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Terrorism and International Security: Examination of Causal Relationship

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Abstract: This work examined Terrorism and International Security. The aim of the study was to examine the extent to which terrorism has impinged on International Security. To achieve this objective, the study relied on secondary sources to analyze the dynamics of terrorism in its various phases of evolution to show the extremity of its threat to International Security. The international system as a web that reflects multiple competition for power with its forces has made terrorism to thrive. The globalisation processes have heightened interconnections, interrelationships and interdependence that has made terrorism an international security threat. The 9/11 terrorist attack on the United States presented a convergence in the international system of religious, social and technological gravitates of the age of globalisation. The operations of the Al-qaeda and other terrorists groups as empowered by the globalisation processes, presents real threat to International Security. On the basis of these threats, the study recommends an objective and sincere study and understanding of the causes, grievances or interests that motivates the formation of groups, movements or insurgencies prone to use terror. There should be co-ordinated interactions between national agencies and between states in the international system as the highly interconnected and interdependent world of today requires multinational and transnational cooperation to address the threat of terrorism to International Peace and Security.

Keywords: terrorism, international security, international peace and security

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1. Introduction

Security basically implies freedom from threat to core values of life. Security is a reduction of threats to human life, well-being and dignity. Discussions on security centres on the pursuit of freedom from these threats. Currently, security is been viewed as a particular type of politics applicable to a wide range of issues and as such worldwide in scope. International Security thus, is collective action aimed to prevent and address security threats for a peaceful world. Threat to people's lives and well-being arise increasingly from process that are worldwide in scope. Advance in technology has heightened transnational threats that move across international borders with relative ease as a result of the sophisticated technologies, information and communication infrastructures. Terrorism stands out as an outstanding force of these threats as it has emerged as one of the top security challenges of this age. According to Smith (2008), historically, terrorists have always tapped into humanity's darkest fears and exploited human deepest insecurities. This study is aimed at examining the extent that terrorism has challenged international security.

2. Materials and Methods

This study adopts a qualitative approach, relying on secondary sources to examine the impact of terrorism on international security. The materials used include a range of academic publications, historical accounts, and reports on terrorism's evolution, along with analyses of specific incidents like the 9/11 attacks. The methodology primarily involves:

- a. **Content Analysis:** By examining existing literature and historical data, the study analyzes the progression and changing tactics of terrorism. Content analysis allows for understanding the broader patterns and drivers behind terrorist activities globally.
- b. **Comparative Analysis:** Various terrorist incidents are compared to evaluate the changing nature of threats, the influence of globalization, and how different groups use terrorism as a tool within the international system.
- c. **Theoretical Framework Application:** The study applies theories from international relations, such as systems theory, to understand the interconnectedness of terrorism with global processes and security dynamics. This includes examining the role of globalization in enabling transnational terrorism.

3. Results and Discussion

International System

As defined by Mingst 2007, a system is an assemblage of units, objects or parts united by some form of regular interactions. Systems are composed of different interacting units, such that a change in one unit, causes changes in all other units. A system is a mutually interrelated, interconnected parts, co-operating to maintain a cohesion to achieve the objectives of the whole. The international system can be seen as the integrated whole made up of interdependent parts that work together for the maintenance of the system, (Igwe, 2005 pp. 210-211). The international system is all the inter-linked variables, ideas, actors and institutions of the international society. Frankel (1979), affirms that an international system consists of a number of units which interact and conduct their relations in their own structures, norms and rules of behaviour. Hoffman (1960), defined an international system as a pattern of relations among the basic units of world politics, as determined by the structure of the world.

