

# Terrorism as a new threat to Contemporary world.

## 1) Introduction

a) Hook

b) Background

c) Thesis: With time being, global dynamics have evolved and so is the terrorism. Contemporary changes like globalisation and technological advancements have intensified the terrorism, thereby amplifying its impacts on the contemporary world.

## 2) Types of Modern Terrorism

a) Religious Terrorism → Taliban, ISIS etc

b) Ideological Terrorism → Left and Right wing extremists

c) Environmental Terrorism → Earth Liberation Front and Animal Liberation Front

d) Cyber Terrorism.

## 3) Factors Contributing to rise of Terrorism in contemporary world.

### (a) Globalisation

- Ease of movement spreads terrorism
- Decentralised and globally integrated financial networks provide access for terrorist to conduct financial activities.
- Globalised media helps to disseminate terrorist's propaganda.

b) Technological advancements

- Use of AI in Terrorism
- Incorporating modern technology for terrorist activities

c) Transnational Terrorist groups.

d) State sponsored terrorism.

4) Impact of Terrorism on Contemporary world.

e) Social Impacts.

- Stricter laws to curtail terrorism often compromise Human rights.
- Social polarisation → Islamophobia.

f) Adverse Impact on world's economy.

g) Political impacts → strained relations among countries.

h) Increased risk of mass destruction

5) Conclusion.

"In various forms, terrorism is as old as government and armed struggle, and as persuasive."  
— Richard A. Falk, in his book, *Revolutionaries and Functionaries: The dual face of terrorism*. If one dives back in history, one will find that Falk has rightly argued about the historical presence of terrorism. In 1st century C.E., Sicarii, a Jewish faction, was engaged in targeted assassination against Roman occupiers and Jewish collaborators to incite fear and further their political gains. Similarly, in medieval period, Muslim Assassins initiated targeted killing against religious and political leaders to influence the power dynamics of Middle East. However, the term 'terrorism' was initially coined during French Revolution, during which the revolutionary government used violence and hard-end tactics against whom it deemed to be against the revolution. Until 19th century, terror groups used targeted operations against influential individuals. However, in 19th century, Karl Hensen was the first the person to articulate use of violence, even mass further, to bring about political change, thereby laying the foundation of modern terrorism. With the advent of modern technology, terrorist started using dynamite for mass murders and telegraph and press to disseminated their propayanda among the wider population. Moreover, with time being, global dynamics have evolved and so is the terrorism. Contemporary changes like globalisation and technological <sup>advancement</sup> have <sup>have</sup> amplified contributed to intensify <sup>intensified</sup> the terrorism, thereby amplifying its impacts on the contemporary world.

To start with, new forms of terrorism have evolved in modern world, one of which is religious terrorism. After 9/11 terrorist attacks. These groups use religion as their tool to motivate individuals to act against a country. Moreover, they often exploit sectarian differences among the people. To illustrate, Tehrik-e-Taliban, Al-Qaeda and Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) use Islam as a motivation force for their assaults. These terrorist groups are responsible for worldwide terrorist attacks, and even in the Islamic countries. Hence, terrorist groups are using religion to justify their terrorist activities.

Additionally, some terrorists use ideologies to bolster their terrorist activities. There are different groups which often use violence to uphold their ideologies. For instance, in current times, far-right extremists often use violence to spread <sup>their</sup> ideologies. They often do assault other ethnically different minorities living in their own country. Europe has witnessed a rise in far-right extremism. Groups like neo-Nazi groups and Militant National Organisation seek violence to promote their ideology. Therefore, terrorists can use ideology to motivate their fighters.

Besides ideological terrorism, environmental terrorism has also emerged in the global scenario. These terrorist groups use violence against organisations which are accused of environmental destruction. To illustrate, Earth Liberation Front (ELF) and Animal Liberation Front (ALF) are organisations that use violence against organisations that damage environment and organisations that harm animals. Moreover, ELF, in 2016, had set fire to a ski resort in Colorado, causing 12 million dollars in damage. Hence, some groups are using violence to stop environmental degradation.

Moreover, cyber terrorism has also emerged in global terrorism scenario. Terrorists are now using modern technology to instil fear among the population. Moreover, such attacks often affect a large population. As exemplified by, Estonia Cyber Attack in 2007, a large-scale cyber attack targeted Estonia's government banking and media website, disrupting the country's infrastructure. It is often cited as one of the first cyber attacks that showed characteristics of cyber terrorism. Therefore, cyber terrorism terrorists are using cyber attacks to spread terror among people.

As world is witnessing new types of terrorism, there are certain factors which are contributing to the rise of terrorism in contemporary world. The next part of essay will explore the factors responsible for the rise in terrorism.

