm korkusu arasındaki ilişkiyi incelemektedir. Analiz, Dünya Değerler Anketi'nin yedinci dalgasından elde edilen verileri kullanarak aktif medya kaynaklarının (gazeteler ve internet gibi) ve pasif medya kaynaklarının (televizyon, radyo ve sosyal medya gibi) terörizm korkusu üzerindeki etkisine odaklanmaktadır. Japonya'daki 1.273 ve Tayvan'daki 1.221 katılımcının verilerini analiz etmek için Sıralı Lojistik Regresyon (OLR) analiz yöntemi kullanılmıştır. Bulgular, aktif medya kaynaklarının her iki ülkede de terörizm korkusu üzerinde istatistiksel olarak anlamlı bir etkiye sahip olmadığını ortaya koymaktadır. Buna karşılık, pasif medya kaynakları artan terörizm korkusu ile pozitif ilişkilidir ve bu etki istatistiksel olarak Japonya'da, Tayvan'dan daha güçlüdür. Ek olarak, cinsiyet, yaş ve eğitim gibi demografik faktörler terörizm korkusunu etkilemektedir. Her iki ülkedeki kadınlar erkeklerden daha fazla terörizmden korktuklarını belirtmektedir. Japonya'da, genç bireyler daha düşük terörizm kaynaklı korku düzeyi göstermektedir. Eğitim düzeyi, Tayvan'da terörizm korkusunu önemli ölçüde etkilemektedir. Düşük eğitim düzeyinin daha yüksek terörizm korkusu ile ilişkili olduğu sonucuna ulaşılmıştır. Bu bulgular, Tayvan ve Japonya gibi düşük riskli ülkelerde medya tüketimi ve demografik faktörlerin terörizm algılarını ve korkularını nasıl etkilediğine dair değerli bilgiler sunmaktadır.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** *Terörizm Korkusu, Japonya, Tayvan, Aktif Medya Kaynakları, Pasif Medya Kaynakları*

### Introduction

In recent years, terrorism has emerged as one of the most significant challenges facing the world, posing an increasingly severe threat (Tulga, 2022). The issue has become more complex and globalized due to the effective use of advanced technologies and platforms by terrorist organizations in their strategies. Today, the detrimental impacts of terrorism are not limited to the countries or regions directly affected; they also extend to nations that are not immediate targets of terrorist attacks (Tulga, 2022).

However, classical terrorism literature is inadequate for explaining the negative effects of terrorism on individuals residing in different countries. In response, recent academic studies have begun to address these gaps by focusing on the impact of terrorism on the behaviors, thoughts, and

psychology of individuals across various nations (Ceron et al., 2019; Tulga, 2022). Despite these advancements, few studies specifically examine nations that are not direct targets of global terrorism yet still experience a heightened fear of terrorism.