The idea of an international system is based on the belief that there are Actors in the international system, who relates and are in constant interactions. These Actors of course are States and Non-State Actors, hence we can see International System as a network of States, organizations and individuals that interact on a global scale. The international system is the framework for international relations that outlines who interacts with whom, how they interact, and what the rules of interactions are. The international system is a complex global aggregation of people, organisations, ideas, rules, and the natural world, all in political, economic and social connections. It can be seen as the global standard of expressing the magnitudes or quantities of important natural phenomena. The International System is comprised of Actors and structures that operate in either unipolar, bipolar and multipolar dispositions. All the Actors and structures are in a complex pattern of constant interactions (Wikipedia.org).

According to Smith (2008), the International System is a web that reflects multiple competition for power. With the end of the Cold War, and the rise of globalisation, the International System has become more complex. Terrorism is more often shaped by the International System. The 9/11 attacks on America were the product of an unprecedented convergence of the International System of religious, social and technological trends. Al-

qaeda is a product of a convergence of a number of functional and ideological trends, including globalisation and its various processes as well as the rise of radical religious ideologies.

International Security

Security is a fragile and significant concept that conveys different meanings to scholars, analysts, policy makers and organisations all over. Fundamentally, security has to do with the presence of peace, safety, gladness and protection of human and physical resources. Security is the absence of crisis or threats to human dignity. Security has to do with the process connected with assuaging any kind of threat to people and their values. Security is the feel of being safe from harm, fear, anxiety, oppression, danger, poverty defense, protection and preservation of core values and threat to those values. Security, as a concept, has diverse dimension, ambiguous and its scope continues to expand.

Buzan (1991), describes security as an ambiguous and multidimensional concept in which military factors have attracted misappropriate attention. According to him, the discussion of security is about the pursuit of freedom from threat, but in the context of the international system, security is about the ability of states and societies to maintain their independent identity and their functional integrity. This claim is in line with Lippmann (1943) who confirms that a nation is secured to the extent to which it is not in danger of having to sacrifice core values, if it wishes to avoid war and is able, if challenged, to maintain them by victory in such a war. Security has to do with freedom from danger or threats to a nations' ability to protect and develop itself, promote its cherished values and legitimate interest and enhance the well-being of its people. Security is the nerve centre of international life.

International Security centres on all efforts to avert a breach of security in the international system. Hough (2014), defined International Security as the collective efforts by States and Non-State Actors to address threats to the stability, order and well-being of the International System. International Security is directed at conflicts and actions taken to prevent and deal with conflict and protect lives. Such actions include military, peace keeping, capacity building and diplomatic agreements and arrangements. International security focuses on international politics, international order, peace and war including strategy and diplomacy.

International Security revolves around collective security that centres on the fact of peace as indivisible and non-negotiable, that threat or aggression to one is against all. International Security involves collective security as built in the United Nations. International Security study is equipped knowledge of the tools to analyse and address security challenges, both traditional and emerging, in the rapidly changing world. Terrorism stands out as one of the security challenges in the evolving world of today.

Terrorism

Terrorism is basically the threats of violence to pursue a goal. Terrorism can be seen as a form of covert attack directed at targets that are outside a certain range of clearly defined military targets. Terrorist acts often involve a small group; united around a particular cause, unleashing violence against society in order to frighten the populace and demoralise the leadership to achieve a set political goal. Not all acts of terrorism are geared towards political ends. Terrorism can also be economically, religiously, psychologically ethnically or radically motivated. According to Imobighe and Eguavoen (2006), Lakhman Kadiraamar in a lecture at the Chatham House on 15th April 1998, gave a broad definition of terrorism as "the use or threat to use serious violence against persons or property, or the use or threat to use any means to disrupt vital computer installations or communications, to intimidate or coerce a government, the public, in order to promote political, social,

ideological, religions or philosophical objectives. Terrorism was adopted from the French word *terreur*, derived from Latin *terrere* (to frighten). It came to be commonly used in France in the course of the French revolution during the Reign of Terror 1793-1794. In France then, the terror was perpetrated by the state, but today non-state actors are fully involved.

