TERRORISM: A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

Terrorism is not a recent phenomenon. It is older than the ancient civilisations of Greece and Rome. Terrorism has been practised throughout history and throughout the world. Even Kautilya referred to the possibilities of terror against the king in his celebrated treatise on statecraft called the Arthashastra. He cautioned the king to be vigilant against subversive activities aimed at destabilisation.¹ By manipulating fear in a special way, terrorists have been able to affect public behaviour in a certain fashion. Most terrorism throughout history has been directed against governments (what is called political or revolutionary terrorism), but terrorism can also be global or take the forms of state terrorism or state-sponsored terrorism. These latter types occur when governments turn on their own citizens, or try to stir up trouble amongst the citizenry of another nation. In fact, it was state terrorism that put modern use of the term "terrorism" in the English vocabulary.

It has been said, "those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."² One reason for reviewing the historical pattern of terrorism is to be able to discover whether that pattern is prevalent today. If today’s terrorism is just like the past, then we can use these historical patterns to predict behaviour and to construct our responses accordingly. What we need to know is whether the 21st century is significantly different from its historical counterparts.

Terrorism: A Brief History

Terrorism of some kind has been a standard course of action in many historical cultures. It has worked as a weapon against ruthless dictators in achieving strategic goals. Group terrorism can be traced back to the Middle Ages, whereas the solitary terrorist appeared with the rise of the nation-state. Terrorism as a political weapon was first utilised during the twelfth and thirteenth century by the Assassins. Moreover assassination has long been used as an effective weapon and an ideological statement. During the 1930s

and the 1940s, Nazi Germany and Russia represented what was state terrorism. They practised genocide and humanicide on an unprecedented scale. The revolutionary terrorist came on the scene after the World Wars. In the modern world the terrorist activity is motivated by one or more of the following: nationalism, separatism, racism, vigilantism, ultra-left ideology, religious fundamentalism etc. After the end of the World Wars terrorism had become a permanent part of the twentieth century historical process. To attain a clearer and a more effective perspective, we need to place terror-violence in its proper historical context.

**Before World War II**

“The purpose of terrorism is to produce terror,” noted Vladimir Lenin, the Russian communist leader responsible for the “Red Terror” of 1917-21. The word *terror* is of Latin origin (from *terrere*, to frighten). However it entered the English language only in the fourteenth century through the French language. The first English usage was recorded in 1528. Even though the word ‘terrorism’ was coined during the guillotine days of the French Revolution, the practice is much older. In the Bible we can find references of complete annihilations of enemy nations in the name of faith. The Bible advocates terror, assassination, and annihilation in several places. The book of Joshua states that the Israelites “utterly destroyed all that was in the city (Jericho), both man and woman, young and old, and ox, and sheep and ass with the edge of the sword.”

In Ancient Greece the forms of terror employed were assassination and tyrannicide. A tyrant was a ruler who had taken power by force and this was true of Hipparchus and Hippias who became the rulers of Athens in 527 B.C. Hipparchus was murdered during a festival procession in 510 B.C. after he sexually assaulted the sister of Harmodius. Hippias was also overthrown by his enemies and exiled in 509 B.C.

*Regicide*, or the killing of kings by rivals, and the brutal suppression of loyalists afterwards, has been an established pattern of political ascent since *Julius Caesar* (44 B.C.). The attempts of the people's tribunes Tiberius
Sempronius Gracchus and his brother Gaius Sempronius Gracchus to alleviate the economic distress and help the poorer citizens by agrarian and corn laws resulted in riots in which both brothers met their deaths, Tiberius in 133 BC and Gaius in 121 BC. Julius Caesar was knifed in 44 B.C. by senators who opposed his rule. His victories in war had enabled him to join the two other politicians, the wealthy Crassus and the soldier Pompey who formed the Triumvirate. After Crassus’s death in 53 B.C. civil war broke out between Caesar and Pompey which ended in Pompey’s assassination in Egypt. On his return to Rome he became a dictator and on March 15, 44 B.C., a conspiracy of senators assassinated him.

Terror was an accepted instrument of war in the Roman Empire. After a successful siege, the Roman army was known to have often slaughtered entire populations, as in Jerusalem in A.D. 70. The Jerusalem war was the result of the Jews rebelling. The Jews were terrorised as they refused to follow the orders of the Roman general. They were often crucified and their hands were cut off to quell all traces of rebellion.

Rome also used terror to enforce discipline in the army. The practice of decimation, floggings and mutilations was a common feature. Under the legal code of Rome the slaves and the poor could be scourged, sent to the mines, thrown to the wild beasts in the arena, or crucified. Therefore terror was an instrument of policy that the Romans were willing to adopt when it suited their aims.

Justinian II was one emperor who was both a victim and a perpetrator of terror. He was a callous and a selfish tyrant who was very unpopular. He burdened his people with heavy taxation and to extract it he employed ruthless officials. His head of finances was a monk who hung people over a slow and smoky fire when they could not pay their taxes. To stop this Leontius, a general of repute with the help of a group of supporters put Justinian in chains but spared him execution. Instead his nose was cut off and he was humiliated by being paraded around the Hippodrome. Justinian seeking revenge later captured the palace and Leontius and Tiberius. He placed one foot on each of their necks and watched the chariot races for more

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1 Martha Crenshaw and John Pimlott, eds., *Encyclopedia of World Terrorism*, Vol. 1 (Sharpe Reference, 61)
than an hour. Then he ordered their decapitation. Justinian became known for his reign of terror. He put to death most of the empire's best army officers. He was later overthrown and executed by Philippicus.

Premeditated violence directed against both armies and general populations characterised the actions of rebellious forces, seeking new political orders that destroyed the early civilisations of the Dark Ages, triggered the decline of the Old Egyptian Kingdom, brought down the states of Greece and Crete, and toppled the Roman Empire.*

Early recorded human history tells us about organised groups committed to systematic terrorism. Among the earliest such examples were the Sicari and the Zealots, Jewish groups active during the Roman occupation of the first century Middle East. The weapon used by the Sicari was the sica (the short dagger which gave them their name, which literally means 'dagger men'). They used the sica, which was hidden under their coats to attack their enemies, mainly other Jews, by daylight, very often during the celebrations of holidays. The Zealots in Israel (100 A.D.) however engaged in guerrilla warfare against the Romans outside the cities. They apparently concentrated their terrorist activities in Jerusalem. They give us the modern term Zealot, one translation of which is "a fanatical partisan". Such killings usually took place in daylight and in front of witnesses, with the perpetrators using such acts to send a message to the Roman authorities and those Jews who collaborated with them.

