

Global Threats: Understanding Terrorism & International Security

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Abstract: Terrorism as it relates to global security is a contentious and important topic that this research addresses. Terrorism is a complex phenomenon that encompasses a terrifying kind of violence, a danger, a strategy for attaining goals, or an attempt to make the victim fearful. Terrorism is also ruthless and does not adhere to humanitarian norms, where publicity plays a crucial role in the terrorists' strategy of killing innocent people and destroying valuable property, spreading panic throughout even the most remote regions of the world. Though terrorism has been studied in great detail, there is still much to learn about how it develops and what keeps it going. By analysing the dynamics of terrorism and its effects on global security, this study seeks to close this gap. Therefore, the primary aim of this research is to enhance our understanding regarding terrorism and international security through the examination of factors contributing to terrorist activities, the influence of terrorism on the stability and peace of states, and the efficacy of counterterrorism practices. Using a mix of literature research and case studies, this study employs a qualitative technique. Among the many things this investigation found was an exhaustive examination of the causes of terrorism, including religious fanaticism, official support, and social and political concerns. Additionally, the study aims to assess the insights into the effectiveness of current counter-terrorism practices, such as military interventions, intelligence-sharing, and community engagement programs.

Key Words: Terrorism, International Security, Violence, Humanitarian Norms, Counter-Terrorism Practices.

1. INTRODUCTION :

The Latin word "terror" is the origin of the English term "terrorism" & other related words. The Indo-European root "tras" means "shivering caused by fear" & is where the word "tras" is derived from. Planned use of physical force or threats of physical force to achieve political, religious, or ideological ends is central to the story. In contrast to "terrorism," which denotes the conduct of terror, governance by intimidation, tyranny, or the brutal destruction of enemies, the foreign word dictionary defines "terror" as the inciting of fear, horror, dread, or the use of physical violence to destroy enemies.

The repercussions of 9/11 will probably last for quite some time. assaults against US military bases in Saudi Arabia & two US embassies in Africa were among the many acts of international terrorism that had occurred in the years leading up to that day, as were earlier assaults on the WTC & the USS Cole in Yemen. Terrorist attacks have also been carried out successfully in several nations, including Bali & Spain. The 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Centre in New York City, on the other hand, are noteworthy. It took place in the United States, was the worst terrorist assault in US history, killed more than 3,000 people, & demolished a symbol of American business & capitalism (Burke, 2005).

Due to heightened anxiety, fewer people are taking flights to & from other nations, which has lowered tourism & air travel overall. After the terrorist attacks in Bali & Madrid, as well as the discovery of bombs along sections of the French train system, Americans are reducing their travel, even to seemingly secure countries like Canada. As a result of these events, intergroup conflicts have grown both domestically & internationally; for example, Muslims & people of Arab heritage have reported seeing more animosity from non-Muslims. Acts of violence & pre-emptive strikes against nations believed to provide sanctuary to or assist terrorists have recently been the subject of heated controversy in some nations. Some think it's never acceptable to use violence to stop terrorists, while others insist that they must do whatever it takes,

including resorting to violence, if they want to see terrorist violence reduced over time. Although target nations' security has been bolstered after 9/11, the extent to which these nations are now ready for catastrophes of this kind remains unclear. In the wake of the Madrid bombings in early 2004, the European Union (EU) decided to implement border security measures similar to those of the United States & Canada. It is not known how many ports have fulfilled these criteria or what the consequences of failing to do so would be, even though American & Canadian intelligence agencies have strengthened their information-sharing agreements in the wake of 9/11.

2. Objectives

- To critically analyse the social constructivist perspective on ISIS, elucidating its implications for international terrorism and global security.
- To examine the role of international organizations in addressing key factors contributing to terrorism and enhancing international security measures.

3. Methodology

The methodology composed of broadly reading the most relevant literature on terrorism, international security, and social constructivism. The author used the primary and secondary data as a source, which accessed from the reputable sources such as academic journals, governmental reports, and publications from international organizations. This research was executed in accordance with the social constructivist paradigm which considers as a priority the study and the analysis of the phenomenon of international terrorist activities, with a special case study of Islamic State and its global impacts on the security. Inquiry to fundamental ideas of social constructivism was made into an epistemology of terrorist identities and across the phenomenon of international organizations working against this tribulation.

