CHAPTER 3

TERRORISM AS AN STRATEGIC INSTRUMENT

Through out the world individuals, terrorist outfits and rouge states used terrorism as a strategic instrument, which favours use of arms and violent oppressive & destructive means for fulfillment of low self-interests. Use of tyrant means measures against a particular person, society or nation is now a days common all over the world for conciliating consents, vulgar and illegal demands by unwanted elements, violent and bloody attacks, coups and tapping of government by unfair means and a lot of other vile and bestial activities are common in modern era.

All above notion problems are not only problems related to a particular nation but also even most of nations all over the world are facing the same problems. Terrorism always use to correlate their dreaded campaigns with religion, liberty and social harassment under cover of above mentioned ideologies the aims of terrorists are to get wide acceptance and to gain public sympathy for their misdeeds which is very much needed for establishment of broad base and for propagandas¹.

The greatest challenge before the international community is to combat terrorism and growing threats to democracy world wide arising from the forces bent upon subverting the process of development and using coercive means for social and political changes. With globalization of trade and commerce a new world order is emerging very fast but unfortunately the environment for world

peace and harmony is still fragile. Situation becomes more explosive and chronic when different struggles, maneuvers and vile murders are used as strategic instruments.

Modus operandi of terrorists and extremists is so much cunning and well planned that they instead of having negative image gain public sympathy even after blood sheds and they are treated as heroes of so called oppressed societies. They have their image of benevolent of public and protectors of general public rights. For all this terrorists never carry out such violent operations rashly and regularly but they operate in a preplanned manner. Extremists use terrorism as an instrument of strategy in following way.

> Correlating their activities with religion or pious aims.
> Carrying out attacks by taking advantage of loopholes of system.
> Getting economic and strategic help from rival or enemy countries.
> Gaining international sympathy on the basis of human rights.

By linking violent activities with aforesaid aims extremists want to make the public understand that they are fighting for general public for safe guard of holy religions aims. All things are done for common man. The extremists pretend to fight for social injustice and dictatorship and pretended to be dedicated for welfare of the public. Terrorists never make public their hidden agenda and a common man can never come to know their vested interests behind their so-called pious activities. As in the atmosphere of ideological and developmental failure radical Islam, groups have emerged. And in a
growing up ward trend due to the inability of the ruling elites of these Muslim countries to cope with their economic and social problems, frustrated intellectuals and young students have come to sympathise more and more with the anti governments slogans of the Radical Islam groups. Radical Islam has appeared as the mouth piece of the oppressed and despaired. Its appeal has mainly been to the under class and sub proletariat. It has made the greatest advances in the most backward countries with the most acute social and economic problems and in some instances leading to turmoil or disorder as in Afghanistan, Algeria and Sudan. In this way terrorists are successful to create a wide base in general public like wily politicians.

Loopholes in system are irritating and trouble some for general public. A main demerit of government established by law is red tapism. Bureaucracy and government never become sensible and alert unless any serious mishappening occurs in public. System is going on for a long in routine even it is not liked by public. By using this situation terrorist carry out attacks taking advantage of faults of pliant and poor system and gain sympathy for their misdeeds.

These extremists develop connection with each and every person or state that are enemies and rivals of these states where they are active. From such nations these extremists try their best to get moral and political supports as well as economic and strategic aids too.

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3 Based on paper by Tyagi, Yogesh K.: Counter Measures; Operational weakness in Grover Verinder (Ed.) Encyclopaedia of International Terrorism; Deep & Deep Publication Pvt. Ltd. New Delhi-2002; page 570.
For gaining international sympathy and support these extremists blame concerned government for serious violation of human rights. Such circumstances are created that it seems like a revengeful reaction against the government and as if they had been tyrant of the oppressive acts of the state. By propaganda a minor problem is shown and produced as a major problem at international levels\(^4\). All though after analyzing activities of any kind of terrorism, significance of afore said strategic instrument is proved it self. Public and state both are victims of terrorism. It takes time to know that the hidden agenda & aims of terrorists and during this terrorists carry out their destructive activities causing problem to general public and state.

Any mean with which rapidly and repeatedly destructive and violent terroristic activities are carried out cannot be termed as a struggle for any purpose like liberty or existence etc. as said by the extremists. Often it is said that terrorism has no strategy and ideology.\(^5\) But there is no doubt that terrorism is also a kind of warfare and every warfare has an ideology and strategy.

**Ideology of Terrorism:** - It is quite impossible to carry out a campaign to over throw established authority with out an ideological feedback. Often positive moral principles are main elements of ideology but conversion of ideas into ideology is also a certain process as illustrated bellow.

