Deconstructing Terrorism: A-reason, Paralogism, Pre-occupied rationalities, Self-alienation & Pure Consciousness

Prof. Sudhanshu Tripathi
Department of Political Science, MDPG College, Pratapgarh (UP), India.
Correspondence: sudhanshu.tripathi07@gmail.com

Abstract

Undoubtedly, terrorism is a macabre global menace which is primarily ideational in nature. While the world is yet to overcome this threat despite having invoked several coercive and deterrent measures so far, ancient India's moral-cultural traits and rich traditional heritage do offer a genuinely effective solution to overcome this evil. Indeed, this heritage reflects all universal-cosmological features, manifesting love, peace, brotherhood, non-violence etc., and if these are honestly imparted into coming generations throughout the world by including them into the teaching curricula at all levels and also in their entire social behavior, it may lead to true cultural transformation to help-build a terror-free global society into fruition.

Key Words: Terrorism, A-reason, Paralogism, Pre-occupied rationalities, Self-alienation, Pure consciousness.

Introduction

Today terrorism is a global challenge before humanity. And Hamas terror attack on Israel on 7th Oct. 2023 has once again reminded the world about its worst ever form to unfold into the full-fledged war leading to utter devastation. Indeed, it is consistently becoming an ever-spreading phenomenon in almost all over the world. Although violence and terrorism has been in practice since the unknown past for deducing solutions to animosities and disputes, yet they were practiced under some regulations of either customs and conventions or religion or ultimately the fear of the Almighty God. As Brian Jenkins opined during the middle of 1980's … "simply killing a lot of people has seldom been one terrorist's objective......as long as killing a few suffices for their purposes" (Jenkins, 1985). Unfortunately, today's terror has surpassed all restraints. That not only concerns regarding human causalities and destruction of precious properties but challenges the very might of a political society and also the core values present therein. It is still a question why the cult of jihadi radicals or fanatics viz. the slain Al-Qaeda's Osama Bin-Laden or that of ISIS' Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi emerged to wreck-havoc upon innocent humanity. A noted psychoanalyst-psychotherapist explains the phenomenon of cult formation as following: "Leaders who create cults appear to be adroit at inducing altered states of consciousness in their followers… and gradually take over the thought processes

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of their flock" (Goldberg, 2001). Another scholar explains the rationale behind such extreme dispositions among terrorists: "He describes terrorists as pursuing absolute ends, and sees a lack of self-esteem underlying actions which provide them with a renewed sense of masculinity", (Post, 1984) emerging out of perverted consciousness or wicked-conscience. As a reaction to rising Islamic terrorism in all over the world, few other communities viz. Baloch, Pashtun, Sikh, Buddhist, Christian, Chechen, Japanese, Peruvian, Columbian, African and Hindu etc. have also taken recourse to violent means and terror-tactics just to protect their respective identities and specific cultural attributes.

The present article here in its introduction part discusses the gravity of the expanding phenomenon of terrorism into global form and the next one explores its historical evolution besides discussing lack of consensus regarding commonly accepted definition of terrorism. The third part analyses the rationale behind understanding of terrorism. Thereafter it comes to analyses the core issue in the article by discussing different psychological theories-whereupon the author relies most and hence uses them as framework of analysis in the entire research-including first generation and contemporary theories. The next part discusses yet another core issue entitled Pre-occupied or Mind-based rationalities, Self-alienation and Pure consciousness to further explain those possible yet unknown reasons behind terrorism with a view to devise ways and means to resolve the issue possibly forever. Lastly, the article concludes in favor of reforming the terror mind-set of terrorists through universal education and psychic healing thus reducing their mental-stress to ensure their coming back into national and global mainstream, while not ignoring the required current preventive and deterrent measures and remaining vigilant as long as the terror-menace comes to its ultimate end.

Terrorism: A Nebulous Term & Pejorative Implications and Definitional Impasse

In fact, terrorism is a nebulous term having pejorative implications. As a concept, it is highly illusive as it connotes various attributes among masses apart. In general discussion, it stands for 'intimidating' to an ever-greater extent and also arousing a sudden unimaginable awe. Nonetheless, the term consists of 'terror' and 'ism' which may commonly be translated into the philosophy-of-action or an action-oriented philosophy or, causing extreme fear of violent devastation and large-scale deaths. Although 'terrorisms' is a commonly used term, yet it still lacks a commonly accepted universal and global definition. Further its comprehension leads to much difficulty and complexity as regards theory-building exercise. Although many definitions of terrorism have so far been framed, yet none could evolve as a globally accepted theory. "The lack of consensus is to some extent inescapable, given the heterogeneity of terrorist behaviors, the variety of declared or assumed motivations, a.k.a., the "one man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter" problem (Hoffman, 1998). Notwithstanding this dilemma, there are two general features present mostly in modern definitions: "(1) terrorism involves aggression against noncombatants; (2) the terrorist action…its perpetrator to accomplish a political goal but instead to influence a target audience and change that audience's behavior… that will serve the interests of the terrorists" (Badey, 1998). In fact, the typology of terrorism is very contentious because multiple variables may be used to characterize its perpetrators or actors. A scholar categorizes "seven different variables - causes, environment, goals, strategy, means, organization, and participation" (Schultz,