4. Literature review

4.1 Terrorism

By definition, terrorist attacks aim to achieve political goals & advancements by causing disruptions to normality & the day-to-day lives of people & businesses (McCauley and Moskalenko, 2008; Keshavarz, 2015). There has to be proof of purpose to compel, frighten, or communicate a frightening message for such an occurrence to be deemed a terrorist act. Moreover, the scope of the action must be broader than lawful military operations (Hodgson and Tadros, 2013; Miller and Feltes, 2021). To achieve these goals, terrorists often resort to violent acts, either against the state or against people (Cronin, 2002b, 2002a; Finlan, 2003). The literature identifies three primary forms of terrorism: destructive, demonstrative, & suicide (LaFree, 2010; Blomberg, Hess and Tan, 2011). In most cases, the goals of demonstrative terrorism are to attract recruits, vent frustrations, & win over outside sympathizers. Terrorists resort to destructive tactics to rally support for their cause & intimidate their opponents (Denzin, 2007). Suicide terrorism aims to shock the public to the core & demonstrate their unwavering commitment to the cause. The latter group's insurgents take action because they think there's no other way to speak out against the tyrannical powers they're battling. Terrorism may thus take many forms, from lone gunmen & suicide bombers to large-scale, coordinated efforts to destabilize & divide whole communities (Waugh, 2005; McCauley and Moskalenko, 2008; Peleg *et al.*, 2011; Hoffman, 2017).

Terrorism causes a decline in incoming foreign direct investment (FDI) & foreign assistance, as well as heightened uncertainty, a lack of security, & a limitation in overhead societal institutions (Abrahms, 2006, 2012, 2013). However, the effectiveness of terrorism is outside the scope of this specific analysis. Because of the opportunities they provide & the prominence they have in many communities, entrepreneurs & firms are sometimes singled out as particular targets of terrorist attacks (Savun and Phillips, 2009). Resilience is of utmost importance due to these constraints. To be resilient, one must be able to both prepare for & recover from terrorist assaults (Gaibullov and Sandler, 2011). To lessen the impact of violence, resilience mechanisms are established. Up to the state level, these structures & behaviours may be seen at the individual, community, & business levels. Scholars & practitioners alike must comprehend the many strategies that actors at all levels might use to become more resilient in the face of rising terrorist assaults throughout the globe (Kuipera, 2012; Meierrieks and Gries, 2013; Davis, 2014).

4.2 An analysis of ISIS from a social constructivist perspective, illustrating the danger posed by international terrorism

Many people throughout the world now see the ISIS organization as the biggest danger facing human communities today (Poushter and Manevich, 2017). The Pew Research Centre revealed that among Europeans & Middle Easterners, ISIS is the most pressing security worry. Over 70% of the people in many nations, including the US, France, Germany, the UK, & Italy, said that the Islamic terrorist organization ISIS posed the biggest danger to global terrorism (Cronin, 2015). The importance of this lies in the fact that it shows how governments see international terrorism as their biggest

