Terrorism : A Threat to Democracy in the Post-Modern Era

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Abstract

In the Post Modern Era, no broad categorization can do full justice to the variety and complexity of modern phenomena of terrorism but a comprehensive review of the social science literature on terrorism reveals abundant evidence of currently active groups involved in terrorist activity motivated by one or more of the following- Nationalism, Separatism, Religious fundamentalism, Millennialism, Racism, Vigilantism. In this era terrorism is the most challenging phenomena for the entire world. It is a way to fight for political goals in a criminal manner. It has made its target the person, property, places and communications in a bid to paralyse the individual liberty and dignity of person. This paper focus on how Democratic states may be more sensitive to the threat of terrorism and how democracy can be a weapon to fight against terrorism in the post modern era.

Introduction:

Post-modernism is a concept that encompasses a wide range of ideals, methods and practices. It is not a method of doing philosophy but rather a way of approaching traditional ideas and practices in non-traditional way that deviate from pre-established superstructural modes. Post Modernism particularly as an academic movement can be understood as reaction to Modernism in the humanities where as Modernism was primarily concerned with principles such as identity unity, authority and certainty, post modernism is often associated with differences, plurality, textuality and skepticism.

In the post modern era, no broad categorization can do full justice to the variety and complexity of Modern phenomena of terrorism. But a comprehensive review of the social science literature on terrorism reveals abundant evidence of currently active groups involved in terrorist activity motivated by one or more of the following- Nationalism, Separatism, Religious fundamentalism, Millennialism, Racism, Vigilantism. In other words, In this era Terrorism is the most challenging phenomena for the entire world.

Terrorism is an ambiguous term whose definition implies a political aact over the years the term has been used more frequently and today it often seems to be synonymous with "evil". Generally, the term "Terrorism" can be used to describe a "systematic use or threat of violence in order to achieve political goals.' It is a way to fight for political goals in a criminal manner. It has made its target the person, property, places and communication in a bid to paralyse the individual liberty and dignity of person. Terrorism, has no absolute and globally accepted definition and its interpretation can easily be used or abused to suite particular needs. The adage that "one man's terrorist is another's freedom fighter" reveals the wide range of variations in its interpretation but if simply stated, terror is extreme or intense fear. It is a psychological state which combines the physical and mental efforts to create dread and insecurity. The matter of terrorism is indicated. The terrorist of yesterday is the hero of today and the hero of yesterday is the terrorist of today. Terrorism in its modern interpretation is a new word for cruel criminal acts. Terror can be committed in the name of Good but basically it is a way to fight for political goals in a criminal manner. The terrorism according to United Nations can be defined as:-

"Any action that is intended to cause death or serious bodily harm to civilians or non combatants, when the purpose of such an act, by its nature or context, is to intimidate a population or to compel a government or an international organisation to do or to abstain from doing any act."