
TERRORISM: AN INSIGHT

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ABSTRACT

Terrorism is one of those phenomena which has not only hampered the functioning of a particular state but has also disturbed the world order. Terrorism has caused enormous amount of violence and has been the reason for the loss of millions of lives. The mindset and the motivation that the terrorists have whether they being the organization or an individual has been discussed in this paper.

The impact that the practice of terrorism has caused and to what extent has also been discussed in this paper along with the countermeasures. What drives the terrorists to carry out such an action despite knowing the fact that it will cause such amount of bloodshed and so many people will lose their lives has been a real question which this paper has tried to answer.

The problem of terrorism shall only be dealt with the mindset of protecting the country in which it has happened but it should be dealt with the intention of putting an end to it globally. All the countries should come forward and address this thing and should initiate the motion for making laws that would end the practice of terrorism from its root.

The most common and the most vulnerable targets of the terrorists should be made aware of the tactics that the terrorists use in order to attack them so that they could tackle the attacks and prevent themselves from being attacked by the terrorists as much as they can possibly do.

Keywords: Terrorism, Impacts of terrorism, Targets of terrorism, History of terrorism, Cyberterrorism, Countermeasures of terrorism, Global disturbance

INTRODUCTION

Terrorism is a phenomenon which is very much complex and multifaceted in nature. It is a means of action which is opted by certain groups in order to fulfil their political, economic, religious or ideological objective. It basically involves intentionally targeting the citizens of a particular place or even the non-citizens tourists of the said place in order to create a sense of fear in their minds and to compel them to act according to the demands of the said community or group.

Terrorism consists of the violent actions which includes bombings, mass shooting, plane high-jackings along with hostage taking. These actions or series of action are done in order to make a statement to the mass regarding their demands and their ideologies. So much as the governments of the said places are making laws for controlling these violent acts and for protecting their citizens, the terrorist organizations are always finding lacunas in the efforts of the said government authorities and then exploit those lacunas in order to get the authorities to act according to them. The act of terrorism requires a very heavy amount of motivation and the source of their motivation is the political grievance that they have towards a particular party and the separatist movements to the religious extremism and the different ideological belief. These sources of the motivation can be deeply rooted in their minds due to the social inequalities, regional conflict and the historical grievances. All these leads them to generate a desire to overthrow the ruling government and remove the existing power structure as they believe that they have a better structural plan which will help the society to grow and achieve prosperity.

Apart from the common forms of terrorism, various other forms of terrorism have been erupting because of the advancement of the technology and the continuous development of the world. For example, earlier only physical form of terrorism was prevalent in the society like mass shooting, bombing etc, but now along with the development of technology, A virtual form of terrorism has emerged which is of the same calibre as that of the physical form of terrorism. Virtual form of terrorism includes cyber-crimes like hacking, phishing, data stealing, soft influencing etc. as these type of crimes are very much new in the global arena, there hasn't been much of a development of laws from the government's side as they are still researching and working hard for preventing the people from getting caught in those cybercrimes. Hence the new age terrorism i.e. the cyber terrorism is the current concern in the global sphere.

DEFINITION

¹The U.S. federal bureau of investigation (FBI) defines both international and domestic terrorism as involving “violent, criminal acts”.

Because of the inherent fury and violence of terrorism, definitions of the term terrorism are sometimes difficult to understand and contentious. The phrase has also come to carry a strong connotation and various other meanings in everyday speech. The term was initially used in the 1790s to describe the terror employed by the revolutionaries against their adversaries during the French Revolution. Mass guillotine killings were part of the Reign of Terror carried out by Maximilien Robespierre's Jacobin movement. Although terrorism in this sense refers to acts of violence committed by a state against its own citizens, during the 20th century, the term has most frequently been used to refer to acts of violence directed towards governments in an effort to change public policy or overturn an established regime.

Terrorism has not been defined legally in all of the jurisdiction but the statutes that exists share some of the common elements. It involves the use or threat of violence and seeks to create fear, not just within the direct victims but also among the wide audience.

In order to get the attention of a very large number of people and various governments, the act of terrorism is committed in a more dramatic and violent way and it might involve some high-profile person who is known among the people. These consists the act of kidnapping some high-profile person or a large number of people, mass shooting, car bombing and suicide bombing. The location where the crime is about to be committed and the person or persons with whom this crime is about to be committed is chosen very carefully and strategically with regard to the shock value that it will give to people and the governments.