Terrorism must be noted, is a violent mode of response to a conflictual relationship, manifested as hostage taking, assassinations, plane hijacking, the detonation of bombs and explosives or release of nerve gas, suicide attacks etc. Terrorism involves the following:

- Premeditation – decision by a perpetrator to commit an act of terror.
- Motivation or a course – may be political, religions, economic, cultural etc.
- Targets usually non-combatants like political-figures, bureaucrats or innocent bystanders.
- Secretiveness-where perpetrators belong to a clandestine groups or one secretly sponsored by states.

Terrorism comes in many forms, such as those controlled or directed by a government or involve nations from more than one country. Terrorism can be seen as the deliberate attack on innocent civilians, and embodies violence the desire for publicity and intimidation, aimed at unarmed citizens. Terrorism is a form of covert attack directed at targets that are outside a certain range of clearly defined military targets. According to Igwe (2005), terrorism is a premeditated attack against non-belligerent targets, an activity aimed at intimidating the opponent, either through covert, unconstitutional or unlawful warfare, or the use of illegal weapons and methods, sometimes in an undeclared and ill-defined war with doubtful objectives. Chaturvedi (2006), see terrorism as a violence of a random and arbitrary kind. Those who in favour of revolution, argue that terrorism is violence against violence of denial of due rights. According to Moghadden (2006), terrorism is an outcome of rising unmet expectations and increasing frustration among millions of young people who feel they have no voice, no hope, and no possibilities for a brighter future as things stand. Terrorism to him is a form of rebellion risk taking behaviour.

With the end of the Cold War, and the rise in globalisation, the international system has become more complex that terrorism is more often shaped by the international system. Terrorism has emerged as one of the top security challenges of the evolving international System. Different terrorists classifications include:

- Freedom fighters
- Revolutionaries
- National armed forces
- Nationalist and ethnic groups
- Other state security agents. (Imobighe and Eguavoen, 2006 pp. 24-25).

Terrorist Groups include:

- Abu Nidal Organisation ~(ANO)
- Al-Qaeda-Sunni Islamic fundamentalists – operates in 65 countries
- Hamas-Sunnis Islamists Palestine Nationalists Group, established in 1987
- Harakat UI-Mujahidin (Hura) Pakistani Militant Group, 1985
- Hizb-UI-Mujahedin Kashmin Militant Group.
- Jaish-e-Mohammed (JEM) (Army of Mohammed) Islamic Terrorist Group baed in Pakristan. Formed in 2000
- Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) Established in Khan 1977
- Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) Currently the Kongra-Gel (KGK)

- Kurdish Marxist-Leninist Group. 1982 in Turkey
- Lashkar-e-Tayyeba (LET) A Pakistani-Sunni Muslim Religious Organisation
- Lebanese Hizballah Radical Shi'ite Organisation. 1982
- The Pakistan Islamic Jihad (PIJ) 1970s
- Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and al fatah
- Popular Front for Liberation of Palestine (PFLA). A Marxist-Leninist Palestinian Nationalist group 1967, but later joined the PLO in 1968
- Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC) in 1968, opposed to the PLO
- Provisional Irish Republican Army (PIRA) 1919
- Revolutionary Organisation. 17 Nov. (N17) Greek Leftist Group 1975
- Supreme Council for Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI), Shi'ite Muslim Umbrella Organisation in Iraq. 1982 (Byman, 2005 pp. 330-339)
- The Islamic State of Iraq and other states Isis's.

By classification, terrorists groups can be socio-political (terrorism of a revolutionary leftist; anarchist, right-wing or other bent

- Nationalist terrorism (ranges from those practiced by national liberation movement that fought or fight colonial or foreign occupation to that employed by ethno-separatists organisations against central governments.
- Religions terrorism – practiced by groups ranging from totalitarian sect and cults to broader movements whose ideology is dominated by religious imperatives (Stepanova, E., 2008).

