ISSUE DESCRIPTION

Introduction

Preventing terrorism has always been a paramount challenge for nations across the globe as societies grapple with the permanent threat of violence carried out by extremist groups. In an interconnected world, the rise of terrorism, both on a global and local scale, demands comprehensive strategies that encompass intelligence, law enforcement, and international cooperation. International terrorism, often characterised by transnational organisations, requires coordinated efforts among nations to disrupt financing, dismantle networks, and share intelligence effectively. The fact that almost everyone may get access to a passport and ultimately an entrance to other countries makes the collaboration even more important in order to stop the flow of recruits and resources that fuel these organisations.

Simultaneously, domestic terrorism comes with a unique set of challenges, with threats originating from radicalised individuals or groups within a country. Addressing root causes, such as socio-economic inequality and ideological extremism, is crucial for preventing the radicalization that leads to acts of domestic terrorism. Effective counterterrorism measures involve not only law enforcement actions but also the involvement of the community, education, and efforts to counter the narratives that fuel extremist ideologies. Finding the balance between security measures and preserving civil liberties is vital in fostering a resilient and inclusive society. Ultimately, a versatile approach, combining international cooperation and localised strategies, is essential in the ongoing effort to prevent both international and domestic terrorism.

Definition of Key Terms

Terrorism - the calculated use of violence to create a general climate of fear in a population and thereby to bring about a particular political objective.

Domestic terrorism - Violent, criminal acts committed by individuals and/or groups to further ideological goals stemming from domestic influences, such as those of a political, religious, social, racial, or environmental nature.

International terrorism - Violent, criminal acts committed by individuals and/or groups who are inspired by, or associated with, designated foreign terrorist organisations or nations (state-sponsored).

General Overview

HISTORY

Terror has been practised by state and non-state actors throughout history and the world, even Greek philosophers wrote about the effectiveness of psychological warfare, moreover, Roman emperors used fear as a tool against internal threats. Amongst the earliest terrorist organisations, we have to mention the Jewish organisation Zealots (often referred to as Sicarii) who often engaged in fights against other Hebrews who were suspected of collaborating with the Roman empire. This proved to be a common practice in the later centuries, if we look at the Jacobin terror during the French Revolution or the Spanish Inquisition between the 15th and 19th centuries, in both cases we can notice that the common part is that the so-called enemies of the state and the church became executed, often publicly as a demonstration and ultimately to create fear amongst the citizens. After the civil war in the United States a new fascist organisation, the Ku Klux Klan formed with the goal to intimidate the freshly freed slaves and the supporters of Reconstruction. In the later half of the 19th century, in Western Europe, in the United States, and in Russia anarchist terrorist groups became powerful, who believed that the best way to effect revolutionary political and social change was to assassinate persons in positions of power. Eventually, an assassination by an anarchist Terrorist, Gavrilo Princip, who murdered Archduke Franz Ferdinand led to the First World War. In the 20th century state terrorism became the tool of totalitarian extremist dictatures, such as Nazi Germany or the Soviet Union, since imprisonment, torture, and execution were carried out by the state on those who were considered the enemies of the state. Terrorism also played a crucial role in the anticolonial conflicts, in disputes between different national groups over possession of a contested homeland, in conflicts between different religious denominations, and in internal conflicts between revolutionary forces and established governments. In the second half of the 20th century a new tactic, suicide bombing was adopted by terrorist organisations. On

September 11th, 2001, the deadliest terrorist attack happened in History, when members of al-Qaeda hijacked four commercial airplanes and drove two of them into the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center, one into the Pentagon and one unsuccessfully into the U.S. Capitol building or into the White House. In the 21st century with the invention of the internet, the world wide web also became a platform for terrorists, since in the past years cyber terrorism became a real threat just as much as other forms of terrorism.

TYPES OF TERRORISM:

Political Terrorism: Political terrorism is driven by political objectives, where the goal is to influence the government, provoke political changes, or challenge existing power structures.

