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TERRORISM: AN UNENDING MENACE

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of the paper, titled “Terrorism: An Unending Menace” is to describe terrorism and the ideology behind it as a global problem which is threatening the peace and harmony not only in India but evolved as a worldwide challenge. Terrorism has stroked the world with its terror in myriad ways, from torturing the innocents to killing the ones; it has never stopped until today the span of its ugly course of devastation. The propagators of terrorism have wide range of ideologies and dogmas which are shallow and deficit of any real cause, like they professed since ages. But their belief on the cause behind their ideologies is firm and resisting which impelled them to carry on their manoeuvre of killing and being killed. Winston Churchill rightly pointed out that “This is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is perhaps, the end of the beginning”¹

Key Words: Terrorism, genesis, causes, jihad, Jammu and Kashmir

INTRODUCTION

Terrorism is not an unfamiliar or instant sensation in the society. It is as old as human civilizations, a global menace that has terrorized the entire world for a long time and is growing with high intensity by making its roots deep in contemporary structures of society. Using threatened or illegal forces by state or non-state actors, willfully against the common people for political, social, economic or religious gains or against the existing system and prevailing ideology is what define terrorism. Violence against few to place many in fear or kill one and frighten thousand is what rooted in the minds of terrorists². They reflect a radical ideology and cause nuisance in the world with their shallow mentality and abysmal deeds. Terrorism is like a fluid which flows with no boundaries, they don't believe in drawing lines for accepting their ideologies, they want their ideologies and coercive forces to grow and float every nook and corner to create terror in the minds of people.

¹ Sharma, 2014

² Ibid.

GENESIS OF WORD TERRORISM

The word terrorism is derived from Latin word 'terrere', which means 'tremble' when this word is combined with the French suffix 'is me' which means 'to practice', it becomes 'to practice the trembling' or 'to cause the trembling'. It was used to describe the actions of the Jacobin Club³, group of revolutionaries in their rule in post-revolutionary France, the so called "region of terror"⁴. It was 'incumbent terrorism', a weapon in the hands of the authorities to suppress dissent⁵. Jacobins are rumored to have coined the term 'terrorist' to refer to them. Acts described as Jacobin club 'terrorism' were mostly cases of arrest and execution of opponents as means of coercing compliance in the general public.

The English word terrorism was popularized when the conservative Edmund Burke, an out spoken opponent of the French Revolution, used it. He had observed bloodshed from afar in France, where the France Revolution was underway⁶. The most quoted definition of the terrorism is given by the State Department of the USA. It says terrorism involves "the threat or use of violence for political purposes by individuals or groups, whether acting for or in opposition to established governmental authority, when such actions are intended to shock, stun or intimidate a target group wider than the immediate victim"⁷. But it cannot be generalized as different nations have their own causes of it, depending on the situations and conditions pertaining to respective country.

In India, terrorism has been with us for quite long time after Independence. In the late sixties, the Naxalites appeared like spring thunder over West-Bengal and Bihar seeking power through the barrel of gun. At the same time various states in North-east like Nagaland, Assam, Manipur etc. were affected by terrorism. Punjab and Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) also followed suit, staging the most heinous terror of terrorism since 1947. So, from time onwards India has faced terrorism and staunchly fought against it to maintain integrity of country. Therefore, terrorism is a universal menace and terrorists are not generally pathological leapers or products of narcissistic rage, they are applauded by their supporters as freedom fighters and commandos of justice, but the fundamental reality is that they are doing acts which are bloody and brutal, saturated with criminality and which shows a total disregard for basic human values, no grand design for human freedom, no moral quibbling or relativism can hide the inherent bestiality of a terrorist act⁸.

CAUSES OF TERRORISM

The act of terrorism includes three aspects i.e. the perpetrator of an act, victims of that act and the wider audience. The perpetrator may have various reasons to carry such acts like undeveloped civilization, maladministration in society, geographical and environmental conditions, ideological differences, biased attitude, immature mind, literate but frustrated minds, societal deprivation, anxiety and depression, identity issues, lack of opportunities etc. All these factors reveal that terrorism is a complex phenomenon, a violence committed by people who do not have any legitimate claim of any anti-social activities. It is germane to quote Arab proverb that "those who work without knowledge will damage more than they can fix and those who walk quickly on the wrong path will only distance themselves from their goal". Broadly the main causes are as follows⁹:

- **Psychological Factor:** This is the factor which is related to the mental activities and thinking process of human beings. Although this factor is not an independent factor, its relationship is with the family

³ The Jacobins were members of an influential political club during the French Revolution.