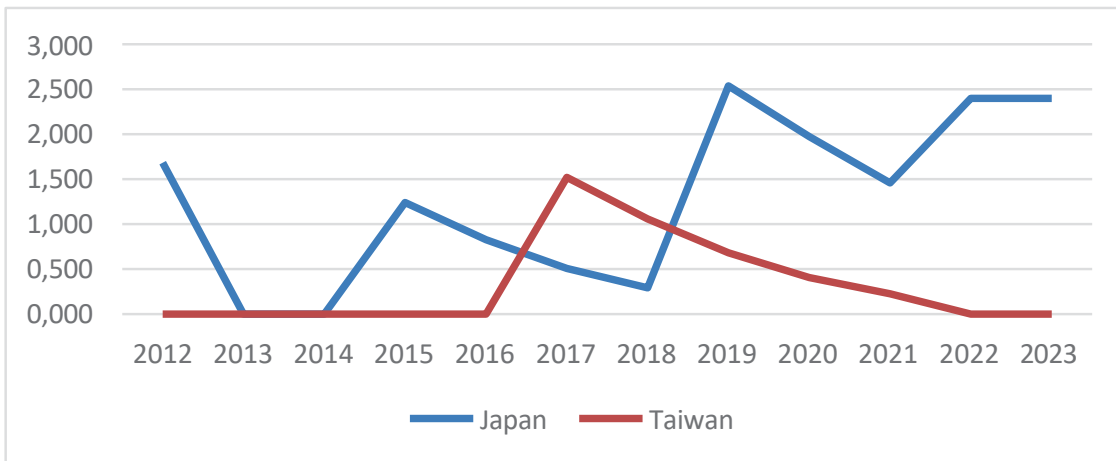


Figure 1. Global Terrorism Index (Taiwan and Japan)

In this context, the cases of Taiwan and Japan are noteworthy, as both have a low global terrorism index due to being outside the direct targets of global terrorism and experiencing few terrorist attacks. However, Taiwanese and Japanese exhibit a high level of fear regarding terrorism. Therefore, this study focuses on the cases of Taiwan and Japan.

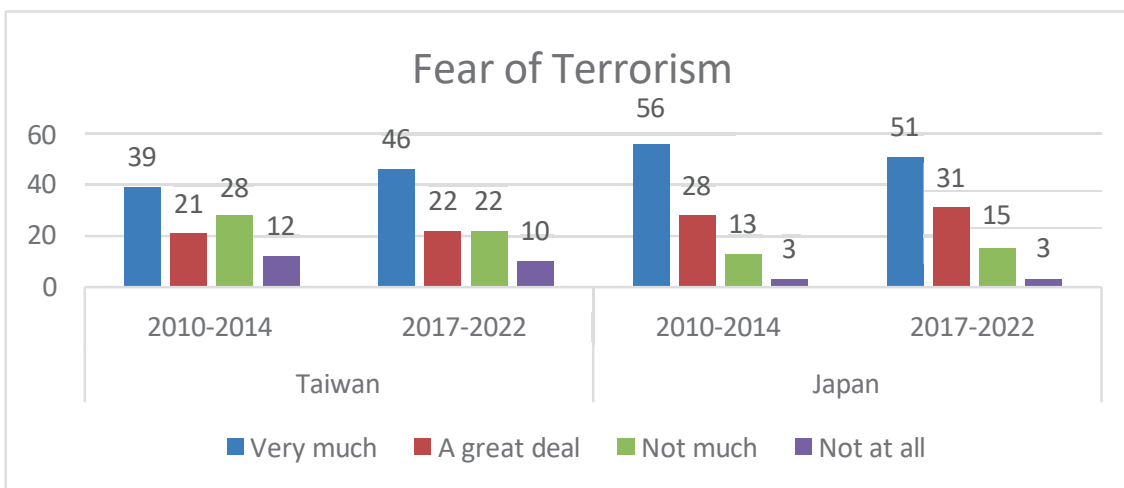


Figure 2. Fear of Terrorism in Japan and Taiwan

Active media sources, such as newspapers and the internet, along with passive media sources, including television, radio, and social media, are believed to significantly influence the heightened fear of terrorism. These sources were selected as independent variables for the study. The relationship between these independent variables and the fear of

terrorism, which serves as the dependent variable, was analyzed using quantitative methods. Data from the seventh wave of the World Values Survey were utilized, and the analysis was conducted using the Ordinal Logistic Regression (OLR) method. This study is centered on a single main research question that it seeks to address. The research question is as follows:

How do passive and active media sources differentially influence the fear of terrorism in low-risk countries such as Japan and Taiwan, and which demographic factors moderate this relationship?

The first part of this study reviews the academic literature that explores the various reasons behind the fear of terrorism. The next section details the methodology employed in analyzing the cases of Taiwan and Japan, along with the variables utilized in the study. The subsequent section presents a detailed analysis of the results from the Taiwan and Japan cases. The discussion section highlights the significance of the study's findings and examines their similarities and differences with the existing literature. The study concludes with a conclusion section.