danger; nonetheless, questions remain about whether or not ISIS is a terrorist organization. Audrey Cronin argues in her piece titled "ISIS is not a terrorist group" that ISIS & the Levant does not conform to the conventional definition of a terrorist organization (Kagan, 2016). Cronin draws parallels between ISIS & Al-Qaeda but maintains that the Islamic militant group is fundamentally different due to its 30,000-strong fighter force, capable military, ability to finance its complex operations, & "holding territory in Iraq & Syria," none of which are hallmarks of conventional terrorist organizations. "If ISIS is something, it is a pseudo-state led by a conventional army," is what Cronin says. This is significant for 2 reasons. Firstly, it shows that ISIS does not match the profile of a conventional terrorist organization, which is a source of concern for many nations (Kagan, 2016). People worry about global terrorism, & ISIS is a prime illustration of that anxiety, but the organization is much more sophisticated & sophisticated than traditional terrorist organizations, so this becomes all the more important (Dreazen, 2014). As a result, this raises some basic questions, such as why was ISIS deemed a terrorist organization, whether is it fair to identify them as such, & what exactly is wrong with using the term "terrorism"? While ISIS does indeed achieve its aims through fear & bloodshed, the organization's structure does not conform to the most fundamental understandings of terrorism. Because of this, they have more issues, such as: should governments treat ISIS the same way they treat terrorist organizations? Would this have any effect? To what extent are their concepts, conventions, & views regarding fundamentalist groups based on social construction? Many media outlets & policymakers present ISIS as a violent Islamic terrorist organization posing the "greatest threat" to civilization whenever they claim credit for acts of violence (Kagan, 2016). Though this in no way implies the organization has any moral compass, it does add an intriguing wrinkle to the so-called "threat" of global terrorism by showing how concepts like "reality" are based on ideas & standards rather than hard & fast facts. The media's portrayal of ISIS & the terminology that follows have normalized the group's status as a danger; nonetheless, this has led to some larger assumptions, such as how ISIS became securitized as a prominent security concern & a threat. While delving more into this issue, it is important to consider what exactly is meant by the term "threat" in the context of classic International Relations theories like realism, which fail to fully recognize the significance of non-state actors & terrorists. The "threat" of terrorism persistently persists in the minds of many (Dreazen, 2014).

Understanding this question & the case of ISIS as a major threat in the 21st century through a social constructivist lens is crucial to their comprehension of the problem. This theory aids in demonstrating how concepts like "security" & "threats" are conceptual constructions, shaped by ideas & the meanings they assign to them. Since there isn't a consensus on what security is, who or what needs to be protected, or who should serve as the referent object in these situations, the ontological definitions of security & dangers have been the target of critique in critical security studies & international relations (Baldwin, 1997). An important reason to emphasize this is that it exemplifies some of the conceptual difficulties that could arise when trying to pin down the nature of current security risks & concerns. Although many people worry that terrorism will be the biggest problem facing them in the modern day, it would be more engaging and suitable to talk about the reasons behind this, define the word "greatest threat," and determine whether this problem has always been there, & whether it will remain so in the future (Maines, 2000). These more generalized conceptual issues must be resolved before they can know if terrorism poses the greatest danger; after all, they must know how & why something constitutes a threat before they can accept it at face value & put themselves in harm's way to defend themselves. The "securitization theory" posited by the Copenhagen School provides a fascinating & analytical framework for the study of security (Every-Palmer *et al.*, 2021). Securitization theory posits that security challenges and dangers are not fixed truths but rather the result of a social construction process and "speech acts" that "threaten to become represented & recognised as such." "Bring it into being a security issue by successfully representing it as such." So, speech actions aren't only indicators of security vulnerabilities; they really cause them (Williams, 2003). Issues and threats to security are therefore addressed as if they were security risks. Treaties and securitization about international terrorism are mostly products of subjectively established societal norms and concepts, which is why this is important. Although no substantial proof or veracity is supporting this claim, these concerns are nevertheless seen as the most significant threat because of how they are presented. Therefore, rather than the actual act of terrorism itself, people's perceptions and assumptions about global terrorism pose the greatest threat (Williams, 2003).

4.3 Key Factors: International Organizations

The notion of a worldwide alliance against terrorism is highlighted in the security plans of the US, EU, & practically every other nation since the present security threats call for a collective response. In its first aim, the EU makes it very clear that it is committed to the premise that the best way to combat terrorism is through multilateral cooperation. The execution of UN Security Council Resolution 1373 on the fight against terrorism has been one of the top objectives of the EU since September 11. How will it be ensured that this partnership will continue to exist? There have been significant contributions made to war zones all over the world by international organizations such as the UN, NATO,

OSCE, & EU. Because they faced similar dangers, in the countries of Somalia, Afghanistan, Iraq, Bosnia, Kosovo, Macedonia, & Lebanon, peacekeeping missions have been instrumental in preventing lengthy civil conflicts. To establish international collaboration against terrorism, the UN's diplomatic & political choices, as well as NATO's military actions, have been used (Thieux, 2004).