1980) - that may be illustrated for analyzing revolutionary versus sub-revolutionary terrorism. Another expert categorized the "political sub-state terrorism into: (1) social revolutionary terrorism, (2) right-wing terrorism, (3) nationalist-separatist terrorism, (4) religious extremist terrorism, and (5) single-issue…terrorism, proposing that each type tends to be associated with its own social-psychological dynamics" (Victoroff, 2005). Evidently these diversities compelled a distinguished scholar to point out that as terrorism had already acquired many different shades under numerous diverse situations that very much hampers the efforts of framing its (terrorism) commonly accepted and comprehensive definition. Another scholar has also highlighted the fact of several complexities involved in defining terrorism which has really obstructed its rigorous-analysis ever since beginning of its studies during the early 1970s. And that continues to show few indications of abatement even during the onset of the 21st century. Indeed, militancy or extremism is a precursor of terrorism. Its horrible face was visible during the long decades of Crusades, the Holocaust, the Inquisition, unaccounted wars and battles including domestic clashes and violent struggles and many more. "In one of its most virulent forms, it slips into the guise of religion." (Herschkowitz and Herschkowitz, 2001) Indeed, terrorism has emerged as an umbrella term in its current usage that manifests the use of disproportionate violence to arouse extreme psychological fear among people at large. A scholar defines it as "acts of violence intentionally perpetrated on civilian non-combatants with the goal of furthering some ideological, religious or political objective" (Borum, 2004). Further, an act of terror also involves a significant emotion and motivation of the terrorists.

Why understanding terrorism?

Why should one understand and analyses terrorism? As one cannot really escape this menace - though one may ignore it at one's own cost - it is then a powerful reason to comprehend the phenomenon. Thus, notwithstanding several reasons behind comprehending the term in all its essential connotations, one may understand terrorism to satisfy one's curiosity or in order to choose the best possible choices among the alternatives open to defend him and others with a view to act wisely for his personal as well as overall peace and security.

How to analyse terrorism?

Indeed, the current level of macabre terrorism results into determining its 3D-determinants-model viz. (a) root cause/s and (b) true intention/s and its (c) expanse, apart from lessons for future to contain or fight the menace to finish effectively, if not completely. These evolving academic discourses have so far witnessed many approaches and theories during later-half of the previous century and that may conveniently be clubbed into two broad categories viz. Psychological and Sociological theories. While sociological theories on terrorism discussed different dimensions viz. Functionalist Perspectives on Terrorism; Conflict Perspectives on Terrorism and Symbolic Interactionism on Terrorism (Özeren and Özeren, 2010), the psychological theories largely focussed, inter-alia, on psychodynamic forces to explain the reasons behind the terror behaviour. As Jeff Victoroff comments, that despite having multiple theories and few demographic data regarding terror, "very few controlled empirical studies have been conducted investigating the psychological bases of terrorism…Psychological scholarship could possibly

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mitigate the risk of catastrophic attack by initiating the long overdue scientific study of terrorist mentalities" (Victoroff, 2005).

Evidently the earlier approaches or theories regarding terrorism included both sociological as well as psychological theories in most of the intellectual-academic discourses with a view to select the desired frame of reference/s reflecting reasons behind terrorism. However, a "distinction should be made between rational—or strategic—choice theory and other individual or group psychological theories of terrorism…. Since rational choice theory considers both policy and individual behavioral responses to policy, it combines the top-down and bottom-up approaches" (Victoroff, 2005). As an expert comments: "even though terrorism does not result from a specific psychopathological condition, that is not to say that the political decision to join a terrorist organization is not influenced or…even determined by subconscious or latent psychological motives" (Crenshaw, 1986: 386). Thus, while terrorist usually do not show any psychological disorder, "they may exhibit identifiable psychological traits or may have been influenced by identifiable social factors…roots of terrorist aggression are innate or acquired, as a result of psychodynamic or social forces, or the product of individual or group forces" (Borum, 2004). Obviously, the above-mentioned intellectual efforts resulted into framing of the first generation of Psychological Approaches and Theories to be categorized as Rational Choice Theory, Instinct Theories, Drive Theories (Frustration-Aggression Hypotheses), Social Learning Theory, Cognitive Theory, Biological Approaches, Relative Deprivation Theory, Oppression Theory, National Cultural Theory, Raw Empirical Approaches etc. to name a few for sake of clarity. While psychological theories regarding behaviour of terrorists lay stress on individual factors, the sociological theories underline those behavioural factors which influence the whole group.

