**Trends in Terrorism**

Student’s Name

Institutional Affiliation

Course Number and Name

Professor’s Name

Assignment Due Date

**Trends in Terrorism**

**Introduction**

Perhaps, numerous developments that cover the globe act as the source of the increase in terrorism in some parts of the world. It becomes a complication to the government as it derails the function of the government of protecting some nations. Additionally, the government is constantly failing, and the blame comes with neglect in their responsibility resulting from the threat from terrorism. Terrorism issues arise due to gaps that exist within intelligence services or sensitive measures that are delicate in the hands of a terrorist. Moreover, when an alarm goes off but primarily due to disconnection by individuals who are targeting something. It requires not only simple procrastination but also actions that are delayed due to internal conflict. It also requires individuals' reluctance to rise to the occasion until they are sure it is the occasion—which is usually too late. Finally, as with Pearl Harbor, surprise can contain any legitimate novelty added by the opponent, as well as pure bad luck. Therefore, the paper aims at giving a conceptualized framework on current and past trends of terrorism that act as a significant threat in the world today.

**Past trends**

In the past, the trend, terrorism is only used while Americans were outside the area. Terrorism is now targeting us on our turf from other nations. As Ahmad Ressam was trying to enter the United States, a US customs service officer stopped, apparently to carry out a terrorist attempt. Ahmad Ressam was stopped. This arbitrary imprisonment does not, however, correspond to indulgence.

Consequently, terrorists in the past have a clear objective in alignment to politics due to the dynamic nature back in the 1970s and 1980s (Silke,2004). The groups for such unlawful acts intend to shed enough blood to gain attention, not alienate public support. And opposed to a case two decades before, approximately 20% of terrorist incidents in the 1990s resulted in death or injuries.

Furthermore, terrorists intended to demolish the two towers and kill tens of thousands. The thwarted assaults on New York City infrastructure in 1993, which included attempts to collapse the Holland and Lincoln tunnels, resulted in mass casualties. In 1995, Philippine officials discovered that 11 US airlines were being targeted by jihadists in Asia (Hoffman,1997). The conditions around the foreign nationals apprehended at the Millennium border suggest that the attackers planned to target a considerable crowd assembled for a New Year's Eve party. Foreign-based attacks on the United States have followed a familiar trend in recent years. Six thousand people were killed when bombs detonated in Saudi Arabia's military barracks and two US embassies in Africa. Those arrested in Jordan in late December were plotting large-scale attacks.

The number of people killed per attack ranges greatly between countries due to the different methods used by militant organizations and the messages they aim to deliver. In 2015, India experienced the most significant number of attacks since 2000 while still seeing the lowest average fatalities in a particular year since 2000. Terrorism in India is often motivated by beneficial customization, with dissidents and Marxist parties using extremism as a signaling exercise. As a result, 75% of strikes in India seemed to have no deaths, relative to 44% worldwide. Moreover, International terrorism, on the other hand, is at an all-time peak. 2015 was the second-deadliest period, with the second-highest number of attacks after 2000. In the Philippines, 2013 was the deadliest year for bloodshed, including over 100 individuals murdered in killings that coincided with the leadership contest. Terrorism in Mindanao has persisted, with one in every 5-mortality happening whether in the regions of Cotabato or Maguindanao. This is amid a 2014 peace agreement that established new authoritarianism in Mindanao, a province that has been at odds for 40 years.

**Current trends**

A consistent understanding of terrorism must address the broader socioeconomic problems that give rise to terrorism. We need to look at both sides of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict or the Sinhala-Tamil conflict in Sri Lanka to see that violence, including state-sponsored terrorism, scarcely prevents more violence long as underlying social tensions are not resolved. Terrorism's changing trends in the twenty-first century will invariably represent consistency and progress in terrorist strategy. Modern motivations, actors, and rationales are strongly intertwined with those of the preceding century. Kuhn's principle of paradigmatic transformation does not encourage one to believe that the so-called modern terrorism appeared out of nowhere and bears no similarity to or connection to the terror that followed it.

The organizational form that is amorphous in contrast to the linear, bureaucratic, pyramidal networks of terrorist organizations such as IRA, and others, Al-Qaeda is much more amorphous, indistinct, and geographically dispersed (Okoye,2018). As a result, responding at the state level to terrorism attacks and activities by these organizations is exceedingly complex. Their organic and fluid essence makes it difficult, if not impossible, to pin them down. The lack of organization grants its constituent bodies a high degree of sovereignty, which can be kept together and only by a very vague notion of unity against an avowed cause.

Amorphous organizational structure Al-Qaeda is much more amorphous, undeciphered, and regional scattered than linear, centralized, and pyramidal networks of extremist groups such as IRA and others. As a result, reactions by these organizations to terrorist threats and events at the state level are somewhat complicated. It is difficult, if not impossible, for them to pin their organic and fluid nature down. The loss of organization, which can only be retained together and with rather abstract notions of solidarity against a purpose, gives its constituent entities a high degree of autonomy.

A centralized command body, formally recognized, cannot be found to remove the power to bring masses of indiscriminate terrorist casualties. Often, given the lack of a central management hierarchy or the actual operating headquarters, individual networks can be more independent in their individuality than typical terrorist cells (Okoye,2018). This particular pattern of terrorism could be a little different from that of familiar, classic terrorist opponents and potentially much deadlier. As discussed earlier, the religious tint on new terrorism is particularly fatal. The world in Manichean sees religion in the activities and inspirations of such emerging terrorist groups as a legitimizing tool for willful violence. They are challenging to eliminate religious fear with vastly different beliefs, realities, legitimization, and reasoning processes.