### **Literature Review**

Terrorism is one of the most significant challenges facing the world in recent years. The terrorist attacks in the United States on September 11, 2001, in particular, have made the issue of terrorism more global and complex (Tulga, 2022). This increasing complexity and global nature of terrorism have also attracted the attention of the academic community, making it a closely followed topic in academic research.

As a result, the number of studies focusing on terrorism worldwide has been steadily increasing each year since the September 11 attacks. A significant portion of this research examines the strategies employed by terrorist organizations to achieve their objectives. The prevailing view in the literature is that terrorism seeks to create an atmosphere of fear and panic among individuals as a means to accomplish its goals (Schmid, 2005). In this context, Alexander (1976) argues that instilling fear in the public is a tool and strategy employed by terrorists to achieve their political objectives. The author asserts that terrorist organizations can attain their political goals by using violence against random civilian targets to intimidate the public and generate fear (Alexander, 1976). Thus, terrorist organizations frequently aim to foster a pervasive atmosphere of fear among the population (Weinberg, 2009).

Some studies argue that terrorist organizations foster an atmosphere of fear among the public by using traditional media channels, such as

newspapers and television (Wilkinson, 1997). In contrast, other researchers contend that these organizations exploit emerging technologies, including the internet and social media, to achieve similar objectives (Smelser, 2007; Oksanen et al., 2020; Näsi et al., 2020).

Accordingly, two primary perspectives exist in the literature regarding the relationship between terrorism and traditional media (Barnhurst, 1991). The first perspective asserts that terrorist organizations escalate the intensity of their attacks to attract media attention (Jetter, 2017; Nacos, 2000; Sui et al., 2017). The second perspective posits a "symbiotic" relationship between terrorism and the media (Wilkinson, 1997; Iqbal, 2015; Camphuijsen-Vissers, 2012). Proponents of the second view argue that the relationship between media and terrorism is complex and interdependent. The media seeks to produce compelling narratives, while terrorist organizations provide violent and frightening content that captures audience attention (Hoffman, 2017; Wilkinson, 1997). For instance, Hoffman (2017) suggests that through the media, terrorists can easily reach a global audience, while the media benefits from the sensationalism surrounding these attacks.

Both perspectives focusing on the relationship between terrorism and traditional media tools—such as newspapers, television, and radio—generally agree that traditional media plays a significant role in amplifying the negative effects of terrorism, particularly fear. Godefroidt and Langer (2018) argue that news consumption through mass media extends the scope and impact of terrorism, as the negative emotions triggered by exposure to terrorism-related news directly affect individuals. In particular, the development of mass media over the past 40 years has enabled the rapid dissemination of brutal images from terrorist incidents, allowing these graphic details to reach millions of homes almost instantaneously. This accessibility enables people to follow the violent details of attacks from the comfort of their own homes (Somer et al., 2005). Consequently, these details, disseminated through traditional media, heighten the fear of terrorism among individuals in many parts of the world (Lowe, 2015; Hoffman-Shrira, 2017; Hoffman, 2017; Mahat-Shamir et al., 2018).

However, some studies in the literature suggest that traditional media tools are ineffective in fostering an atmosphere of fear related to terrorism (Frey et al., 2009; Menkhaus, 2014). Nellis and Savage (2012) argue that there is no significant relationship between exposure to terrorism-related news through traditional media and personal fear of terrorism. In line with this, research indicating that traditional media has little to no effect