Rational Choice Theory

The rational choice theory posits that terrorist action "derives from a conscious, rational, calculated decision to take a particular type of action…optimum strategy to accomplish a socio-political goal" (Sandler, Tschirhart, and Cauley, 1983). The rational choice theory adds both "top-down and bottom-up" approaches as regards policy and individual-behavioural responses to policy. Thus this (rational-choice) analysis may be projected as a meaningful helping-hand for exploring those theory-based sound and counter-intuitive pressures which may possibly impact both government and terrorist behaviours. However, these (rational-choice) theories cannot predict idiosyncratic responses.

Instinct Theory

Psychoanalytic: As a commonly accepted theory, "it addresses the roots of all forms of violence is the psychoanalytic model. Despite its influence on writers in political science, sociology, history, and criminology literature, this model has weak logical, theoretical, and empirical foundations" (Beck, 2002).

Ethology: A noted ethologist argued that aggression is indeed the result of a fundamental biological requirement, a tendency to struggle, which manifests the capacity of adaptation in human beings. Also there is an inborn tendency to fight with others and its outward manifestation is understood by the environmental exposure and interaction therein.

Drive Theory (Frustration-Aggression)

Frustration-Aggression (FA): The relation between frustration and aggression is mostly upheld for comprehending the root-cause/s of human struggle/s. The twofold proposition of the frustration-aggression presumption is: (1) Aggression is necessarily the result of frustration, and (2) Frustration essentially leads to aggression. While reformulating the FA hypothesis, Berkowitz (1989) singled out "aversive" action that only leads to aggression. Ted Gurr utilises a methodical FA break up to investigate political savagery, thereby fixing the frustration as one-marked "relative deprivation" (Gurr, 1968).

Social Learning Theory

The theory highlights over behavioural specimens, drawn by relations between the behaviour and its outcomes. When behaviour is superseded by the expected outcomes, it gets "reinforced" and when behaviour results into undesirable consequence, it is "punished". Thus violence or aggression is supposed to be a learned behaviour. "If aggression is a learned behavior, then terrorism, a specific type of aggressive behavior, can also be learned." (Oots & Wiegele, 1985:11).

Cognitive Theory

The cognitive theory primarily focuses on "social cognition" and upholds that interaction of people vis-a-vis their environment rests on their perception and interpretation thereof. Thus they set an inner (cognitive) map as regards their outward (social) atmosphere and such realisations determine their behaviour and actions.

Biological Approaches

The biological approaches combining Neurochemical, Hormonal, Psychophysiological and Neuropsychological factors are considered to be the primary force affecting aggression. Oots and Wiegele (1985) discuss that "social scientists who seek to understand terrorism should take account of the possibility that biological variables may play a role in bringing an individual to the point of performing an act of terrorism" (p. 17).

Relative Deprivation Theory

The theory proposes that social and economic disparities mostly instigates violence and further results into terrorism, as many scholars have already traced a sociological relation between penury and terror, irrespective of the possible psychiatric roots present therein. This argument substantiates the relative deprivation theory posited by a scholar (Gurr, 1968).

Oppression Theory

Commonly assumed by sociologists and revolutionaries is the fact that "oppression provokes political violence" (Schmid, 1983). As regards, "nationalist-separatist or ethnic-sectarian terrorism (e.g., ETA, PIRA, Hamas), largescale injustice violating people's identity, dignity, security, and freedom, is mostly found as the reason motivating them to join a terrorist group" (Taylor and Quayle, 1994).

National Cultural Theory

Despite several overt differences existing between various cultures, a "specific variable was claimed" to be a key by Weinberg and Eubank (1994). They argued that terror manifests itself distinctly in collectivist versus individualist cultural environments. The theory upholds that a person's individual-identity in collectivist cultures is primarily drawn from the socio-cultural environment which stands strictly divided between in-groups and out-groups. And that links their individual good with that of their entire group, but that recognition is drawn from their individual goals in individualist cultures.

Overview of psychological theories

Despite presence of the aforesaid several theories, "no single theory has gained ascendance as an explanatory model for…violence … terrorism" (Borum, 2004). Walter Laqueur's incisive conclusions are founded over a long period of his personal research on the topic: "Many terrorisms exist, and their character has changed over time and from country to country. The effort to find a "general theory" of terrorism, one overall explanation of its roots, is a futile and misguided enterprise." (Laqueur, 2003). While a psychiatrist warns regarding presence of a wide networking of terror organisations and terrorist's groups, wherein each one has a separate motive, psychology and decision-making framework. Instead of speaking about a singular terror psychology, one must argue in favour of many terror psychologies.

