

# Terror-Globalisation and the Rise of Modern Terrorism

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## Abstract

The modern world has been ravaged by persistence violence and acts of terrorism and this has grown from national to global due to the development in information technology and liberalisation of trade which has also made national borders insignificant and terrorism globalised. Although there are controversies on the contributory role of globalisation on terrorism this work therefore seeks to draw the lines to identify if globalisation has fed or crippled global terrorism. Terrorism is present in every parts of the world and can spread to any part of the world within a short period and it is rather a challenge that terrorist organisations now use social media which ordinarily was developed for better communication of people to spread their gospel of terrorism and also recruit terrorist across border and even give directives on where next an act of terror should be felt.

## Introduction

Terrorism has spread to all nations of the world and the focus has seemingly changed from nationalistic to internationalization or globalization of terrorism. Many countries in the world today, including and especially the developed worlds are faced with the challenge of terrorism which is being spread by ease of communication and spread of information which are attributes of globalization. While it is clear that there is no single causative phenomenon for terrorism but it has been largely suggested that globalisation greatly contributes to terrorism and violence. It is therefore evident that since globalization grows by the day, this will definitely lead to a rise in terrorism as the year comes.

Wilkinson (2003) is of the opinion that terrorism is an outright reaction to globalisation in modern times. Being a complex process, globalisation involves the widening, speeding and deepening of international connectedness (McGrew, 2011) he further submits that globalisation goes beyond mere economic rhetoric and surpasses the interactions of nations in and the increase in their interactions in the aspects of politics, social, military, cultural and economic dimensions. Globalisation involves the way people, goods and services moves from one place to the other in the geographical space (Held *et al.*, 1999). Different things can be responsible for the increase in globalisation and the overall globalisation of modern world can be attributed to the favourable conjunction of economic, technological and political environments (Castells, 2000). However, Lia, (2005) submits that once idea and materials that were formally dissimilar begins to interact more closely, the resultant effect will likely be conflict and he submits that this may be responsible for the increase in terrorism as technology and globalisation advances. Black (2004) is however opposed to this view as he holds that this may actually lead to the reduction of terrorism. The interest of this work therefore is to probe the connection between terrorism and globalisation in modern world and to investigate if the rise in globalisation has led to an increase or a reduction in terrorism.

## Globalisation and Terrorism In Modern World

Terrorism is like a cycle – one begets the other. While the terrorists create terror; terror leads to anger and fear, anger and fear creates aggression among citizens and aggression against a group of people, religious organisation or ethnic group creates racism which is another form of terrorism. The modern world has changed and what constitutes global threats has also metamorphosed to include terrorism and the springing up of different and multifarious violent movements. The rise in the interdependence of nations and the doctrine of liberalism has reduced the barrier between states - shrinking the world into a small global village with terrorist organisations more able than ever before to unleash their destructive tendencies on the global populace. However, the attack on the World Trade Centre and the privatisation of terror and the subsequent expansion of the Al Qaeda network has become a prominent example of the influence of globalisation on terrorism. State sponsorship of terrorism has greatly reduced and it has become a tradition that people are even radicalised by terrorist organisations through social media such as Salman Abedi, the British born suicide bomber who killed 22 people and injured 59 others on May 22, 2017 in London.

In modern world, one of the most complex and also complicated phenomena that have become rather difficult to deal with is terrorism. When it comes to war against poverty, human rights and development, the world seems to be in agreement but when it comes to terrorism, there emerge antagonistic poles and varied opinions. While one pole may regard a terrorist activity as damaging and destructive with negative effects on global peace and security, the other pole may regard it as a heroic gesture. This according to Magureanu (2003) is largely due to the type of civilisation and also the cultural factors of different states.

Terrorism is multifaceted and in many cases hides under the name of ethics, politics, philosophy or religion. Terrorism is a part of human culture and civilisation and in modern times, for many, terrorism has become a way of life. Largely, terrorism may be derived from the doctrines of religion and in some cases can be motivated by other beliefs as in many cases terrorism originate from a feeling of frustration and aggression from a set of people in a society as discussed by Ted Gurr in his book why people rebel. When terrorist regard themselves as victims of hypocritical or repressive regimes that never cares what becomes of their lives and future, they tend to take up terroristic attitude as can be seen in the cases of EPTA, IRA, the Boko Haram group in Nigeria and many other terrorists organisations in Latin America and such as the movement of *Intifada* in Palestine (Praja, 2003).