on individuals' fear of terrorism often emphasizes the role of emerging technologies, such as the internet and social media, rather than traditional media channels (Smelser, 2007). These studies contend that because the internet and social media are more personalized, exposure to shocking content on these platforms has a more direct impact compared to similar content encountered on television news or in newspapers (Oksanen et al., 2020). In other words, social media and the internet have a more immediate and negative influence on people's fear of terrorism and the behavioral changes that result from it compared to traditional media sources (Lemyre et al., 2005). Supporting this, Goodwin et al. (2017) found that individuals who engaged with social media and internet platforms following traumatic terrorist attacks experienced higher levels of terror-related stress and fear of terrorism than those who relied solely on traditional media. Similarly, Näsı et al. (2020) concluded that individuals who obtained news and information about terrorist attacks from social media and internet sources perceived terrorism as a greater personal threat compared to those who relied on traditional media channels. Lastly, Finseraas and Listhaug (2011) argue that the increasing speed of the internet and social media allows people to receive news about terrorist attacks from around the world more rapidly, leading to greater negative impacts on individuals, even if the attacks do not occur in their own country.

Some studies in the literature do not examine traditional and emerging media channels individually; instead, they categorize media sources as active and passive media channels, which is the method adopted by this study, to analyze the relationship between these media channels and the fear of terrorism (Williamson et al., 2019). Scholars who make this distinction emphasize that active media channels, such as newspapers and the internet, require effort and choice to access, whereas passive media channels, such as television, radio, and social media, demand less effort and are more easily consumed (Cooper-Tang, 2009; Rubin, 1993). In other words, while accessing information through active media channels necessitates effort and selectivity, passive media channels allow individuals to receive information with little to no effort or choice (Power et al., 2002). One of the most notable studies in this area was conducted by Williamson and colleagues (2019). They hypothesize that violent content encountered through passive media outlets, to which people are often exposed involuntarily, has a more profound negative effect on their fear of terrorism, whereas active media sources, which individuals intentionally choose to access, have a lesser impact on their fear of terrorism.

On the other hand, some studies argue that geographic proximity to terrorist attacks, rather than traditional or emerging media tools, or active and passive media sources, is the primary factor influencing fear of terrorism (Ruigrok-Van Atteveldt, 2007; Legewie, 2013). In this context, Mahat-Shamir et al. (2018) found that being physically close to a terrorist attack, rather than exposure to terrorism-related news through newspapers, television, social media, or the internet, was strongly associated with both psychological distress and fear of terrorism. Similarly, Böhmelt, Bove, and Gleditsch (2019) suggested that fear of terrorist attacks was highest among residents of the city where the attack occurred, as well as those living in nearby areas. Agerberg and Sohlberg (2021) also discovered that the 2017 terrorist attack in Stockholm had more severe negative effects on individuals residing in close geographic proximity to the attack.

Despite existing studies that explore various reasons for the fear of terrorism, few have investigated the factors contributing to this fear in countries such as Taiwan and Japan. These nations are not direct targets of global terrorism and have experienced relatively few terrorist attacks; nevertheless, they exhibit a high fear of terrorism. This gap in the literature will be partially addressed by the present study, which focuses on the cases of Taiwan and Japan and examines the underlying reasons for the high levels of fear regarding terrorism in these countries using quantitative methods. The methodology employed in this study will be explained in detail in the following section.

## **Research Design**

To address the primary research question, this study quantitatively examines the effects of active media sources, such as newspapers and the Internet, as well as passive media sources, including television, radio, and social media, on the fear of terrorism in Taiwan and Japan. It utilizes data from the seventh wave of the World Values Survey, a global research project involving numerous social scientists (Tulga, 2022). This survey investigates people's values, beliefs, and changes in their perspectives over time, as well as the views of individuals living in various countries regarding social and political developments (Tulga, 2022).

The seventh wave of the World Values Survey (2017–2022) was conducted in 62 countries due to the COVID-19 pandemic (Tulga, 2022). This wave of the survey includes 69,578 observations and 536 variables. However, since not all 536 variables are pertinent to this study, six key variables were selected for analysis. This study focuses exclusively on Japan and Taiwan,

so only the responses from participants in these two countries were considered from the overall sample. A total of 1,223 participants from Taiwan and 1,353 participants from Japan participated in the seventh wave of the survey, and the analysis concentrated on these groups.