⁴ Sharma, 2014

⁵ Kaur, 2005

⁶ Sharma, 2014

⁷ Jagmohan, 2017

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Sharma, 2014

background, social relation and friend's circle of the child from the very beginning. The origin of this factor is bad feelings and thinking against the society.

There are two theories of crime which support this factor as Lombrosian Theory and Environmental Theory. Former lays stress on psychological characteristics and heredity while latter lays stress on the factors like association, educational background, geographical factors, economical and financial factors etc. which play a dominant role in the creation of environment. Here, terrorists are interested in getting attention from others for his or her act, rather than some grand ideological or strategic goals. Therefore, the psychological makeup of individual terrorists and terrorist's leaders can be an important factor in explaining their actions. This factor alone is not sufficient to explain the causes behind their actions because the leaderships and followers, group and group dynamics and decision patterns will differ from one group of terrorist to another. It is apparent from the terrorist actions and ideologies that there is a clear consensus among the group, organisation, and social psychology and not individual psychology provides the greatest analytical power in understanding this complex phenomenon where collective identity is paramount¹⁰.

- **Religious Factor:** Religion and strict religious ideology is also one of the factors of terrorism. When people become ethnocentric towards their religion or religious ideology and show hatred (Xenophobic) towards other religions, then it leads to religious fanaticism. These religiously motivated people choose misleading paths to change society in the name of religion and create terror to let people believe in their own ideology¹¹. Islamic fundamentalists are the intellectual mentors of most radical doctrines as well as the philosophy of terror. Their doctrines are outright anti-liberal, anti-democratic, and anti-national¹².

Like in India, Sikh fundamentalists belonging to a particular religion demanded the creation of an independent state of Khalistan for Sikhs in Punjab. Similarly, in J&K Islamic fundamentalists belonging to different terrorist organisations have conflicting objectives for the people of state, like JKLF (Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front, terrorist organisation) demanded autonomous state of Kashmir after secession from India to have a separate Islamic identity of Kashmir and on other side HM (Hizab-ul-Mujahedeem, terrorist organisation) demanded the merging of J&K with Pakistan after secession from India¹³. So, the Islamic fundamentalism as being practiced by J&K's Jamaatis is quite different that is evident as "The politics of socialism and secularism is totally unsound. I do not like any Muslim to adopt socialism and secularism as his political ideal (Syed Ali Shan Geelani)"¹⁴.

The maximum no of terrorist's incident and deaths of innocent civilians have occurred due to religious terrorism. While the intensity of the violence caused by the non-religious nature can be rated as low or medium that of religious terrorism has been high or very high. Non-religious terrorist groups in India do not believe in suicide terrorism (Fidyaen) but the LTTE (The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam also known as Tamil Tigers was a militant organisation) does. Of the religious terrorist groups Sikhs fundamentalist do not believe in suicide terrorism. The indigenous terrorist group in J&K do not believe in suicide terrorism either; it is a unique characteristic of Pakistan's Pan Islamic jihadi group operating in J&K and other parts of India. Therefore, it is concluded that groups and organisations are misguided in the name of religion, which is very dangerous for the stability, development and maintaining peace and tranquillity in the society¹⁵.

- **Social Factor:** Feeling of relative deprivation, economic exploitation, poverty, lack of education or political freedom, social injustice among the individuals in society also lead people to resort to violence and terrorism or they are more susceptible to recruitment by terrorist's organisations using terrorists tactics. People choose terrorism when they are trying to correct what they perceive to be social wrong, when they have been stripped of their rights or denied. These socially deprived groups believe that violence or its threats will be effective and used in change or these violent means justify their ends.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Ray, 1997

¹³ Sharma, 2014

¹⁴ Ray, 1997

¹⁵ Sharma, 2014

Many terrorist in history said sincerely that they chase violence after long deliberation, because they felt they had no choice¹⁶.

