PHENOMENON OF NEW INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM: INFERENCES DRAWN FROM THE LITERATURE REVIEW

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Abstract

International terrorism is one of the most significant today threat for all the countries all around the globe including one which are most powerful and most developed. Terrorism is not a new phenomenon for this era. Somehow, People throughout history were facing to this phenomenon. Nowadays with regard of globalization, developing speed and the flow of information speed are increasing. At the same time international community is confronting to a new form of terrorism which is much more powerful, well organized, deeply ideological, has no care about modern community morality and with very effective operation. Present study is trying to deal with this question which is: what are the characteristics of the new form of terrorism and how globalization Impassion terrorist to do such an action?

Keywords: Globalization, Terrorism, Global Threat, Phenomenon, Inferences

Introduction

The goal of this research is knowing the origin of "phenomenon of new international terrorism" and relation of this phenomenon with structures and scientific technologic, communications, economic and social developments in the era of globalization and discussing and examining its origin, areas and special motives in different forms of terrorism which is the product of the troubled societies and world.

Global Terrorism is a phenomenon of the 20th Century. Today few countries can claim immunity from attacks on non-combative targets. "We people of the post-cold war era have grown up with – and almost become used to the vision of acts of terrorism as tragically being part of someone's daily life. If it does not affect us directly, we see the outcome on other people on the television (Medd and Goldstein, 1999)." When a bomb in a village market place, on an airplane, in a building, or on a bus wounds or kills innocent victims who have done the

perpetrators no harm, the condemnation of the acts of terrorism is even louder and the sense of outrage even greater.

Like all political phenomena, "terrorism is defined by the duality between professed ideas and their implementation. In addition, like all political phenomena, terrorism exists only in a cultural and historical context. For three decades, the activities of terrorist movements were closely linked to Marxist ideology; Marxist terrorist groups are in the minority today, whereas they predominated in the 1970s and 1980s. The same applies to the entire history of terrorist movements, shaped by the political context in which they are born, live, and die. While terrorism is a phenomenon that is continuously reinventing itself, the lack of continuity between each generation of terrorists often entails a signal break with the past (Chaliand, 2007)."

Terrorism as a process for utilizing knowingly psychic terror and physical violence by the independent governments, people and sub national groups for achieving strategic and political goals against dominant talks is not a new subject in the history. Raymond Aron (1966) had a felicitous way of getting to the significant part: "A terrorist organization is virtually by definition opposed to the state apparatus. The nature of that opposition often defines a movement's character. Where the state apparatus is essentially rational, the terrorist party will tend to appeal strongly to emotion. Where the state machinery operates on the basis of "realist" policies and an understanding of the balance of power, the terrorist movement will imbue its politics with a powerful moral tone (whose code varies depending on the ideology in play) and a weak-versus-strong strategy reliant for the most part on its Psychological impact on the adversary. A violent action is deemed terrorist when its psychological effects are disproportionate to its purely physical result (Morgan, 2004)."

Today's terrorism is what specialists call group or bottom-up terrorism, but top-down (state) terrorism has been far more prevalent throughout history. It enjoyed its heyday in the twentieth century with the advent of totalitarianism. In terms of victims, top-down terrorism has taken a vastly higher toll than its bottom-up counterpart has.

Perspective of Terrorism

Terrorism is not new, and even though it has been used since the beginning of recorded history, it can be relatively hard to define. Terrorist acts or the threats of such actions have been in existence for millennia. Despite having a history longer than the modern nation-state, the use of terror by governments and those that contest their power remains poorly understood. "The history of terrorism is a history of well-known and historically significant individuals, entities, and

incidents associated, whether rightly or wrongly, with terrorism. Scholars agree that terrorism is a disputed term, and very few of those labeled terrorists describe themselves as such. It is common for opponents in a violent conflict to describe the other side as terrorists. Those called terrorists can often be referred to as militants, paramilitaries, guerrillas, resistance movements or freedom fighters. However, they are united in the range of tactics they commonly employ, which involves non-systemic covert or semi-covert warfare, driven by an ideological basis often-political religious or socially based. They often seek to use propaganda of the deed to cause a psychological impact alongside the actions themselves to drive the aspired change (Burgess, 2003)."