Contemporary Psychological Research and Psychological Theories

Considering the thrust of contemporary psychological theories, one may infer that "reason" appears to be overshadowed by mental disorders under evil circumstances (Corrado, 1981) or distortions termed as paralogism in this article, possibly emanating from distorted mental-psyche or such deformed persona of terrorists (McCauley & Moskalenko, 2008: 415-433). This may be categorised as a possible state of perverted-mental-frame in a terrorist who mostly suffers from paranoia (Crenshaw, 1986) as his mind then possibly reflects "preoccupation" (Eberle and Maercker, 2022, pp. 455–468) with respect to a specific incident, injustice or event. Now preoccupation is defined to be the substance of the "Adjustment Disorder" (AjD), which "despite being one of the most frequently diagnosed mental disorders" (Reed et. al., 2011), has a somewhat unique position in psychopathology since it stands categorised to be a low-threshold or a diagnosis of exclusion, thus gravely affecting human consciousness. And that requires exploring the human consciousness and its fundamental nature.

Human consciousness as a driving force

While explaining the origin of the terms 'consciousness' and 'conscience', Zemen comments as following: "The word 'consciousness' has its Latin root in conscio, formed by the coalescence of cum, meaning 'with', and scio, meaning 'know'" (Zemen, 2001: 1265). Here 'know' is often considered in bad sense or something confidential or disgraceful, depicting "a bad conscientia, a bad conscience…in this weak sense conscientia was, simply, knowledge. All three senses (knowledge shared with another, knowledge shared with oneself and, simply, knowledge) entered the English language with 'conscience', the first equivalent of conscientia" (Zemen, ibid). As evident, the aforesaid descriptions logically divide consciousness into two forms either wicked consciousness or bad conscience reflecting into extreme

violence or gruesome acts of terrorism, or good consciousness as pure consciousness or conscience resulting into altruism or such other functions. Hence exploring anatomy of consciousness may help-delineate the exact reasons of terrorism. Also the process of gruesome violence inevitably penetrates into those realms of human consciousness which go beyond the normal level of comprehension, mostly among peaceful human minds, due to inability to differentiate between noble and evil acts, while committing acts of terrorism (Moghaddam & Marsella, 2005). However, the human consciousness as a driving force behind all human actions has led to an expert explaining the formation of terrorists thus: "Those with subnormal cognitive flexibility may be less adaptable and more irrational in bargaining. Those with atypical temperaments - who are driven by an excessive need for self-affirmation, hatred, vengefulness, or self-destructiveness - may behave more erratically" (Victoroff, 2005, p. 35). Also accepting terrorists as heterogeneous, he delineates the following four qualities as possible traits of an exemplary or 'typical' terrorist who predominates or follows in sub-state organization:

High affective valence regarding an ideological issue;

A. A personal stake—such as strongly perceived oppression, humiliation, or persecution; an extraordinary need for identity, glory, or vengeance; or…intrinsic aggressivity", distinguishing one from the rest of the others." In addition to the above, he advances two other qualities of the same here as under:

B. Low cognitive flexibility, low tolerance for ambiguity, and elevated tendency toward attribution error;

C. A capacity to suppress both instinctive and learned moral constraints against harming innocents…individual or group forces -probably influenced by a, b, and c" (Victoroff, 2005). Another scholar comments: "…that there is rarely a conscious decision made to become a terrorist. Most involvement in terrorism results from gradual exposure and socialisation towards extreme behaviour" (Horgan & Taylor, 2001). As discussed in a comprehensive manner: "Terrorist behavior is probably always determined by a combination of innate factors, biological factors, early developmental factors, cognitive factors, temperament, environmental, influences, and group dynamics" (Victoroff, 2005, p. 34) …besides his personal orientation towards himself and others including society and his family; its environment and upbringing and genetic lineage and evolutionary history. Hence any intelligent analysis about terrorism will obviously require a comprehensive outlook and approach involving both art and science or inside-outside approach together to be based on the assumption that any kind of deep knowledge about the phenomenon of terrorism has distinct limits, even though these are not permanent. In fact, the ongoing focus on strategic choice studies emphasizes upon analyzing the actions of hardcore terrorists for prediction. As regards formulating the

long-term security policy against terrorism, the greater stress be put on preventing it earlier ie analyzing the interplay between "those psychological, social, cultural, economic, and political factors that influence uncommitted but impressionable young people to turn toward terrorism" (Victoroff, 2005, p. 35), altogether characterised by one's environment, wherein typical terrorist rhetoric lead to severest trauma to the have-nots.