- **Political Factor:** The desire for power and specifically political power often governs the mind of individuals. Terrorism thus, is used as an instrument to attain political goals. Politicization of violence secures public attention without which terrorism as modus operandi cannot be successful.
 - Political Objectives of Terrorists:
 1. Liberation;
 2. Seceding from an existing political entity;
 3. Changing prevalent order;
 4. Maligning credibility of government or destabilising the government;
 5. Redistribution of political power;
 6. Political control and manipulation.
 - Methodology of Terrorists:
 1. Kidnapping or killing political identities;
 2. Targeting political leaders;
 3. Bombing or attacking embassies or consulates;
 4. Use of propaganda tactics and the promotion of the “Philosophy of violence” to attain certain political goals¹⁷.
- **Ideological Factor:** Ideology is defined as the beliefs, values or principles by which a group identifies its particular aims and goals. Ideology may encompass religion or political philosophies or programs. Sometimes people blindly follow any ideology without actually knowing about its roots just to create nuisance in society¹⁸.
- **Strategic Factor:** When people seek redress of their grievances through government, but fails to win government’s attention to their plight, they may resort to violence. From this, terrorism is the result of logical analysis of the goals and objectives of a group, and their estimates of the likelihood of gaining victory. If victory seems unlikely using more traditional means of opposition, then one might calculate that terrorism is better option¹⁹.
- **Coercion Factor:** This factor includes the power of persuasion that is being used by the terrorist’s organisation to achieve their ends. They use force, sadism, threats to life and every possible way to terrorise people to choose their paths of destructions. Those who defy their causes have to lose their life at the hands of butchers.

It is difficult to account any single factor responsible for the rise of terrorism in the world so, it can be concluded that the decision of a terrorist to choose gun, over everything else for killing innocents and unarmed is a result of union of different factors which ultimately led to an unending global menace.

HOLY WAR: A RATIONALE TO DECEASE THOUSANDS IN JAMMU & KASHMIR

Culture of J&K is rich; it is acquired and transferred from one generation to another. But it is confronted with some external forces, which have become threat to ongoing culture. In J&K, terrorism is not only restricted to political parameters; there are many other factors also which led to it such as religious, psychological, strategic etc. In J&K, terrorism is confined to only few districts of Kashmir, but it has affected the whole population of J&K variously. It has uprooted the lives of thousands of people, attacked their cultures, altered their lifestyles, made them vulnerable and exploited them in the hands of their needs. They directly and indirectly became the victims of terrorist’s actions.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Sharma, 2014

¹⁸ Teaching Guide on International Terrorism, 2011

¹⁹ Ibid.

In 1947, people from outside the India have threatened the Indian sovereignty and peace in J&K, but from 1980 to 1990, there was an internal threat. It is evident from history that Pakistani Forces were unsuccessful in wars/attacks of 1965 and 1971 on India because of strong Indian Security Forces. Therefore, by following another tactic of sponsoring terrorism in India, Pakistani officials provided training to people of J&K in handling arms and ammunition in various camps in Pakistan occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) and by operating various operations like TOPAC²⁰, Islamist terrorists of Pakistan tried to threatened national integrity and sovereignty of India, especially in J&K from time onwards. Pakistani Forces were bad in their intentions, by convincing target population that India is exploiting them, they want people of J&K should fight against their own nation²¹.

Pakistanis rationalized their action of sponsoring terrorism with the Jihad-Arabic word for “struggle”- that Muhammad preached often began to refer specifically to warfare against those who denied his prophethood or the oneness of the deity. To go forth in jihad for the sake of Allah (which denotes an Islamic theology armed struggle to establish the hegemony of the Islamic social order) is the best deed a Muslim can perform. A true Muslim did not hesitate to wage jihad, even to the point of risking their property and their very lives. The ones who refused to do this weren't even believers at all.

