

Betrayal → Treason → Acts of War

Small acts of betrayal can often be forgiven, much like microaggressions. Individually, they may appear minor, ambiguous, or easily dismissed. However, when such betrayals are committed collectively by large numbers of people, their impact is exponentially increased. Betraying the American people one by one may be obscured or ignored, but when a substantial portion of a nation turns its back on its citizens and engages in coordinated acts of betrayal, the conduct rises to the level of treason.

Treason in the United States is not a charge taken lightly. One reason for this is that criminal prosecutions in this country are relatively rare; in many contexts, fewer than one percent of incidents result in formal criminal charges. While the United States has one of the highest incarceration rates in the world, it simultaneously prosecutes selectively, which speaks to the seriousness and scale required for criminal cases to proceed. Violence in America often begins verbally and then extends into other realms. Although free speech is rightly celebrated and protected, suppression is subjugation, and subjugation is a form of slavery. At the same time, verbal violence can cross into the criminal realm when it involves threats, harassment, intimidation, the invocation of fear for personal safety, or the incitement of violence. In such cases, legal consequences may include misdemeanors, felonies, incarceration, or, in the case of treason, even the death penalty.

These distinctions are important for understanding betrayal, treason, and violence, whether spiritual or physical, as they are defined by a nation. A country is its people: its citizens, its natives, and those to whom the territory fundamentally belongs. Purchasing property within a territory does not confer ownership of the nation itself; such ownership is, in effect, borrowed from the people who share it. This principle explains why a government may seize or reclaim property owned by a foreign national if that individual commits certain crimes, including fraud, trafficking, assault, smuggling, espionage, theft, the targeting or sabotage of citizens, or acts of betrayal such as levying war against the nation or providing aid and comfort to its enemies. The death penalty is often mentioned first in discussions of treason, both as a warning and as a statement of seriousness. The United States treats crimes committed against its citizens with particular gravity.

At small doses, betrayal is often categorized as abuse. While it may be condemned, it does not always result in criminal prosecution. However, when betrayal is carried out by a mass of individuals, under any banner, including activism or politics, questions of treason arise. When treason is committed collectively, it begins to resemble acts of war rather than isolated offenses. In this way, microaggressions become macroaggressions, and individual betrayals evolve into movements of sabotage or treason. Even when carried out under the guise of activism or political engagement, such actions may still constitute acts of war. Historically, treason is most easily identified within political and activist spheres, where it becomes visible and definable from both a legal and a citizen standpoint.

From the perspective of the citizen, the essential questions are grounded and ethical: Do I feel harmed? Do I feel fearful or intimidated? How do these acts affect my rights, freedoms,

and liberties? Do I feel coerced or forced? Am I being sabotaged or subjugated? Who is responsible for the harm, an individual or a group? Is it a clan, a movement, an organization, or multiple organizations? Has my humanity been considered? Have my autonomy and dignity been respected? Are my personal boundaries honored? Is my community threatened? Is my country threatened?

As a pastor, I seek to answer these questions as faithfully and clearly as possible. Taken together, they point to concerns about humanity under threat, territory contested, borders and boundaries disregarded, autonomy violated, and dignity harmed. Where suppression and subjugation of the American people are present, and evidence suggests that they are, these questions find their answers first at the level of the individual, second within communities, and third at the level of the nation. Ultimately, it is the nation that has the final authority.

The Union of Saints arrives at these conclusions through careful review and documentation. In many cases, we are updating paperwork rather than issuing novel judgments, as current and previous governments have already established the legal frameworks and rulings. Nonetheless, we may identify failures in prior administrations and continue to raise necessary questions. A government has a duty to its people above all else.

This paper addresses betrayals and acts of violence that lead to treason, and treason that escalates into acts of war, along with their legal penalties and the considerations faced by citizens.