Perhaps the first clear example of a movement employing terrorism as a major weapon are the Assassins of the eleventh century an offshoot of a Shia Muslim sect known as the Ismailis. Like the Zealots-Sicari, the Assassins were also given to stabbing their victims (generally politicians or clerics who refused to adopt the purified version of Islam they were forcibly spreading) in broad daylight. In fact the word "assassin" comes from an

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3 That no contemporaneous Christian terrorist groups are considered here reflects the fact that no such group easily lends itself to a comparative analysis. As Rapoport puts it: 'Their [millenarian Christian groups of the late Medieval period] terror was a sort of state terror; the sects organised their communities openly, taking full control of a territory, instituting gruesome purges to obliterate all traces of the old order, and organising large armies, which waged holy wars periodically sweeping over
Arabic term *hashashin*, which literally means "hashish-eater," or "one addicted to hashish." They were (perhaps falsely) rumoured to indulge in drug taking prior to undertaking missions. Often, the Assassins’ deeds were carried out at religious sites on holy days – a tactic intended to publicise their cause and incite others to it. Their main contribution was the origin of the strategy of *taqfir*, which means deception. The terrorist in such a case is disguised as a devout emissary but is in fact on a suicide mission, in exchange for which he was guaranteed the joys of paradise. This has resemblance to the suicide terrorism of the modern day.

The *Thuggees* in India (1300 A.D.) kidnapped travellers for sacrifice to their Goddess Kali. Sacrifice was the central element of the killings carried out by the Thuggees (who bequeathed us the word ‘thug’) – an Indian religious cult who ritually strangled their victims (usually travellers chosen at random) as an offering to the Hindu goddess. The intent was to terrify the victim (a vital consideration in the Thuggee ritual) rather than influence any external audience.

Medieval history also shows us how terror was used in warfare to intimidate the defeated. One example is of Gundovald, commander of the southwestern city in France called Comminges. He was captured and pushed over a steep ravine. As he fell one of the captors threw a rock at him and hit him in the head. He fell and died. The people surrounded and prodded him with their spears. Then they tied his feet together with a rope and dragged him through the whole army encampment. They pulled out his hair and his beard.7

The English word ‘terrorism’ comes from the *regime de la terreur* that prevailed in France from 1793-1794. The execution of Marie Antoinette on October 16, 1793 was one of the first incidents actually called terrorism. The British political philosopher Edmund Burke, popularised the term ‘terrorism’ in English. During a period of the French Revolution known as the Reign of Terror (1793-1794) under the leadership of Maximilien Robespierre (Head of the Committee on Public Safety and Revolutionary Tribunal), thousands of "enemies of the state" were put on trial and guillotined. Robespierre, viewed

the countryside and devastating, burning, and massacring everything and everyone in their paths,”

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terror as vital if the new French Republic was to survive its infancy, proclaiming in 1794 that: “Terror is nothing other than justice, prompt, severe, inflexible; it is therefore an emanation of virtue; it is not so much a special principle as it is a consequence of the general principle of democracy applied to our country's most urgent needs.”

In this Reign of Terror it is estimated that 500,000 citizens were arrested, 40,000 were executed, 200,000 were deported, and another 200,000 died in prison from starvation and torture. Arrests and convictions were made on the flimsiest of evidence. In the southern French city of Lyon, in June 1794 over 700 people were sentenced to death. The guillotine could not cope, so the victims were marched to a square and mown down by cannon. Cindy Combs states that, “It is interesting, is it not, that modern terrorism derives its name from a gross example of state terrorism, acts of terrorism which a state commits against defenceless victims, rather than from terror violence by a lone assassin or small, fanatic, nonstate group?”

Robespierre himself was assassinated by a coup d'état in 1794. The same period also saw the emergence of what came to be known as the White Terror which comprised of violence, reprisals and assassinations by enemies of the revolutionary regimes.

Another benchmark in the evolution of terrorism were the actions of the pirates of the Barbary Coast states (Morroco, Algiers, Tunis and Tripoli) who inked their mark on the terrorism timeline by demonstrating that trading hostages for large ransoms was good business. In 1795, a significant arms-for-hostages deal was struck between pirates and America. This Barbary Coast threat loomed large for several decades.

In the late nineteenth century, in 1871, nearly 80 years after Robespierre's infamous Reign of Terror, violence returned to the streets of France. After the crushing defeat of France by Prussia, the left wing working classes of Paris rebelled against the new French government. The Parisian rebels began systematically terrorising other sections of society. They executed hundreds of enemies without formal trial. Government troops used

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1 See Crenshaw and Pimlott, supra 3, p. 36.
2 Quoted in Modern History Sourcebook: Maximilien Robespierre: Justification of the Use of Terror, online at: http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/robespierre-terror.html
4 See Glenn E. Schweitzer with Carole Dorsch Schweitzer, supra 4, pp. 26-27.
terrorism as they recaptured Paris. The soldiers set up execution squads in the Pe’sre Lachaise cemetery and in the Luxembourg Gardens. These squads shot at least 25,000 residents of the working class areas.11

The word “terrorism” took on a slightly different meaning after German philosopher, Immanuel Kant wrote about it in 1798 to describe a pessimistic view of the destiny of mankind. Anarchism was invented in 1840 by Pierre-Joseph Proudhon, and expanded upon by Mikhail Bakunin in 1848 and Karl Heinzen in 1849. Anarchism supported terrorism with statements such as “if you have to blow up half a continent to destroy the enemy, do so with no scruples or conscience.”12 Sergei Nechaev another prominent spokesman for revolutionary anarchism, in his work, Revolutionary Catechism, has asserted, “Day and night he must have one single thought, one single purpose: merciless destruction. With this aim in view, tirelessly and in cold blood, he must always be prepared to kill with his own hands anyone who stands in the way of achieving his goals.”13

In the aftermath of the French Revolution, anarchism became synonymous with chaos, revolutionary terror, and politically motivated murder. Anarchists were very active during the late 19th and early 20th century. Russian anarchists sought to overthrow the Russian Czar Alexander II by assassination and eventually succeeded in 1881. A Russian Populist group Narodnaya Volya (means People’s Will) formed in 1878 committed the assassination of Alexander II. The Anarchists believed that killing the Czar and other kings and nobles of Europe would bring down governments. Unlike most other terrorist groups, the NV went to great lengths to avoid ‘innocent’ deaths, carefully choosing their targets – usually state officials who symbolised the regime – and often compromising operations rather than causing hurt to the innocent bystanders.

