

Global Combat against Terrorism and Money Laundering: A Historical Perspective with Assessment and Strategy

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Abstract

We try to check out the measures of our historical acts in the sense of quotation that politics of yester years has become the histories of today. From the beginning, the current situation did not need any highlight as we know the historical perspective is an assessment for us to tackle the situations of terrorism and money laundering for their sinful acts. In the last we even try to create some strategies.

Key words: terrorism, money laundering, capitalism

Historical Introduction

Although this is not a history of terrorism and our analysis does not emphasize terrorist groups of antiquity, some appreciation of their violent past is essential. The history of terrorism constitutes a major undertaking in its own right. That is not our intention here. However, it is important that we should not ignore certain historical antecedents of terrorism and violence in order to appreciate the relationship between ancient and contemporary terrorist movements. War and revolution in general and the terrorist strategy in particular have a rich heritage.

The terms terrorism and terrorist have their roots in the French Revolution. Since that time terrorism has been widely used to describe almost every form of violent behavior. Even though the term is relatively recent, the terrorist strategy is not. Criminal justice practitioners and students of the terrorist method sometimes ignore this important history they also feel that terrorism is a contemporary phenomenon and thus new and unprecedented.

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* Sicarii and Zealots: Terrorism as strategy to produce panic or paralyzing fear for the purpose of accomplishing premeditated political objectives was first introduced by the Jewish Sicarii and Zealot movement of ancient Palestine. The Sicarii and the Zealots, through acts of historic terror, successfully influenced a massive revolt against their colonial Roman rulers. However, the revolt ended after the Romans had encircled the Sicarii at Masada.

* The Assassins: A similar mixture of religious zeal and political extremism was the feature of a better-known religious sect called the Assassins.¹ The Assassins were a division of the Shi'ite Ismaili Muslim sect that appeared in the eleventh century and were finally extinguished in the thirteenth century by conquering Mongols.

* Narodnaya Volya: Compared to the Sicarii, Assassins, Thugs, Fenians, Chinese secret societies and Ku Klux Klan, the Narodnaya Volya was historically the most successful terrorist organization, even though its struggle with Czarist Russia lasted only from January, 1878, to March, 1881. The Narodnaya Volys (People's Will), organized as a socialist movement in Russia in the 1870s, was based on the concept that an over campaign of political propaganda would excite the peasantry and workers and influence reforms in regime.²

* The Anarchist Tradition: Another political ideology closely linked to terrorism is the anarchist tradition of assassination. Anarchism has frequently been associated with terrorism. The equation anarchism = terrorism is well documented and persistent in the literature.³ This relationship is based on the political assassination of kings, heads of state and other symbols of government in the nineteenth century. For example, King Humbert of Italy and so many up to Rajiv Ghandi and recent Benazir Bhutto.

As we know the entire world is having serious intentions regarding the topic given to us. The most confounding problem in the study of terrorism related with the definition acceptable to all. This term is not a completely new phenomenon; in continuation to the historical perspectives, according to some writers the example of terrorism was the involvement of the state of Serbia in the murder of the Austrian archduke, which triggered World War I. however, the term acquired a special significance in international relations only in the 21st century when the United States of America began to speak of many state sponsors of terrorism, viz. Iran (which USA and Israel accused of exporting Islamic revolution by resort to terror), Libya and Syria (which were accused of supporting and training Palestinians). Some define it Nationalists without a Nation in the case of South Moluccan Terrorism in the Netherlands as said by Valentine Herman and Rob Van Der