Such "terrorist rhetoric and ideologies often cast their adversaries in dehumanized terms. Typically, this either takes the form of comparison with unclean an unappealing animal (e.g., pigs) or truly demonizing them" (Della Porta, 1992). An expert considers "demonization as a step beyond dehumanization, which, he argues, fuels dualism-a form of binary thinking that divides the world into good versus evil with no middle ground tolerated" (Berlet, 2004).

"Demonization, in essence, is a death sentence imposed on the adversary" (Falk, 1988). "By declaring your enemies 'nonpersons,' and by denying their human qualities, moral scruples are blocked from the beginning" (Wasmund, 1986). Such exceptional rhetoric as obvious may largely be construed as uncommon and rare kind of terror aggression resulting possibly due to evil or wicked part of the human consciousness which may be an outcome of neurotransmitter functions in a human brain leading to either benevolent or violent acts, including acts of terrorism, (Berman et al., 1997). Thus the aforesaid evil consciousness or bad conscientia, in its totality may be considered as reflecting areason or preoccupied rationalities which gets perverted among terrorists due to their long-sustained brain-washing and personality-twisting trainings, leading to possible self-alienation and social exclusion, may be temporary, and such abnormal programmes to make them unfailingly capable to execute horrible acts of terror. The concept of alienation in social sciences (Giffin, 1970) basically indicates regarding a situation of aloofness or alienation from society. That may become a significant allurement for few distorted persons to turn towards violence and terrorism and may motivate them easily to seek their individual recognition in the terrorist groups. Thus such distorted individuals and groups may particularly become prone to violence and terrorism and also to recruitment by terrorist. As RAN report notes: "Nowadays, psychosocial and criminological research has provided evidence that alienation, understood as a feeling of social exclusion and marginalisation, can become a contributing factor to violent extremism…" (RAN, 2019, p. 1). It further notes: "Radicalisation leading to violent extremism…a contributing factor is alienation, a concept closely linked to social identity and culture…alienated individuals and groups may be especially vulnerable to violent extremism, as well as to terrorist recruitment" (RAN, ibid:7).

Pre-occupied or Mind-based rationalities, Self-alienation and Pure consciousness

Proceeding ahead from the fundamental nature of human consciousness, a noted scholar A. E. Gough explains the anatomies of consciousness that go beyond the mind with a view to reflect the inner non-dual monist self as a condition of perfect balance or righteousness. It reflects higher level of consciousness as pure consciousness or good conscience similar to Socrates' Virtue is Knowledge or Platonic Justice or Kant's Categorical Imperative or Hegel's Supreme Reason or

Supreme Rationality manifesting into State as the march of God on Earth. In fact, this is the goal towards attaining Pure Consciousness where all fallacies or paralogisms or a-reason, unconsciously wrapped under the cover of pre-occupied or mind-based rationalities altogether as mental blockages shall wither away to reflect the good conscience or true self. A scholar comments about the normal-natural condition of mind which remains "tainted with desires, aversions, and passions relative to external things…present the image of the [inner non-dual monist] self…arising only when the mind is ready to melt away in the fontal unity of the characterless self" (Gough, 2000:110). But this melting away of mind in a terrorist to enable him to comprehend the image of the non-dual (internal as well as external) monist self is impossible as long as he is engaged in violent activities. Because that will definitely restrain him to ascend at higher level of consciousness or pure consciousness to be able to comprehend the cardinal features and their inherent messages imprinted on human mind and heart. These features can be acquired by sustained efforts to attain higher levels of mental consciousness and possibly extra-mental consciousness expanding into entire universe as universal or eternal consciousness in all perfection to ascend to the level of pure consciousness. And its comprehension requires thorough understanding of the entire realm of human consciousness (Puri, 1986) including extra-mental consciousness. Evidently, comprehending the motivations in an individual bent upon violence is most pertinent while engaging with terrorists and terrorism.

Counter-Terrorism Strategy

As a counter terrorism strategy, the role of intelligence and precise-point-intelligence about suspicious individuals become very important. The meticulously prepared and properly "coordinated crime and criminal tracking network system is but necessary, besides belt-and-braces of multi-layered defence against terrorism" (Kemp, 2011, p. 12). These apart, few more would be the most critical.

First is the deterrence. In fact, deterrence has directly stalled terrorist attacks in many sensitive places in the world. Also, deterrence works as an "effective and visible security measure that can create fear and confusion in the minds of terrorists about being unsuccessful in their mission" (Kemp, 2011), or getting captured or killed. Further, deterrence requires "installation of high-tech gadgets like programmed computer-monitored sensors able to detect any kind of explosive hidden inside any part of human body, improved scanners and metal detectors etc. at all important and sensitive places" (Kemp, 2011). Yet, highly alert, disciplined, well-trained, competent and devoted security and policing force are extremely vital for an effective and successful deterrence.