Firstly, globalisation has provided a fertile ground for terrorist to expand their activities around the world. Globalisation has interconnected the world, providing ease of movement travel in other countries. However, terrorists have exploited this benefit of globalisation. Terrorist now can travel easily. Terrorist can now easily infiltrate their assailants into other countries. This is exemplified by the 9-11 terrorist attacks in the USA, where later investigation found out that all assault perpetrators were non-Americans. Therefore, ease of movement has contributed in spread of terrorism.

Secondly, globalised and integrated financial networks has made it easier for terrorist to conduct financial transaction and fund raising. Such networks are not easy to track, as they bypass the standard bank transactions. To illustrate, Hawala, an informal value transfer method, is prevalent in middle East, Africa and South Africa. This method does not include banks in transaction; rather, it is based on broker to transfer money, <sup>who</sup> is mostly a trustee or a family member. Such method provide a pave the way for terrorist to earn raise funds.

Additionally, Bitcoin cryptocurrency has also made it easier for terrorist to conduct financial transactions, as they bypass legal checks in transactions. For instance, in 2019, 122 ad din al Qassam Brigade, a military wing of Hamas, initiated a fund raising campaign through Bitcoin; moreover, they advertised on social media about the campaign, claiming that donors will be impossible to trace. Such cryptocurrency transactions can circumvent international checks and measures, thereby increasing mustering donations for terrorist from all over the world. Consequently, globalised financial networks are playing a pivotal role in promoting terrorism.

Thirdly, globalised media helps to disseminate terrorist's propaganda. As terrorist's main objective is to instil fear among the masses, when their activities get media coverage, especially international media, it amplifies the effect from upto a global level. For instance, on July 7, 2005, coordinated suicide bombing targeted London's public transport, killing upto 52 civilians, got media coverage from media outlets like BBC and CNN. The immediate and detailed reporting, including graphic images and personal stories, heightened the public anxiety and fear across the Europe, resulting in strict security measures across Europe. Therefore, globalised media helps to spread terrorist's galvanised terrorist's fear among wider population.

Additionally, terrorists have been using incorporating modern technology in their activities, with one of the examples being the use of AI in terrorism. AI, especially generative AI, provides tools for terrorists to promote their propaganda. For instance, according to International Centre of Counter Terrorism's report, Exploitation of Generative AI by Terrorist Groups, pro-Islamic state's affiliates are using generative AI to translate their propaganda from Arabic to other networked languages. Such measures promote terrorists' propaganda to a wider region, which leads to more recruitment and fund raising. Therefore, artificial intelligence is promoting terrorists' false narrative.

Moreover, terrorists are incorporating modern technology, which enhances the impact of their operations. Modern technology helps terrorists to carry out their attacks more effectively and without any human loss of human on their side. To illustrate, according to Royal United Services Institute, a UK's think tank, between 2015 and 2017, ISIS modified quadcopters to drop munitions on coalition forces, carrying out 60 to 100 attacks per month. Such attacks provided ISIS a more economic. The use of modern technology enabled ISIS to carry out more relatively economical and more impactful attacks on enemies. Moreover, it underscores the technological advancement of terrorist groups. Hence, modern technology is exploited by terrorists.



Besides using modern technology, terrorists are now not confined to a particular area or country; rather, they have expanded in different countries, forming transnational terrorist groups. Transnational terrorist groups operate beyond the borders, making it difficult for a country to completely crush the groups. For instance, Tehrik Taliban Pakistan (TTP) operates in Pakistan and Afghanistan. Its masterminds are hidden in Afghanistan, while its members conduct terrorism in Pakistan. Moreover, Pakistan cannot eliminate these the leaders of TTP, as doing so would violate Afghanistan's sovereignty. However, Afghan government can not launch attacks on such groups, as it is not stable enough and cannot support or endure the presence of armed dissidents. Additionally, another terrorist group, ISIS, also operates beyond the borders. It has presence in Middle East, Afghanistan and Iran, making it intractable to eliminate completely. Therefore, the expansion of terrorism beyond borders has widespread effects.

Moreover, in this contemporary, states are sponsoring terrorism for their political benefits. Some states are sponsoring terrorism to for regional influence and also they use it them as their proxies to fight their for their interests. To illustrate, Iran provides political and economical assistance to Hamas to maintain its influence in Middle East, while it also use it a proxy strategy to maintain a form of indirect confrontation against Israel. Additionally, some states use terrorism to silence their political dissidents. To provide

evidence, ~~media~~ Canadian authorities have accused India for killing a prominent sikh leader and advocate of Khalistan movement. This action of Canadian allegation are true, India is responsible to instill <sup>fear</sup> in the other sikh dissidents using terrorism. Therefore, state spo are sponsoring terrorism for their own interests.