Lann Bouma,⁴ and Geoffrey Pridham describe it in the case of Terrorism in West Germany during the 1970s as a threat to Stability or a case of Political Over-Reaction? Some simply define all illegitimate acts as a terrorist acts. There is no satisfactory political definition and no common academic consensus as to the essence of terrorism. For example, two decades before were the bombers of the Marine Compound in Beirut “terrorist criminals” or heroic “freedom fighters?” which terms best describe the Nicaraguan contras or Afghan rebels? Where there is political consensus, problems of definition are moot. Where there is no political consensus, definitions have a tendency to polarise differences. Ours are freedom fighters and commands: yours are terrorist fanatics;⁵ even some analysts regarded the Russian-Chechen war as a conflict between rival gangs for control of strategic resources.⁶ The United States of America also expressed concern at the mushrooming of independent terrorist groups, which have grown up on their own, like the Al-Qaeda founded by Osama bin Laden. After the horrendous terrorist attacks on World Trade Centre in New York and Defence Head quarters in Pentagon on September 11, 2001 the USA and the world began to view the emergence of terrorism (understood broadly as premeditated and politically motivated violence aimed mainly at non-combatant groups) as the main threat to freedom, democracy, stability and civilized life.⁶ In 2005 some writers describe that today; terrorism may become a threat to some nations but tomorrow, if left unchecked: it may become threat to the entire world order and all it stands for viz. international peace, international trade and global prosperity. And as we are the current witnesses of all these said by the think tanks.

But combating against the acts and money laundering to this is a matter of solutions if we are very serious about the eradication of this sin! And laundering of money for the terrorist acts has deep roots in our historic-political phenomenon.

Social Extremes

Sharp social divisions and ‘class struggle’, as Marxists perhaps still call it. Constitute a genuine menace. Beyond a certain threshold, disparities are dangerous for the system and must be carefully monitored. The fact that great differences in wealth and living conditions can provoke rage, disruptive behaviour and violence is hardly news but the late twentieth century has added a new wrinkle to this age-old truth. Some rich societies like United States, in spite of sharp wealth divisions between social strata, still seem able to absorb class frictions, though the existence of

thousands of self contained, walled and gated private communities reveals a profound apprehension. It is not clear how much longer this relative tranquility may continue, particularly when the middle classes can no longer count on social benefits once supplied without direct financial outlay, such as satisfactory public schools and safe neighbourhoods. In the European Union, although social extremes are less glaring, chronic unemployment, stagnation of wages in the lower brackets and the prevalence of temporary jobs (Continental Europe) or sharp increases in the number of 'working poor' (Great Britain) cause resentment and fear. In many Third World countries, particularly in Latin America where extremes of wealth and poverty have always been the norms, the benefits of affluence are already offset by its drawbacks. Private security guards are indispensable, children of rich parents cannot go to school unaccompanied for fear of kidnapping, business must pay protection money, women cannot wear jewellery on the street, jogging or bicycling is impossible, driving one's own car or taking a taxi is risky but public transportation unthinkable, and so on. And counties in Asian sub continent have not that much good pictures that we can show to the world all this disparities create the social imbalance among the societies that create terrorist and many gangsters or anti social elements provide them money for their personnel criteria.⁷

Capitalism and Money Laundering

Question of money laundering for the purpose of sins like terrorism is based under the hidden covers of our economic system and the technicalities which can be hijacked by the terrorist who are having enough education to do it for their purposes. Taken over large areas of the globe and threatens many others parallel economies based on drug trafficking, arms smuggling, money laundering and corruption of all stripes are now valued in the trillions of dollars and attract new recruits hourly. Huge areas of the world already lie outside the jurisdiction of any state. Legitimate authorities do not necessarily know, much less control, the location of private airports, cocaine-producing factories or cartels headquarters. These cartels have acquired not merely financial but also strategic power. As all these anti social elements extend their reach, money and politics follow them. Legitimate businesses are sucked into their vortex. These peoples can afford to buy the requisite elements of national governments as convenient.

Assessment and Strategy

Under the broad spectrum of assessment and strategy for the solutions of the acts of terrorism here is a need to know the Purposes of Terrorism: the purpose, direction, and focus of terrorism are fear. Terrorism is a technique for inducing fear. However, contrary to the popular belief, terrorism is not senseless, it is toneless destruction of life and property. There are many reasons for acts of terrorism besides fear. Crenshaw believes that terrorism serves several functions:

- * To seize political power,
- * To affect public opinion and seize the media,
- * To maintain discipline within the terrorist organization and enforce obedience and conformity,
- * To discredit and disrupt the everyday operation of government,
- * To win new recruits, and
- * To project an image of strength that far exceeds their numbers.⁸