As a matter of fact, today with globalization of communications, increasing development of new technologies, especially "information revolution" and "mass media revolution", science and economics has enabled all the people including terrorists to achieve new technologies so that it has facilitated communications, more and faster organization in the international level, and generally, globalization of terrorism and has caused terrorist targeting easier and at the same time, confronting with it more difficult. Scientific and technological growth and development, communications and economics have provided new abilities for terrorists so that they can change and define their goals from sub national and even national to transnational, international and global level (Cronin, 2002). This has created a kind of terrorism that can emerge individually and act in the global level hidden and asymmetrically and can affect the whole life of individuals, communities and societies all over the world. Uniqueness and vastness of activities and effectiveness of new terrorism in the history is in a form that it is known the new phenomenon of the present era. Because of emergence of such a spreading and effective phenomenon which can threat the general order of societies, stability of countries and international and global order, the present era is known as terrorism era.

With emergence of Al-Qaeda, during the last decade terrorism in the new form started gradually and now it has become a global problem especially in European countries, Middle East and the Islam world, and in a way that actually it has become affixed and permanent part of contemporary life, and it had affected policies of the countries in the level of sub national, national and transnational; because it has brought various threats such as threat to the global security and welfare of ordinary people, stability of governmental system, health and speed of economic development and expansion and even survival of democracy for our era (Burgat, 2008).Al-Qaeda is a terrorist movement which originally established gradually by some Arab resistant and also by the support of The USA and some

Arab countries long time back for the reason of fighting against occupation Afghanistan by Soviet Union(Crenshaw, 1987).

Nowadays, terrorists are more organized, more professional and more equipped than their counterparts in the past. The new phenomenon of terrorism can fight in information, internet, nuclear, biologic, chemical (NBC) wars or everything else which can be changed to weapons of mass destruction (As in the event of Sep. 11, 2001, we witnessed that passenger planes changed to collective massacre weapon) to achieve their goals in national and international levels(Calhoun, 2004). Even the scope of this threat can be extended to the countries, which from geographical viewpoint are apparently far from the center of crisis. This case in the local, national and international level is a serious threat for all countries. So global terrorism and especially Al-Qaeda are not only a national and international threat, but because of globalization of security, these threats are fundamentally transnational and global threat.

Therefore, it seems that knowing the nature of globalized terrorist's functions and the process and the way of utilizing tools that globalization has provided them is obligatory; Because the world has faced a different and developing terrorism in present conditions, and there is no remedy except knowing this expanding and global phenomenon to keep security and stability.

After Soviet Union collapsed, a great part of motives of different terrorist organizations disappeared in the world. Logically we expected that paying attention to terrorism is reduced compared to the past. However, the events following the collapse of Soviet Union caused more discussions about the subject of terrorism, and many books and articles were written in this regard.

Secondary Sources

In the light of importance of studying new terrorism phenomenon, different institutes such as International Terrorism Studies Institute in New York, International Center for Terrorism Studies (ICTS) in Virginia, and Mackenzie Institute for the Study of Terrorism, Revolution and Propaganda in Toronto were established; the main goal of this study centers was presenting books by outstanding experts about different subjects such as cause and control of terrorism, national, regional and global landscapes about terrorism and special case studies which have been written.

Most of these books and articles have been published in US and European countries; other countries have fewer shares. Each of these books has considered terrorism from different dimensions such as General Qualitative Analyses, Psychological Research on Causes of Terrorism and also Empirical Analyses.

However, some of these studies have considered independently the theme of terrorism, globalization and how global terrorism utilizes new tools. This research tries to consider those as well. Although human history is full of terrorist acts, but current era (the late twentieth and twenty-first centuries) is called the Age of Terrorism.

Inferences

The outcome of the present study brings out that the globalization of Terrorism phenomenon is the result of many factors. Some of these factors are:

1. Project or process of globalization and also new world order (in light of the new technologies of information and communication) are the first causes of globalization of terrorism. This issue should be explained by considering US long-term and strategic policy and its traditional allies specifically. Because globalization and new world order provide US strategic interests. Although this strategy has many benefits for the U.S., but also has negative consequences for this country; as former US President, Bill Clinton has said:

> "Globalization process has become us vulnerable against some of
> the oldest problems; terrorism, drug traffickers and organized
> criminals in the twenty-first century, has encountered us with new
> security challenges".