Anarchists also introduced the observation that terrorism has a communicative effect. When a bomb explodes, society asks why. The need to know why an act was committed provides the perpetrators of the terrorist act

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11 See Crenshaw and Pimlott, supra 3, p.50.
a stage to which an audience is ready to listen. Thus the concept of propaganda by deeds was added to the development of modern terrorism. Terrorism was a tool of communication.

The NV’s actions inspired radicals elsewhere. Nationalist groups such as those in Ireland and the Balkans adopted terrorism as a means towards their desired ends. As the 19th century gave way to the 20th, terrorists attacks were carried out as far a field as India, Japan, and the Ottoman empire, with two U.S. presidents and a succession of other world leaders being made victims of assassination by various anarchists often affiliated to groups but operating without their explicit knowledge or support.14

Terrorism theory came to the United States with the arrival of German radicals such as Karl Heinzen and Johann Most, who advanced the philosophy of using weapons of mass destruction in a systematic campaign of terrorism. Both believed that science could empower the masses with the invention of new weapons that could then be used in terrorist enterprises, and they argued that bombs should be detonated where the enemy gathered, be it a church or any other meeting place. The most famous incident involving American anarchists occurred in Chicago in 1886 during the Haymarket riot, when a bomb killed eight policemen.15

Between 1890 and 1908 anarchists were responsible for killing the kings and queens of Russia, Austria Hungry, Italy and Portugal. Among those assassinated were Canovas del Castillo, prime minister of Spain, in 1892; the empress Elizabeth of Austria in 1898; King Umberto of Italy in 1900. Anarchists active in the U.S. between 1890 and 1910 set off bombs on Wall Street. The two most famous acts by anarchists were the assassinations of President McKinley (1901) and Archduke Ferdinand (1914) which resulted in the Great War16.

Anarchist terrorism began in France in the early 1880s. The peak occurred in 1892-94 with 11 significant bombings and other incidents. Among these the most notorious bombings were committed by Emile Henry,

16 The History of Terrorism – More than 200 Years of Development. On the Internet at: http://www.state.de.us/cjo/history.htm
Francois-Claudius Ravachol (two attempts to blow up judicial officers), and Auguste Vaillant (a bomb hurled down on Parliamentarians in the Chamber of Deputies). Charles Gallo fired off shots in the Paris stock exchange in 1886 and Santo Caserio stabbed President Sadi-Carnot to death on June 24, 1894, on a public street. After 1894, anarchist terrorism largely ceased in France.

All these events are indicative of *tyrannicide*. The doctrine of tyrannicide, the assassination of a (tyrant) political leader, has been practised throughout history. The leading advocate of the doctrine of tyrannicide as an acceptable solution to political repression was a Spanish Jesuit scholar, Juan de Mariana, whose principle work was banned in France.\(^\text{17}\) It was universally accepted and approved as a political weapon. So much so that, John Milton raised the defence of tyrannicide to justify the execution of Charles I. According to him, “tyrannicide, that is the killing of a tyrant, is not only lawful, but also laudable.”\(^\text{18}\)

Therefore at the turn of the 19th century, terrorism in the form of political assassination became a major global phenomenon. Although a few of the assassins were anarchists, they all acted on their own, without the knowledge or support of the groups to which they belonged.

**TABLE 3.1**

Deaths of Rulers in the 19th Century

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ruler</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Year of Death</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President James Garfield</td>
<td>United States</td>
<td>1881</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tsar Alexander II</td>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>1881</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lord Fredrick Cavendish, Chief Secretary</td>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>1882</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Martinez Campos</td>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>1892</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>President Sadi Carnot</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>1894</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Premier Antonio del Castillo</td>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>1897</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Empress Elizabeth</td>
<td>Austria-Hungary</td>
<td>1898</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King Umberto I</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>1900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>President William McKinley</td>
<td>United States</td>
<td>1901</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Premier Peter Stolypin</td>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>1911</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Premier Jose Canalejas y Mendez</td>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>1912</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In Russia at the turn of the century the intellectual elite considered terrorist violence the only effective way to modernise Russian society. Narodnaya Volya was responsible for numerous political assassinations between 1879 and 1881, culminating in the murder of Tsar Alexander II in 1881. Terrorist violence in Russia continued to worsen, setting the stage for the emergence of the police state. The terrorism of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries set a standard of brutality that became the modus operandi of the final two reigns of the Romanovs and of the Soviet regime.

As with Europe, terrorism arrived on America's shores before the 20th century. Not only were Anarchists active in America throughout the 1880s, but the country's recent Civil War had seen acts deserving of the name committed on both sides as well as the formation of the Ku Klux Klan to fight the Reconstruction effort which followed.19

Terrorism was used to describe the activities of groups like the Molly Maguires (coal miners agitating for more rights), the Industrial Workers of the World, Bolsheviks, and many others. Ideological references for terrorism also extended to religion and began to include the battles waged between Islam and Judaism, as well as between Hinduism and Islam and Christianity and all of the aforementioned groups. Common to all of these were the elements of violence or the threat of violence, often in a revolution or an armed struggle for control.20

The next phase in the history of terrorism involved nationalism and the desire to rid a country of colonial rule. The Macedonian insurgency (1893-1903) against the Turkish Ottoman Empire became the first anti-colonial group in modern history to systematically wage guerrilla warfare, avoid conventional battle, occupy towns and villages, engage in propaganda, and use terrorism to gain control. The Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organisation (IMRO) was founded in 1893. It committed itself to “freedom or death” and to ridding Macedonian territory of Turkish rule. The members committed murders of Turkish Border Guards and Ottoman sympathisers and raised money through extortion, kidnapping and protection rackets. The

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Turkish authorities dealt ruthlessly with this violence which had escalated into the Saint Elijah’s Rebellion of 1903. This struggle left thousands dead on both sides, at least 70,000 homeless and 200 Macedonian villages in ashes. In the end Macedonia did not gain independence, except in part and only very recently, after the disintegration of Yugoslavia.