The second is the need for a meaningful and top command and coordination. A separate top level institution under overall control of Cabinet level minister of Central Government, having exclusive responsibility of framing and executing counter-terrorism policy and that too in a suitable manner with required changes as may prove effective and successful against changing terror tactics.

Third is regarding people's alertness and awareness towards terrorism and that will definitely improve the counter-terrorism strategy. A reasonable syllabus on terrorism be taught right from junior classes with regular revision incorporating new

developments in a step by step manner so that students may themselves be able to prevent or be helpful in preventing any act of terrorism in future. Such awareness will always help them in maintaining distance from terrorists and deny them a favourable impact with the false propaganda or allurement of money or even fear of terror. Also people at large must come forward unitedly against terrorism as they supported Anna Hazare's campaign against corruption in 2011.

Fourth step demands a common definition of terrorism, acceptable to all nations; that be immediately framed so that no confusion between a crime and a terrorist-act may arise and further, that no defamation on grounds of violation or suppression of human rights may hamper the counter-terrorism measures by a state fighting against terrorism. Often one country's terrorist is projected as a freedom fighter by another country which boosts the moral of terrorists and demoralizes the counter-terrorism efforts (Humphreys, 2006).

As a fifth step, any country found colluding with terrorists be declared as a terrorist-state by the United Nations and the rest of the world must immediately terminate all relations with the so-declared state.

Sixthly, "a coherent planning at the level of pre-emption, prevention and civil defence" (Raza, 2009) be established to protect a state from the possible nuclear attack by terrorists. Also effective institutions of the civil-defence involving enlightened citizens of their area, local police and local media are required which may coordinate to maintain peace and security therein and may help-protect the masses from any possible terror strike and be helpful to provide immediate relief to all those affected by any terror attack.

As a seventh step, fighting terrorism be the most promising goal of all political parties.

Lastly, greater openness in civil-administration and functioning of the government, increasing democratization, decentralization and devolution of powers will accelerate greater participation of the masses and help-uproot their sense of alienation. Also increasing educational facilities may result into rising mobilization of the masses for attaining social solidarity, progressive nation-building, including self-realisation.

Apart from these, following are some of the proposed measures, required immediately, but that demand scientific and technological inventions or innovations as well as skill upgradations to materialise them into reality:

Modern gadgets be invented which can accurately read minds of the extremists and effectively extract their concealed plans and secret information about future terror attacks. Further, modern-accurate devices for scanning and mapping of the brain of terrorists be so-developed which may accurately deduce as to what exactly is going on in the mind of a terrorist. In fact, scientific and highly sophisticated methods like Narco-analysis and Brain-mapping techniques are largely used to ascertain the criminals and also to fix their involvement in a crime. As an expert notes that, "…duty of the state is to promote the drug technique of Narco analysis in the crime investigation" (Hanscom, 1956). Since the idea of a crime to be committed comes first in the mind of a criminal and enactment details of a specific crime are deposited therein… "scientific techniques of Brain mapping and Narco analysis are the apt mechanism to identify such information hidden in the minds of person as an

experiential knowledge and helps in extracting these evidences from brain relating to such crimes" (Malini, 2018). Besides these, the recently invented neuro-prosthetic instrument by the team of researchers headed by Shaun Metsegar of California University is claimed to be capable to convert the ideas in a human mind into words and sentences. Also the quick upcoming technical advancements using laser-beams and specific rays be so-developed that may become helpful in extracting the much-needed details from extremists to address the security related issues in the larger interest of humanity.

1. Explosion preventing mechanism be so-developed ensuring fool-proof security against bomb explosions or anything like that by erecting the high-energy waves-based safety wall or laser-based safety covers or a form of wave-jammers to secure sensitive places and possible targets from likely terror-strikes, as envisaged in the US' security-document (US' Homeland Security Guide 105-07, 2008: 15-35). In the event of an explosion actually taking place, it's devastating and hazardous after-effects must be significantly lessened by absorbing the so-produced heat and sound with the help of bullets and pellets speed regulators or reducers (Yang Shu et al., 2013), thereby ensuring protection of sensitive and vulnerable places. Also CCTV be installed in bigger housing societies/colonies with provision of public address (PA) or communications for emergency announcements (UK Home Office, 2012, pp. 17-23) system. Further the above-mentioned wave-jammers and bullet-speed reducers be provided to ensure explosion free safety cover against IEDs or other explosives by reducing the speed or momentum of the fired bullets to the maximum possible extent so as to make them almost harmless, thus safeguarding public overcrowdings and important places. Also, the required technological inventions or innovations may be made whereby the noise or heat or both of an explosion may jam the ballistic-route of the fired bullets or shift the direction of the bullets/pellets, besides considerably reducing their speed. These may be particularly useful in internal threats.