As a result, the expansion & growth of NATO assumes more relevance in the management of conflicts. In the late 1980s, discussions often centered on the question of whether or not the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) would, could, or ought to continue existing. However, the same discussions today centre on the consequences of the organization's importance as well as its present & (potential) future expansion. The position of the Alliance at the core of modern relations seems to be beyond debate, even though disagreements continue to exist over the appropriateness of NATO's policies (Williams and Neumann, 2000). Newly independent nations started to join NATO & the EU after the fall of the Soviet Union. Since Russia did not want to have NATO members on its borders, it saw the countries that had been a part of the Eastern Block entering NATO as a threat. The dissolution of the Warsaw Pact led many people to believe that the NATO would also be dismantled. However, contrary to these predictions, NATO was expanded. The conclusion that can be drawn from this process is that "NATO is the key site in the re-articulation of security & the securitization of culture." (Williams and Neumann, 2000).

The obligation of establishing a connection between Europe & North America is also taken on by NATO. As part of the NATO, the member nations are working to preserve peace & sustain the alliance against terrorism. Because of recent developments in security theory, it is clear that such an organization is more important than ever before. Under the current circumstances, instability is seen as the most significant danger. With the belief that the more these ideals are disseminated, the more peace & faith there will be, the NATO emphasizes democracy & freedom to avert wars & maintain stability. The new members of NATO have expressed a desire to achieve a higher level of security while still sharing these ideals. As a result, the alliance will create a new security culture & will also comprise a community of security professionals.

To illustrate NATO's involvement in the fight against terrorism, consider the following: "The North Atlantic Council, the Alliance's principal decision-making body, decides on NATO's overall role in the campaign against terrorism." Committees & specialized entities within NATO work to improve certain elements of its engagement, such as cooperation with partners. From a military standpoint, Allied Command actions are in charge of overseeing NATO's counterterrorism efforts, & Allied Command transformation is in charge of leading the Alliance's transformation to address contemporary security challenges like terrorism. With this background, the 2002 Prague NATO summit was a watershed moment in the fight against terrorism when all members agreed to implement the Partnership Action Plan. The allies may now work together on issues of global security thanks to this new unified policy.

Academic efforts to combat terrorism are on the table alongside sanctions & military actions. With the new expansions & structural reorganization of NATO came the establishment of centres of excellence in this area. Educational & training activities, cooperative study opportunities, & idea & doctrine improvement are the goals of these centres. Within this framework, Turkey founded the Centre of Excellence in Defence Against Terrorism in 2005. The Centre of Excellence has been hosting conferences, seminars, & symposiums ever since it opened. Researching problem areas & proposing innovative solutions will be made possible by these centres.

5. Conclusion :

New perspectives on safety have emerged at the turn of the century. Defining security is getting increasingly challenging due to changes in threat perceptions & diverse techniques for researching them. Two events, which became turning points in the history of our world were termination of the Cold War & the September 11 attacks. Among them, it is 9/11 attacks and subsequent European assaults which dramatically brought alliance-based strategies as a valid strategy for countering global terrorism. The key to success is forming partnerships to tackle security issues, including border restrictions, illegal immigration, stopping the spread of WMD, & sharing information. A single state acting alone cannot defeat terrorism. The battle against terrorism must be a concerted effort on a worldwide scale. So, the primary role of international organizations is to reinforce the partnerships in making the globe a better place. NATO actively endeavours to dissuade any conflict in regions confronting international tension, which is a very powerful tool. On the contrary, NATO's effectiveness & expansion strategy should be pivotal to the formation of the Atlantic Union. The fight of global terrorism and the peace reinforcing strategy demands such a collaboration. This alliance necessitates the action of the state too and collaborative efforts in a bid to make the envisioned future real. To put it another way, firmly denouncing terrorism & those responsible for it, dismantling terrorist networks & the money they use, fostering teamwork &

cooperation, strictly enforcing international laws, & paying due respect to the rights of all people are the only ways to achieve these goals.

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