Likewise, Jenkins of the Rand Corporation expands on the following purpose of terrorism:

- * To provoke government overreaction, specially indiscriminate reaction;
- * To overthrow oppressive regimes;
- * To cause isolation and demoralisation of individuals, creating an atmosphere of anxiety and insecurity;
- * To release prisoners and publish manifesto;
- * To immobilize security forces; and
- * To obtain financial resources in order to purchase weapons and explosives.⁹

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, promulgated by the United Nations, says everyone has the right to life and: “security of the person” and that “no one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his life”. The fact is those terrorists are in the business of arbitrarily depriving people of their lives. Counterterrorist are in the business of depriving terrorists of their lives – but not arbitrarily. The role of the United Nation is to provide a safe platform in the diplomatic arena for all member nations to discuss and thus avoid any conflict that might arise through misunderstanding. The theory is that while nations are talking, they are not fighting, as Churchill put it so succinctly, “Jaw-jaw is better than war- war.”¹⁰

Our examination of the phenomenon of terrorism shows that there is a perceptible change in its nature. Before the mid-1990s almost all terrorist acts against the western part of the world were either sponsored or backed by the social irregularities or the state owned terrorism by the militaries and police on the desperate class of the society, and even by some countries financed and trained terror groups of great powers.

However, the 9/11 Commission hearing and the panel's staff reports paint a fascinating picture of the rise of a new phenomenon in global politics: terrorism that is not state-sponsored but society-sponsored.¹¹ Similarly, in September 2004, the United States introduced a United Nation resolution that obliges nations to stop the flow of weapons of mass destruction to terrorists and others smuggling illicit arms. The Security Council draft is said to aim at closing loopholes and not 'non-state actors'. However, the draft merely calls on states to penalize those helping terrorist obtain weapons without providing for any sanctions against states that do not comply. But, the United States officials claim that the resolution, which evokes Chapter 7 under the UN Charter to combat global terrorism, has "a name and shame" component that could pressurise nations to comply.¹² In order to devise as effective mechanism to curb terrorist activities, the international community has to band together and frame the rules of international conduct in a way, which makes them binding on all nations, big or small. Only then can the works become a safer place.

The war against terrorism has succeeded in putting the global network of terrorist organizations under heavy pressure and in capturing some members of Al-Qaeda, but many scholars doubt if merely destroying one terrorist network, Al-Qaeda, will end the war against terrorism. This is because any single terrorist act like the one on September 11, 2001 and second November 26, 2008 in Mumbai is only an outward symptom of a deep rooted cancer and to this cancer that we need to pay attention an cure.¹³

Among factors, which cause terrorism, poverty and hunger are the most fatal. A major chunk of resources of the world, that is more than 80 per cent are consumed by approximately 20 per cent population. According to a United Nations expert, every year 36 million people surrender to death due to starvation. As far as India is concerned, the problem of poverty is very acute. A large number of Indians are destined to be born in poverty, live in poverty and die in poverty leaving behind a legacy of poverty. Delivering his keynotes address at the Cater Center (Atlanta) on February 22, 2002, President of the World Bank, Jim Wolfenson said: "The world

will not be stable if we do not deal with the question of poverty. If it is not stable, we will be affected by migration, crime, drugs and terror”.¹⁴

While asserting that Cancun is a victory for Al-Qaeda, Thomas L. Friedman points out: “Sure, poverty does not cause terrorism – no one is killing for a raise. But poverty is great for the terrorism business because poverty creates humiliation and stifles aspirations and forces many people in the cities – all conditions that spawn terrorism”.¹⁵ Akhtar H. Emon observes: “poverty feeds on human psychology and lowers the human self-esteem and self-dignity. This in turn nurses and nurtures the environment of terrorism due to the fear more poverty, which manifests itself in violence”.¹⁶

Conclusions

In the *Republic*, Plato goes on to provide elaborate guidelines for the eugenics applicable to various classes in order to improve the race, preserve numerical stability and ensure political equilibrium. Plato’s instruction ensure that the upper classes – the brightest and best – will be given more opportunities to procreate than the lower orders.

