

Theory of Contemporary Terrorism

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Introduction: Terrorism is the most important phenomenon found today in large number of Muslim and non-Muslim states. It broke out in the late 1980 century and overshadowed the beginning of 21st century. Terrorism is defined as “The threat of violence individual acts of violence or campaign of violence designed to instill fear to terrorise” M. Jenkns.

Its key element is ‘terror’. Terror literally means ‘extreme fear’ but in actual practice it stands for all acts committed to create ‘terror’ in the minds of people. This is done by committing heinous crimes like murder, arson, blasting of public utilities and the like. It is naked, blatant, cruel, and inhuman act of killing of innocent people.

Terror is an aftermath, a creation or outcome or result of certain acts. It is produced by killing some innocent or unwired persons, burning and destroying property, or blasting bridges, buildings and public utilities some trained persons who use deadly weapons for killing harmless persons create terror. By doing so the killers or the arsonists intend to force change the government, faith or ideology of the people, destroy economy, occupy triton and make life miserable. Terrorism can be seen as a ‘theory’ of violence. But it is being practiced as an ‘ideology’ of special was by many organizations and governments. Both are interrelated. But few know them fully.

A proper understanding of contemporary terrorism requires knowing:

- i. Basic tenets of terrorism
- ii. Evolution of Islamic fundamentalism.
- iii. Sunni and Shia fundamentalism.
- iv. From Islamic fundamentalism to contemporary terrorism.
- v. Offshoots of contemporary terrorism.

There are many sources and forms of terrorism. It may be Islamic, Christian, Jewish, Maoist, Hindu, Naxalite and soon. It may come out on grounds of religion sub-religion or sect, ethnicity, colour, culture, or chauvinism. All have made their presence from time to time. But its most potent. Prevalent and dangerous from today is Islamic or Jehadi terrorism. It has been appeared as the next and final phase of Islamic fundamentalism. Islamic fundamentalism stands for the adoption, restoration, and rejuvenation of Islam eliminating all pseudo Islamic or non-Islamic governments, religions and cultures. Terrorism is next phase of Islamic fundamentalism. A follows of Islam has to have full faith in many tenets of his religions. Those who want to lead the Muslims to war, revolution, rebellion or large scale commission make fervent use of these tenets as their weapons.

Some of the important tenets are given below :

1. Allah has very kindly made revelation, given commands and directions to the community at the appointed time the place.
2. These commands and directives were given by Allah to the prophet or Messenger who declared them to be obeyed by all persons irrespective of time and place.
3. The message delivered in form the Holy Quran after its revelation to prophet is the last and final one. It can never be amended, revised or changed by any human being.
4. Allah or His messenger in the revelation has authorised the believers to bring all others to that faith, by all means.
5. One can attain Bliss, Grace, Heaven or Divine favour only when a follower himself acts on or complex other to accept and follow these teachings. He is assured of all pleasures here and hereafter.
6. Those who do not obey are liable to be punished by the followers if Islam or the Islamic courts or the rulers of the Islamic state.
7. Islam demands complete faith, total surrender and strict adherence to it in letter and spirit.
8. Islam claims to envelop all the followers of the world as it’s community, and does not permit any other institutions like state , nation, constitution or creed to stand before or run parallel to it. It demands undivided loyalty to it.
9. The rest of social, legal, political and ritual set up is also ordained to be the part of the holy Quran. States, language and culture it has to be accepted by all irrespective of differences of race, caste, color, social status, language and culture except slaves, non-believers, women and animals.

10. Islam literally means peace, but it permits the use of force or violence. In this respect prophet Mohammed has asked the followers to learn from his life and actions.

Rise and spread of Islamic fundamentalism:

Close commitment to religion is called as 'Fundamentalism, but their influence, goal etc. are not so deep, widespread problematic none others has been able to withstand and replace the operations of Islamic Fundamentalism Islam always been the most political of the world religions from its very beginning.

All branches of Islam are devoted to its propagation. But there are two main branches of Islam: the Sunni and the Shia. Both have tried to spread Islam as Islamic Fundamentalism. Both branches have undergone the various phases of Islamic Fundamentalism. The Sunnis constitute about 85 percent of the world's one billion Muslims. The other fifty percent are Shias. Yet the Shia Fundamentalism has been much more spectacular and aggressive. However, both have been violent and expansive forms of Islamic Fundamentalism.

The two branches of Islam parted company at an early stage over the succession to the prophet. Shias were the followers of Ali, the son-in-law of the prophet. Ali has refused to become caliph on the terms offered to him. Eventually, he had become caliph on his own terms. One of Ali's sons, also revered by the Shias, chose to suffer martyrdom rather than renounce his claim to the caliphate. This self-sacrifice and sticking to principle became characteristics of Shiaism. The true descent of the prophet has been lost, but, Shias believe, one will eventually be found again.

Prophet Muhammad (670-732) the founder of Islam is known to have received direct revelation from Allah. He gave direction to him on all matters—cosmos, religion, politics, society, family, economy and duties of a believer. Basically, they were pivoted on non-idolatry, equality and fighting, for the cause of religion. With these teachings, he founded the first Islamic state and led its expansion by fighting and winning over the Arabian tribes. In this manner, the founder of Islam was political and military, as a religion leader. He gave the weapon of Islamic fundamentalism or of absolute faith and belief to his followers to spread his message. It did not so happen in case of the founders of other religions most of the founders of non-Muslim religions were devoted to self-realization of God and kept themselves confined to preaching and religious living only. All other matters were secondary to them. Interims of temporal power and influence, they stand no match to Islam.

The Islamic ideal has been the unity of political authority. It has always been a conquering and proselytising faith. It began with the domination of the Arabian peninsula within a couple of centuries of its foundation. Islam possessed an empire stretching from Spain to India. It crushed and trampled over all other than Muslim dynasties, cultures, religions, communities and economies. It was victorious everywhere. Towards the end of the middle ages the leadership of Islam passed from the Arabs to the Turks with the sword of Islam succeeded in conquering much of Europe.

Therefore most of the tenets make up and generate the basic spirit of Islam. Islam being the best and the last revelation has to be adopted by mankind. A believer is authorized to pursue all peaceful and violent means and bring out the critics of Quran, Allah, the rule of Allah or the holy Quran. Critics of the holy book have no right to exist. All other laws and institutions are subordinate to the Islamic injunction. With this spirit the Muslims and their leaders have tried to spread Islam throughout the whole world. The ideology that prompts to realize them vigorously is known as Islamic Fundamentalism.

References :-

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