²HISTORY OF TERRORISM

The feeling of terror has been used a lot throughout the history by the states as well as the non-state actors in order to either take revenge on their enemy or in order to achieve what they want. For instance, earlier the roman emperors were the advocates of terrorism. Later to that, certain communities were forced to live their lives in terror by the other communities as the beliefs of

¹ <https://www.britannica.com/topic/terrorism>

² <https://www.britannica.com/topic/terrorism>

both the communities were not the same and were different hence the stronger community used to force the weaker one to live their lives in terror by fulfilling their duties assigned to them. For instance, after the American civil war, the supporters of the reconstruction were rising up with their demand but the defiant southerners crushed their uprising and for this very purpose they formed a group named as ku klux klan.

Later in the 19th century, the practice of terror reached in western Europe. Russia and the united states of America created a trend which influenced the people to believe that the best way to bring social and political change in the nation is by assassinating the person in power, and due to this belief, during the timeline of 1865 to 1905, many of the kings, president, prime ministers and various other government officials were eliminated in order to bring change in the political and social arena.

Later in the 20th century, all the groups demanding their ideologies to be in the centre started using terrorism as a way to achieve to make people hear their voice. The feeling of terror became the hallmark of all the political uprisings. Earlier the terrorism used to be only physical but with the advancement of technology, new methods of terrorism also emerged in the form of cyber terrorism. This provided the terrorists with more opportunities and ways to inculcate the feeling of fear in minds of the government and common people.

MOTIVATION FOR TERRORISM³

Whenever a crime of any nature is committed, it is committed due to the prevalence of certain kind of motivation in the minds of the people or organization committing it. motivation acts as the fuel in their mind as it provides them with the strength that is required by them for carrying out such kinds of work. These motivations are so strong that they even allow them to move forward despite knowing that they will be punished according to the laws of the particular country where they are committing the said crime. There are different types of motivations that pushes them to the extent so that they could commit crimes of the said nature and some of them are mentioned below:-

- 1. IDEOLOGICAL MOTIVATION:-** Difference in the ideology of the two groups can act as a very strong motivation for terrorism. Certain terrorist groups are very much highly motivated by the difference in the ideological beliefs and extremist ideologies,

³ <https://ijip.in/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/18.01.100.20180603.pdf>

and this could be one of the reasons for them to start attacking the groups they don't agree on, on the ideological front in order to instill fear in the mind of the people of that group along with proving the ideology of the said group as wrong and theirs as right.

2. **RELIGIOUS MOTIVATION:-** Religious motivation could also be the source of motivation for the terrorist to attack on the various religious groups. Certain religious groups attack the other religious groups in order to promote their agendas, their radical ideologies or in order to retaliate against the perceived threats to their faith. Religious motivation is also used to carry out the process of soft influencing of the people of other religious groups into hating on their own religion and believing in the terrorist's religion.
3. **RETALIATION:-** Retaliation and revenge could be one of the motives for the commitment of the terrorism. Terrorist may attack a particular group in order to retaliate against them on the matters like difference in policies, difference in ideologies or for suppressing their movement or activism.
4. **FINANCIAL MOTIVATION:-** Financial gains could be a very strong motivation for the commitment of the act of terrorism. The terrorists basically hack into the system of big organizations and the servers of the governments of the countries and steal confidential data and then blackmail the said authorities in order to extort a hefty amount of money in exchange of those sensitive information.
5. **POLITICAL MOTIVATION:-** Terrorism is also driven by the political agendas. Terrorist may target the government of the countries in order to disrupt the political processes of the particular countries and then promote their own ideologies along with undermining their own.
6. **PSYCHOLOGICAL MOTIVATION:-** Terrorist also aim to create fear and psychological distress among the targeted population. Terrorism could also be used for manipulating the population and for spreading propagandas.

COMMON TECHNIQUES AND TACTICS

There are various kinds of techniques which are used for carrying out the act of terrorism. These techniques vary in ranges and processes, some techniques require long time to get

activated and require high level of skillset whereas some techniques require less time and not so high level of skillset. Some of the most common techniques and tactics which are used for terrorism are mentioned below:-