Religious terrorism: Religious terrorism is motivated by religious beliefs, this form of terrorism seeks to advance a particular interpretation of a religious ideology. There are usually three goals of this type of terrorism: fomenting the apocalypse, creating a religiously pure state and establishing a religious government.

Nationalist and separatist terrorism: Separatists seek nationalist aims, usually desiring to secure self-determination or home rule for a certain faction or geographic community. Separatist terrorists (also called nationalist terrorists) use acts of terror to force the creation of a new state, or to join with another existing nation with which the separatist community is closely aligned.

State-sponsored terrorism: The act when a government supports or engages in terrorism as part of its foreign policy. The practice involves a nation providing financial, logistical, or other support to non-state actors executing terrorist activities.

Left-Wing and Right-Wing terrorism: Left-Wing and Right-Wing terrorism are both associated with political terrorism since it is driven by a political ideology. An act of terrorism is said to be left-wing terrorism when a group with socialist or communist (far-left) ideology overthrows a capitalist government, and right-wing terrorism is when a nationalist or supremacist group acts the same.

Cyberterrorism: Cyberterrorism is often defined as any premeditated, politically motivated attack against information systems, programs, and data that threatens violence or results in violence. The definition is sometimes expanded to include any cyber attack that intimidates or

generates fear in the target population. Attackers often do this by damaging or disrupting critical infrastructure.

Environmental terrorism/ Eco-terrorism: A type of terrorism where a variety of crimes are committed against companies or government agencies and intended to prevent or interfere with activities allegedly harmful to the environment.

Narcoterrorism: Criminal organisations involved in drug trafficking may use terrorism to protect their interests, intimidate rivals, or influence government policies related to drug enforcement.

Lone-Wolf terrorism: As its name suggests, lone-wolf terrorism is when one or more individuals commit terrorism independently from any terrorism organisation.

Anarchist terrorism: Terrorism committed by individuals or groups motivated by anarchist ideologies. Anarchism is a political philosophy advocating for the absence of government or hierarchical authority, and some adherents have historically employed violent means to achieve their objectives. Main characteristic is murdering individuals in power and bombings.

EFFECTS OF TERRORISM

Economic Effects

When such events occur, as well as those living and working in an area suffering as a result, the disruption is felt further as businesses and investors seek to distance themselves from the danger. Whilst an immediate negative impact of such shocks was to be expected, for firms located near terrorism-stricken areas when it came to their long-term M&A (Mergers and Acquisitions) prospects. Firstly, such firms become significantly less attractive to potential acquirers and, as a result, are less likely to receive an acquisition bid. Furthermore, the impact also lasts for as long as two years after the occurring incidents. Moreover, firms that had deals on the table before an attack transpired were, more often than not, far more likely to have those deals withdrawn in the weeks afterward.

Psychological Effects

At a psychological level, trauma may arise as well. This, in turn, can affect a survivor's sense of self producing identity disorientation and essentially eliciting "the devastation of one's core identity". Man-made trauma, such as that associated with terrorism, can shatter core beliefs, including belief in the world as a just place, in others as kind and trustworthy individuals, and in the inviolability of the self. Survivors of terrorist acts - such as hostage-taking, hijacking, or

kidnapping - may experience fear, shock, anxiety, shame, guilt and self-blame, anger, hostility, rage, and resentment, together with a sense of disempowerment and helplessness. However, this is not always the case as some individuals during the hostage-taking may develop the so-called Helsinki/Stockholm syndrome when the hostage starts to sympathise with their kidnappers. Survivors may also suffer grief for the loss of others and the self, anxiety, depression (including suicidal ideation), emotional numbness, and difficulties in recollection. Some victims may also experience post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) which, in addition to depressive symptoms, may also include intrusive phenomena such as flashbacks and nightmares, and which may persist for months or years.