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\(^5\) Ragav, Dr. Arun Kumar: 21\(^{st}\) Century Challenge: Eliminating Terrorism: Pratiyogita Darapan, December 2001; Page 849
Figure 3.1: process of conversion of sense into Ideology

Very first sense takes place, which produces ideas and result of idea is an act. When this act or idea comes under practice and gets suffix "ISM" it become ideology.

If we apply this model of flourishing of an ideology by realization or perception for terrorism we found that as we come in touch of a sense of terror, it produces terroristic ideas, result of ideas is terroristic activities, repeated use of violent acts for terror i.e.
frequently application of such activities and after getting suffix “ism” terror becomes terrorism as shown below.

**TERRORISM**

TERROR + ISM

↑

Frequently Application

↑

TERRORISTIC ACTIVITIES

↑

Result

↑

TERRORISTIC IDEAS

↑

Produces

↑

TERROR (A SENSE)

This is the same stage when any sense or perception after some times becomes ideology. So it is obvious that terrorism is an ideology. So it is obvious that terrorism is an ideology.

Terroristic ideology has no concerns with social or moral values. Terroristic ideology rejects all restrains on means. The rejection of social moral principles and system is also an ideology in itself. Hence terrorism has an ideology. The great interesting element
of terrorist ideology is that such acts which help to achieve its targets are right either those are violent, destructive moral or immoral. Terroristic ideology favours:

- Violent acts.
- Destructive acts
- To redefine political geography.
- To conquer and colonize the mind through terror.
- To identify soft targets.
- Changes through forceful means.
- To reject all restraints and overthrow the established ruling authority
- Try to plant one’s wish to masses.

Terrorist ideology doesn’t bother about international connections, human rights, world’s order and peace, human values and any other civil code.6

Generally strategy is correlated with state armies and conventional wars. When we talk about Terroristic activities, it is often questioned that strategy? And that is of terrorists? Terrorism has nothing to do with strategy. They are to create panic by either means and whenever there is a chance they do it by caring out terrorist attacks. But now days this kind of thinking may be harmful. At present terrorism is a full-developed ideology having a complete three-dimensional strategy as below:

**Strategy of Terrorism:** - After a deep study of terroristic acts and analyzing them I concluded the result that the courses of actions

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6 Based on Address of Sh. Jaswant Singh Former M.E.A. India at Sapru House on 17 October 2001.
adopted by terrorists have three dimensions and three stages. It may be termed as 3-D strategy of Terrorism. Details of 3-D strategy are as below

**Figure 3.2: Model of 3-D Strategy of Terrorism**

- **Dimensions:**
  1) Ultras
  2) Government
  3) Public

- **Stages:**
  1) Attack
  2) Wait
  3) Expose
1. First Stage

**Attack:** - In this stage terrorists carry out attacks and as a result of attacks astounded and amazing wave of terror and panic spreads in the public and system. Astonishment hits the ruling authorities and a wave of terror strikes the public.

![Diagram of First Stage effects of Terroristic Attack on Government and Public.](image)

**Figure 3.3:** First Stage effects of Terroristic Attack on Government and Public.

2. Second Stage

**Wait:** - In this stage terrorists wait for the reaction of government because directly or indirectly main target of the attack is always
government. As a reaction of attack and for countering terrorism authorities responsible for law and order, start raiding and this time again general public is a victim because corrupt officials harass innocents. This is the situation when sympathy of general public turns towards the ultras.  

Figure 3.4: Effects of Counter Raids in 2nd Stage of 3-D Strategy

3. Third Stage
Exposure: - After getting sympathy of general public terrorists expose their manifesto or agenda in public. During exposure and propaganda these terrorists come up with such altruistic and widely popular issues such that a common man find him self related to those

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issues⁸. Now general public accept them as their benevolent. When general public starts giving up hopes from government and starts relying on the so called well wishers or terrorists then such expectations bring out failure of the government and sympathy for ultras changes into support from public. Now a large and wide base of terrorists is established in public and now they can manage their

Figure 3.5: Third Stage of 3-D Strategy showing Manifesto Expose activities unrestrictedly. If above said result is not achieved then they repeat the same cycle it means starts again from first step and efforts are made till the broad base is not established.

Terrorism as an Strategic Instrument:-

The terrorists use this strategy for fulfilling their vested interests as an instrument. Not only the terrorists but now days some states also use terrorism as an strategic instrument for self interests as mentioned in American report on terrorism, Patterns of Global

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Terrorism- 1999. Some nations were identified as terrorist or rogue states like Iraq, Libya, North Korea, Cuba, Sudan and Syria etc., which are nourishing and spreading terrorism. Not only above-mentioned nations but there are a long list of nations using such tactics. States use terrorism as a strategic instrument for fulfilling some of following great national interests.

➢ To maintain influence Zones.
➢ To capture natural resources.
➢ Colonial interests.
➢ Arms and ammunition Market.
➢ State of being in conflict and instability for a long time.
➢ Other vested national interests.