2. Further a wall of beams or waves be provided in the periphery of all vulnerable and sensitive places that can deflect all terror strikes upwards in the sky or towards open and uninhabited places. This may be so especially due to "the advent of life 3.0 - the overlapping of the digital and physical world which allows the world today to monitor and even control infrastructure from anywhere in the world." (United Nations, 2021).

3. Furthermore, "Tracking of the installed explosives and land mines be regularly upgraded so that they may be consistently monitored and immediately defused by Satellites or Drones fitted with such mechanism to operate for the aforesaid purpose." (Ebrahim et al., 2018).

4. Target tracking guns, rockets, mortar launchers and drones etc. be invented to ensure unfailing and high precision attacks over terrorists and their hideouts (UNCT, 2022).

5. Technology be evolved for absorbing or channelizing or converting heat and sound emerged out of explosion (Yang, Shu et.al, ibid.) into useful energy or produce like water or air or something useful.

6. Also 'Multilingual decoding software of communication exchanges between terrorists be evolved and consistently upgraded to ensure ever-changing methods of exchange of information among terrorists on internet as a tool for assisting terrorist activities' (Todorovic, Branislav and Darko Trifunovic, 2021:594). And the 'satellite based monitoring of terror activities and tapping of exchange of communication between and among terrorists' be regularly put into practice, as the US successfully located Russian army in the ongoing Russian-Ukraine war.

7. Erecting laser-based hedges as part of defence system along all sensitive places like Parliament, state assemblies and other important places and also along international borders to safeguard terror-strikes and cyber-attacks (Acton, 2017:45-80) or air-borne terror-strikes or drone attacks (Sanger, 2017:61-80) and also to ensure counter-terror attacks over terrorists.

8. Ideological Narratives must be reinterpreted to highlight their real significance as against their misuse. Particularly the kind of violence associated with ideologies like Marxism, Maoism, Fascism, Insurgency, Dalit movement etc. and the messages inherent therein.

9. Ensuring regular upgrading of technology and training of professional forces with state of the art weapons and ammunitions (NATO, 2023).

10. The international chain of terrorism be broken by taming and negating the media-attention over them.

11. A permanently operational Research and Design group must be established to help-monitor the ongoing state of "Terrorism with anticipatory projections and adequate fighting techniques and repelling methods", while focusing on three important areas viz. awareness, capabilities and engagement (NATO, ibid), besides outlining the much needed combat strategies against likely upcoming more devastative forms of terror.

12. To shield the country from space against terror strikes and other missile attacks, particularly useful in missile or terror attacks from external territory, as "Israel's upgraded ballistic missile shield (Arrow 3) became operational in a 'Star Wars'-like extension of its capabilities to outer space where incoming missiles can be safely destroyed" (Reuters 2017).

13. Strengthening intelligence and preparing database of terrorists and terror activities. India has already setup "Joint Working Groups on Counter Terrorism/International Terrorism with several key countries to exchange information and strengthen international cooperation to combat international terrorism and transnational organized crimes." (Annual Report, MHA, 2004-2005:53)

14. Breaking the link between terror organisations and "multiple forms of organized crime, including trafficking of small arms and light weapons (SALW)", (UNCTT, 2020: 2) in all over the world.

15. There is an urgent need to develop an international strategy to combat cyberattacks by terrorists.

Counter-measures: (a) Long-term options: Restoration of the self & pure consciousness through yoga & meditation and heart-fullness & mind-fullness exercises and universal education

Notwithstanding all the above-mentioned preventive, coercive and deterrent measures to fight terrorism, reforming the present generation of terrorists is indeed an extremely difficult and troublesome task and perhaps the toughest challenge for counter-terrorism machinery in all over the world. However, that must help-restore their fundamental human nature or restoring their detached-selves so that they may not go back to terrorism and behave like normal human beings. Hence their consistent education with a view to reform their minds and hearts by consistently imparting ethical lessons of eternal-universal moral values accompanied by liberal-progressive ideas to ensure possible changes into their wicked mental-psyche. In fact, the notion that terrorists could be dissuaded from committing violence through peaceful dialogue is now gaining momentum and a helping hand for this end may be provided by the psychologists and counsellors. It has indeed become the goal of the increasing number of "de-radicalization" programmes throughout the world, according to a noted social psychologist Arie Kruglanski, co-director of the National Consortium for the START project (Krugalanski, 2017) - one of several university-based Centeres of Excellence established in the US by the Homeland Security Act of 2002. Thus given the extraordinary significance of empirical understanding of terrorism and terrorists, the case for still greater and in-depth knowledge through the help of different academic disciplines, apart from psychology and psychiatry, is the need of the hour. As a scholar comments in favour of evolving joint efforts by the academics and experts in the field of psychology and psychiatry to cooperate with "their intellectual resources to bear on the political problem of terrorism…political psychological theory advises that the better a target group understands the roots of the terrorist mind-set, the better that group may develop policies to effectively manage the risk" (Wardlaw 1989). In fact, the findings of many psychologists argue that addressing the fear of cultural annihilation, underscoring the larger interests of the humanity or pointing out at the wide gap between the expectations and achievements while involving in the acts of terror may discourage the future terrorists from taking recourse to terrorism.