Go forth, whether light or heavy, and strive with your wealth and your lives in the cause of Allah. This is better for you, if you only knew. (Qur'an 9:41)

This “striving with their wealth and their lives” was, in the context of Muhammad's circumstances, unmistakably a military command particularly in light of the fact that Allah was guaranteeing paradise to those who “fight in the way of Allah and shall slay and be slain”. An Arabic word for the “striving” bring a form of the word “Jihad”²². Pakistan is the biggest propagator of this ideology all over the world, especially in J&K, by channelizing Pan-Islamic movement, they wanted to motivate every Muslim who is born on this earth to participate and internalise the deed of Jihad because it will materialise their dream of the formation of a world called Muslim ummah. The unrealistic dream of secession of J&K (Pakistan believed it to be a Muslim dominated state) from India, and to accede it to Pakistan's territory hence, Pakistan suffered loss every time²³.

Apart from ideology also, people in J&K were persuaded by the terrorist's organisations to join their nexus by using threat and violence against the persons and member of the concerned family. If they deny joining them, then the females of the family became the victims of terrorist's rage and were tortured in endless ways therefore, person had to surrender to terrorist's demands. Considerable number of people joined terrorism due to the ongoing wave of terrorism during 1990's and the correspondence situations created in the valley. Youth were exhorted by the local religious and political leaders, relatives and friends who later on became the driving force to join the ranks of terrorist.

But the actual force behind joining the ranks of terrorists was the shallow ideology of jihad which governed them to do heinous acts. They were brainwashed to believe that by joining terrorism they were participating in a holy war, an offshoot of religious fanaticism which ultimately led to the liberation of J&K. A well planned strategy was infused by the terrorists and their mentors across the border in the young and vulnerable minds of people in J&K. After training youth of J&K to blindly follow the holy war of terrorism, the terrorists were assigned the task of attacking and killing Security Forces, to launch suicide mission near public places or cantonments, to motivate vulnerable groups of society to join the ranks of terrorists, to blow up vital installations and government buildings stand in for democracy, to do publicity campaign for the terrorist's

²⁰ TOPAC was an operation or strategy code-named by Pakistan's President Zia-ul-Haq and it was implemented by Pakistani Government after his death to carry out a proxy war with India. It was aimed to break peace, to disintegrate India, to utilise the spy networks to act as an instrument of sabotage, and to exploit porous borders with Nepal and Bangladesh to set up bases to conduct their operations.

²¹ Jagmohan, 2017

²² Spencer, 2019

²³ Jagmohan, 2017

organisation and to do the random killing of people who may defy to support the cause of terrorist by torturing them to create terror and panic among the wider audience²⁴.

According to Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (2012) which says “whosoever does any act with the intent to threaten or likely to threaten the unity, integrity, economic security or sovereignty of India or with intent to strike terror or likely to strike terror on the people or any section of people in India or any foreign country, by using bombs, dynamites other explosive substances or firearms or lethal weapons or poisonous or non-poisonous gasses or other chemicals or any other substance because of which there is death, injuries to people, destruction of property, disruption of any supplies or services essential to the life of community in India or in any foreign country and damage the monetary stability of India” is unlawful in the eyes of laws²⁵. Therefore, any activity which is threatening unity and integrity of India by creating terror in the minds of people due to which people are pushed to hardships from time to time is unlawful in the eyes of laws and terrorism is unlawful that is keeping the pot boiling in J&K since 1947²⁶.

CONCLUSION

Terrorists are the sleeping cells who remain unostentatiously inaudible in the society as until stimulated by a pre-established signal, to perform acts of sabotage, infiltration, and terrorism. They are directed by their mentors across borders or within the borders to terrorize the wider audience through violence, intimidation, torture and killing of innocents and defenseless to achieve their groundless goals. There are endless factors which led them to this devastation since ages. In J&K, Pakistan through sponsored terrorism has created turbulence in the state which was followed blindly by the people in the name of holy war i.e. Jihad. Therefore, India has restitutive laws which are cooperative and its only aim is to restore things to order when a misdeed has been committed. These laws give option to terrorist's to abandon their path of devastation by surrendering to Indian Security Forces to again become an accepted part of society who then work to curb the unending menace with Indian Security Forces.

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