Terrorism can be said to be an unconventional tactic of battle which is adopted in many cases by non-state actors to achieve objectives that are purely political based on violent acts, making threats or sabotage against organisations or states, or social groups comprising of civilians for the production of desired psychological effects which carries messages of intimidation and generalised fear. The principal objective of terrorists is to ensure that they continue to apply pressure on the government or leadership of the organisation to act according to their wishes which may not be achieved through conventional means.

Schmid and Jongman (1984) made an analysis of several definitions of terrorism and they opined that violence, political reactions, fear and emphasis on terror and also threats as well as psychological effects and anticipated reaction are major indices of terrorism. They also make use of discrepancy between targets and victims as well as tactics and methods of combat strategy. The state and people of the United States were collectively and individually traumatised during the September 11 attack in 2001. The feeling of safety in the United States which was largely unthreatened became largely shaken and the territorial integrity of the country was brought to questioning even beyond that of Pearl Harbour where soldiers who were defending their homeland were killed (Soros, 2006). There is a triggering war against terror which at the moment has become quite difficult for states to fight and quite lengthy due to the complex cases which generates terrorism and in actual fact, taking the form of modern societies (Magureanu, 2003).

Globalisation is more than a trend, it is an international system and it has its own laws and logic which influences politics, geopolitics, environment and world economies directly and indirectly. It has its own technologies which include digitalisation, optic fibre, computerisation, internet and miniaturization which reinforces the defining perspectives of a globalised world. One of the major defining characteristics of globalisation is speed – the speed at which people communicate, do business and travel (Friedman, 1999). Terrorism has largely changed the nature of timing in a changing world because of globalisation. In the period between 1968–1989, there were barely two terrorist activities yearly but ten years later, there has been an astronomical rise of about 162 per cent compared to the cold war era. The current percentage is put at about 200 per cent rise taking into account the alarming rate at which terrorist activities are being directed against citizens and governments as well as organisations (Coker, 2002). Religious fundamentalism has also been largely encouraged by globalisation. About 45 years ago, there was no single terrorist organisation with religious affiliation in the world but in the 1980s, there were just two in existence but today, due to the rise in globalisation and the interaction between states, there are over 70 terrorist organisations operating worldwide which are linked to religious faiths.

The result of the actions of specific group of people could lead to terrorism. Every terrorist is driven by a larger context. People from the same group or nation may have varied and contradictory perspectives with others in the group on solving particular problems and in some cases, where guided by fanatical instinct may apply terroristic mechanism in solving such problems. Although there are peaceful approaches to solving problems in modern times but regrettably, some groups will rather apply violent and destructive measures and strategies despite the justifiability of the underlying cause. The truth remains that everybody possesses the right demand and also fight for personal dignity, freedom and primary goals, but the method applied must be justifiable. When the search for one's rights and dignity tramples on the right of others the action and reasons becomes unjustifiable. One problem which has come to fore with terrorism is that there is no single agency that is enforced to fighting terrorism internationally. The United Nations for instance has been instituted against another global warfare after the destructive aftermath of the Second World War but there is a need for a global counterinsurgency approach or organisation which will be charged with the power to fight international terrorism.

Globally, there is no government that has recorded remarkable success in fighting terrorism. Terrorist groups and government of nations differ remarkably as terrorist organisations have no obligations, treaties and national citizenries or territories to bring into consideration in their actions. It is also possible to compare states and terrorist organisation in some cases because, terrorist organisations like states have power, supporters and physical force, they can be said to share some properties with states but it remains a statement of fact that terrorism is hatred and a just nation cannot be built on hatred (Sirmen, 2001).

In same way as war, terrorism is used for political objectives, so is terrorism. Clausewitz however argues that war is a continuation of politics by other means. the difference between terrorism and war is that there is a different level of asymmetry due to the power inequality between the parties involved. Terrorism is being used

by violent groups to get a favourable response from the system of a country by creating sympathy in a probable constituency. Terrorism however violates the law of armed conflict and Örgün (2001) posits that liberal democratic states cannot afford to declare a global war on terrorism by suspending democracy since terrorism seemingly thrives in democratic states than autocratic ones. Euroforum (2002) however maintains that terrorist activities are international acts which may impact serious damages on international organisations and also intimidate the population of a country thereby compelling the government of that state or the organisation to become destabilised and thereby tow the lines of the terrorist organisation. Terrorism is nothing but a mindless act of violence – a form of senseless and irrational violence. Communication in modern times has become quite advanced and the success of terrorism rest squarely on transportation, communications, finance and intelligence. These fields are where globalisation has had the most tremendous effects and contributory roles.