The New Terrorism of our age is characterised by:

- a. Loose cell based networks with minimal lines of command and control
- b. Desired acquisition of high intensity weapons and Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD)
- c. Politically vague, religious or mystical motivations
- d. Asymmetrical methods that maximises casualties
- e. Skilful use of the internet and manipulation of the media.

The Old Terrorism was characterised by:

- a. Clearly identifiable organisation or movements
- b. Use of conventional weapons, usually small arms and explosives
- c. Explicit grievances championing specific classes or ethno national groups
- d. Relatively surgical selection of targets (Martin, G., 2006 pp. 2-10).

Common Features in defining Terrorism:

- The use of illegal force
- Subnational actors
- Unconventional methods
- Motives (political, ideological, religious etc.)
- Attacks against "soft" civilians and passive military targets.
- Acts aimed at purposefully affecting an audience (Martins, 2006 p.47).

Terrorist's organisations and movements usually adopt belief systems that justify their behaviours and absolve them of responsibility for normally unacceptable behaviour.

The dynamics of terrorism has evolved in various forms, levels and shapes. At its inception, terrorism emerged as the weapon of the weak, used to instil fear in the hearts of a public audience to achieve a political goal. It was violence directed as a matter of political

strategy against innocent persons. Most scholars link the emergence of modern terrorism and modern warfare to the French revolution. The period witnessed the use of violence to manipulate elite and public opinion. David Rapoport, one of the world's foremost authorities on political violence, divides the evolution of modern terrorism into four waves. According to Rapoport (2004), the first wave started at the end of the 19th century when rebels and revolutionary movements embraced sensational violence to attack local regimes like the Narodnaya Volya (People's Will) movement in Russia. During this period, terrorists armed with handguns or dynamites targeted elected officials or royal families to advance the cause of political forms, nationalism or various ideological movements such as communism or anarchy. This era ended with the assassination of Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand that ushered the First World War (WWI). The death and destruction that swept Europe set several countries back in terms of demographic and economic developments.

The second wave of terror emerged as aftermaths of the Second World War (WW2), prompted by the forces of decolonization. In this era, target was no longer on senior officials and government luminaries, but nationalists. Target was on the instruments of colonial controls, such as local officials, police and military outposts, to confront colonists with the possibility that by occupying some distant land, they would be forced to endure unending casualties. Terrorist cells were formed in cities and attacks were carried out against prominent urban targets, not directly at civilians, usually with warnings of attacks like

- The July 1946 Irgun bombing of the King David Hotel in Jerusalem
- The "People's War" in South East Asia
- The North Vietnamese and their Viet Cong Allies in the Vietnam War
- The Weather Underground in the U.S
- The Italian Red Brigades
- The German Red Army Faction's

Cong Allies in the Vietnam War

The first stage of the People's War in South East Asia involved the use of violence against government officials and supporters to demonstrate to the local population that the colonial powers was on the wrong side of history. In these wars, terrorism was glaringly shown to be not just the weapon of the weak but an effective weapon of the weak.

The third wave of terrorism could be exemplified by the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) inspired by the Viet's Cong's struggles, ready in fight to regain lost lands following Israel defeat of the Arabs in the 1967 Six Day War. This setting shows the third wave of terrorism were basically efforts of Islamic fundamentalists, using terror to advance their course. Since the PLO lacked access to their own territory, they had to create operating and training facilities in states sympathetic to their plights. They also attacked targets outside the Middle East like the Munich Olympics in 1972 attack and the 1975 Kidnap of OPEC Minister in Vienna. Their mission was to draw attention to their cause. Terrorism in this wave adopted hostage taking and airplane hijackings as preferred tactics to some extent, as some equally observed, third wave terrorism appeared to be rational in the sense that they used violence in a calculated way to achieve political objectives. The political goal of terrorism was obvious in the third wave of terrorism.