The pieces of evidences highlight that terrorism has increased with changing world dynamics. The impacts of terrorism on contemporary world have been discussed below.

Firstly, in modern world terrorism is causing adverse social impact. Countries may implement stricter laws to curtail terrorism, which often compromise human rights. Moreover, some laws are so intense that it can deprive citizens of their rights to fair trial. To illustrate, amidst recent surge in terrorism in Pakistan, Pakistan's National Parliament has passed several new amendments in 'Anti Terrorism Act 2016', which enables its law enforcement agencies to detain any citizen for 3 months without warrant. Also, detention can be carried out on the basis of mere suspicion. Additionally, after 9/11 terrorist attacks, the US congress enacted "The USA PATRIOT Act", which allowed for extensive government surveillance, including wire tapping, accessing private records and tracking internet activity without a warrant. The bill was deemed as against the privacy and basic human rights of citizens. Hence, terrorism has social adverse social impacts on contemporary world.

Moreover, terrorism has given rise to social polarisation and xenophobia. In contemporary world, Muslims are major victims of this phenomenon. Terrorist activities carried out by Hamas, ISIS and Al-Qaeda have given rise to anti-Muslim bias in western countries. For instance, a spike in Islamophobia was observed after 9/11. However, it has not declined in modern world. According to European Union's human rights agency, Muslims have faced most and more discrimination after 7 October 2023 attacks on Israel by Hamas. Furthermore, the agency conducted a survey, and pointed out that 47% of Muslims living in EU states have faced discrimination. This biasness has provided space for far-right political parties to grow, thereby increasing social polarisation. Hence, terrorism is widening the divides between different communities.

Additionally, terrorism adversely impacts the world's economy. As the world's economy is interconnected, economic disintegration in one region is felt in another. Therefore,

Additionally, terrorism adversely impacts the world's economy. Due to terrorism, a large portion of population — for example, in the Middle East — cannot contribute to the global economy due to terrorism. Moreover, terrorism affects industries, as investors do not and are reluctant to invest in areas affected by terrorism, and those who have already invested often withdraw due to security concerns.

Moreover, one of the most affected industry due to terrorism is Tourism industry. Considering all these points, terrorism put a negative impact on a country's economy. However, as global economy is interconnected, economic disintegration in one region is felt in another. For example, when security situation in gulf region begins to deteriorate, fuel prices surge worldwide. Another cogent example is Institute of Economic and Peace's report, Global Terrorism Index 2019, which highlighted that global impact of terrorism was 33 billion dollar in 2018. Hence, terrorism not only impact a country's economy, but also it has worldwide economic effects.

Additionally, terrorism has adverse political impacts. ~~Terror~~ It can cause strain<sup>ed</sup> foreign relations among countries. Whether it is state controlled terrorism or independent Terrorist groups, the country from<sup>m</sup> which they is <sup>operate</sup> operating always suffers. To illustrate, terrorism is always a bone of contention in good diplomatic relations between India and Pakistan. In 2008, when Pakistan and India were trying to break the ice, Mumbai a terrorist attacks occurred, <sup>and</sup> then the perpetrators were attributed to Pakistan based militants, leading to a severe strain in bilateral ties. Another example is from India - Canada relations. After ~~lethal~~ murder of Canadian Sikh leader, Hardeep Singh, India and Canada expelled each other's diplomats from their countries. Considering all points, whether intentionally or not it is a deliberate act of Terrorism of ~~own~~ from a country or some independent terrorism groups, it causes strained foreign relations.

Lastly, terrorism has cast a sword of mass destruction over world. As terrorism have access to advance technology, there is a constant threat of weapons of mass destruction falling into the hands of terrorists. Moreover, nuclear weapons a there is a threat of nuclear weapon falling into the hands of terrorists. For instance, according to International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), between 1993-2018, it recorded 650 confirmed incidents of illicit trafficking in nuclear and radioactive material. This report is alarming for world's safety, as terrorists have deep rooted connections in international black market. Therefore, a constant threat of weapons of mass destruction falling into the hands of terrorists is looming over the world.

In retrospect, terrorism has evolved into new types of terrorism and new global dynamics like advancement in technology and globalisation have increases created a fertile breeding ground for terrorist organisation. Moreover, terrorism now have global impact and global community is affected from it. whether it is global south or north its impacts can be felt over all over the globe, as it adversely impact social on social bonding, economy, and bilateral relations between the countries. Additionally, world is prone to mass destruction, as terrorists are more technological advanced then ever. Therefore, terrorism has emerged as a new threat for contemporary world, and world must take serious efforts to debilitate this menace. As George W. Bush rightly said, "We do not create terrorism by fighting the terrorist. We

invite Terrorism by ignoring them."