The event, which triggered off World War I was the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, the heir to the Austro-Hungarian empire. In 1908, Austria had annexed Bosnia causing great resentment among the Serbs. Serbia which had the backing of Russia was greatly opposed to the move. The large population of Serbs in Bosnia gave a reason to Serbia to claim the land. ‘An external manifestation of revolutionary terrorism, utilised as an unofficial instrument of national foreign policy as well as a deadly weapon of political protest, was the Union or Death Society, popularly known as the Black Hand. This was secret Serbian revolutionary organisation whose primary aim was to bring about the union with Serbia of unredeemed Serbian nationals and territory.’ 21 Gavrilo Princip a 19 year old student, who had been trained by the Black Hand, shot the archduke and his wife at point blank range on June 28, 1914, in the Bosnian capital, Sarajevo. 22

Any action against Serbia would involve the risk of war with Serbia and its self-appointed protector Russia. Therefore Austria sought the support of her ally Germany and then presented Belgrade with a 48 hour ultimatum. Serbia retaliated by mobilising its troops on July 25. On July 28, Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia. Two days afterwards, Russia mobilised 1.2 million troops. On August 1, Germany declared war on Russia. France under a treaty of alliance was obligated to come to Russia’s aid and accordingly got its army ready. However, on August 3, Germany declared war on France and marched into Belgium. As Belgian neutrality was guaranteed by Britain in a treaty, it joined the war on the side of France and Russia, and declared war on Germany on August 4. World War I had begun. In September 1914, Allied Forces stopped the German advance in France at the Battle of the Marne.

Both sides then dug in along what would become the great Western Front, a series of trenches extending nearly the entire breadth of northern and eastern France. What ensued thereafter was four years of slaughter unprecedented in human history.23

The German advance into Belgium and France was marked by the adoption of terror policy of *Schrecklichkeit* (dreadfulness or frightfulness). If there were German causalities, civilians were rounded up and shot. This was intended to act as a deterrent, so as not to resist German occupation. Further male and female hostages were taken to keep the local population in line. During this time the birth rate declined and the death rate rose sharply in Belgium. Thousand of civilians were taken from their homes to Germany to be used as forced labour in German mines and factories. Another German strategy was in the area of submarine warfare. The passenger liner Lusitania was sunk by a German submarine on May 7, 1915, which resulted in the loss of 1400 lives.24

Catholic Ireland had always resented Protestant’s Britain’s control over it. World War I gave Ireland an opportunity to fight for its independence from the British Empire. Michael Collins led the *Irish Rebellion* (-1919 - 1921). The Irish War of 1919 brought three concepts to the development of terrorism (1) selective terrorism; (2) sustained terror over time and (3) cell operations.

The concept of selective terrorism meant acts of terror against representatives of government with a view to force their departure from an area. A tactic that has been adopted and used in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip since 1967. Further the acts of terror must be sustained over a long period of time. The sustained terror will, over time, break down the will of the targeted government. The Irish war also provided the concept of cell operation to terrorism. Cell operation decentralises the implementation of terrorist acts and prevents the discovery and destruction of the terrorist organisation. Each cell has a specific goal or objective. Each cell only knows its members and its

specific task. Thus the capture of one cell does not provide avenues to other terrorists. 25

The role of a terrorist as a liberationist was the creation of the Irish Republican Army (I.R.A.). The British responded to the IRA attacks with counter terror. The IRA routinely murdered police and troops and bombed public buildings. The British fought back and threw hundreds into jail. Ultimately Britain offered a treaty that created an Irish Free State excluding the Protestant part of Northern Ireland. Even after the creation of an independent Irish Republic the violence did not end. In the mid-1950s the Provisional IRA began a second wave of anti-British terror which still continues.

One of the most brutal expressions of terror came at the hands of the British ruling India in 1919. In 1918-19 the British had introduced the Rowlatt Act which had caused widespread discontent throughout the whole of India. On April 13, a mass meeting was to take place in the Jallianwala Bagh, Amritsar to discuss the outcome of the Act. General Dyer took his troops and two armoured cars to disperse the meeting. However without giving any prior warning to the crowd, he ordered his troops to open fire. The crowd of 20,000 unarmed men, women and children ran about in panic. Within ten minutes 380 people were dead and 1,200 wounded and they were left where they fell. This Amritsar incident was a deliberate act of terror, calculated to frighten people and it had the desired effect.

Communism was invented in 1844 by Karl Marx. Lenin expanded on communist theory by condemning individual acts of terrorism, yet supporting mass acts of terrorism. It was Lenin in 1908 who invented modern state-sponsored terrorism when he said “We cannot reject terror, as it is the one form of military action which may be perfectly suitable or even essential at a definite juncture in battle.” 26 Lenin and Trotsky started up a Red Terror inside Russia from 1918-1923 with a vast number of concentration camps.

The Soviet Revolution (1917) Lenin was followed by Stalin in the mid-1930s with the Great Terror. He expanded the idea of government-sponsored terrorism as a tool to maintain governmental control. Terror was used as a

25 Supra 16
way to organise and control a society. Stalin wanted a modern industrialised economy, and accordingly requisitioned all land for state use and nationalised all industries. Forced labour became a basic part of the Soviet economy, and fear of arrest, torture and execution by Stalin’s police a way of life. In 1989, a Soviet historian estimated that more than 20 million died as a result of the labour camps, execution and famine.

The battle that Lenin and Stalin fought for many years was the Cold War (1922-1993), which sought to defeat capitalism and establish a worldwide communist regime. This Cold War contained many proxy "Dirty Wars" between the United States and Russia (proxy meaning fought on soil other than American or Russian), and helped establish the international meaning and nature of terrorism. The United States, for its part, engaged in a "Red Scare" roundup of suspected anarchists and communists. Terrorism sponsored abroad and at home went hand in hand during the Cold War.27

World War II brought about a different meaning to the word terrorism with Nazi Germany, Fascist Italy and Stalinist Russia. Here, the word "terrorism" came to be associated with totalitarian regimes and police states. This kind of terrorism is described as state terrorism, state-imposed terrorism, or state-directed terrorism. In fact Hannah Arendt writes, "If lawfulness is the essence of non-tyrannical government and lawlessness is the essence of tyranny, then terror is the essence of totalitarian domination."28 Both Nazi Germany and Soviet Russia during the 1930s and the 1940s practised genocide and humanicide on a scale unprecedented and unimaginined in all human history.29

World War II, one the darkest periods in the history of the world, raged from 1939 to 1945 and involved almost the entire world. Countries were destroyed, created or changed forever. Fifty million people lost their lives between 1939 and 1945 and hundreds of millions more suffered injuries and wounds. It was the most extensive and costly armed conflict in the history of

26 See Laqueur, supra 14, p. 22.
27 Supra 12
the world, involving the great majority of the world's nations, being fought simultaneously in several major theatres.

