

The McDonalization of Terrorism

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ABSTRACT

Terrorism is an age long phenomenon that has been existing for more than two millennium. It has been used as a means to propel ideological, religious, and ethnic objectives; it has been utilized by non-conformists and states to seek control; it has been used time and again as a method for accomplishing or sustaining power. Terrorism is a phenomenon that has evolved over time, continually registering the slow difference in structure and action. Terrorism is perhaps the most serious issue confronting the present reality. It is topographically broad and ideologically chosen.

The procedure of globalization incorporates the technological & economic affluence. Social limits between nations around the globe that have cultivated a culture of fraudulent markets in traditional networks. Most states deliberate this as a danger to their nation. Globalization has, to some degree, facilitated terrorism, and in addition has brought the inclusion of the recent technologies. This article places terrorism in contemporary context. It talks about how McDonalization/globalization has acted as a facilitator of terrorism.

Key words: Terrorism, McDonalization, Globalization, Technology

INTRODUCTION

McDonalization has led the way for advancement of Terrorism. McDonalization is a term coined by George Ritzer. As per Ritzer, the McDonalization of society is a wonder that happens when society, its foundations, and its associations are adjusted to have similar attributes that are found in the fast-food chains. These incorporate effectiveness, calculability, predictability and standardization, and control.

Ritzer's hypothesis of McDonalization is a report on classical humanist Max Weber's hypothesis of how scientific rationality produced bureaucracy, which turned into the focal organizing power of current social orders through much of the twentieth century. As per Weber, the modern bureaucracy was characterized by hierarchical jobs, compartmentalized information and jobs, a professed merit-based arrangement of work and progression, and a legal rationality authority of the standard of law. These qualities could be detected (and still can be) all through numerous parts of social orders in the world. As indicated by Ritzer, changes culture, economy, and science have moved social orders from Weber's organization to another social structure, an order that he calls McDonalization.

McDonalization is basically another term for globalization. Globalization has gained great recognition since the mid-1990s; in the sociologies as well as among the people around the world. Thanks to globalization that world today has become so interconnected that the only thing that physically separates people from one nation to another are geographical boundaries.

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It very well may be said that, due to globalization, the lives of people have improved all over the world. However, these viewpoints have not always profited the man since individuals have frequently felt compromised by these perspectives that are thought to have helped their lives. So as to remember numerous acts of terrors, presently around the globe, various terrorists use characteristics of globalization. Globalization is, by one way or another, countered in light of the fact that there are still different kinds of conversations whether, it is something that has existed in years or is something new that we are confronting.

BACKGROUND ON TERRORISM

“Terrorism remains a contested term, with no set definition for the concept or broad agreement among academic experts on its usage.” (Ward, 2018)

Terrorism can be broadly classified into two spheres- Traditional Terrorism and Modern Terrorism. Traditional form of terrorism was what existed when this world was not exposed to the idea of globalization while Modern form of terrorism is prevalent today due to globalization. It is globalization that has marked the advent of cyber terrorism.

This hypothesis of Modern vs Traditional terrorism is elucidated by Martha Crenshaw, an expert in the study of terrorism, in her work- *“New” versus “Old” Terrorism*. She articulates that the impression the world faces about "new" terrorism, unlike the terrorism of the past, has grabbed hold in the brains of strategy creators, savants, advisors, and scholastics, particularly in the US. This impression of "new" terrorism is generally based on deficient information of history, just as misinterpretations of modern terrorism. Such thinking is often conflicting. For instance, it isn't clear when the "new" terrorism started or the old finished, or which group have its place in which category.

