TERRORISM AND GLOBALIZATION

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Abstract:

The relationship between terrorism and globalization is difficult to describe accurately. Each phenomenon is complicated in its own right and defies simple characterization. It is inaccurate to suggest that globalization is responsible for terrorism, but technologies associated with globalization have been exploited by terrorists. In particular technologies have improved the ability of terrorist groups to work together, share information, and reach out to previously unavailable audiences. Technology however, cannot change the character of the terrorist massage or the nature of the struggle. Terrorism is a weapon of the weak conducted by a minority of individuals who promote an extreme ideology it often fail to create political change. The global community is not powerless in the face of such violence. In order to succeed, the global community must utilize the resources at its disposal collaboratively to diminish support for terrorism and demonstrate the illegitimacy of terrorist massages and aspirations.

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Introduction:

Terrorism and globalization have at least one thing in common both are complex phenomena open to subjective interpretation. Definitions of terrorism vary widely, but they start from a common point departure. Terrorism is characterized, first and foremost, by the use of violence. This tactic of violence takes many forms and often indiscriminately targets non-combatants. The purpose for such which violence is used, and its root causes, is where most of the disagreements about terrorism begin.

Historically, the term "Terrorism" described state violence against citizens during French Revolution. Over the past half century, however, terrorism has come to mean the use of violence by small groups to achieve political change. Terrorism differs from criminal violence in its degree of political legitimacy. Those sympathetic to terrorist causes suggest that violence is the remaining option that can draw attention to the plight of the aggrieved. Such have included ideological, ethnic and religious exclusion or persecution.

Defining terrorism can be difficult as groups often espouse multiple grievances and compete with one another for resources and support. In addition, the relative importance of these grievances within groups can change over time. Those targeted by terrorist are less in dined to see any justification, much less legitimacy, behind attacks that are designed to spread fear by killing has a prejorative value i.e. useful in delegitimizing those who commit such acts.

Terrorism is the unlawful use or threatened use of violence against civilians, often to achieve political, religious or similar objectives. International terrorism

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involves the territory or the citizens of more than one country. Terrorism is nothing new; it has probably existed ever since human societies began to regulate the use of violence. It is the unusual scale and in intensity of the 11 September 2001 attacks in the New York and Washington, and later attacks in Ankara, Madrid, London, and elsewhere that has put the issue of international terrorism high on the agenda. It is an issue that concerns international relations for obvious reasons. International relations are not least about national and international security. When the only superpower in the international system, the United States, defines international terrorism as the first, rank threat to US security (National Security Strategy (NSS) 2002) and goes on to launch a "War on Terror", the issue must rank high on the political and scholarly agenda.

Adurey Kurth Cronin has out lined different types of terrorist groups and their historical importance in the following way. There are four types of terrorist organizations currently operating around the world, categorized mainly by their source of motivation: left –wing terrorist, right-wing terrorist, ethno nationalist / separatist terrorists, and religious or "sacred" terrorists. All four types have enjoyed periods of relative prominence in the modern era, with left-wing terrorism inter wined with the communist movement, right-wing terrorism drawing its inspiration from fascism, and the bulk of ethno nationalist/ separatist terrorism accompanying the wave of decolonization especially in the immediate post world war 11 years. Currently, sacred terrorism is becoming more significant of course, these categories are not perfect, as many groups have a mix of motivating ideologies some ethno nationalist groups, for example, have religious characteristics or agendas but usually one ideology or motivation dominates.

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Globalization, Technology and Terrorism:

Few challenge the point that terrorism has become much more pervasive worldwide due to the process and technologies of globalization. The technological advances associated with globalization have improved the capabilities of terrorist groups to plane and conduct operations with for more devastation and coordination than their predecessors could have imagined. In particular, technologies have improved the capability of groups and cells in the following areas: proselytizing, coordination, security, mobility and lethality.

During the era of transnational terrorism, groups planned and conducted individual attacks or mounted multiple attacks from a single staging base. The technologies associated with globalization have enabled terrorist cells and groups to mount coordinated attacks in different countries. Indeed, a hall mark of militant Islamic groups is their ability to conduct multiple in different locations. The technologies associated with globalization including commercially available hand held radios and phones, have allowed terrorist cell member and groups to operate independently at substantial distances from one another and network together. The global system for mobile communication (GSM) standard, for example, ensure that any complaint phone will work anywhere in the world where GSM network has been established. E-mail and cell phone contact among geographically separated group members attacks them to conduct their attacks in separate location or converge on a specific target area.

The reduced size and increase capabilities of personal electronics also give terrorist mobility advantages. Mobility has always been a crucial consideration for terrorists and insurgents alike, given the superior resources that states have been

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able to bring to bear against them. In open societies that have well developed infrastructures, terrorists have been able to move rapidly within and between borders, and this complicates efforts to track them. The globalization of commerce has also improved terrorist mobility. The expansions in the volume of air travel and goods that pass through parts have increased exponentially through globalization.

Globalization has undoubtedly had a troubling influence on terrorism, but the one element that concerns counter- terrorism experts and practitioners the most is future catastrophic attacks using weapons of mass destruction (WMD). During the transnational era, terrorists could obtain advanced weapons to conduct more lethal attacks, including rudimentary WMD, but they largely did not. The precise reasons why terrorists did not acquire and use such weapons during this era are nuclear. Exports speculated, however, that terrorists leaders understood that the more lethal there attacks were, the greater the likelihood that a state or the international community would focus their entire efforts on hunting them down and eradicating them.

In the absence of WMD, Globalization has facilitated access to weapons, resources, and proficiency required to conduct smaller, but more lethal, attacks. Terrorist groups from Chechnya to Sri Lanka have shared their expertise in their manufacturing of lethal bombs triggered by increasingly sophisticated and globally available remote control devices. Within Iraq since 2003, and increasingly in Afghanistan, insurgent and terrorist groups have been able to obtain the knowledge and resources required to build sophisticated homemade bombs called "improvised explosive devices" (IED's).

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Terrorism remains a complex phenomenon in which violence is used to obtain political power to redress grievances that may have become more acute through the process of globalization. Globalization has improved the technical capabilities of terrorists given the global reach, but has not altered the fundamental fact that terrorism represents the extreme views of a minority of the global population. In other words, globalization has changed the scope of terrorism but not its nature. The benefits that globalization provides terrorists is neither one sided nor absolute.

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