Societal effects

In addition to the psychological impact of terrorism-related violations experienced at an individual level, affected societies may suffer collective trauma which is particularly the case where attacks are targeted against a particular group or community. In such a situation, the sense of group identity and allegiance is heightened, producing collective solidarity, identity, and mutual support. Due to the heightened allegiance, when the group, or members of it, are attacked, it may collectively experience symptoms of psychological trauma. Manifestations of trauma at a societal level can include varying forms of community dysfunction. Abuses such as torture or ethnically-targeted violence may create "an order based on imminent pervasive threat, fear, terror, and inhibition,··· a state of generalized insecurity, terror, lack of confidence, and rupture of the social fabric". Societies that witness the perpetration of atrocities such as war rape and other forms of violence against community and family members may experience severe trauma. Collectively, communities enter into shock, which is compounded by grief for the loss of the victim through either death, the debilitating physical and psychological impact of the violation, or, in the case of rape, familial and community rejection.

Major Parties Involved

United States of America: The United States of America is amongst the most influential countries in the world, therefore it is a popular target of terrorist attacks. As aforementioned, a terrorist attack's main goal is to create fear by using violence so that they can achieve some sort of political change, and given that one of the most influential and strongest countries in the world is the USA makes them a popular target for terrorist attacks. Events like 9/11, the Oklahoma City bombing, and the Boston Marathon bombings took place here. The United States has also established successful counter-terrorism organisations such as the FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation) or the CIA (Central Intelligence Agency).

UNOCT: The United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism is a UN body established in 2017 to enhance coordination and coherence in the organisation's efforts to counter-terrorism. The UNOCT works to provide assistance to member states in implementing the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and promotes collaboration among various UN entities involved in counterterrorism activities.

Iraq: Iraq is a country situated in the Near East, and was ruled by the dictator Saddam Hussein in the late 20th century and Early 2010s. Despite his rule being secular (not spiritual nor religious-based), he has been accused of supporting certain groups and individuals against Western interests by providing shelter. During the invasion of the United States, a power vacuum was created, and insurgent groups rose to power including Al-Qaeda in Iraq (AQI), and engaged in fights with the invading U.S. forces. After the withdrawal of the U.S. forces remnants of the AQI evolved into ISIS and by 2014 successfully captured most of the country. After 2014 with the leading of the USA operations against ISIS were launched, and by 2017 the terrorist organisation had been eliminated from the larger cities of the country.

Israel: Israel, a country located in the Near East, has always been a very sought-after territory due to the fact that three religions regard it as their holy place. In the past, in multiple wars, the main goal was to capture this territory. In 1948 the country was created in order to have a country for the Jews. While many countries recognise Israel, the surrounding Arab countries refuse to. The denial of its existence led to numerous wars, terrorist attacks, and massacres. This manifested in events such as the Munich Olympic Massacre (1972), the Arab-Israeli war (1948-1949), The Hamas takeover of the Gaza Strip in (2007), and the current, ongoing war between Hamas and the state of Israel.

Afghanistan: Afghanistan is a country situated in the Middle East. In the Late 20th century the Soviet Union led a decade-long invasion, ending with the withdrawal of the Red Army. In this period the United States supported the country with weapons and even by training soldiers so that they could resist the communist forces. After the 9/11 attacks, the country became this country a hot spot of conflicts due to the fact that the Taliban refused to hand over Osama bin Laden to the USA, and as a response the USA accompanied by NATO forces invaded Afghanistan. After seemingly defeating the Taliban, the USA started to reconstruct the country by developing the education system, founding the healthcare system and establishing democracy. In 2021 with the

withdrawal of the U.S. forces the Taliban rule returned and every deed of the past 20 years was wiped out.

Al-Qaeda: Al-Qaeda is a transnational extremist organisation founded in 1988 by Osama bin Laden. Initially established to resist the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, it evolved into a global jihadist network with a radical interpretation of Islam. Al-Qaeda gained infamy for orchestrating the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States, marking a pivotal moment in global counter-terrorism efforts. The organisation seeks to establish an Islamic caliphate based on its interpretation of Sharia law, employing asymmetric warfare and terrorist tactics. Al-Qaeda has been responsible for numerous attacks worldwide, targeting civilians and military personnel. Despite facing significant setbacks, including the death of bin Laden in 2011, the group remains a potent threat, inspiring and collaborating with other extremist factions.