The limits of new terrorism are supposed to be boundless and non-debatable. Such terrorists are said to have no "red lines." In this view, their objectives are drawn solely from religious doctrines that stress transformational and prophetically calamitous beliefs, generally connected with Islam, albeit present in every single monotheistic religion. The "new" terrorists are reputed to detest Western, particularly American, values, culture, civilization and presence. Their savagery is expressive, not vital or instrumental. On the other hand, the objectives of the "old" terrorism are thought to have been debatable and restricted. The past goals of terrorism were justifiable and unmistakable, regularly identified with issues of territorial autonomy. Which could be resolved through decisive arrangements, that the state could deal with. Clashes could be settled. Essentially, these were reasonable terrorists.

Today terrorism is a worldwide issue with which individuals need to confront. The West has tried to take various estimates attempting to battle this marvel. A few measures incorporate lawful discipline of terrorists at the national and international level, or a military approach is taken, which can be termed as "war".

GLOBALIZATION ADVANCING TERRORISM

In the course of the recent decades, the discussion concerning terrorism in general and global terrorism specifically—have attained a focal place in general public as well as academics. “Public discourse often reflects the perception that terror has become globalized; the widening geographic range of terror organization activity, extends to places far from the organizations’

respective homelands, which is considered self-evident, based on the rationale that globalization affects such activity.

The connection between globalization and terrorism has become conventional wisdom, especially in the American press after the September 11, 2001 attack.” (Goldman, 2010)

The globalization of terror has likewise changed in character as the world moves from the state funded phenomenon of the 1980s. The statistics recount to their own story. The incident pace of terrorism, between 1968-1989, was 1,673 every year. Between 1990-1996 there was an expansion of 162% i.e. 4,389 per year. The rate increment would now be nearer to 200% given the raising number of contentions since 1996. Disturbingly enough, the contemporary terrorism is led against citizens; not governments. As indicated by the Rand Corporation, between 1990-96, fifty thousand individuals lost their lives to terror attacks. The primary explanation elaborating on the focus on individuals is that terrorists no longer differentiate between restricted and limited use of violence. Furthermore, globalization is empowering strict fundamentalism. Thirty years ago, there was not even one religious cult to be mentioned. As of the 1980's just two of the world's 64 realized terrorist groups were vivified by religious conviction. From that point forward, Shia Moslem groups have represented a fourth of all terrorist related deaths. Globalization is likewise creating new system focused on terrorist associations. Accordingly, Al-Qaeda is, to a great extent, a diversifying organization which works through religious internationalism and state-less systems as opposed to through the Cold War system of funding states.

Another component of globalization that can clarify its negative impact on the geographic spread regarding terrorism is the McDonalidization of transportation and migration. The facility to go via air effectively around the globe energizes the worldwide development of terrorists, while at the same time, scatters potential supporters around the world. Globalization builds the movement of individuals beyond borders, escalating worldwide migration from 75.9 million in 1960 to 213.9 million and 3.1 percent in 2010 approximately. While international migration has happened for a long time, the outward migration affluence of the late 1960s, particularly labor migration, just expanded; as did immigrant communities that keep up their unique identity and association to their respective homelands. Numerous terror associations select activists among these networks or other sympathetic groups.

TECHNOLOGY AND TERRORISM

The first and most essential ability, is access to the web, that has changed the manner in which people radicalize and plan attacks. Availability of the internet has been recognized as a helpful instrument to advance different terror-based thoughts. Few software programs permit usability and this brings favorable circumstances and thoughts for committing acts of terror. Since the web is a completely anonymous platform, it furnishes clients with its utilization for building up communication networks. On the other hand, online stages offer more chances to become radicalized and quicken the speed with which radicalized individuals prepare. Once radicalized, jihadists have utilized the web for correspondence and operational arranging. The assault on the Curtis Culwell Center is an extraordinary event, as al-Shabaab-turned-ISIS employable Mohammad Abdullahi Hassan guided the committers to direct the activity via Twitter. Just like other developing nations, web utilization in Malaysia is getting progressively normal. Sixty-eight percent of Malaysians utilize the web across the nation. When parsed for age, that rate moves to 91 percent among Malaysians 18–34. Jihadist content makers—to be

specific ISIS—have benefitted from this pattern, therefore focusing on the Malaysian youth in their enrollment endeavors.