The distance between people in the world has become largely reduced to nothing as people in Europe can simply pick up their telephones and communicate with those in Africa with the use of the internet and people become indoctrinated through the internet and social media platforms and can pick a target and also monitor the destructive tendencies and also receive information in a short while that the act of terror has been unleashed while a vast majority of global population becomes laced with fear immediately which is one of the goals of terrorists. If globalisation were not in the picture, the situation would probably have been like those of 1950s. If there was no globalisation, kidnapping, bombings and other terrorist activities would still have been occurring but not in the magnitude with which they do these days and also without same opportunity as their international effectiveness and significance would have been weakened than they are today. Globalisation has eased the way business is done and the ease with which we live but us has also promoted and enhanced terrorism. It is however a statement of fact that globalisation has diverse positive attributes and has also made life quite easy. It has myriads of positivities but the internet which is a part of globalism has remained a significant promoter of terrorism. Technology which is another important aspect of globalisation has also facilitated the movement of transnational disembodied apparatuses like the transmission of radio and capital inflow. Terrorists have unhindered access to information and the ability to use those information for any purpose. Just like development and the advancement of modern benefits from globalisation, terrorism benefits in same or greater measure.

The development of information technology in modern world has changed the way people lived. Ruiz Estrada (2009) posits that InfoTech remains one of the amazing results of globalisation which yielded the sophistication of software technologies, satellite television and cellular cell phones and the advancement of world's good and services which are not only enjoyed by developed countries but also under developing and less developed societies and also terrorists organisation networks. Globalisation has also led to the liberalisation of trade and regional integration agreements leading to the development of free trade areas schemes which terrorists have also adopted for their own use. Irwin (1998) stated that the fact that barriers no longer exists between nations also means that barriers does not exist between terror. Lim (2002) is of the opinion that terrorism and globalisation are unconnected citing such examples as the Hindu Tamil Tigers in Sri Lanka, Basques in Spain, the Sikhs and Hindu nationalists in India and the Uighurs which operated in Xinjiang, China. He noted that terrorism occurs due to local issues in countries where they do and not necessarily because of globalisation.

### **Arguments For and Against Globalisation As A Contributory Factor To Global Terrorism**

Lim (2002) opines that the bombing of the world trading centre in 2001 was not due to globalisation and that the leader of the Al Qaeda organisation, Osama Bin Laden never cited globalisation as the cause for the attack but rather mentioned that they launched the attack due the presence of the military of the United States in Saudi Arabia. What Lim however forgets is that presence of US military in Saudi Arabia is precedent by globalisation of political culture and international affairs which has placed the United States as the global police ensuring global peace and security since the world become threatened by the reduction in distance which ia birthed by globalisation.

Murphy (2002) is rather of the opinion that globalisation is a threat to terrorism and that if globalisation is well managed; it can be used as a counterterrorism approach by intelligently developing its policies. Bockenforde (2003) on the other hand argues that globalisation is a resultant effect of global interdependence and the development of worldwide networks. He posits that globalisation is as old as human history but the modern globalisation is varied from the globalisation of the past in perspectives as people from diverse cultural backgrounds have become quite close and can more easily than ever before influence one another due to their interactions. Anthony Giddens, a British sociologist suggests that people have misleading perceptions about globalisation and that many think that globalisation means the domination of the world by the west but in actuality, the west also feels the pains of globalisation and a good exemplar is the current spate of terrorist violence in the United Kingdom and the United States. Bockenforde (2003) holds that the responses of extremist groups to modern culture is related to technology which has changed the face of modern warfare and are all related to globalisation. It is evident that the global expansion of the Al Qaeda organisation is largely responsible for the rise in military terrorist organisations which is believed to be in operation is more than 60 countries of the

world. Terror has become largely privatised and such people as Osama who were actively involved in the recruitment, faking of travel documents such as visas and passports and finance of terrorist can be said to be one of the globalising factors of terrorism. The rise in globalisation has therefore led to a rise in the activities of terrorist organisations.

It is the development of technology and globalisation that provides terrorists with information on how to hijack planes and cause catastrophic pains and technological damages such as the shutting down of the virtually all important areas of United Kingdom economy by cyber terrorists few months ago. Globalisation has led to a rise in the risk of the attacks from chemical, nuclear and biological weapons as terrorists are becoming closer to laying their hands on the procurement of these chemicals. Despite the fact that globalisation has serious positive effects and has changed way we live making life better, it has also contributed negatively to the rise in terror.