Today the failure in adequate grasping of terror psychology has obstructed the process to formulate the required policy decisions that may be a befitting response against terrorism. "How the state should react to the terrorism needs to be understood first for implementing the appropriate policy decisions…By understanding different individual motivations, counterterrorist methods and policies can be improved" (Malini, ibid). It has been found that abnormal psychology due to tumultuous reasons in a terrorist may in all likelihood be an offshoot of an altered cell-structure (Bogarts et. al., 2017) in his/her brain resulting into acts of violence and terrorism. That has been ascertained by the brain-scanning or fMRI including brain mapping of terrorists.

Counselling required

Evidently the role of psychologists and counselling experts including yoga teachers and meditation experts, apart from heart-fullness or mindfulness exercises becomes crucial for reforming terrorists throughout the world. Thus these healing-techniques in all likelihood can gradually influence to change the evil-nature of terrorists through sustained and meticulous counselling despite being cumbersome and time-taking. Indeed, the real threat today is not from armaments but from a bunch of instigations, motivations, cultural beliefs and forces which altogether has emphatically transformed the minds of human beings. "The individual terrorist can be captured, killed... But how can one combat the terrorist mind-set? It has been well said that bad ideas can be fought by better ideas…" (Davies. 2001). Thus better ideas can remove the preoccupied or mind-based rationalities as mental blockages among terrorists so as to transform their distorted selves because the human mind heals itself (McVeigh, 2022). Thus the ideational effort may contribute in help-evolving a new and more natural, humane and just socio-economic and political-cultural order throughout the world.

Yoga, Meditation, Mindfulness and Heatfulness exercises

Today's scientists and scholars believe that each and everything in the universe is simply a replication of the identical quantum firmament available in a human body. In fact, "Yoga" demonstrates an inner science that comprises of numerous methods whereby people may achieve the ultimate union with the universe and ensure command upon their fate or destiny. Similarly, meditation comes down today as a spiritual and healing practice in almost all over the world for the past since more than 5000 years. Indeed, meditational practices have now become very much popular during the past few decades and have emerged as a complementary therapeutic strategy through heartfulness and mindfulness (MBSR) so as to suit the particular likings and orientation of Western culture. These are altogether characterised today as the positive healing movement (Kabat-Zinn, J., 2003), and that includes techniques of positive psychology to address various health-related issues with a view to reduce mental stress and bring out inner peace and balance. Further, "Heartfulness offers an in-depth experiential practice focused on the evolution of human consciousness using ancient technique of Pranahuti (yogic Transmission) during Meditation, in combination with the more active mental practice of "Cleaning"" (Westeinde, Annelies van't and Kamlesh D. Patel, 2022). These mind-healing endeavours may be accompanied by understanding of philosophy and metaphysics as true essentials of Nature.

Apart from these, a systematic curriculum regarding understanding terrorism and counter-terrorism methods etc. be imparted to all students right from their primary education up to the higher level - as available in Japan regarding natural calamities viz. tusami and earthquake since the beginning of their schooling - so as to learn the causes and required preventive measures for effectively dealing with terror. Thus the required solution lies to a great extent in psychic healing of terrorists as mentioned above. Obviously they (terrorists) be so-trained to ascend towards their egoless extra-mental consciousness at its highest pure level. It is here that the ancient Indian system of ethical knowledge and epistemology, apart from Egyptian and other ancient civilisations, involving such self-awakening exercises, can help to reform the evil psyche of terrorists, perhaps forever.

Conclusion

Evidently, consistent reformatory efforts, while not ignoring the required alertness and intelligence with coercive and deterrent counter-measures and proposed scientific and technological innovations, look as possible hope against terrorism which can save the humanity from any probable disaster engineered by terrorists. Though all these look as Platonic utopia or dreamy ideal but what else can be the option when excessive use of coercive force, state violence have failed to stamp out terrorism in the past. Evidently, the aforesaid reformatory efforts may be practised against terror with the hope that nothing is beyond human endeavour.

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