The fourth wave of terrorism emerged from the Soviet defeat in Afghanistan and the triumph of the Islamic revolution in Iran at the end of the 1970s. America appeared to be a major target, but the Cold War pre-occupations of edging out the Soviets in International Politics overwhelmed her. America's policy makers tried to harness the religious forces that motivated Islamic militants in the Cold War, by supporting their battle against the Soviets in Afghanistan. Al-Qaeda emerged from the Mujaheddin forces and other foreign

volunteers once allied with the U.S. Thus, returning from the brutal struggle in Afghanistan these individuals found it impossible to re-integrate into what they believed were amoral and corrupt societies; wandering around the Islamic world, they began to gravitate towards Osama bin-Ladin, a rich Saudi Financier, who had built a reputation as a logistic and construction expert during the Afghanistan war. Bin-Ladin's ire was militarily directed at the Wahabi regime in Saudi Arabia and their U.S backers, that initiated strong U.S military presence in the Persian Gulf and Saudi Arabia, which made it easy to maintain the sanctions against Baghdad after the first Gulf war. This heightened Bin Ladin's animosity towards the Saudi royal family and the U.S.

Thus, Al-Qaeda and their Islamic fundamentalists (Jihadists) launched a war against the U.S in the 1990s. By 1998, bin-Ladin in a press conference, openly called for attacks against American interests and issued a fatwa to justify himself. This engineered the terrorist attack on the;

- The World Trade Centre in 1993
- The August 1998 bombings of the U.S embassies in Nairobi Kenya and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.
- The 2000 suicide attack on the U.S Cole Ship

According to Viotti, Opheim and Bowen (2000), the fourth wave terrorism redirected efforts away from the battle field towards homeland security and interdiction of potential terrorists supply networks. Since the French revolution terrorism changed its stripes to reflect the outstanding political and social grievances of the day, as seen from the view point of the weak, its targets have been political elites and royalties, government out posts, the International news media, and most recently, the citizens of opposing governments and societies.

Terrorism was distinctly secular and localised until the third wave movements incorporated Islamic fundamentalism and the PLO who was forced by circumstances to conduct international operations. Since then, terrorism has become increasingly lethal as transnational organisations use emerging international communications and transportation networks to wreak death and destructions across the globe.

The new age of terrorism is different today because of the following:

- Global in the sense that with the death of distance, borders no longer serve as barriers to terrorist activities.
- Lethal, because terrorists now, have shifted their tactics from theatrical violent acts seeking to alarm for publicity, to purposeful destruction of civilian non-combatants, to kill as many as possible, for the purpose of instilling fear in as many people as possible.
- Waged by civilians without state sanction, in ways and by means that erase the classic boundaries between terrorism and a declared war between states.
- Reliant on the most advanced technology of modern civilization to destroy. Through those sophisticated technological means, the modern civilization is seen as posing a threat to the terrorist's sacred traditions.
- Orchestrated by transnational Non-State organisations through global conspiratorial networks of terrorists cells located in many countries, involving unprecedented levels of communication and co-ordination (Chukwu, 2012).

Thus, terrorism has evolved over time, reflecting the ideological and organisational preferences and technological sophistication of the age. Its evolutionary trend will indicate the nicks of threats it has posed to international security.

International security in the face of Terrorism

According to Imobighe and Eguavoen (2006), the global anxiety and concern for terrorism today can only be compared with the anxiety and concern that gripped the international community in the immediate post WW2 years over the possibility of a nuclear holocaust. Terrorism has not only taken the central stage in the strategic calculation of the global community, it has also completely altered the shape of the global security equation. Apart from universalising the threat to international peace and security, terrorism has devalued the utility of the age long strategic notion of security through state – centric grandiose multi preparedness. Terrorism has emerged as one of the top security challenges of our age. From the past, individuals, groups, organisations, chiefdoms, states, empires and other forms of collectivities have engaged in, or have been victims of terrorism. Threats to people's lives and well-being arise increasingly from processes that are worldwide in scope.