The effects of globalisation can be felt in both peaceful trade and terrorism due to the fact that technical innovations and markets expansionism does not know morality. There is seemingly no difference between the bad products and the good products and the same applies to the use of technologies which globalisation has produced. Once these technologies have been developed for global use, they do not understand for what purpose they are used. The idea of the developer may be for these technologies to be used for positive things but also those who intends to make use of these technologies for destructive purposes also makes use of them. A good example is the fact that Facebook and several other social media platforms have served good purposes but these platforms have also been adopted as recruitment grounds for terrorist.

It is obvious that terrorism has changed and some analysts say that what we have in modern times is new terrorism. They chose such appellation as they see it as the only way in which terrorism can be described lately having developed from modernity. One aspect of globalisation which writers have really blamed for the rise in terrorism is information technology as scholars argue that in olden times, terrorist groups used to be a small group of people in a localised place who could be simply rounded up by the state and whose idea may not go beyond their midst but the rise in information technology has made it quite possible for transnational reach of terrorist and diffusion of their ideas into international political space. Modern communication technologies and cheap international travels have been largely blamed for this transformation.

Lucian and Radu (2002) however submits that the benefits of globalisation are abundant as it seemingly open the doors of nations to interactions from the outside and these interactions brings so much economic growth and general advancement and development of these states. Margalit (2011) on his own part however agreed that although the benefits of globalisation are varied but states which benefits from the gains of globalisation are also most hit by the pains of globalisation as it leads to economic adaptations. The awareness of inequalities by the local groups and seeking to meet up with the competition from elsewhere and changes in the global economics may lead to agitations and development of terrorist tendencies by others who feels short-changed in the affairs of the state (Clausen, 2010). Some group of people who feels that they have not been appropriately taken care of by state despite the wealth and resources of their states and also through globalisation which becomes a window on the world, they are able to see other economies distribute wealth such that the line between the haves and have-nots is not as thick as it is in their clime may decide to oppose the government of the state or the political system which is associated with what they conceive as the unjust redistribution of these resources and this can be responsible for the rise of terrorism this is why the symbols of modernity which comes with globalisation has remained the most important targets of terrorists attacks (Duiker,1978) this violent oppositions however can gradually advance and degenerate the politics of the state and successfully weaken the established government of the country (Clausen, 2010) as the scenario has played out in Nigeria where the Niger Delta group and the Boko Haram insurgents continue to terrorise the Nigerian state due to the feeling that the government has denied the people the access to a credible despite the resources and wealth in the state. Moreover, since the aim of terrorist is the advancement of fear in the larger population, the globalisation of the media has also contributed to the growth of terrorism (Goldman, 2010). Although the effects are not at all times negative but it can be seen as both a blessing and a curse. It can be said that terrorists fight against what they largely benefit from. They strongly benefits from what globalisation has brought as these innovations are responsible for the ease of their attacks and escape. Since international media can also be viewed from anywhere in the world and since terrorists wants more people watching than more people dead thereby causing fear, their aim has become quite easier with the liberalisation of the media.

Evidences exists that globalisation has led to the outbreak and escalation of violence in many political eras in different climes. When Judea was incorporated into the states of Greece and later Rome, this incorporation led to series of economic structural changes and also the marginalisation of some groups of people in the province and this sparked up violence (Derfler, 1989). Also, the Boxer Rebellion which occurred in China in the later part of 19th century was described as the reaction of people to globalisation due to the invasion of their ideologies and tradition by foreign culture; this mere reaction later became a form of terrorism by the Chinese population against people of foreign descent and also the established political structure of the state. Quite more recently, in

the later part of the twentieth century, the left wing extremist were quite active in the opposition against capitalism which is another agent of globalisation (Pillar, 2001) According to world system theory, it is opined that the globalised states which are better developed are responsible for the continued underdevelopment and outright failures of the periphery states in the international political system (Shad,1998) and this has led to violence or terrorists acts against such bodies as multinational corporations which represents the interests of the globalised states. In the United States, the Red Scare which occurred around 1921 – immediately after the First World War was due to the fact that people felt there was a leftists radical and dangerous ideologies such as anarchism, communism and socialism rising up in the United States (Coben, 1964; Lutz, and Lutz, 2007). Towards the end of the last century, there was an increase in religious terrorism. Various religious groups have earlier negatively reacted to the challenges that comes with globalisation because it seemingly has the potential of undermining the traditional religious values that were held in such societies therefore western secularism has been conceived as a threat to local religions (Cronin, 2003; Chatterjee, 2012). The way globalisation helps in spreading ideas is seen as the major promoter of religious extremism and terrorism seeking to protect the values of the local religion (Shad, 1998).

