

*Research Paper—History*



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## Combating Terrorism



\*Prof. Kudase Udhav Kalu

\*M.S.G. College, Malegaon Camp

### Meaning and Rise of Terrorism

Terrorism has become a serious issue of concern all over the world. Government across the world are trying hard to grapple with this menace as it poses a serious threat to the very existence and survival of their respective Nations and its people. Terrorism means an act of destruction. People involved in it indulge in heartless violence killing innocent men, women and children and in the destruction of property.

### History and causes of Terrorism

A number of organizations, even in the past, have used force and fear to secure their objectives. Their objectives were either political or socio-economic or sometimes even religious. During early times the terrorist attacks were limited to attack against the king or ruler. In the present times, however the magnitude of terror has intensified more and more people are being killed in the organized attacks by terrorist outfits. The modes of operation have become more sinister. Planting bombs in local trains, shopping malls or in cinema houses or using chemical weapons or releasing poisonous gases in a subway are cruel methods of drawing attention to one's cause. Terrorism has become a menace all over the world. It is widespread in the middle east and even in south asia - where countries such as Sri Lanka have been fighting hard to counter terrorism. In India, terrorism also prevails in Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Jharkhand where Naxalites are fighting

against the exploitation of landholders by the zamindars of their area. The North eastern states- Assam, Tripura, Mizoram Manipur and Nagaland are also reeling under violence unleashed by different terrorist organizations which have different causes to fight for.

In the recent times, terrorism is most prevalent in Jammu and Kashmir. There are a number of groups who organise terrorist attacks not only in Jammu & Kashmir but also in different parts of the country. The attack on Akshardham temple in Gandhinagar serial bomb blasts in Delhi and Mumbai, and breach of security in parliament are some examples of attacks by such organizations.

**Causes of Terrorism:-** It becomes important for us to understand why terrorist organizations indulge in such violent activities what could be the causes of rising terrorism?

**1) Unemployment -:** There are millions of unemployed youth in the world. Their energies and capabilities have no constructive outlet. Such people become easy targets for the terrorist organizations. The unemployed youngsters are offered an emotional objective to fight for easy money, security to their families and an opportunity to become known to the world. The emotional appeals made by a few selfish leaders of terrorist organizations have a strong impact on idle minds.

**2) Imported Terrorism-** Terrorism to very of ten sponsored by external agencies or even supported by political establishments of other

countries. Many countries try and destabilize their neighbouring countries by encouraging infiltration of mercenaries and smuggling in weapons and drugs cross-border infiltration is the deadliest and most common form of terrorism in the terrorism in the present times such destabilising acts, perpetuated by the neighbouring countries, may be more convenient than a war, in preventing the victimised nation from focussing on growth and development.

**3) Political causes-** Terrorism is sometimes allowed to spread its tentacles by the political infighting within a country. In their struggle for power, political parties take the help of anti social elements to put the opponent in a difficult situation. The governments deliberate delay in understanding the growing dissatisfaction of people in some regions also encourages the mushrooming of terrorist organizations.

**4) Weak law and order machinery -** An important cause of the spread of terrorism is a weak law and order machinery in a country even if the designs of the neighbouring countries are unhealthy, their attempts can be foiled by a strong law enforcing machinery within the country. However, if the intelligence agencies the police the defence forces, and the judicial system are weak, the terrorists will succeed in their mission if they are not caught while entering the country or while smuggling weapons or while organizing their training camps or after they have attacked they will keep striking back.

**5) Oppression-** If the demands of a group of citizens are neglected for a long period of time, their frustration takes a violent form and they are forced to draw the attention of the Government by spreading terror in the country. They may be victims of social and economic injustice. The exploitation of the minority by the majority may also fuel violent tendencies in the alienated groups.

**6) Conservative Attitudes-** Terrorist organisations succeed in spreading terror in those societies where people are not very open minded when the attitude is narrow, people nurture fixed and even negative ideas about other groups and

are often ready to level accusations, pass derogatory remarks etc. People get carried away by negative propaganda and terrorists find it easier to operate.

**7) Religious Stubbornness-** Beliefs such as 'My religion is the best or other religious groups are threatening my identity or the government is targeting my religion and deliberately sidelining us promote violence and terror. The lack of tolerance and accommodation towards other religious groups encourages militant organisations to take advantage and spread fear and hatred against one other.

#### **Study of Terrorist:-**

**1) His behaviour-** The terrorist who is a violent psychopath type is not insane, and delusion or other signs of irrational thinking are usually absent. He is egocentric and lacks the capacity to feel empathy and love. He has little or no conscience or sense of guilt, tends to project blame when he gets into trouble. He is unreliable, untruthful and insincere, but he is often convincing because he believes in his own life and obsessions. There is a vast gulf between what he says and what he does. He is impulsive, the whim of the moment being paramount He is given to periodic and often senseless antisocial behaviour which may be aggressive and violent.

**2) His Biology-** Common patterns in violent individuals are low blood sugar level, abnormal EEG readings, low cortical arousal, anomalous brain waves, etc. He does not process words on the left side of the brain as we do. He reacts differently to common words. However, it is the combination of neurologic biochemical disfunctions that are responsible for violence.