The evolving phases of terrorism as earlier discussed, obviously shows the threat of terrorism in the international system. Al-qaeda has come to symbolise the globalisation of terrorism in the twenty first century. According to Martin (2006), Al-qaeda is seen by many to represent a quintessential model for small group like-minded revolutionaries waging transnational insurgencies against strong adversaries. Al-qaeda exists as a loose network of relatively independent cells that has evolved into an ideology and a fighting strategy that has been embraced by sympathetic revolutionaries throughout the world, constituting a real threat to international security. For Cassidy (2006), Al-qaeda and its affiliates comprise a novel and evolving form of networked insurgents who operate globally. They have harnessed the advantage of globalisation and employ terrorism as tactics within their overreaching aims to undermine the western system of states. In a 1997, its leader Bin Ladin characterised his organisation as both a resultant of, and a reaction to globalisation.

Al-qaeda and other terrorist groups have adopted networked and dispersed organisational approaches, employing informal age techniques and exploiting the freedom of transnational movements introduced by globalisation, to attack strategic targets asymmetrically in some of the powerful states. Al-qaeda membership cuts across ethnics, class and national boundaries. According to Jones, D et al (2010), while the central core of Al-qaeda is tightly focused, top down and intensively hierarchical, its associates, organised in individual cells are allowed considerable autonomy over what is planned, even though they are dependent in practice on Al-qaeda broader network to supply resources. The result is that an insurgence even within specific regions can be comprised of a variety of groups with no overreaching leadership, but are united only by a general goal. In 11/9/2001, the popular "9/11", nineteen members of the Al-qaeda group, hijacked four jet airliners, two crashed into the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in New York City. A third was guided into the pentagon in Washington D.C. the fourth never found its target because the captive passengers resisted the hijackers that it crashed into a field in Pennsylvania. Almost 3,000 people, Americans and foreigners died including the hijackers (Haugen and Musser, 2007).

In conducting the 9/11 attacks, Al-qaeda

- Raised money in Germany with relatively little interference
- Enjoyed financial support from many Saudis unobstructed by the government of Saudi Arabia
- Planned operations in Malaysia
- Sent operatives to America (Byman, 2005)

In July 7 2005, suicide bombers exploded devices aboard 3 London subway trains and a public transit bus. 52 civilians died. October 2003, another suicide bombings occurred in Bali, Indonesia. The attack is connected to Jamaah Islamiyah terrorists group. November 2003, there was bombings of 3 hotels in Amman Jordan (hotels frequented by

Western diplomats). These attacks were seen as Islamists acting against Western aggression in the Muslim world (Haugen & Musser pp. 7-11). Several of these forms of attacks have continued to rake the international community. Al-Qaeda has a quasi-religious nature that merges radical political, social and cultural protest. 2001 marked the peak of terrorist activities since 1998. September 11 2001 marked a watershed in international relations, as terrorism became the centre piece of U.S national security strategy and a global security concern. In 2004, the UN Secretary-General's High Level Panel on Threats, challenges and change, concluded that "terrorism attacks the values that life and the heart of the Charter of the United Nations; including respect for human rights, the rule of law, rules of war that protect civilians, tolerance among peoples and nations and the peaceful resolution of conflict". According to Gunaratna Rohan, the 9/11 is indeed the most emphatic act of international terrorism that galvanised the world to come together to fight against terrorism.

To address the collective threat, military forces, law enforcement authorities and intelligence services built common databases of changed personnel, conducted joint training and operations, shared intelligence, technology, expertise and experience. The counter terrorism response to 9/11 according to Gunaratna (2021) evolved in four waves;