Secondly, end to end encrypted messengers, such as Telegram and WhatsApp, manage the cost of their clients' security by scrambling information sent from the user's gadget, through the cell tower and server, to the receiving gadget. In terrorist applications, these encoded messaging services permit for uncommon operational security, constraining law requirement's capacity to see or disturb these reports. Encoded messaging is shockingly famous in Malaysia and signifies three of the best twenty-five most famous mobile applications in the nation. Terrorists can use this technology to plot local operations.

Lastly, just like Jihadists use encoded messaging for crime—to organize assaults—VPNs permit radicalized people to play barrier. As their name proposes, VPNs give clients a private association with the web, supplanting the client's Internet Provider address with one from a VPN supplier. In doing so, the technology viably anonymizes the web movement of the client. For Jihadists, this keeps law authorization from following their movements and locations. In Malaysia, utilization of VPN outpaces most Western nations. Roughly one out of three web clients anonymize their online nearness. The purposes behind VPN use fluctuate- mainstream rationales in Malaysia extend from getting to free entertainment to concealing internet browsing from the administration. This current VPN culture can promptly turn vile and the technology applied to jihadist movement.

Television, as a medium, is flooded with pictures of human anguish and human ruthlessness. Terrorists receive news easily and convey their message to the world by utilizing technology. In the current media condition, the limits among regional and global media are obscured. This wonder has been affected by the ascent of international news systems. In this way, if a terrorist association looks for a purposeful publicity impact on a worldwide scale—or at least in nations other than its immediate adversary—it can exploit any global mass communication channel that views each local media occasion as an expected worldwide one. Terrorists who need to enter the worldwide plan need not mount cross-border assaults, coverage by worldwide TV channels or Internet news spaces; which become progressively accessible as globalization of mass communication escalates; this might convey their armed promulgation to the whole world, even when their assault isn't international. Subsequently, inspiration to commit international assaults diminishes correspondingly with the globalization of mass communications. Prominently the overall availability of the television, a worldwide medium, the more appealing regional assaults become for terror associations. The expense and danger of regional assaults are lower than those of international campaigns, however, the potential promulgation impact is the equivalent.

Hence, it is believed that terrorism, particularly the universal one, is encouraged by the utilization of the web that is a gift of the present globalization. As mentioned before, terrorism has been existing since a long time, and it is the access to the Internet or technology that has led to its expansion.

CONCLUSION

Based on the arguments discussed in this article, it is palpable that globalization has facilitated evolution of terrorism. The more this world marches towards development, the more risk prone it becomes. Globalization sure has provided leisure to the mankind but at the cost of their

survival. The greater the technological advancement; the greater and development; and greater is the risk of terrorism.

Recently, counterterrorism strategy discussions have gotten progressively politicized. For many, terrorists are irredeemable and counterterrorism system ought to be driven by active power. While others claim that counterterrorism methodology should concentrate on the main drivers of terrorism. Previously, counterterrorism arrangements had, to a great extent, stayed insusceptible from the disruptive political talk that has tormented other public policy issues. On the off chance that counterterrorism's technocratic character is to proceed, unopinionated ways to deal with counterterrorism will be required. Battling terrorism is extreme, and even believed to be; probably the hardest part for specialists to locate the correct approaches to withstand its spread in the contemporary times. It has been recommended that a universal association ought to be empowered, to battle this phenomenon.

As globalization is spreading quickly, it is extremely hard to foresee the future of worldwide security. Every one of these progressions happening around the world are consequently identified with globalization and have their implications for the origination and spread of terrorism around the world. As a result of the incredible changes, and the rapid advancements made in the world, contemporary terrorism has become a conundrum that requires a prompt and an efficient resolution. Fundamentally, it may very well be contended that globalization might have an improvement in the worldwide security issue to a certain degree and can cultivate the capacity and the desire of worldwide governments to battle terrorism.

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