The German invasion of Poland on September 1, 1939 is the most common date in the West for the start of World War II. Nazi Germany's foreign policy eventually forced the Allies to make a stand over the German invasion of Poland. In this way World War II in Europe began. It was fought between the Allies – Britain, France, the Soviet Union (from June 1941) and the European Axis – Germany, Italy and their satellites. The war fought by Japan, the other Axis power, with China, from 1933, escalated by 1940-41 to a conflict in the pacific ocean with the western Allies, and not with the Soviet Union till 1945.

It was the first war in which air power was a significant factor and civilian suffering and terror a primary military strategy. The war caused more casualties than any war in history. This was partly due to its unprecedented scale, the first uses of mass aerial bombings against civilian populations (a policy initiated by the German Luftwaffe against Poland and later used more extensively against German cities by the Allies), and the first application of industrial-age technology to enable the mass killing of unwanted civilians in extermination camps; a significant part of the German war machine was diverted towards the execution of Jews, Roma, Slavs and other unwanted citizens in the Holocaust. In total, World War II caused the deaths of about two percent of the population of the world.30

One of the major instruments of terror in the Third Reich during WW II was the German army. As many as 3.3 million Soviet Red Army prisoners of war died in captivity. Concentration camps, Crematoria, Gas chambers and Nazi medicine bring to mind terrifying images of the universe created by Nazi Germany during its 12 short and violent years. 11 million human beings were murdered by people who believed they were superior -- physically, genetically, and culturally -- to other human beings. The Nazis and their allies built more than 10,000 camps across Europe to imprison their enemies and to implement their ruthless policy of radical racial eugenics that targeted 6 million Jews for extermination. That systematic murder was the Holocaust. But the
Nazis also savagely murdered Gypsies, communists, Soviet POWs, Poles, the mentally ill, persons with genetic birth defects, the elderly, homosexuals, Jehovah's Witnesses, intellectuals, outspoken clergy, and nearly anyone else who was labelled an enemy of the Third Reich. Their deaths reached 5 million.31

The Iron Guard’s occupation of Romania was marked by the murder of hundreds of political opponents and Jews. Some 17,000 Jews died from starvation and fatigue and another 67,000 perished in makeshift concentration camps.

Hitler saw everything east of Poland as the ideal place to provide extra living space for the Aryan race and all that was necessary to provide it for them was to push the "Slavic subhumans" out or exterminate them if they failed move. Unlike his earlier conquests, Hitler ordered his generals in 1941 to conduct the war against the USSR as one of annihilation rather than capture and coercion. He wanted the populations out or dead. The German invasion of the Soviet Union was the only attack during the war employing the concept of Einsatzgruppen (tasks forces) which followed just behind the attacking forces with specific orders from Hitler to kill, "... all potential leaders of society (meaning to wipe out the intelligentsia), all communists, Jews, Gypsies, guerrillas, saboteurs and those capable of resistance." This written policy of annihilation was also given to three million German soldiers just before the attack on June 22, 1941.32 The Soviet struggle against German occupation cost more than 1 million lives and was characterised by universal use of terror. During this conflict, Stalin established large number of partisan detachments to carry on a brutal terror struggle against Nazism behind enemy lines. The Nazis also used terror tactics to defeat the Soviet Partisans. In a March 1942 operation in the Crimea, on the Black Sea, the Germans killed not only 153 partisans, but also 1800 innocent peasants, to warn others not to aid the partisans.33

33 See Crenshaw and Pimlott, supra 3, p. 90-91.
Italy had entered World War II as Germany's ally, but due to the military disasters in North Africa and the Eastern Front, the war became unpopular in all sections of Italian society. In September 1943, after the Allied invasion of Sicily, Italy signed an armistice with the Allies. The Germans immediately occupied Italy and executed several thousand Italian officers. After the Nazi occupation, widespread anti-Semitic riots broke out. Jews from the Italian cities were rounded up and deported to concentration camps, where thousands perished. The Germans carried out summary mass executions of the male population.

The Japanese terror over China and the east was no less. The most notorious example of terror caused in China was the 1937 Rape of Nanking. After the Japanese had captured the city, they raped, murdered and destroyed the city, wherein 200,000 Chinese perished. The Japanese spared no one in their brutal reign of terror, be it Red Cross hospitals, orphanages or churches.

In World War II, the German air force initiated the development of indiscriminate attacks on civilian targets, which came to be known as “terror” bombing. Later the British and the American forces also resorted to “area bombing” which caused major civilian causalities. The morality of this strategy was under question. Jessica Stern insists that in deliberately bombarding civilians as a means of attacking enemy morale, states have indeed resorted to terrorism. She says that such instances include not only the Allied strategic bombing campaigns of World War II, but the American dropping of atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki that ended the Pacific phase of that conflict.34

In the August of 1945, America dropped two atomic bombs on Japan. On August 6, the United States Army Air Force under the orders of the U.S. President Harry Truman dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima. This bomb which was nicknamed “Little Boy” caused instant devastation with 70-80,000 deaths. On August 9, a second bomb nicknamed “Fat Man” was detonated over Nagasaki. The havoc caused by the dropping of the two bombs was

unthinkable. People were affected for generations due the radiation present in those areas. The atom bomb finally won the war for the Allies.

**After World War II**

The post-war period set the stage for the **Cold War**, with the Western Allies and most of Western Europe including West Germany, Italy, the United States and United Kingdom forming NATO, and the Soviet Union and its Eastern Europe satellites creating the Warsaw Pact. The struggle for dominance between these two alliances would last until the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991.

As the Cold War escalated in the 1960's and the world became polarised between the East and the West, a new dynamic line was added to terrorism - **State-Sponsored Terrorism**, which meant that governments exported terrorism to other parts of the world for their own political interests. Various countries provided training camps, economic and political support to other terrorist groups. The focus of terrorism moved to the Middle East, the Arab-Israeli/Palestinian conflict with the U.S. supporting Israel and the Soviet Union supporting various Arab countries.