- The first was the U.S led coalition in Afghanistan that dismantled the Taliban and Al-Qaeda infrastructure, captured 9/11 operational leader Sheik Mohammed in 2003, killed 9/11 mastermind Osama bin Ladin in 2011.
- Second was United States invasion of Iraq in March 2003 that led to civil war in Iraq and the emergence of the Islamic State (IS), a movement that moved from Iraq, to Syria and all over that her ideology and operational entities present a formidable threat to international security and stability.
- Third, the United States established a dedicated Department of Homeland security.
- Fourthly, the U.S spearheaded global counter terrorism programs by offering training, and supporting government that needed capabilities to fight their domestic and regional threat groups, networks and cells. These phases shows the international dimensions in the battle against terrorism as obvious security threat.
- The face of the paradigmatic shifts taking place in the international system especially after the Cold War, with the enlarging processes of globalisation, terrorism leads in the forces shaping the international security dilemma. Despite State's continuing conventional superiority in terms of power and status over Non-State actors, the critical combination of extremist ideologies and dispersed organisational structures as noted above especially from the Al-Qaeda group, gives terrorists groups many comparative advantages in their confrontations with states, and threatens international peace and security.

4. Conclusion

- Terrorism in its shape and evolutionary trend, poses serious threat to international security. The evolving trend in the international system especially with the globalisation processes heightens the threat of terrorism. Terrorism has evolved over the years reflecting the ideologies, organisational preferences and technological sophistication of the age. Terrorism is a constant feature of human civilisation but with peculiar consequences according to the age. Terrorism arises within specific historical, social or political context. Terrorism involves many groups, many instruments and often no central command. The international system is a web that reflects multiple competition for power. Terrorism is more often shaped by the international system. The 9/11 terrorist attack on the United

States presented a convergence in the international system of religious, social and technological trends of the age of globalisation. Globalisation has increased connections and relationships that the threat of terrorism has become an international threat.

- With the end of the Cold War, and the rise of globalisation, the international system have become more complex especially with the fourth wave of terrorism. The operations of the Al-Qaeda is strengthened by the globalisation processes. Al-Qaeda according to Smith, p. (2008) is a product of a number of functional and ideological trends, including globalisation and its processes. Cassidy, R. (2006) confirms that Al-Qaeda and its affiliates comprise a novel and evolving form of networked insurgents that operate globally. According to him, they have harnessed the advantage of globalisation. In fact, its leaders; Bin Ladin in a 1997 interview characterised Al-Qaeda as both a result of and a reaction to globalisation. These terrorists groups have adopted networked and dispersed organisational approaches, employing informal age technology and exploiting the freedom of transnational movements introduced by globalisation to attack strategic targets asymmetrically in some of the powerful states. All these dynamics of operations of the groups obviously poses serious threat to international peace and security.

5. Recommendations

- In view of the severe threat of terrorism to international peace and security, we make the following recommendations.
- Conflicts in any form unfolding in inter states or intrastate dimensions must be addressed, because terrorism as acknowledged is a violent mode of response to a conflictual relationship and indeed, conflict escalation failure or reluctance to manage a conflictual relationship leads to violence.
- Resort to military operations are insufficient in addressing terrorism of the age.
- To address the terrorism of our age, we must look beyond. The history of terrorism has shown that the reasons for a group's demise may have little to do with the measures taken against it. It must be understood that the strategies of terrorism are best approached through an examination of the interactions between the groups objectives, target and audience, as they have evolved over the years.
- We must leverage their mistakes just as terrorists groups leverage the mistakes of governments it opposes.
- Policy-makers must learn to keep their psychological framework and conception out of the tactical dynamics of terrorism and counter terrorism.

The causes, grievances or interests that motivate the formation of groups, movements or insurgencies prone to use terror and other forms of political violence to serve their aims must be seriously noted. Terrorists we must note are not stupid, rather they are engaged in the rational use of the irrational. We must understand their goals and motives and work to the greatest extent to address their grievances. A successful end to the global war on terror will obviously require long term international and national commitments. It requires a new way of thinking and new ways of co-ordinated interactions between national agencies and between states in the international system. Security requires multinational and transnational co-operations by virtue of the highly interdependent, interrelated and interconnected world of our age.

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