Before conducting the regression analysis, it is essential to examine missing values to ensure the reliability of the results. In Taiwan, the variables with the highest number of missing values were "education level (Q275)" and "age (Q262)," each having only one missing value, which corresponds to a missing value percentage of 0.08%. All other variables for Taiwan had no missing value. In Japan, the variable with the most missing value was "fear of terrorist attacks (Q147)," which had 30 missing values, accounting for 2% of the total. The number of missing values for other variables ranged from 0 to 26, resulting in a missing value percentage between 0% and 2%. Scholars such as Bennett (2001) and Schafer (1999) suggest that a missing value rate below 10% is ideal for analysis. Therefore, the variables in this study are suitable for analysis, as the percentage of missing value across all variables ranges from 0% to 2%.

The analyses were conducted using four distinct models. The first two models focus on Japan, while the third and fourth models concentrate on Taiwan. In the first and third models, the independent variables are active media sources. In contrast, the independent variables in the second and fourth models are passive media sources. To differentiate between active and passive media channels utilized as independent variables in this study, the research conducted by Williamson and colleagues (2019) was referenced. Active media sources encompass information from the internet and daily newspapers, whereas passive media sources include social media, television news, and radio. In all models, the dependent variable is "fear of terrorist attacks." Additionally, demographic variables such as age, education level, and gender were included as control variables across all models.

Before conducting the regression analysis, a Cronbach's Alpha test was performed to assess the reliability of the selected variables. The Cronbach's Alpha coefficient for the first model, which examines the impact of active media sources in Japan on fear of terrorism, is 0.75. The coefficient for the second model, focusing on the effect of passive media sources in Japan, is 0.74. The third model, which investigates the influence of active media sources in Taiwan, has a Cronbach's Alpha coefficient of 0.76, while the fourth model, concentrating on passive media sources in Taiwan, yields a coefficient of 0.78. According to the literature, Cronbach's Alpha values between 0.60 and 0.80 are considered to indicate good



reliability (Tavakol-Dennick, 2011). The results obtained in this study confirm that the reliability of the variables selected for the regression analysis is adequate.

Since the dependent variable is categorical, the Ordinal Logistic Regression (OLR) method was employed for the analysis. The regression analysis comprises four primary models. The first two models concentrate on the Japanese case while the last two models focus on the Taiwanese case.

## Results

<b>Table 1. Ordinal Logistic Regression Analysis Results</b>				
<i>Dependent variable:</i>				
Fear of Terrorism				
	JAPAN		TAIWAN	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
<b>Active Sources</b>	0.012		0.005	
	(0.062)		(0.057)	
<b>Passive Sources</b>		0.166***		0.110*
		(0.060)		(0.060)
<b>Age</b>	-0.059**	-0.053**	-0.015	-0.016
	(0.029)	(0.027)	(0.017)	(0.017)
<b>Gender</b>	-0.728***	-0.750***	-0.594***	-0.605***
	(0.111)	(0.111)	(0.107)	(0.107)
<b>Education</b>	0.153	0.159	0.529***	0.569***
	(0.102)	(0.099)	(0.083)	(0.077)
<b>1   2</b>	-0.873**	-0.528	-0.141	0.196
	(0.370)	(0.344)	(0.344)	(0.312)
<b>2   3</b>	0.655*	1.011***	0.963***	1.302***
	(0.371)	(0.345)	(0.345)	(0.314)
<b>3   4</b>	2.487***	2.861***	2.681***	3.023***
	(0.393)	(0.370)	(0.356)	(0.327)
<b>Observations</b>	1,273	1,284	1,221	1,221
<b>Log Likelihood</b>	-1,373.516	-1,384.449	-1,508.901	-1,507.214
<i>Note:</i>	*p<0.1; **p<0.05; ***p<0.01			

As a result of the regression analysis, the factors contributing to the heightened fear of terrorism in Japan and Taiwan were partially clarified.

