



TERRORISM AS A GLOBAL SOCIO-POLITICAL PHENOMENON: ANALYSIS AND HUMANISTIC PERSPECTIVES

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Abstract. Terrorism remains one of the most pressing global challenges, threatening the stability of societies and undermining human security. Defined as the use of violence and intimidation to achieve political, religious, or social objectives, terrorism seeks to instill fear, disrupt social order, and impose ideologies through coercion. This article examines the multifaceted nature of terrorism, exploring its causes, methods, and societal impacts from a humanistic perspective. By analyzing its socio-political, economic, and ideological roots, the study underscores the need for comprehensive strategies that prioritize justice, equality, and global cooperation to address this pervasive issue.

Introduction. Terrorism represents a complex and multifaceted phenomenon that poses significant risks to global peace and security. While interpretations of terrorism vary, it is broadly understood as the deliberate use of violence and fear to advance ideological, political, or religious agendas. Its primary aim is to create widespread panic, destabilize societies, and challenge existing governance structures. This article seeks to provide a scholarly analysis of terrorism, emphasizing its humanistic implications and advocating for solutions that uphold the dignity and rights of individuals while addressing the underlying causes of this global issue.

Main analysis. Terrorism is characterized by the strategic use of violence to dominate or promote specific ideologies, targeting both individuals and societal structures. It transcends national boundaries, manifesting as a global threat that impacts communities through physical destruction and psychological trauma. At its core, terrorism leverages methods such as bombings, armed attacks, kidnappings, and cyber operations to sow fear and disrupt social cohesion. The objectives of terrorism are diverse, encompassing: Political transformation or the overthrow of established regimes; The imposition of





religious or ideological beliefs; Resistance against perceived social injustices or inequalities.

Terrorist tactics are designed for maximum visibility and impact, often targeting civilians in public spaces to amplify fear. These methods include: Explosive Attacks: Detonations in crowded areas, such as markets or transportation hubs, aim to maximize casualties and media attention; Hostage-Taking: Kidnappings are employed to exert political pressure or secure concessions; Cyberterrorism: Digital attacks disrupt critical infrastructure and erode public trust in governance; Psychological Warfare: Propaganda disseminated through media platforms intensifies societal anxiety and undermines confidence in security systems.

The global reach of terrorism is facilitated by modern technology, particularly social media, which enables rapid dissemination of fear-inducing content and recruitment efforts. This interconnectedness amplifies the psychological and societal toll of terrorist acts, making them a persistent challenge to international stability.

The emergence of terrorism is driven by a confluence of socio-political, economic, and ideological factors. Understanding these root causes is essential for developing effective countermeasures.

Political repression, characterized by the suppression of dissent and curtailment of freedoms, fosters environments conducive to extremism. When governments deny citizens their rights or discriminate against marginalized groups, resentment can escalate into radicalization. Similarly, social inequalities—such as disparities in wealth, education, or opportunity—create grievances that terrorist groups exploit to recruit and mobilize supporters.

Economic marginalization, including poverty, unemployment, and unequal resource distribution, breeds desperation and disillusionment. These conditions make individuals, particularly youth, vulnerable to extremist ideologies that promise empowerment or retribution. Economic instability undermines social cohesion, creating fertile ground for terrorist narratives that capitalize on feelings of exclusion.

Certain terrorist groups anchor their actions in distorted interpretations of religious or ideological doctrines, portraying violence as a legitimate means to achieve their vision. For instance, groups like the Islamic State have misused religious rhetoric to justify widespread violence, framing their actions as a defense of their beliefs. Similarly, ideological terrorism, rooted in political





philosophies such as anarchism or nationalism, seeks to impose radical change through coercive means.

International disputes and geopolitical rivalries often exacerbate terrorism. State sponsorship of terrorist groups, whether through funding or logistical support, amplifies their capacity to operate. Conflicts in regions like Afghanistan have historically provided breeding grounds for extremist organizations, which exploit instability to expand their influence. Geopolitical tensions also fuel proxy wars, where terrorism becomes a tool for advancing strategic interests.

Terrorism's consequences extend beyond immediate casualties, affecting economies, social trust, and international relations. Economically, attacks disrupt industries such as tourism and trade, leading to job losses and reduced growth. Socially, terrorism erodes community cohesion, fostering suspicion and division. On a global scale, it strains diplomatic ties, as nations grapple with the complexities of counterterrorism cooperation and differing approaches to addressing state-sponsored extremism.

From a humanistic perspective, terrorism violates the fundamental principles of dignity and safety. It disproportionately harms vulnerable populations, including civilians, children, and marginalized groups, undermining the sanctity of human life. The pervasive fear generated by terrorist acts stifles freedom of expression and movement, creating societies marked by uncertainty and trauma.

Terrorist organizations employ deliberate strategies to achieve their objectives, often with meticulous planning and adaptability. Their tactics are designed to maximize disruption and visibility, ensuring widespread fear and media coverage. Common strategies include: Targeting Public Spaces: Attacks in crowded areas amplify casualties and psychological impact; Asymmetric Warfare: Small, covert groups execute operations to evade detection and overwhelm larger security forces; Propaganda Campaigns: Media and online platforms are used to spread fear, recruit followers, and legitimize their cause.

These tactics exploit vulnerabilities in societal and governmental structures, aiming to destabilize trust and provoke overreactions that further alienate populations. By creating cycles of violence and retaliation, terrorists seek to perpetuate instability and advance their agendas.

CONCLUSION. Terrorism is a multidimensional phenomenon rooted in socio-political grievances, economic disparities, ideological extremism, and geopolitical conflicts. Its devastating impact on human lives, societal stability, and global security underscores the urgency of addressing its underlying causes.





A humanistic approach to counterterrorism emphasizes the restoration of justice, the promotion of equality, and the protection of human rights. By fostering inclusive societies, strengthening economic resilience, and enhancing international cooperation, the global community can mitigate the conditions that fuel terrorism. Ultimately, the fight against terrorism requires a commitment to empathy, dialogue, and collective action to build a world where dignity and peace prevail.

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