In the fifth century BC, mortality was generally equal to or greater than fertility; war, disease and other accidents could wreak havoc and the leaders needed cunning to maintain the state at its ideal size with the optimum mix of inhabitants. To that end, says, Socrates, the rulers will ‘be obliged to make liberal use of lies and deceit for the good of the governed’.¹⁷ Mencken said it best: “There’s always an easy solution to every human problem—neat, plausible, and wrong”.¹⁸ So, too, with terrorism in this paper we have surveyed some definitions, historical background, purposes, assessment and strategic outlook of terrorism. Even some argue that the real terror network is the state. The only common denominator seems to be that victims of terrorist acts are killed, injured, and threatened, and the acts are for the most part illegal.

Some recurring patterns were noted in the purposes of terrorist behavior and other violent offenses. However, no one terrorist group has an exclusive franchise on terrorism and the causes of terrorism are varied as the human condition itself. However, it must be emphasized that terrorism is neither wanton nor irrational. Terrorism is not mindless violence. It is a deliberate strategy with proximate ends. If they use strategy then this is our duty first to it use because strategy is amongst the peaceful weapon of humankind. Terrorism then may be characterized as discriminate indiscriminate violence. Terrorism is discriminate since it has a definite purpose, but

indiscriminate I that the terrorist has neither sympathy nor hate for the randomly selected victim. In order to understand this difficult paradox, we will examine the historical antecedents of modern terrorism to outline historical trends and future prospects.

NOTES

¹ For example, see M.G.S. Hogdson, *The Order of Assassins* (The Hague: Morton, 1995); Bernard Lewis, *The Assassins: A Radical Sect in Islam* (New York: Basic Books, 1968).

² For example, see Astrid Von Borcke, "Violence and Terror in Russian Revolutionary Populism, The Narodnyaya Volya, 1879-1883", in *Social Protest, Violence, and Terrorism in 19th and 20th Century Europe* (London: MacMillan, 1982), pp. 48-62.

³ George Woodcock, *Anarchism: A History of Libertarian Ideas and Movements* (New York: World Publishing, 1962). David Miller. *Anarchism* (London: J.M. Dent and Sons, 1984).

⁴ Edited Juliet Lodge, *Terrorism: A Challenge to the State* (Martin Roberstson, Oxford, 1981), p. 11 and 119.

⁵ James M. Poland, *Understanding Terrorism: Groups, Strategies, and Responses* (Prentice-Hall, New Jersey 1988), (Preface), p. xii.

⁶ Susan George, *The Lugano Report: On Preserving Capitalism in the Twenty-First Century* (Pluto Press, London, 1999), p. 13.

⁷ Susan George, *The Lugano Report: On Preserving Capitalism in the Twenty-First Century* (Pluto Press, London, 1999), p. 10.

⁸ Martha Crenshaw, "The Causes of Terrorism", *Comparative Politics* 13 (1981), p. 374.

⁹ Brian Jenkins, *International Terrorism: A New Mode of Conflict* (Los Angeles: Crescent, 1975), pp. 4-7.

¹⁰ Gayle Rivers, *The War against the Terrorists: How to Win it* (Charter Books, New York, 1986), p.230.

¹¹ Fareed Zakaria, "Terrorists do not need states", *Indian Express*, March 31, 2004.

¹² "United Nation Seeks to Keeps arms away from Terrorist", *Indian Express*, March 26, 2004.

¹³ H. A. Gani, *Understanding Islamic Terrorism* (Himalaya Publishing House, Mumbai, 2005), pp. 115.

¹⁴ *Indian Express*, February 23, 2003.

¹⁵ Thomas L. Friedman, "Cancun is a Victory for Al-Qaeda", (*Indian Express*, September 26, 2003).

¹⁶ Akhtar H. Emon, "Root Causes of Terrorism in the Middle East", (*Radiance Viewsweekly*, November 3-9, 2002).

¹⁷ Plato, *The Republic*, 459b et seq.

¹⁸ Laurence J. Peter, *Peter's Quotations* (New York: Morrow, 1977), p. 410.