TERRORISM – A DISRUPTIVE CULTURAL FACTOR IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY

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Abstract: Terrorism is a tool used to inflict terror. Depending on the degree of civilization that humanity has reached, terrorism can range from cave terrorism to cyber terrorism and can thus be committed using any method and practically everywhere. Although the methods of the attackers have changed over time, their basic values – fear, destruction and murder – have not changed. Effectively combating terrorism is not a new security responsibility for the security forces in Romania. Cold War terrorism is different from 21st century terrorism. What changed after the fall of the Iron Curtain, and especially after the terrorist attacks in the United States (USA) on September 11, 2001 (9/11), was the lethality and virulence of the intentions and goals of the terrorists. The phenomenon is an asymmetric threat. Its evolution, from a sum of dispersed terrorist acts to a peak of cruelty, fanaticism and even violence, leading to a terrorist war capable of generating terror, is the object of analysis of this small study.
Keywords: Terrorism; terrorist war; asymmetric threat.

Introduction

The word "terrorism" comes from the Latin term "terrere", which actually means "to frighten". The word was first used in France between 1793-1794. The country's leader specifically describes terror as "…nothing more than justice, prompt and severe and inflexible justice …" (Mannik, 2009). Researchers have identified four different waves of

terrorism, each wave having its own characteristics, modus operandi and supporters.

The first wave of terrorism began in the 1880s, and was called the Anarchist Wave, focused on the fight against totalitarian regimes such as the Russian one and spread rapidly throughout Europe, Asia and America (Roser, 2016, pp.1-6). It lasted almost 40 years and was a period in which violence and propaganda increased enormously due to the invention of bombs. Terrorists were inspired by the French Revolution, because their targets were political, and to shake public opinion (Roser, 2016).

The second wave called the Anticolonial Wave began in 1920 and was different from the first because terrorist attacks focused on eliminating political officers by assassination on the grounds that killing political figures was counterproductive.

The third wave began in 1960, was called the New Left Wave and gradually disappeared in the 90s, with only a few active groups in Spain, France, Peru and Colombia (Roser, 2016). In this case, radicalization was linked to nationalism.

The last wave was a religious one that began in 1979, and still exists today. In previous waves, religion was also an important factor, but the goal of terrorists was to create sovereign states. Instead, in the fourth wave religious identity had a different meaning, it was used, and is still used, to justify the terrorist attack as a tool used to create new principles for a new world to come (Roser, 2016).

The events of September 11 have put the emphasis on the concept of terrorism, giving institutions and governments the duty to better understand and predict this phenomenon in order to avoid tragedies such as those mentioned above (Mannik, 2009). The first task of Governments must be to correctly define what terrorism is. Today, legal and political doctrine shows that there are almost a hundred different definitions of the concept of terrorism, but the most common is the definition given by the United Kingdom Terrorism Act, created in 2000, which explicitly specifies the characteristics that an action must possess to be classified as a terrorist attack (Roser, 2016): "the use or threat of an action intended to influence the government or an international governmental organization

or to intimidate the public or a section of the public; done for the purposes of promoting a political, religious, racial or ideological cause and involving or having as causes:

1) Serious violence against a person;

2) Serious damage to property;

3) A threat to the life of a person;

4) A serious risk to the health and safety of the public; or

5) Serious interference or disruption of an electronic system (Roser, 2016)".

Islam is the most significant religion of this wave, but it is not the only religion that creates terrorists. This wave introduced a new and deadly tactical innovation called suicide bombing in which martyrdom is considered the highest form of faith for the religious cause.

Terrorist groups carried out much more massive attacks than other waves, against the military and government institutions, and hit Americans in particular, who became frequent targets. During this period, Al Qaeda was built under the leadership of Osama Bin Laden with the aim of creating a single state for all Muslims governed by Islamic Sharia Law (Roser, 2016) . In the end, the massive attack of September 11, coordinated by this organization, was a turning point in the war on terror; several changes and massive investments were made globally to avoid another similar catastrophe, in addition, military intervention became necessary especially in those countries where the most important terrorist groups were active. (Roser, 2016)

Types of terrorism: objectives and strategies

Over the past twenty years, terrorism has been studied in all its forms in order to have a better and more functional knowledge that can help governments and international institutions in preventing and mitigating this complex and dynamic phenomenon. From this analysis, several forms of terrorism have emerged, each with common and specific characteristics, with different modus operandi and with specific areas or countries where attacks take place. (Mahmood, 2002, pp. 1-29)

Ten types of terrorism have been identified:

State terrorism: the use of violence by states to achieve political goals and to repress their own citizens, used mainly by Israelis and Indians.