The most glaring example of terrorism is “state terrorism”. “The political authorities are the greatest perpetrators of terrorism. The Israeli air raid destroying Iraq’s “Osirak” nuclear reactor, the deeds of SS and Gestapo, CIA, KGB, MI6, West German BND, Pakistani ISI and Israeli Mossad are all related to instances of state terrorism. One of the worst instances of state terrorism is to be found in the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.”

In the half-century after the World War II, the term terrorism took a broader meaning. The people wanted freedom and colonial domination was unacceptable. In certain European colonies, terrorist movements developed, often with two distinct purposes. The first was obvious: to put pressure on the colonial powers (such as Britain, France, and the Netherlands) to hasten their withdrawal. The second was more subtle: to intimidate the indigenous population into supporting a particular group's claims to leadership of the emerging post-colonial state. Sometimes these strategies had some success,
but not always. India's achievement of independence in 1947 was mainly the result, not of terrorism, but of the movement of non-violent civil disobedience led by Gandhi. In Malaya, communist terrorists launched a major campaign in 1948, but they failed due to a mixture of determined British military opposition and a programme of political reform leading to independence.

There was a fresh wave of nationalist anti-colonial terror, when societies as diverse as Algeria, Kenya, and Israel achieved independence in part as a result of terrorist tactics employed by nationalist groups. During the early post-war period, terror was not confined to any particular group of people or part of the world. Acts of terror took place in such disparate societies as Algeria, Argentina, Egypt, France, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Northern Ireland, Peru, and Sri Lanka. These were struggles against colonial domination. The period after the Second World War has increasingly brought the dictum that "one man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter".

A number of groups of terrorists emerged during this period such as the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (and its many affiliates), the Basque ETA, the Provisional Irish Republican Army, the Red Army Faction (in what was then West Germany) and the Italian Red Brigades. On 30 May, 1972, Japanese terrorists of the so called Red Army, armed with Czech-made automatic weapons, killed among others, sixteen Christian pilgrims from Puerto Rico at Lod Airport, Tel Aviv, Israel. They acted ostensibly in the cause of 'Palestine Liberation'.

Nations like Ireland, Cyprus, Algeria, Tunisia, and Israel probably would have never become republics if not for revolutionary terrorism, and more than a few people would say the United States was founded on terrorism. However defined, it is clear that terrorism has helped shape world history in a variety of ways, and it has long meant different things to different people.

The 1960s saw terrorism spring up throughout the world. In Latin America, the Tupamaros's form of terrorism, which included kidnappings and bank robberies, ultimately toppled Uruguay's imperfect democratic

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government and inadvertently replaced it with a military dictatorship. In Argentina, left-wing terror organisations such as the Montoneros and the EPA waged a broad terror campaign against foreign economic interests as well as the Argentinean authorities.37

The 1960s and 1970s also saw the emergence of a new type of nationalism called separatism. This describes indigenous ethnic groups who have long lived in a province, but want to separate from their host nation and start their own country. Examples include Quebec, the Basque Homeland, and portions of Indonesia. Like their anti-colonial predecessors, separatists sought to use terrorism to attract international sympathy and a perception of them as freedom fighters.

Another major terrorist incident was that of “Black September”. Palestinian terrorists from the radical PFLP (Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine) faction hijacked four airliners and forced the pilots to fly three of them to a former World War II RAF (Royal Air Force) base in Jordan. On September 13, 1970, they blew the planes up before the cameras. A fourth plane had already been blown up in Cairo. Those blazing explosions marked a new dimension in the ability of terrorists to catch our attention and make terrorism an act of macabre theatre as well as a deadly crime.

During the 1970s, West European terrorists struck at their own targets – the Irish Republican Army assassinated Lord Mountbatten and killed hundreds of innocent people in Northern Ireland and Britain. Italian terrorists, notably the Red Brigades, killed former Prime Minister Moro, and scores of Italians became innocent victims. West German terrorists – the Red Army Faction robbed banks, planted their bombs, killed and kidnapped.38

Following the successful use of terrorism by the FLN in Algeria, terrorism was adopted by other nationalist and separatist groups, including some Basques, Irish, Quebecois, and African and Latin American revolutionaries. In the case of Northern Ireland, South Africa, and Latin

37 See Kushner, *supra* 15 p. 361.
America, terror tactics were also utilised by the nationalists' and the revolutionaries' militant opponents.

Many of these organisations have today declined or ceased to exist altogether, while others, such as the Palestinian, Northern Irish and Spanish Basque groups, motivated by more enduring causes, remain active today – although some now have made moves towards political rather than terrorist methods.39

** Civilians as targets

Terrorism has become increasingly involved in attacking innocent civilians - often with the purpose of demonstrating that the state is incapable of protecting its own people. Terrorism did not end after the winding-up of the main European overseas empires in the 1950s and 1960s. It continued in many regions in response to many circumstances. In South-East Asia, the Middle East and Latin America there were killings of policemen and local officials, hostage-takings, hijackings of aircraft, and bombings of buildings. In many actions, civilians became targets. In some cases governments became involved in supporting terrorism, almost invariably at arm's length so as to be deniable. The causes espoused by terrorists encompassed not just revolutionary socialism and nationalism, but also in a few cases religious doctrines.

Terrorism entered a new phase of development and use during the late 1960's. With the 1967 war in which Israel defeated Jordan, Egypt and Syria, taking control of the Golan Heights (from Syria), East Jerusalem, the West Bank (from Jordan), the Gaza Strip and the Sinai Peninsula (from Egypt), use of terror with the purpose of focusing attention on Israel and the Palestinians (the occupied territories) began. Terrorism emerged on the world stage with the 1972 murder of eleven Israeli athletes at the 1972 Munich Olympics, in an effort to end Israeli occupation of their territories and establish a Palestinian homeland.

The massive defeat of the Arab States in the war is probably one of the turning points in the evolution of modern day terrorism. After that, the Arab
states found themselves divided to seriously support the Palestinian cause. Israel had become too powerful and there was a sudden jump in the terrorist incidents against the Israeli’s. This is what we today know as ‘Islamic Terrorism’.