2. Terrorism in parallel with the development of information technology, communications, science, education and the economy, has grown. The increasing development of new technologies and especially "information revolution" and "media revolution" facilitate flexible organization, and surprise action of terrorism at the international level. Modern technologies, makes terrorist targeting easier and deal with it more difficult. Current age is the age of intense and short-term conflicts. Now we have come to an age where the war is not done by classic armies and in fact" terrorism" has become "a new form of war". Thus, in the present age (the age of terrorism) criminal gangs, militias, terrorist organizations, and even individuals will become engaged in postmodern asymmetrical wars which determine the war with their own ontology and epistemology.

Formal and symmetrical wars also have been changed; so that they can be called knowledge-based wars. This means that the microelectronics, accurate ammunition, invisible and hiding technology, sensing capacity and C4I

(command, control, communications, computers and intelligence)[1] in a more advanced form can be applied to solve the historical problem of the invisibility of battlefields and made them accessible for commanders who their goals are to promote reaction capabilities to battlefield changes.

3. Other factors of globalization of terrorism are removing asymmetric and order of international relations after collapse of the Soviet Union. One of the effects of this phenomenon (which created the asymmetry of military, economic, political, cultural and international level) is systematic asymmetric-making of tools, tactics and strategies by terrorist organizations' violence.

4. In the industrial age, the government organizations due to having monopoly of advanced industrial equipment, such as eavesdropping equipment, surveillance cameras, communication tools and information devices and ... (Because of cost) had industrial supremacy over their non-state challengers. The facilities were used for the survival of the states. But in the era of globalization, communication, science, technology and economy have made possible public access including terrorists to these achievements and made the out of governments' monopoly. Therefore, the power is transferring; in a way that some experts argue that today, unlike the past, non-state challengers have become superior to the state agents.

Neumann, Peter (2009) in explaining this issue pointed out that this technology is accessible to the public, has finished states' monopoly on the collection and management of massive amounts of data and has deprived states of their previous respect, status, position and grandeur.

Also Thomas Friedman (1999) writes that when globalization happens, and the intertwined waves of scientific, computing, smallization and communications disperse and small groups and individuals, no matter of their location, can have rapid and inexpensive accessibility to the furthest parts of the world. This situation enables people of goodwill to create their favorable world and participate in the global economy more that before; but meanwhile enables people who hate the United States to attack it more than before and with greater intensity.

5. Another important feature of the global terrorism is relating deadly violence relating with media and role of media in broadcasting its news. Strategy of new international terrorism is that without the use of mass media, damaging economic infrastructures will have little impact. They use of violence as the raw material of

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[1] C4I (Command/Control/Communication/Computer and Intelligence M.Kaldor.The Baroque Arsenal (New York, 1981). The phrase The military after next, is from P. Bracken, The military After next, The Washington Quarterly, Vol, No 16. (1993)

mass media. Thereafter, all communications and public or private media throughout the world will discuss about it.

Newspapers, radios, TVs, internet, sites and news agencies broadcast news of dreadful terrorist attacks throughout the world; in a way that has put our routine life in an atmosphere of information and signs containing fears of state or non-state terrorist attacks. In fact, terrorism through the mass media, especially television, attacks and penetrates to darkest parts of our minds and dominates horror and fear on us.

6. The sequence of power transferring faced us with a new form of terrorism that the whole relations of power, actions and reactions of terrorism and counter-terrorism have been transformed into the form that has no instance and example in conventional wars.

7. One of the other causes of globalization of terrorism is selecting very developed industrial societies (postindustrial) as a terrorist target. Selecting these countries as a target is determining, because citizens of these countries live in prosperity and security due to new industrial technologies. These citizens are willing to pay a heavy price for their safety and comfort and try to change weak and inefficient government through legal institutions. Definitely administrations of such communities due to public pressure and NGOs are forced to protect the life, safety and welfare of their citizens by paying money or giving political concessions. Obviously, these communities are incapable and vulnerable to suicide attacks, because although their enemy is very weak in terms of war tools and weapons, but this enemy by risking its life has become an unconquerable force.

8. Until recently, most researchers and commentators argue that terrorists prefer politically and tactically to use dynamite and light weapons to nuclear, chemical, biological weapons. But viewpoints changed very quickly. When terrorists gave up hijacking and decided to destroy them, viewpoints changed and led to draw the world's attention to terrorist operations.

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