Is Contemporary Terrorism, however, new? A thorough study of global terrorism trends will make no one think that a new paradigm of 'post-mortem activity currently faces the 'old' terrorist regimes and practices of the 1970s and 1980s. The overwhelming majority and many of the world's militant acts now include the ETA, India's rebel organizations, Nepal's Maoistic Wing, and Sri Lanka-based LTTE Groups. However, neither of these organizations may be classified as new terrorists. Moreover, as a result, terrorists' 'conservatism' – their preference for symbolic targets and the usage of traditional tactics and weaponry to attack them – hasn't changed significantly in the early years of the twenty-first century. We haven't yet seen a new form of terrorism capable of using WMDs or cyber-warfare, but it can't be ruled out completely. The use of Sarin gas on the 1995 Tokyo subway attack lines has yet to be repeated. While the events of September 11, 2001, clearly demonstrated modern terrorism's ability to use unconventional weapons, one might argue that the symbolic destruction of the targets was just as important as the mass casualties.

When advanced economies are becoming more reliant on information infrastructures, new Information Communications Technologies (ICTs) offer both aid to terrorists and resources for attacks. Terrorists, on the other hand, are unlikely to destroy the internet because they require it over their networking and manipulation efforts, and they may be more involved in "systemic disruption" rather than the destruction of information networks. Although the financial and social implications of a significant invasion of American or global intelligence infrastructures may be disastrous, terrorists have shown little interest. Furthermore, militants will obtain more lethal CBRN capability from a regime (Schuurman,2019). Five of the seven countries identified by the US as state sponsorship of terror have plans to produce atomic weapons. A state that deliberately supplies agents of mass destruction or technologies to a terrorist organization may be concerned with relinquishing the power of the terrorists' operations, as well as the relative likelihood of significant retribution if the explosives are traceable back to that state. Attempting to forecast a state's behavior, on the other hand, is often complicated and often risky.

Militants use the same new data and networking technologies as most of us do, leading to far more data being gathered. A raid on a jihadist hiding place, for instance, is progressively able to trigger the capture of their devices (Schuurman,2019). Rather than only a few written documents and contact sheets, intelligence officials face hundreds of CD-ROMs and hard drives. Although there could be documents present in an encryption key that may deter the very next terror strike, finding the one soon after world war among the dozens that may be located on the attackers' machines becomes even more challenging. Counterterrorism departments must be prepared to handle large amounts of intelligence to decide which are appropriate; this may include decoding it, interpreting it, and possibly responding appropriately to communications using code words. It is almost difficult to determine what intelligence is pertinent to a terrorist activity unless it is in plain English. A thriving global counter-terrorism policy requires the chance to leverage intelligence gathered, translate it into clarity and simplicity, and refine it. New communications technology will provide critical alerts and help all facets of the government's counter-terrorism policy.

Terrorism's practice has changed dramatically in recent years. The propositional irrationality is seen in many extremist groups today. Along with a range of belief structures, it is a significant contributor to this transition. Terrorist groups are much more likely to be swayed by the pragmatism of sociopolitical reform, popular sentiment, and a few other influences in history. Terrorists set on chaos and misery just for devastation, or extremism as an act of 'success,' is now more popular than before. Terrorists use undifferentiated, non-hierarchical governance cultures and other efficient governance frameworks that have arisen in previous seasons. The future availability of atomic, toxic, and biological Nuclear weapons technologies raises the possibility of unforeseen human tragedies.

Terrorist activity, in its wake, mainly helps to blur the distinction between restraint and hysteria. A democratic approach to terrorist activity must embrace this obstacle and craft constructive and reactive approaches to terrorist attacks that are cost-efficient, calculated, rational, and realistic. As all advocate civil rights dialogue around the world, policymakers must confront the challenge of trying to reconcile it with the current "global war on terror." If all cultures have fair access to civil rights, how else can perpetrators be exempted? The threat is that by focusing on their privileges, we risk increasing their power to deny the same rights to others, most prominently the fundamental right to life. Such difficulties are at the forefront of a democracy's fight against terrorism. However, they must be addressed as soon as possible if terrorism is the "battle of the future." Perhaps, as in the previous inter-state conflict, we will need to develop a set of rules to combat this current war.

**References**

Schuurman, B. (2019). Topics in terrorism research: reviewing trends and gaps, 2007-2016. Critical Studies on Terrorism, 12(3), 463-480. Retrieved from https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/17539153.2019.1579777

Hoffman, B. (1997). The confluence of international and domestic trends in terrorism. Terrorism and Political Violence, 9(2), 1-15.

Okoye, I. E. (2018). Trends in terrorism incidents in Nigeria and the United States: Analysis of data from 1980–2013. International Journal of Criminal Justice Sciences, 13(1), 200. Retrieved from <http://www.sascv.org/ijcjs/pdfs/OkoyeVol13Issue1IJCJS.pdf>

Silke, A. (2004). The road less traveled: Recent trends in terrorism research. Research on terrorism: Trends, achievements, and failures, 186-213. Retrieved from <https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Andrew_Silke/publication/274389405_The_Road_Less_Travelled_Trends_in_Terrorism_Research/links/58b04da8a6fdcc6f03f5fcc9/The-Road-Less-Travelled-Trends-in-Terrorism-Research>