State-sponsored terrorism: acts of terrorism launched and sponsored by a country against another nation with the systematic use of violence and military forces with the ultimate goal of achieving long-term strategic or political objectives. Several countries such as Cuba, Libya, Iraq and North Korea have been accused of supporting terrorists;

Nationalist terrorism: a form of terrorism that attempts to create a separate state for their specific national group through the use of terrorist attacks, by drawing attention to the war for independence and national liberation;

Religious terrorism: is focused on the use of violence to serve distorted religious purposes, usually targeting people who are considered infidels and who are not members of the terrorist religion. The most important organization of this type of terrorism is Al Qaeda;

Left-wing terrorism: its goal is to destroy capitalism and replace it with a socialist or communist regime;

Right-wing terrorism: it is the opposite of left-wing terrorism, in fact, the actions of terrorists aim to eliminate and successively replace liberal-democratic with fascist states;

Anarchist terrorism: this type of terrorism aims to achieve consistent changes in government policies on certain issues or to overthrow established governments;

Suicide terrorism: defined as a politically motivated violent attack carried out by a single person who causes his own death in order to kill his chosen target;

Cyberterrorism: hacking activities and other computer resources to intimidate, damage and coerce other people or governments.

NBC terrorism: this is the most dangerous type of terrorist attack because it uses weapons of mass destruction, such as nuclear bombs,

chemical and biological weapons, to destabilize governments and gain more and more power and create fear among people. (Mahmood, 2002).

International entities have also deeply analyzed the main strategies applied by terrorists to achieve their objectives (Kydd & Walter, 2006).

Usually, they are too weak to impose their will directly, and for this, they use specific strategies based on persuading the target audience, the perception of fulfilling their desires by modifying their beliefs, giving a sense of legitimacy to their actions, imposing a degree of commitment to their cause, determination and are finally established with reasonable and precise objectives to achieve (Mannik, 2009). There are five main strategies implemented in terrorist campaigns (Kydd & Walter, 2006):

Attrition - is used to convince the enemy that the terrorists are powerful enough to damage them if they do not stop practicing a certain policy or activity (Kydd A. H., 2006)

Intimidation - is a strategy that attempts to convince the population that the terrorists are more powerful than the government, so they can punish disobedience and lack of institutions, stopping their actions.

Provocation - is an effort to induce the enemy to respond to terrorist actions with other violent initiatives and, by doing so, involuntarily move people to support terrorist causes (Kydd & Walter, 2006)

Alteration - The goal of the strategy is to avoid peace openings between the target government and the leaders of the moderate terrorist organizations. It is a strategy based on distrust between the two factions and it ultimately succeeds when the parties fail to implement a peace agreement (Kydd & Walter, 2006)

Overbidding - occurs only when there are two or more parties competing for control of an area at the same time. In this case, the strategy is successful only if the terrorists are able to convince the population that they possess a stronger ability to resolve conflicts and protect the interests of the people compared to other rival groups,

therefore, they deserve the support of the population (Kydd & Walter, 2006)

The analysis of terrorist strategies has been fundamental to creating a better model, you need to understand what type of strategy is implemented to achieve different objectives (Mannik, 2009). Researchers and government agencies have defined five different objectives according to the aforementioned strategies:
• Regime change aimed at overthrowing the previous government by replacing it with another one that is controlled by terrorists or at least that is more in line with the terrorist objectives.
• Territorial change means the complete elimination of the state's presence in a given territory by cutting off all economic and social relations with it, in order to create a new state or join another already existing state (Kydd & Walter, 2006)
• Policy change is a broad category made up of different strategies applied to change the policies implemented by a government in a given country and to force other states to reduce their support for the terrorist enemy. Particularly famous was Al Qaeda's demand that the United States cease supporting Israeli military actions (Kydd A. H., 2006).
• Social control is focused on the oppression and constant surveillance of the behavior of individuals, rather than government policies.
• Status quo maintenance specializes in providing strong support to already existing regimes (usually a totalitarian regime or dictatorship) in order to defeat political groups that want to change them (Mannik, 2009).

Global Terrorism Index: the deadliest terrorist attacks in history and the most important terrorist groups

The Global Terrorism Index (GTI) was developed through the collaboration of several government agencies from almost every country

in the world (Report, 2017). The Global Terrorism Index is a comprehensive analysis that considers the direct and indirect impact of terrorism in 162 countries in terms of material damage, the number of people killed, the number of injuries and the psychological effects that terrorism has on the population. This research covers 99.6% of the world's citizens (Report, 2017).