The Islamic State: The Islamic State (IS), also known as ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and Syria) or ISIL (Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant), is a jihadist extremist group that emerged in the early 2000s. Founded by Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the organisation gained global attention in 2014 when it captured large swaths of territory in Iraq and Syria. IS promotes a radical interpretation of Sunni Islam and seeks to establish a caliphate governed by its strict interpretation of Sharia law. Infamous for its brutal tactics, including mass executions, beheadings, and enslavement, the group has been responsible for numerous acts of terrorism worldwide.

Hamas: Hamas (Harakat al-Muqawama al-Islamiyya) is a militant Palestinian nationalist and Islamist movement in the West Bank and Gaza Strip that is dedicated to the establishment of an independent Islamic state in historical Palestine. It was founded in 1987 during the First Intifada (Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation). Hamas has both a military wing, the Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Brigades, and a political wing. It gained popularity for its resistance against Israeli occupation and has been involved in both armed conflict and political activities in the Palestinian territories, particularly the Gaza Strip. Different countries and entities have varying perspectives on Hamas, with some considering it a legitimate resistance movement, while others designate it as a terrorist organisation.

Russia: Russia, a country situated in Eastern Europe and Northern Asia, has a rich history of facing terrorist strikes both domestically and internationally. In the late 19th, and early 20th century the country faced several revolutionary and anarchist strikes. During the

Soviet era, terrorism became less common, however, occasional terrorist strikes did happen mainly linked to nationalist or separatist movements and ethnic tensions occurred in the Caucasus and Central Asia sometimes manifesting in terrorist strikes. In the post-communist era mainly in Chechnya separatists and other Islamist extremist movements rose to power which led to the Chechen wars in which the Chechen separatists used terrorist tactics such as bombing, hostage-taking and other attacks against Russia. Incidents such as the Moscow apartment bombings (1999), Moscow theatre hostage crisis (2002), Beslan school siege (2004).

Interpol: Interpol (the International Criminal Police Organization) is a global network of law enforcement agencies from 194 member countries. Established in 1923, its mission is to facilitate international cooperation in preventing and investigating transnational crime. Interpol provides a secure platform for member countries to share information, manages databases on criminals and stolen property, and offers operational support for joint law enforcement efforts. It operates within a legal framework, promoting collaboration while respecting human rights.

Timeline of Events

1910s-1920s - Rise of nationalist and separatist movements.

1920 - Formation of the Cheka in Soviet Russia, one of the earliest security organisations.

1939-1945 - World War II witnessed various forms of state-sponsored terrorism and resistance movements.

1947 - Formation of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) in the United States.

1950s-1960s - Decolonization and rise of nationalist movements.

1972 - Formation of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) by the United Nations.

1978 - The Red Brigades, an Italian far-left terrorist organisation, kidnaps and murders former Prime Minister Aldo Moro, leading to increased counterterrorism efforts.

1980s - Escalation of terrorism by groups like Hezbollah and the Irish Republican Army (IRA).

1986 - Adoption of the European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism.

1990s - Emergence of Al-Qaeda and the Taliban.

2000 - The USS Cole was attacked in Yemen by Al-Qaeda.

2001 - The September 11 attacks in the United States prompted a global focus on counterterrorism.

2004 - The Madrid train bombings highlighted the threat of terrorism in Europe.

2005 - London bombings prompt increased international cooperation on counterterrorism.

2005 - The United Nations Security Council adopts Resolution 1624, which calls on member states to adopt measures to combat incitement to commit terrorist acts.

2011 - Death of Osama bin Laden.

2013 - Formation of the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF).

2019 - The Christchurch mosque shootings in New Zealand highlighted the global nature of terrorism.

Previous Attempts to Solve the Issue

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF THE FINANCING OF TERRORISM (1999)

The conviction criminalises the provision of funds for terrorist activities. Signatory states commit to establishing criminal offenses for financing terrorism, cooperating in investigations, and freezing assets linked to terrorism. The convention emphasises the importance of international cooperation, extradition, and the sharing of financial intelligence to prevent and combat the financing of terrorism. It plays a significant role in the global effort to disrupt the financial networks supporting terrorist organisations and activities.

UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL COUNTER-TERRORISM STRATEGY (2006)

The strategy consists of four pillars: addressing conditions conducive to terrorism, preventing and combating terrorism, building states' capacity, and ensuring respect for human rights. It calls for a comprehensive, multilateral approach, emphasising the importance of international cooperation, intelligence sharing, and legal frameworks. The strategy promotes measures to counteract the factors that contribute to terrorism, urges states to strengthen their counterterrorism capabilities, and emphasises the protection of human rights in counterterrorism efforts. It serves as a foundational framework for member states to coordinate efforts, share best practices, and collectively combat the global threat of terrorism.

GLOBAL COUNTERTERRORISM FORUM (SINCE 2011)

The Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF) is an international platform established in 2011 to enhance global cooperation in addressing the evolving challenges of terrorism. Comprising a diverse group of countries and international organisations, the GCTF focuses on promoting civilian-focused counterterrorism efforts, the rule of law, and preventing violent extremism. It facilitates collaboration, and capacity-building initiatives to strengthen the international community's ability to prevent and respond to terrorism effectively. The GCTF's initiatives span a range of areas, including countering foreign terrorists, countering violent extremism, and improving criminal justice responses to terrorism.

COALITIONS AGAINST TERRORISM (FOR EXAMPLE THE GLOBAL COALITION TO DEFEAT THE ISIS (2014))

The Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS is a multinational alliance formed in 2014 to combat ISIS. Comprising over 80 countries and organisations, the coalition aims to defeat ISIS by coordinating military efforts, sharing intelligence, and addressing the root causes of extremism. Its activities include military operations, stabilisation efforts in liberated areas, countering terrorist financing, and countering extremist propaganda. The coalition emphasises a comprehensive approach to eliminate ISIS and prevent its resurgence, fostering international collaboration to address the multifaceted challenges posed by the terrorist organisation.

Possible Solutions and Approaches

ENHANCING EDUCATION

Fostering critical thinking, tolerance, and resilience against radicalization. Comprehensive curricula addressing global issues, diversity, and conflict resolution can instill a sense of understanding, reducing susceptibility to extremist ideologies. Additionally, promoting inclusivity and cultural exchange creates environments that discourage the seeds of radicalization, empowering individuals to contribute positively to society rather than succumbing to extremist influences.

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

As we could have seen on multiple occasions, when nations collaborated and worked together on one issue and shared intelligence, with joint forces they could eventually overcome and solve the issue. In the case of terrorism, we could have witnessed examples when with joint forces they could eliminate a terrorist organisation from an era, for example, the Global coalition to defeat ISIS.

ADDRESSING ROOT CAUSES

Addressing the root causes of terrorism involves mitigating socio-economic disparities, political grievances, and cultural tensions. Strategies include investing in education and employment opportunities, promoting inclusive governance, and addressing historical injustices. Building resilient communities through social programs, fostering dialogue, and ensuring equitable development can help reduce the conditions conducive to radicalization, ultimately preventing the emergence of extremist ideologies and acts of terrorism.

CYBERSECURITY MEASURES

Cybersecurity measures play a crucial role in preventing terrorism by blocking online radicalization, disrupting communication channels, and blocking cyber-attacks. Strong cybersecurity can prevent the spread of extremist propaganda, block recruitment efforts, and disrupt financing networks. It also enhances intelligence capabilities, enabling authorities to detect and respond to potential threats. By securing critical infrastructure from cyber threats, cybersecurity measures contribute to overall national security, creating a more resilient environment against terrorism in the digital realm.

STRENGTHENING BORDER SECURITY

Strengthening border security involves deploying advanced technology, intelligence-sharing, and personnel training to monitor and control border crossings effectively. Enhanced border controls can help prevent the movement of terrorists, curbing illicit arms and contraband trafficking. Strong security measures aid in identifying and apprehending individuals associated with terrorism, disrupting their activities, and preventing the infiltration of extremist elements. Additionally, fortified borders contribute to national security by minimising vulnerabilities and maintaining the integrity of a country's territorial boundaries.

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