**3) His acts-** he becomes destructive, quarrelsome and cruel He is egocentric and often exhibits total disregard for the welfare of others and a notable loss of affection for the family. He lies and steals / robs without caring for the consequences. Brain/ intellectual impairment, change in personality make him liable to explosive rage/violence in response to minimum provocation. There is a disorder of the mind in which without

illusion delusion or hallucination the symptoms are mainly exhibited in a perversion of those mental faculties which are usually called the active and moral powers the feelings, affection, propensities temper, habit and conduct. His affective life is promptly changed and his mental derangement shows itself in what he feels, desires and does. He has no capacity of true moral feelings all his desires and impulses to which he yields without check are egoistic. His conduct is governed by immoral motives which are cherished and obeyed without any evident desire to resist them he has an amazing immoral sensibility/ insensitivity. The intelligence is often acute enough, being not affected otherwise than being tainted by the morbid feelings under the impulse of which he thinks and acts. he often displays an extraordinary ingenuity in explaining, excusing or justifying his behaviour. All his intellectual faculties are applied to the justification and gratification of his selfish desires.

**Mode of operation:-**The objective of all terrorist organizations is to spread fear and establish their hold over the masses. Their methods are violent and they are likely to adopt newer strategies of attack each time. Their general mode of operation may include-

**1) Surprise Attacks:-** Popularly known as 'guerilla warfare' Such attacks by terrorists in hiding catch people and governments off-guard. As the governments and the people are Unprepared for such attacks the impact is always quite strong for instance. When bombs explode, or terrorists fire at passengers in a train or bus or hand grenades are thrown in markets a large number of people could be killed the police or the governments being unprepared for such attacks are unable to immediately react to the situation.

**2) Kidnapping / Hijacking:-** Planes are hijacked by terrorist organizations or important personalities are kidnapped to hold the government to ransom and get their demands accepted, sometimes, the initial purpose is to draw the attention of the government and give it an idea of their strength. Threats are issued that the people

who are kidnapped will be killed unless the demands are met. The demand is usually the release of fellow terrorists who may be in the captivity of the government. By Making the government bow down to its demand the organization sends a signal of its strength and success. It gets emboldened and resorts to more violent tactics in the future.

**3) Technological warfare-** Some attacks by the terrorists may be in total silence, and yet they could unleash tremendous damage to the country's security terrorists are no longer illiterate and frustrated unemployed youth, Some are well-educated professionals who use their intelligence to further their 'cause' through violence. Many terrorist organizations have brilliant doctors, engineers, software developers writers and several such professionals in their fold. An important mode of operation is waging a cyber war on the government by hacking its important websites.

**4) Psychological warfare :-** terrorist organizations sometimes do not plant bombs instead they plant ideas. They try to send emotional appeals and use the methods of social psychology to spread their message across to the unemployed youth. This is called a psychological mode of operation. They write books, poems, articles in newspapers, send messages on e-mail and thereby try to wage a psychological war against the government in their messages and articles, they highlight the failure of the government or they exaggerate the threats to their group/ religion.

#### **Example of terrorism**

Sept 11, 2001 Air crash of the two high towers of world trade centre in New York. The air attack was made by Afghanistans. In revenge of it Americans attack on Afghanistan. Mahatma Gandhi Assassinated by the maniac, Nathuram Godase. Brahmin community was held responsible for the assassination and was made the target by all other communities. Some of the victims of terrorism such as polish or wann of combodla migrated to other countries & have

become Alien for the motherland. Terrorism is a weapon. The one who uses this weapon claims that what he does is always right. Some even say that those who are a pray to terrorism are themselves responsible for such a disaster. Religion was set up with culture. Terrorism was made to wear the mask of religion. In order to keep the position strong the clargies started inhuman atrocities on the common peope. many of the religions made dominated and so women were considered to be inferior and were given secondary status not only this, they were also fortured physically. Hitler reached to the peak point because of his qutobiography ‘mein kampf’ (my struggle) Germans are Nordic (Aryan) by race and have the moral right to rule the world was also claimed by him. In order to remove the undesirable elements from the world, the Jews and Gypsies were put in the gas chambers and were killed.

#### **Solutin to terroism**

We are now at a crucial moment. It’s a turning point in history- Last Year has shown that the balance of powers is shifting, Emerging countries are claiming bigger roles in the world. And I strongly believe India will be a central actor in the new world order. It has a responsibility within the subcontinent, where challenges and conflicts are numerous. It also has a greater role to play in the international scene, in becoming a member of an enlarged G-8 and as a permanent member of the Un security council. The economic crisis is turning the hierarchies of the world’s economy upside down. It’s a challenge for all of us to enhance global regulation. But the solution won’t come without the contribution of Asian economics.

Barack obama has brought new hope to the world after eight years of unilateral policy, based on power, America is opening up to the world. A time of dialogue seems to be the beginning its an apportunity to seize. Global alliance is a solution against terrorism first, international cooperation is needed to investiagate and dismantle terrorist movements and networks. Those who want to attack us are a few hundred individuals scattered around the globe. Terrorist groups have global aims, planetary net works and techniques of mobility and dissemination that transcend national borders. Terrorism has its own terrional organisation recrurment zones and battelgrounds. This threat can only be addressed by strong cooperation of victim countries. first the states must intensify legal co-operation of their police force and judicial systems. Today’s procedures are too rigid and formal. They are often too slow. Direct collaboration and legislative harmonisation are the keys to success. That is why the international community should agree on a common obligation to ease cooperation and quicken procedures. worldwide legislation is the third tool to fight terrorism The UN must be at the centre of all common efforts. As of now, a dozen different texts are in application. We lack a global convention, which is stalled by problems of the defination of terrorism. There are three traps we must avoid falling into the first trap is to wage a merciless war. The second is Fear confronted with the horror of terrorist acts, we may be tempted to make an exception and go beyond democratis laws I am sure this approach is a dead- end. We must act now we must mobilise now and work towards world unity.

## **R E F E R E N C E**

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