Throughout the 1960s and the 1970s, many Middle Eastern terrorist groups sent their recruits to the Soviet Union for training in low-intensity warfare. The Palestinians learnt terrorist tactics at the Patrice Lumumba University in Moscow, and the Palestinian terrorist groups such as the PLO ran their own terror academics. Sources close to the Palestinians reported that in the early 1980s there were more than 40 terrorist organisations taking advantage of the PLO schooling. Among the biggest customers were the Turks. Turkey itself was no stranger to the hand of the terrorist, experiencing nearly 2500 political murders in 1978-1979 alone. Other groups trained by the Palestinians include the Irish Republican Army (IRA) and the Basque Fatherland and Liberty (ETA).

In China, Mao on October 1, 1949 made use of terror on a bigger scale than Stalin. About 5 million landlords were killed. Between 1950 and 1953 as many as 10 to 20 million people were liquidated. Deng Xiao-Ping brought an end to Mao’s reign of terror. In Kampuchea, the dictatorship regime of Pol Pot massacred 3 million out of a total population of about 8 million. In Iran, reign of terror and counter-terror were let loose during Reza Shah and Khomeni regimes. Executions were ordered on a large scale and the fundamentalists perpetrated murders on a large scale.

More recently, the Aum sect in Japan, which was responsible for the Tokyo subway nerve gas attack, and the radical wing of the militia movement in the United States, raised public awareness of the threat of domestic terrorism in world’s most prosperous countries. In recent years there have been outbursts of public alarm about cyber-terrorists, narco-terrorists and eco-terrorists.

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40 See Kushner, supra 15 p. 362.
The 1970’s was the decade of air terrorism with more than 20 events of terrorism directed at European and American airlines involving hijackings, bombings and hostage taking. The 1970’s also involved bombings, kidnappings and other types of terrorist activity throughout Europe.

Terrorists seize hostages to create human dramas, consequently generating intense interest in the event and heavy news coverage. Kidnapping helps them to demand a heavy ransom, which in turn finances their operations. Brian Jenkins\textsuperscript{43} says that ransom kidnappings gave terrorists access to huge sums of money; multimillion-dollar ransoms, which soon became common, provided terrorists with far more funds than they could get by robbing banks. Guerrilla and terrorist groups in Argentina, Colombia, El Salvador, Spain and Italy began to obtain a large share of their operational funds from these kidnappings.

He further says that the proliferation of ransom kidnappings by guerrilla and terrorist groups in the 1970s reflected changes in guerrilla strategy and in the world’s economic environment. In the late 1960s and early 1970s, guerrilla groups had shifted their theatre of operations from the countryside to the cities, the hubs of commercial activity. There the presence of large foreign business communities provided suitable targets.

A famous terrorist whose name unleashed a reign of terror was “Carlos the Jackal” who was on the most wanted list of terrorists in the 1970s and 1980s. Carlos became linked with the PFLP and European terrorists. His first act of terrorism was to place a bomb aboard a Swissair plane flying from Zurich to Tel Aviv in 1970, in which all 200 passengers died. The most important and significant event was the raid on the OPEC meeting in Vienna in 1975. The terrorists killed three people, wounded seven, and took 81 hostage, including the 11 OPEC ministers.\textsuperscript{44}

State-sponsored terrorism has not disappeared. Terrorists can no longer count on the Soviet Union and its Eastern European allies, but some Middle Eastern and North African countries still provide support. The 1986 U.S. air strike against Libya and the various boycotts against Libya and Iran


\textsuperscript{44} See Crenshaw and Pimlott, \textit{supra} 3, p.310.
had an effect. No government today boasts about surrogate warfare it instigates and backs.

In recent years, terrorism has shifted in its roots, methods, and goals. First of all, there has been a trend away from state-sponsored terror toward terror perpetrated by individuals or independent groups.

A growing number of acts of terror have been perpetrated in the name of religion rather than nationalism. Revolutionary and separatist movements engaging in terrorist acts have declined in recent years, while religious groups make up a growing number of the organisations that have been identified as perpetrators of international terror. In 1980, just two of 64 international terror groups were considered to be religiously motivated. In 1995, the figure was 26 out of 56 organisations.

There is a growing belief that terrorist missions by volunteers bent on committing suicide constitute a radical new departure, dangerous because they are impossible to prevent. But that is a myth, like the many others in which terrorism has always been shrouded. The bomber willing and indeed eager to blow himself up has appeared in all eras and cultural traditions, espousing politics ranging from the leftist of the Baader-Meinhof Gang in 1970s Germany to rightist extremism. When the Japanese military wanted kamikaze pilots at the end of World War II, thousands of volunteers rushed to offer themselves. The young Arab bombers on Jerusalem buses looking to be rewarded by the virgins in Paradise are a link in an old chain.45

A significant turning point in the history of terrorism was the Iranian revolution of 1979, when Ayatollah Khomeini influenced the creation of the Hezbollah (Party of God) in Lebanon in 1982.

Muslim fundamentalist Shia terrorists, inspired by the Ayatollah Khomeni’s “Islamic revolution” and supported by the Iranian government, committed suicide bombings against the U.S. Marine barracks and Embassy buildings in Lebanon and carried out attacks in Kuwait, including the U.S. Embassy, the French Embassy, and Kuwaiti facilities.

In the early 1980s, Sikh extremists in India used extortion, bombings and hit squads to achieve their goal of an independent Sikh controlled state.
In the face of these terrorist attacks, the Indian government responded with severity. At the height of terrorism, the Indian government alarmed by the situation, ordered the army to attack the Golden temple in 1984. Following this repression, Sikh terrorists assassinated Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and several other Indian officials. The assassination led to anti-Sikh riots and to a major government crackdown on Sikh militants that was widely criticised for its brutality. The Sikhs also apparently planted bombs, which blew up the Air India 747 in mid-air and exploded at Tokyo’s Narita Airport, and tried to conduct assassinations in the United States.

In Latin America, leftist guerrilla groups and narcotics traffickers used terrorists to attack and threaten U.S. ambassadors and other officials as well as local government leaders in several Latin American countries.46

The 1991 Persian Gulf War saw a short term increase in the number of international terrorist incidents. Although after that it decreased. A factor which may have contributed to that was the disintegration of the Soviet Union, which had been providing money, weapons and training etc. to the terrorists.

Contemporary Terrorism

As we have seen terrorism is not a new scourge. It is too easy to forget that even terrorism has a history and that some of the terrorists of today are following the trends set hundreds of years ago. The difference is that today the number of incidents is greater than before and it is increasingly a worldwide phenomenon. Terrorism also has become bloodier. Terrorists are more willing to attack a soft target i.e. the people.

