THE CHEMNITZ RAID
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KEY EVENTS

Seven members of the German far-right group Revolution Chemnitz have been arrested in a raid by German authorities. The group was accused of preparing to conduct terrorist activities against migrants over the past several months. Weapons and computer hard drives were also confiscated by the authorities conducting the raid. The seven men arrested had previously been involved in an attack on foreigners in mid-September. While one can assume the threat posed by Revolution Chemnitz has been at least mitigated, incidents such as this appear to be playing themselves out across the West.

NATURE OF DISCUSSION

This brief examines the case of the Chemnitz raid on the 1st of October 2018. The justification behind the raid on the group Revolution Chemnitz and the events of the past few months leading up to this incident. It can be argued that groups such as Revolution Chemnitz are exclusive to neither Germany or Europe, and that cases of group-on-group conflict such as this, violate the state's monopoly on violence, demonstrating how the fifth generation of warfare has permeated into our societies. It seems unlikely that Canada would be immune to this trend and this briefing concludes by drawing the incident back to the West coast.

BACKGROUND

The German city of Chemnitz has been an epicentre of both right wing and counter demonstrations since late summer 2018. The events began following the murder of a German man by two asylum seekers which spurred right wing extremist and anti-migrant activity, throughout August and September. Right wing marches in Chemnitz have been attended by German political figures, arguably adding a sense of legitimacy to right wing groups in the country.

Despite the counter marches in Chemnitz and an anti-racism concert with an attendance of over 60,000, anti-immigrant sentiment appears to remain particularly high in much of the former DDR.

On the first of October 2018, German police carried out raids in several cities including Chemnitz, seeking to prevent a terrorist incident from the terrorist group Revolution Chemnitz. The group had allegedly been attempting to acquire semi-automatic weapons and other dangerous arms.

It is often argued that this incident, and those sparking the events in Chemnitz, can be tied back to the still contentious decision by the German government to allow unprecedented levels of migrants into the country over the past several years. If such a toxic environment has indeed been created, where not only migrants, but also German citizens feel unrepresented and even abandoned by their government. Then it would follow that cultural tensions and identities would begin to clash.

KEY POINTS OF DISCUSSION AND WEST COAST PERSPECTIVES

The members of Revolution Chemnitz have previously been described as skinheads, neo-Nazis and hoodlums. The group appears to have acted independent of any state or political organization, unified instead by a shared animosity towards migrants. It is argued that Revolution Chemnitz organized itself against those of other nationalities and political views, collected weapons and planned to perform terrorist actions towards their perceived enemies. If this is indeed a case of one group identity attempting to take violent action against another group in order to cause a change in society, this incident could therefore be considered a case of fifth generation warfare.

This incident is relevant to the West Coast of Canada as we too have a large immigrant population, increasing immigration rates and, arguably, a sizeable presence of active far-right groups. Though not wanting to confuse the definitions of immigrant and migrant, it is nonetheless possible that some may see their identity threatened by increasing levels of newcomers to the country.

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