The findings from the Ordinal Logistic Regression (OLR) analysis, which used passive and active media sources as independent variables to explain fear of terrorism in these countries, revealed several important insights. Notably, there was no statistically significant relationship between fear of terrorism and active media sources, such as newspapers and the internet, in either Japan (first model) or Taiwan (third model). In other words, active media sources did not significantly influence the fear of terrorism in either country.

On the other hand, a positive and statistically significant relationship was found between passive media sources—such as television, radio, and social media—which served as the independent variables in the second model focusing on Japan and the fourth model focusing on Taiwan, and fear of terrorism. The results indicate that greater exposure to passive media sources significantly heightens fear of terrorism in Japan ( $\beta = 0.166$ ,  $p < 0.01$ ). Similarly, in Taiwan, exposure to passive media sources has a positive, albeit marginal, statistical effect on fear of terrorism ( $\beta = 0.110$ ,  $p < 0.1$ ); however, this effect is weaker than that observed in Japan.

As a result of analyzing the effects of control variables such as age, gender, and education level on the fear of terrorism, it is evident that these variables exhibit different or negligible effects in the two cases. First, there is a statistically significant, strong, and negative relationship between gender and fear of terrorism in both Taiwan and Japan. In other words, women are more fearful of terrorism than men in both Taiwan ( $\beta = -0.594$ ,  $p < 0.01$ ) and Japan ( $\beta = -0.728$ ,  $p < 0.01$ ). Second, there is a positive and statistically significant relationship between education level and fear of terrorism in Taiwan ( $\beta = 0.529$ ,  $p < 0.01$ ), indicating that fear of terrorism increases as education level decreases. However, this relationship is not observed in Japan, where no statistically significant relationship between education level and fear of terrorism was found.

Finally, in the case of Japan, there exists a negative and statistically significant relationship between age and fear of terrorism ( $\beta = -0.059$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ), indicating that younger individuals in Japan exhibit lower levels of fear regarding terrorism. In contrast, no statistically significant relationship between age and fear of terrorism was found in Taiwan.

To enhance the visualization and comparison of these findings, the regression coefficients for passive and active media sources, along with the variables of age, gender, and education, are presented for both Japan and Taiwan. This method facilitates a clearer comparison of the effects across the two countries.