The regional overview of terrorist activities highlights that the vast majority of attacks occurred in the Middle East, North Africa, South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa (Report, 2017). These regions account for 84% of the total number of attacks that occurred in 2017 and 94% of the total deaths. On the other hand, the Caribbean and Central America are the safest regions in the world, considering the number of terrorist attacks, less than 0.05% of the total (Report, 2017). Ten countries were ranked as the most targeted and affected by terrorism in 2017 and, overall, in the last five years:

Irak	Yemen
Afganistan	Somalia
Nigeria	India
Siria	Turcia
Pakistan	Libia

In these nations, a wide range of terrorist groups are active, such as: ISIL, Boko Haram, Taliban and Al Qaeda (Report, 2017). ISIL, the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, is the most dangerous and active group in recent years. This group is active in several areas; therefore, the location of their attacks can vary from Europe, the Middle East, North Africa and South Asia (Report, 2017). The second group, Boko Haram, an Islamic group originating in northern Nigeria, but successively spread to neighboring countries such as Cameroon, Chad and Niger. In 2014 it was the most dangerous and deadly terrorist group, but in recent years it has suffered consistent defeats due to significant military actions implemented by the MultinationalJoint Task Force (Report, 2017). In 2016, Boko Haram split into three separate factions with different strategies; one of these factions is aligned with ISIL interests and therefore conducts terrorist attacks through suicide missions focused on

hitting civilians (Report, 2017). The Taliban organization emerged in Afghanistan in 1994 as a reactionary group with the aim of taking control of the country and successively declaring it an Islamic emirate guided by their leader as head of state (Institute for Economics and Peace Report, 2017). The last terrorist group, Al-Qaeda, was formed in 1988 by Osama bin Laden with the extreme goal of expelling all Western militaries from the Middle East. To achieve its goals, the organization coordinated large-scale terrorist actions that culminated in the attack of September 11, 2001. Al-Qaeda created a decentralized structure that allows regional affiliates to operate independently, without the group's leadership. Therefore, even though they are active in different fields, they implement the same method of attacks, primarily bombings and explosions.

Conclusions

Providing a single definition of terrorism is a great advantage for achieving a more functional definition between countries in order to have a faster response to terrorist attacks (M., 2002). Without this definition it is impossible to prepare lines of responsibility that can be attributed to states that support terrorism (Mannik, 2009). In addition, the strategies and motives behind major terrorist attacks are constantly changing, due to the dynamic and complex nature of the phenomenon, the organizational structure that is created specifically to avoid actions to combat terrorism (Woo, 2002).

Therefore, insuring the risk of terrorism results in a consistent problem for the insurer, mainly because it does not correspond to the insurance criteria and because of its specific characteristics (OECD, 2005). It is particularly unpredictable in terms of the severity of losses and the probability of occurrence and, in addition, historical data are almost useless for this prediction. All these aspects have made the risk of terrorism one of the main problems of the contemporary risk society (Amoore and De Goede, 2005).

Reactions to this threat have been particularly strengthened in the decades after the terrorist attack of September 11, which led to a turning

point in the history of counterterrorism (Beck, 2002). The result of that disastrous event was a great improvement in the tactics of reaction against terrorism. New and more sophisticated technologies were implemented, and countries' collaboration with global agencies relied more on them than on expert opinions. (Amoore, 2005)

The current terrorist phenomenon tends to no longer take the form of actions by scattered groups, but to increasingly transform into forms of military action by armed groups of similar size and structure to those of regular armies. The models of action have become much more sophisticated, they include hybrid actions, influencing public opinion, capturing the emotion of the adversary, in order to benefit from all the resources of the targeted societies. This pattern is particularly visible in the Middle East, (Gaza, Yemen) where terrorist forces invest large sums of money in propaganda actions in the free world, simultaneously with direct military action against the domestic and/or international legal order. Terrorism no longer targets small communities, for small objectives, but targets the free world in general with societal objectives, which call into question the meaning of the development of society. This combines major armed attacks in the Middle East with atypical individual attacks in the free world by the so-called lone wolves, well-trained and well-indoctrinated.

Therefore, the terrorism of the 20th century is an outdated model. In the new geopolitical contexts, the forms of manifestation of terror will increasingly move from small groups to state or pseudo-state actors (Yemen, Syria) that will disrupt the world we live in much more deeply and that will increasingly call into question the redefinition of the legal concepts that define the world constitutional order.

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