In Israel, there are Jewish extremist groups who do not only attack Palestinians Arabs but also regard Jewish who are seen as secular as potential targets (Huntington,1996) while Islamic groups have openly and in many cases opposed the threats which globalisation poses to Islamic religion (Ousman, 2004) this is why in Nigeria, the concept of Boko Haram which is an home-grown terrorist organisation with possible linkage with international terrorists groups described western education (Globalisation) as forbidden. Many in the Northern part of the country conceive globalisation to be the reason why they have been economically marginalised (Eveslage, 2013).

Global terrorist networks largely use the technological tools that were brought about by globalisation. It is ironic that globalisation which was developed to advance the human race has turned to weaken it through the use of terrorists. Terrorism has changed to what is described as new terrorism. Terrorists perceive globalisation as something that is dangerous to them and their collective community and therefore seeks to fight it. This is due to the fact that foreign products have to a large extent changed the way people in other communities behave. For instance, some communities are not used to the kind of clothes worn in western countries and when such clothes, through globalisation become popular in their culture, they are forced to fight the source of such ideology. Corrupting influences are the main reasons why terrorists attack globalisation. The advances that have been made in science and technology which has led to the discovery of more sophisticated weapons and fastness of information which are available to terrorists making them able to operate from long distance has promoted terrorism. Terrorists are more able to strike their targets from long far distances and also select their victims more carefully. Transport systems have remained the primary reliance of transnational terrorism.

## Conclusion

The effects of globalisation can also been seen on the prevalence of terrorism and the techniques that have been adopted by terrorists. Modern transportation and communication have given terrorist the opportunities to learn from each other and also to communicate and strategically unleash their terror and also recruit new people into their midst (Black, 2004) It has been clearly demonstrated that globalisation in no small way has positive impacts but also promotes terrorism in modern times.

Terrorism as a result of globalisation has seriously threatened global peace and security and led to violations of both national and international laws. International law is a tool of international cooperation and it has the biggest potential of being adopted as a tool for fighting terrorism as terrorism has in modern world become easier, quite more efficient and unbearably dangerous. It is therefore of great import for states to ensure that not only states that faces terrorism fights against it; there should be a global cooperation in fighting the menace to a standstill. War on the other hand is easy to resolve because it involves states actors but terrorism involves non states actors who possess the power to unleash equal damages as states and this brings to focus that states must begin to become more proactive and strategic by ensuring that they have antiterrorism unit and a system of information gathering against terrorism. In terrorism, the enemy is both illegitimate and illogical and this causes a problem in negotiation and resolution. They hide and appear in guerrilla manner to unleash their terror and go back into hiding. Terrorism is unique and quite significant phenomenon. The fight against terrorism by state actors has become quite difficult as a result of globalisation which has enhanced the spread of culture production, liberalism and developed democratic countries motives. The spread of information technology serves both the positive and the negative poles – it favours both the legitimate action of the state and the illegitimate and disastrous acts of non-state actors like terrorists.

Since September 11, 2001, it has become evident that everything will never remain the same and since then, there have been series of coordinated terrorist attacks in developed countries more than ever imagined. People are living in increased danger than ever before and with the globalisation of the media, people live in continued fear. Terrorism has become easier and more efficient and also quite more dangerous with the help of

globalisation which has made terrorism quite more efficient and more difficult to fight leaving the option of minimising it open but with great difficulty. Since terrorists are not state actors and are not parties to any of the international conventions, they flout the provisions of international humanitarian law and violate human rights at the slightest provocation.

The age of globalisation has contributed immensely to the growth of terrorism. It has made the fight against terrorist enormously difficult and frustrated states that are waging war against terrorists. Terrorism has caused state to become more security conscious and also raise security measures on their borders thereby leading to an increase in the cost of travels and thereby causing a decline in the profitability of airline industry. In my opinion, weapon may not be the best way to fight terrorists but the most effective weapon to fight terrorists is international and global corporation and law and also a more transparent and equal world.

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