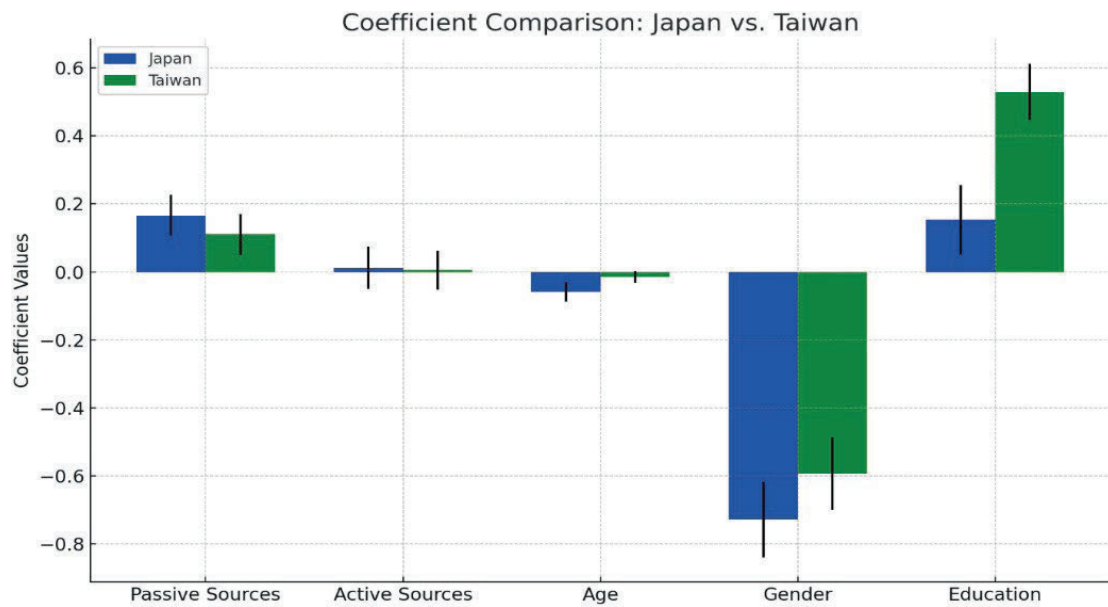


Figure 3. Coefficient Comparison: Japan and Taiwan

The impact of active media sources on the fear of terrorism is close to zero and statistically insignificant in both Japan and Taiwan, suggesting that these sources do not significantly influence individuals' fear of terrorism. In contrast, fear of terrorism tends to increase with greater exposure to passive media sources in both countries; however, this effect is more pronounced in Japan than in Taiwan. The analysis also reveals significantly negative coefficients for gender in both Japan and Taiwan, indicating that women report significantly higher levels of fear regarding terrorism than men in these countries. Additionally, the negative coefficients associated with age, particularly in Japan, suggest that younger individuals generally experience lower levels of fear regarding terrorism. Lastly, while education does not have a statistically significant impact on fear of terrorism in Japan, higher levels of education in Taiwan are associated with lower levels of fear.

## Discussion

As a result of the regression analysis, several important findings emerged regarding Japan and Taiwan. This section will summarize these findings, discuss their significance, and examine the differences or similarities with existing literature.

The first finding indicates that active media sources do not have a statistically significant effect on the fear of terrorism in either country. Conversely, passive media sources exhibit a positive and statistically significant relationship with fear of terrorism in both Japan and Taiwan.

However, while passive media sources tend to increase fear of terrorism in both countries, this effect is statistically stronger in Japan than in Taiwan. These findings contrast with those of Williamson et al. (2019), who found that obtaining information about terrorism from active media sources heightened individuals' concerns about terrorism and increased their fear of potential terrorist attacks in their country. In contrast, passive media sources were found to exert a weaker influence than active sources (Williamson et al., 2019). In other words, individuals who rely on active media sources experience higher levels of fear of terrorism (Williamson et al., 2019).

Another significant finding of the study is the strong, negative, and statistically significant relationship between gender and fear of terrorism in Taiwan and Japan. Specifically, women exhibit a greater fear of terrorism than men in both countries. These results are consistent with numerous studies in the existing literature. Over the past 25 years, academic research has identified gender as the most reliable predictor of fear related to crime and terrorism, with the gender variable being twice as strong as other demographic variables (Ferraro, 1995). Furthermore, Nellis (2009) found that women are more afraid of terrorism and perceive the risk of terrorism to be significantly higher than that perceived by men.

The results examining the relationship between education, age, and fear of terrorism differ between Japan and Taiwan. Therefore, the findings are consistent with some studies in the literature while diverging from others. In Taiwan, there is a statistically significant positive relationship between education and fear of terrorism. In other words, participants with lower levels of education in Taiwan exhibit a heightened fear of terrorism. This finding is consistent with the results of several studies in the literature. For instance, Boateng (2019) identified a statistically significant relationship between education level and fear of terrorism. Similarly, a study conducted in the United States also found a statistically significant relationship between education level and fear of terrorism (Brück-Müller, 2010).

On the other hand, in the case of Japan, no statistically significant relationship was found between education level and fear of terrorism. This finding also aligns with some studies in the literature. Çınğı and Suğur (2020) concluded that fear of terrorism in Türkiye did not exhibit a statistically significant relationship with demographic variables, including education level.