1. **SUICIDE BOMBING:-** it is basically an act in which an individual personally delivers the explosives and detonates those explosives with the intention of causing the maximum amount of damage to the people and the property. The individual dies in the process. A lot of these incidents has happened in the past which has raised a lot of concerns in the minds of the world leaders and in the minds of the world government⁴.
2. **CYBERTERRORISM:-** it is new form of terrorism which has developed with the advancement of the technology. As we know that because of the advancement of the technology, the world and every sector has depended on the technology in order to make their work a bit easy, this has resulted in the emergence of new opportunities for the terrorists as now they hack into the system as well as in the servers of the government with the purpose of stealing the confidential documents and afterwards they either leak those document or threatens the government and the companies to pay them the amount of money they are asking for or they'll leak the documents.
3. **GUERILLA WARFARE:-** The guerilla warfare is a type of warfare which is fought by the irregular fast moving small scale actions against the orthodox military and police forces and on the occasion against the rival insurgent forces either independently or in conjunction with a larger political-military strategy.⁵
4. **KIDNAPPING OR HOSTAGE TAKING:-** it basically means to take someone away without their consent and hold them prisoner in order to demand money or something else from their family or from the government. It has been witnessed in the past as to how a terrorist group has taken the whole airplane hostage and in return of not killing the passengers on it, they have asked the government to let one of their group member free.⁶
5. **COMPLEX COORDINATED ATTACKS:-** A Complex Coordinated Attack (CCA),

⁴ <https://www.britannica.com/topic/suicide-bombing>

⁵ <https://www.britannica.com/topic/guerrilla-warfare>

⁶ <https://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/kidnap>

also known as a Complex Coordinated Terrorist Attack, is a violent assault or series of assaults by one or more individuals or groups using different types of weapon with the intention to inflict harm on large numbers of people.⁷

6. **INDIVIDUALIST ATTACK:-** This form of terrorism is not carried out by a large group of people but by an individual independently. Mostly the person planning on attacking using this method uses the cyberterrorism as it does not require a lot of human muscle to carry out. He/she can carry out the said attack on his/her own.

These are some of the tactics which are used by the terrorist in order to instil fear in the hearts of the people and so that they can achieve whatever they want. As we know that the society is everchanging and always developing, the terrorists also finds new ways of committing the crime by keeping up with the development of the society.

TARGETS OF TERRORISM

Terrorism targets a very wide range of sectors according to the requirement of their aim. Different entities, organizations, institution and infrastructure are targeted by the terrorists. Some of the targets include:-

1. **GOVERNMENT SYSTEMS:-** government agencies and organizations like defence and intelligence agencies are very attractive targets for the terrorists as these organizations are the first one to get attacked in the war between the terrorist and the authorities. The sole motive for attacking these system is to make the government helpless in front of them.
2. **FINANCIAL INSTITUTION:-** The first and for-most move of the terrorist when they step in a war against a country is to disrupt their economy and for achieving the same, they attack on the financial institution of the said country in order to impose severe consequence on the citizens of that country. Banks, stock exchanges and the payment systems are the institutions they go after first.
3. **IMPORTANT INFRASTRUCTURE:-** important infrastructure like energy grid, water systems, transportation networks, telecommunication and financial institutions

⁷ <https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/2022-11/Action%20Guide%20CCA%20508%20FINAL%2020190905.pdf>

are targeted as well by the terrorists. These building are targeted just for making the lives of the citizens difficult so that the government comes under pressure and breakdown.

4. **HEALTHCARE SYSTEM:-** healthcare system is a very important institution for the well being of the country and attacking the same ensures the disruption in the health of the citizens. As we know that the country's development is ensured by the health of the citizens and attacking the healthcare system will hinder the development of the country and will slow down the progress rate of the country too.
5. **EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION:-** Attack on the educational institution is done with the intention of damaging the academic structure of the country. Academic collaborations, various research works and various intellectual property are damaged. Sensitive research data and academic operation are hindered at a very large scale.
6. **TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM:-** as we know that with the advancement of the technology, every sector is introduction new technologically advanced system in order to ease up their work and because of these advancement, these sectors have become very much of an easy target for them to attack. Cyberterrorist attacks on the transportation system and the aviation system in order to create chaos among the people and cause possible accidents. Once the transportation system gets disrupted, the transportation of the resources from one place to another becomes very difficult.
7. **PUBLIC UTILITIES:-** Terrorist attacks on the public utilities with the intention of hindering the normal lives of the citizens and for bringing the communities to a standstill.
8. **DEFENCE AND MILITARY:-** The cyberterrorist attacks on the technologically advanced defence system in order to get the classified military information which they can then use in for their future attack plannings. They have the capability of shutting down the military equipments which will provide them the upper hand over the defence of the country they are attacking.
9. **PRIVATE SECTOR UNDERTAKING:-** cyberterrorists target the private sectors and steal their classified their information and then asks for a hefty amount for exchange of

those informations. Hence cyberterrorists attacks the private sector undertakings only for monetary benefits and for the classified informations.