Worried imperialistic powers after ending the era of imperialism globally tried to make some alliances and treaties to retain the influence in some regions, which were influential or rich in natural resources. Where these tactics were not successful or the outcomes were not according to lines of exceptions there terrorism was used as strategic instrument. After World War-II world divided into two groups and both groups i.e. capitalists and communists started to have an influence upon other nations and to associate these nations with their group. USSR was leader of communists while USA was leader of capitalists. USSR made strict restrictions in eastern Europe known as Iron curtain and violent communist activities were encouraged all over the world. To counter the increasing and

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9 Patterns of Global Terrorism: US Dept of State; Office of the coordinator for counter terrorism; April 1996
10 Onwudiwe; Ihekwoaba D: The Globalization of Terrorism; Ash gate Britain-2001; Page 40.
11 Clayton, Bruce D: Life After Terrorism; Paladin Press USA-2002; Page-25.
extending influence of communism and to expand own influence America raised and supported terroristic forces as providing all kind of help to *Saddam Hussein* by American President Reagan. Financial assistance to *Afghani Jihadis* group and providing them stringer missiles are some striking examples\(^{12}\). After World War-II colonial regimes had to lost colonies. America started influencing those regions from where Britain’s colonial regimes came to an end. Intensive efforts were made by America and imperialistic powers to make hold in those regions and a new concept of Neo-Colonialism came into existence. If any nation was not willing to accept influence and supremacy of America then other nations of those regions were used as fronts like Pakistan against India. No doubt at present the same policy is being adopted by America when any nation does not accept American supremacy even some times military actions are also initiated against some nations e.g. attack on Iraq, missile attacks in Afghanistan etc.

Main reason behind using terrorism as strategic instrument by nations is to make hold on economy. Some nations are rich in natural resources like minerals and petroleum etc. as in case of west Asia and northern Africa there are rich deposits of Hydrocarbons. It is obvious that now day’s world economy is based upon oil termed as *Liquid Gold*. Modern economy, civilization and lifestyle are running on petroleum and every nation wants its strong hold on this source of energy. Western countries and America are petroleum-importing countries and will be more depending in future. A lot of new oil fields found in western Asia were very large and abundant. Main deposits

\(^{12}\) Kumar G. Gopa: International Terrorism and Global order in the 21\(^{st}\) Century; Kanishk Publications, Distributors, New Delhi; Page-96.
are in Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Iran and Kuwait. In these states America and Britain have many type of vested interests and economic concerns. Some of them are as below:

1. New oil field exploring contracts should be allotted to their companies.

2. As being the oil rich states backward in field of technology they cannot explore and refine mineral. The nations like America and Britain, as being developed nation tends to maintain their supremacy and hold on exploring and refining these minerals.

The nations rich in oil minerals like Saudi Arabia, Kuwait are fully under influence of America. And in Iraq after depriving Saddam Hussein by military attack all oil and other natural resources are under control of USA. As a result of all these measures in name of democracy the US lead invasion of Iraq has termed the new country in a new hub of terrorism. Iraqi activists in revenge are openly supporting terrorism, which is like a question mark for international security. Iran may be the next targets in this series and if it happens so then there is no surprise sooner or later, by hook or crook, it will be managed to hold control over less developed oil rich countries. For getting control over these fields this kind of restlessness of nations like invaders of Iraq shall be a cause of breaking up violence in those regions, by use of all measures those governments will be managed to be unstable and it will lead to increase in terrorism all over the world. For accomplishment of colonial interests terrorism was used at large scale. All cunning and vile means were used to manage and control the colonial public and first half of twentieth century was tyrannical

13 Philip’s Atlas of the World; Page 35.
14 Times of India, 7 September 2005.
period of continuous repressive acts and policies adopted by colonial regimes e.g. massacre by General Dyer in Amritsar in India in 1919. Repression measures used by British army in Iraq, Palestine and Trans Jordan against public of these states for opposing of Britain’s interest in these states, over throwing of Reform party government in Iraq by Noori Sayed a British supporter, repressions of Arabs in 1929, British support to Jews, tyrannical repressive measures of France in Syria, and attack by artillery in capital city Damascus death toll was more than 25000 and in 1927 shelling by artillery on revolutionists by American and British war ship in Nan king in China, all these are striking examples of accomplishment of colonial interests by imperialistic powers using terrorism as strategic instrument and it is incessant till now. The only difference is that in contemporary world concept of colonialism is changed. During past centuries imperialistic had rivalry and competition for establishing direct- colonial regions but now a days they are combating for indirect colonies like managing to hold controls of nations under influence of economy any technology.