Lastly, in the Japanese context, there exists a positive and statistically significant relationship between age and fear of terrorism. In other words,

younger participants in Japan tend to exhibit lower levels of fear regarding terrorism. However, the age variable does not significantly influence fear of terrorism in Taiwan. This finding aligns with the results of Alsawalqa (2021) in the Taiwanese context; however, the findings concerning age in the Japanese case diverge from theirs. The authors reported that age and income did not lead to statistically significant differences in perceptions of terrorism among university students (Alsawalqa, 2021). Similarly, Tuba Gün Çınğı and Nadir Suğur (2020), whose findings contrast with those regarding the relationship between age and fear of terrorism in Japan, concluded that age and income were not statistically associated with fear of terrorism. Nevertheless, the findings in the Taiwanese context are consistent with those of Çınğı and Suğur (2020).

## **Conclusion**

Terrorism has been one of the most significant threats to countries worldwide for many years. With advancements in technology, terrorism has become increasingly global and complex (Tulga, 2022). Today, the adverse effects of terrorism are not limited to the countries or regions where terrorist organizations carry out their attacks; individuals residing in countries that are not direct targets of global terrorism are also negatively affected (Tulga, 2022). Two notable examples of this phenomenon are Japan and Taiwan.

Although Taiwan and Japan are not primary targets of global terrorist organizations and have experienced relatively few terrorist attacks compared to many other nations, the fear of terrorism in both countries remains significantly high. However, the existing literature includes limited academic studies that address the elevated levels of fear of terrorism in Japan, Taiwan, and similar countries, despite the low incidence of terrorist attacks.

To address this gap in the literature, this study focuses on Japan and Taiwan, examining the influence of active media sources and passive media sources on the heightened fear of terrorism. To explore these relationships, the statistical relation between fear of terrorism and both active and passive media sources in Japan and Taiwan was analyzed using regression analysis, utilizing data from the seventh wave of the World Values Survey.

As a result of the analysis, five significant findings were identified. Some of these findings align with existing studies in the literature, while others diverge from previous research. The first notable finding is that there is

no statistical relationship between active media sources and the fear of terrorism in both the Taiwan and Japan cases.

On the other hand, in both the cases of Taiwan and Japan, there exists a positive and statistically significant relationship between passive media sources and the fear of terrorism. However, this effect is statistically stronger in Japan. In other words, it was observed that as the exposure of Taiwanese and Japanese participants to passive media sources increased, their fear of terrorism also heightened.

The third, fourth, and fifth significant findings of the study examine the relationship between control variables—such as age, gender, and education level—and the fear of terrorism. The third notable finding, as revealed by numerous studies in the existing literature, indicates a statistically significant, strong, and negative relationship between gender and fear of terrorism in the contexts of Taiwan and Japan. Specifically, women exhibit a greater fear of terrorism than men in both Japan and Taiwan.

The fourth finding pertains to the relationship between education level and fear of terrorism. The regression analysis revealed a statistically significant, positive, and strong relationship between education level and fear of terrorism in Taiwan. This positive relationship indicates that fear of terrorism increases as education levels decrease in Taiwan. Conversely, no statistically significant relationship was identified between education level and fear of terrorism in Japan.

The fifth and final finding pertains to the relationship between age and fear of terrorism. In Japan, a negative and statistically significant relationship was identified, indicating that younger individuals tend to exhibit lower levels of fear regarding terrorism. Conversely, in Taiwan, no statistically significant relationship was observed between age and fear of terrorism.

In summary, the analyses revealed that passive media sources, such as television, radio, and social media, significantly influence the heightened fear of terrorism in Taiwan and Japan, with this effect being more pronounced in Japan than in Taiwan. Conversely, active media sources, such as newspapers and the internet, were found to have no statistically significant impact on the fear of terrorism in both cases. Furthermore, female participants exhibited a greater fear of terrorism than male counterparts in both cases. The effects of other control variables, such as age and education level, varied between the two cases.

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