10. **GENERAL PUBLIC:-** The terrorist targets the general public in order to create the panic like situation in the minds of the government so that they could get the things they want from the government in exchange of not doing more of these attack.

Cyberterrorist attacks only when they figure out the vulnerability in the system. And with the constant evolution of the technology, new technologies in the present sectors will be used at a very large extent and in case any vulnerability gets spotted in those systems, those systems will become a very easy target for the cyberterrorist hence in order to prevent them from getting attacked, very strict laws as well as very tightly packed systems are required to be used by all the respective sectors. The terrorist carry out all of their plans in order to portray the government of that particular country as weak in the eyes of the citizen as well as in the eyes of the other countries.

IMPACTS OF TERRORISM

Terrorism leaves a very significant impact on the individuals, organizations and the respective societies. Some of the major impacts are mentioned below:-

1. **Damage to the reputation as well as to the trust:-** Organizations who are targeted by the cyberterrorist experience reputation damage. Their customer loses their trust and faith in the organization. Their ability to protect the data of their customer from getting breached starts getting questioned. And all of these collectively amounts to them getting long term negative consequences.
2. **National security concerns:-** when the organizations who are associated with the government are targeted by the cyberterrorist, the question on the national security starts getting raised. This shakes up the trust and faith of the citizens on the virtual defence mechanism of their country.
3. **Disruption of service:-** Terrorism results in the disruption of service. Services that are essential to the mankind like the power grid, Communication network, transportation system gets disbanded for quite some time. This results in massive inconvenience to the citizens of the country under attack.

4. **Financial loss:-** The organization and the government has to suffer tremendous financial loss when targeted due to operational disruption, data breach, thefts and loss of citizens of the country. The recovery of the money and the lives lost cannot be done.
5. **Psychological impact:-** The act of terrorism inculcate the notion of fear in the minds of the people and society as a whole. The heinous act of terrorism include spreading misinformation, compromising of personal information, disruption of the critical services, mass killing and carrying out the actions that put the lives of the people in danger creates a sense of fear in the mind of people.
6. **Social and political consequences:-** Terrorism causes political ramification due to political and social unrest, political instability and geopolitical tension among different countries. Some of the aspects that are part of the cyberterrorism campaign including spreading of the wrong information, manipulation of the citizens using the false information and targeting specific public groups makes people undermine their faith and trust in the democratic structure of the country.
7. **Physical and health related damages:-** Terrorist also attacks on the health related sectors and due to our increased dependency on the digitalized healthcare systems, cyberterrorist attacking on the healthcare system proves to be very fatal and dangerous to the common citizens as the healthcare system being out of order will surely become the reason of the death of a lot of people.

A very strict cybersecurity system should be adopted by the respected sectors in order to lessen the impact of these notorious acts of the cyberterrorist. The less impacted we would be by their actions, the more easily we will be able to tackle them. Government should adopt measure for spreading awareness among the citizens regarding the ways they could prevent themselves from getting caught in the traps set up by the cyberterrorists. And the governments should structure their defence system in such a manner that everything gets double checked and nothing of a suspicious nature could enter the country boundaries.

COUNTERMEASURES AGAINST TERRORISM

As it has been mentioned above the motivations that the terrorists have for carrying out the act of terrorism against the targeted institutions and the government and what impact their action

has in the society as well as on the people and on their lives, it can be very easily proven that the act of cyberterrorist and the terrorists damages our society and the government affairs on a very massive scale and it needs to be stopped, hence here are some of the ways that could help us in tackling and dealing with the threat of terrorism of all kinds:-

1. **Continuous monitoring and threat intelligence:-** Continuously monitoring the activities happening can increase our chances of identifying the emerging threats and vulnerabilities coming our way and once these get identified before they could do any damages to our systems, we can be Immuned from the threat of terrorism of all kind. This will also help us track the pattern according to which they attack.
2. **International cooperation and Norms:-** Getting together with other countries and identifying the problem of terrorism of all kind is very important as it will lead them to agree on making certain guidelines regarding the activities in every sector including the cyberspace. The guideline agreed upon by the international countries will ensure the prevention of these kinds of notorious behaviours.
3. **Technological innovation:-** Investing in different types of advanced technologies such as A.I. and M.L. along with the behavioural analytics could be a very strong defence mechanism against the terrorism of all kinds. These technologies can enhance the process of threat detection, automatic incident responses and can also help in identifying the anomalous action.
4. **Stronger legislation and regulation:-** The government needs to enact more stricter and stronger legislation regarding the offences of cyberworld. This should include acts and legislations that will not only criminalizes the act of cyberterrorism but it will also make the cyberspace safer for the common people to use.
5. **Education and awareness:-** Promoting knowledge regarding the cybersecurity and awareness among the people from different spheres of life is very much essential as it will make less prone to get caught in these notorious traps set out by the cyberterrorist and will help them in understanding whether they are being manipulated by someone into participating in these criminal offences.
6. **Public-private partnerships:-** Public partnership facilitates information sharing, joint

exercises and coordinate responses, leveraging the expertise of both sectors in order enhance cyber resilience. Hence The coordination and cooperation between government agencies and private sector organization is very much important for the purpose of cyberterrorism.