Arms market is also a reason of strengthening terrorism. As proclaimed generally this century is century of equality, liberty and century of opportunities for development because almost nations are at present Independent but economic and technological controls are in hands of developed nations. These undeveloped nations even cannot produce arms for their own security needs and they buy all these from international arms markets. The nation dealing in arms accumulate very high profits but this demand of weapons depends upon nations

15 Deepak, Dr. Kuldeep Raj: Modern India and Contemporary World; Saraswati House Pvt. Ltd. – 1994; Page 313, 314, 315.
caught in insecurity feelings. So these so called developed nations indirectly support terrorism for creating demands in arms markets. Policies of developed nations are to keep themselves safe and other developing countries must be entangled in internal quarrels and external dangers. For all this developed nation use terrorism as a tool.

For accomplishment of vested national interests international law allows using less tyrannical means like reprisals, embargoes, boycotts, retorting, severance of relations, retaliation and ocean blockade\(^6\). After all use of power is also a hard fact of international politics. It is use at large scale internationally but mostly unmentioned. At last for full filling self-interests, or national interests war is an ultimate coercive mean. War may be limited or fierce and very much destructive but it is a fact that it is very expensive and ruining. War destroys the enemy nations but as well as it causes very much loss to the instigating state and development is seriously obstructed. After knowing results of American interference is Vietnam and Soviet intervention in Afghanistan even power full and economically sound nations cannot dare to be entangled in field of war. Methods mentioned in International law are time consuming and tiring measures there for small and weak nations cannot adopt these for achieving vested national interests. After having experiences in Afghanistan by USSR and in Vietnam by America the whole world concluded the terrorism may be adopted as a tool to achieve aims and objectives at international level because the failure of America in Vietnam and USSR in Afghanistan were result of terrorist activities which were carried out by nationalists or fundamentalists of

\(^6\) Fariya, Dr. B.L.: International Politics; Sahitya Bhawan Publications, Agra-2000; Page 289.
concerned nation and established terrorism as an instrument of strategy for fulfilling vested interests at all levels. Now days it is the tool mostly used by nations for vested interests frequently at regional or international level. The main features of using this instrument is:

i) Without any loss of life of national like in dirty war nations are putting forward strong challenges to enemy nations like conventional war merely by spending money and by hiring terrorist of rival nations. All types of losses are of enemy nations like materialistic and life losses. The nation sponsoring terrorism has to bear no life loss.

ii) Small and less powerful nation may use it against powerful nations\(^\text{17}\).

iii) Even a single person can dare to use terrorism against any nation like Osama Bin Laden has openly declared war against America and Israel.

The nations like Pakistan and Palestine are using terrorism at large scale at international levels for their vested interests. Some pre-eminent and exceptional national interests of developed nations may be accomplished only when the rest world is entangled in struggling circumstances and struggling nations must be caught in fear of insecurity and instability. These are some compulsions of developed world mentioned below:

1. These so called developed nations are prosperous and well equipped with new technologies but almost poor in natural resources

2. Saturation point of development has been obtained.

\(^{17}\) Prabha, Kshitij: Terrorism as an Instrument of Foreign Policy; in Virender Grover (Ed.); Deep & Deep Publications, New Delhi-2002; Page 112-118.
3. Labour is very costly.

4. Citizens are of consumer and luxurious nature.

By all these compulsion governments of so-called developed nations cannot dare to reprieve their nationals of luxurious facilities and simultaneously efforts are made to hold on other nations to maintain the supremacy and monopolies. For all these even developed nations also interfere in internal matters of other states and even some time support for over throwing the democratic government. All kind of help is provided to destructive groups like tacit supports for terroristic and other rebellion activities.\textsuperscript{18} Striking examples of using terrorism as an instrument by American and Britain are even not hesitating for humiliation of \textit{Sadam Hussain} in name of \textbf{WMD} and simultaneously making \textit{Musharaff} key aide in struggle against terrorism, while \textit{Musharaf} who him self is the great foster of terrorism who captured power in Pakistan by over throwing democratic government of \textit{Nowaz Sarif}. For maintaining the supremacy and monopolies USA extended its area of involvement beyond the American continent to Africa, Southeast Asia, and Europe. Although it has sometimes considered it necessary to employ force to defend its interests, in many instances economic backing or, conversely, the threat of trade sanctions has been sufficient to achieve its objectives.\textsuperscript{19} Map 3.1 is showing USA’s efforts made for maintaining supremacy.

\textsuperscript{18} Kaur, Kulwant : Global Terrorism ; Issues Dimensions and Options; Kanishka Publishers Distributors, New Delhi-2005; page 99-112.

\textsuperscript{19} Philips atlas of world History; page 242.
So now it is obvious that at international level not only by individual or by terrorist outfits but also even by states irrespective of weak or powerful terrorism is used as an instrument for achieving self interests or national interest.

Source: Philip’s Atlas of World History, page 242