7. **Incident response planning:-** Proper protocols and procedures are required to set up by the governments in order to detect the threat of terrorism. They need to strategies their movements and actions in order to minimize the impacts of the terrorism. And for achieving this goal, organizations should develop and regularly update the incident response plans to effectively respond and tackle the threat of terrorism of all kind.

It is very much important to note that countermeasures will never be sufficient for tackling the problem of cyberterrorism completely as cyberterrorism is linked to technology and technology is everchanging aspect, hence with the development of technology, new ways to commit the cyber crimes will also come up and hence for tackling those cybercrimes, new countermeasure will have to be taken up. Therefore in order to tackle the problem of terrorism in this ever changing new age world, we also need to have an updated technological defence, then only we will be able to protect ourselves from the new tactics of the terrorists and cyberterrorists.

RECENT INCIDENTS OF TERRORISM IN THE WORLD

- The technique of suicide bombing was used in Kabul Afghanistan recently in which more than 20 people were injured. The suicide bomber detonated the bomb outside the office of the ministry of foreign affairs of Afghanistan.
- An act of shooting was carried out by a man in the embassy with a Kalashnikov rifle in Tehran, Iran. The man entered the embassy and opened fire on the people inside the embassy. In this attack the head of the embassy's security service was killed while two guards were injured.
- An act of suicide bombing in Peshawar, Pakistan was carried out in which more than 80 people died while more than 220 people got injured. The act happened in the mosque when everyone gathered for the afternoon prayers in the mosque of the police line area, the suicide bomber detonated the bomb in the mosque which lead to so many casualties. The perpetrators for this suicide bombing attack is said to be Tehrik-i-

Taliban Pakistan (TTP).

- In 2022, an act of mass shooting was carried out in the united states of America in which 10 people, all of whom were black, were killed and 3 more were injured in a racially motivated act of mass shooting in supermarket.
- In the year 2019, the act of suicide car bombing was carried out In India in which more than 40 soldiers were killed and about 35 soldiers were injured. In this incident, a suicide car bomber rammed an explosive laden vehicle in the convoy of the CRPF soldiers in Pulwama district. The perpetrator of this terrorist attack was Jaish-e-Mohammad.
- In the year 2019, an act of mass shooting was carried out in Christchurch, New Zealand, in which an Australian racist terrorist opened fire on the muslims worshippers who had gathered at the Al Noor mosque and Linwood Islamic centre for the offering their Friday prayer.⁸

These are some of the recent terrorist attacks which gives us the brief idea how the act of terrorism is constantly increasing and how people are getting killed because of these groups who carry out these kind of activities.

CONCLUSION

In the end, as per the information provided above we can say that terrorism is a multifaceted and a very complex practice. The thought of instilling fear in the mind of the people and the government for the purpose of getting their agenda pushed forward is a very horrifying thing in itself. Getting their agenda pushed is not the only motivation for the terrorist to practice terrorism, there are various other reasons too which include retaliation and political reasons as well.

The act of terrorism has a very vast impact on the society, be it financial, physical, mental, global or emotional. The act of terrorism make the citizen to loose their trust from the government of that particular country or even from the organization on the terrorist have attacked. There tactics have evolved over the past year. Earlier they used to make use of the

⁸ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_terrorist_incidents

small explosives but now with the development of the society, they have started making use of the big explosives. Earlier tactics like bombing and mass killings were used but now with the advancement of the technology, the practice of cyberterrorism has become prevalent which is way more dangerous than the other forms of terrorism.

In order to tackle these forms of terrorism, certain counter measures are also there but in order to get those measures to use, those measures needs to be implemented very strictly. Education and awareness should be provided to the citizens so that they could be safe from these traps that would land them into the radar of the terrorists.

Laws should be made with the intention of providing safety to the citizens and the non citizens i.e. tourists and everything in the country should be under the supervision of the officials so that any suspicious activities happening could be traced and could be put an end to it.