The Soviets had invaded Afghanistan in 1979 and the United States decided to fight on the Afghan side. The US pumped billions of dollars into Pakistan and Afghanistan to train the Muslim mujahideen to fight against the Soviets. The outcome of this protracted war was that Afghanistan turned into a breeding ground for the Taliban with Pakistan supporting them.

These trained fighters of Islam have now taken their jihad to various countries like Bangladesh, Bosnia, India, Morocco, Pakistan and also the

46 See Oakley, supra 38 p. 20.
United States. The monster i.e. the Taliban, created by the United States has come back to haunt them. It was Afghanistan where the terrorists like Osama-bin-Laden, who are bent on the destruction of America learnt their art. This new breed of terrorists i.e. the Islamic fundamentalists idealise the glory of dying for Allah.

Today, terrorism influences events on the international stage to a degree hitherto unachieved. Largely, this is due to the attacks of September 2001. Since then, in the United States at least, terrorism has largely been equated to the threat posed by Al Qaida - a threat inflamed not only by the spectacular and deadly nature of the Sept. 11 attacks themselves, but by the fear that future strikes might be even more deadly and employ weapons of mass destruction.

In the 1990s, a new face of terrorism emerged. Osama Bin Laden, son of a successful construction engineer, became leader of a small fanatical Islamic movement called Al-Qaida (The Base). Its public statements were an odd mixture of religious extremism, contempt for existing Arab regimes, hostility to US dominance, and insensitivity to the effects of terrorist actions. Many of its leaders, having helped to free Afghanistan of Soviet occupation in the 1980s, now developed the broader ambition of resisting western dominance, especially in Muslim countries such as Saudi Arabia and Egypt. In pursuit of these ambitions they killed hundreds in bombings of US embassies in Africa in August 1998. Here was a new kind of terrorist movement that had a cause, and a network, that was not confined to any one state, and whose adherents were willing to commit suicide if they could thereby inflict carnage and destruction on their adversaries, as they did on September 11. Since their aims were vague and apocalyptic, there was little scope for any kind of compromise or negotiation.47

On September 11, 2001, 19 hijackers took over four U.S. domestic flights, successfully crashing two of the hijacked planes into the World Trade Centre in New York City and one into the Pentagon. The fourth flight, which was believed to be headed for the White House, crashed in rural

Pennsylvania. The September 11 hijackings were the most devastating terrorist attacks on the U.S. targets.

The United States after the attack on the World Trade Centre on September 11, 2001 launched a “Global War Against Terrorism”. This was to counter the threat posed by Taliban’s Al-Qaida, which was branded as the terrorist organisation which wants to wage a global insurgency. However to deal with terrorism we need a more broad based approach and not just focus on one particular organisation.

The Taliban is a religious and military movement that seized control of large portions of Afghanistan in the mid-1990s. While the Taliban was initially seen as a stabilising force in the war-torn Afghanistan, the movement’s embrace of a radical form of Islam quickly made it a pariah in the international community. The Taliban’s hosting of the terrorist organisation eventually led to its downfall in late 2001 following military strikes by the United States.

The events of September 2001 have proved that the threat from WMD (Weapons of Mass Destruction) terrorism is a very real one, apparently confirming a number of assumptions and preconceptions that have driven policy in many states. Technologically, it is becoming increasingly possible for non-state actors to develop these weapons. Further religious terrorists are most likely to use these weapons and will use them if they can acquire them because they operate under fewer constraints.48

Looking at the current trends in the international arena, the Middle East has become the primary source of international terrorism. Against a background of growing popular unrest among young Palestinians in the Israeli occupied territories, Middle Eastern terrorist organisations have continued to attack both Israel and its international supporters. These terrorist groups have been sponsored by various Arab states, notably Iran, Iraq and Syria. This is the new face of the Islamic Jihad. Members of Hamas or the Islamic Resistance movement seek their identity in their Islamic roots. Hamas is uncompromising and insists on the total liberation of the sacred land of Palestine as demanded by Allah.

In the present era, terrorism is as diffuse a concept as it has ever been and prefixes frequently get attached to it. For example, bio-terrorism, eco-terrorism and narco-terrorism etc. This is violence in the name of more and more causes.

Till now most terrorist acts have been carried out by specific groups with limited agendas, using small weapons, and within the boundaries of individual States. Transnational networks of the type that perpetrated the 11 September attacks are a relatively new phenomenon.

Today religion is the main reason behind the terrorist attacks and when terrorism gets compounded with religious or ethnic fanaticism, there is no stopping it. Currently most of the active international terrorist groups are religiously motivated, with the majority of them professing Islamist beliefs. Religious fanaticism makes it easier for the perpetrator to carry out his attacks and murder innocents on a large scale. He believes that he is carrying out the will of God and this in turn deadens his conscience against the indiscriminate attacks.

The fedayeen or the Islamic “self-sacrificers” are engaged in the “holy war” whereby they want to finish anybody who is a non-believer. These religious fanatics are ready to give up their own lives because they have been conditioned to believe that in doing so they will receive a reward in a spiritual paradise. This aspect resembles that of the Assassins of the Middle Ages. Islam is not, in any sense a violent religion. However the mixture of religion and politics has resulted in violence especially against innocent citizens. The mixture of religion and politics is quite deadly and is not new. History helps us to understand these problems and place them in context.

The concept of suicide terrorism is also being utilised by the LTTE in Sri Lanka, besides the Islamic fundamentalists. Earlier President of Sri Lanka, Chandrika Kumaratunga narrowly escaped an attack on her life by a suicide bomber. When a suicide bomber is bent upon eliminating his own life, no power on earth can prevent him from fulfilling his mission.

A current case of state sponsored terrorism is that of Pakistan which is engaged in a proxy war in Kashmir. Pakistan has been carrying on a war against India, since the 1990s, sometimes declared sometimes undeclared, with military and diplomatic support from the US administration. The
Government of Pakistan has been increasing its support to the Taliban and to the militant groups active in Kashmir, such as the Harakat ul-Mujahidin (HUM) and various other terrorist groups. The Pakistani Government has been supporting the Kashmir insurgency, and Kashmiri militant groups continue to operate in Pakistan, raising funds and recruiting new cadre. Several of these groups have been responsible for attacks against civilians in Kashmir.

The holy war in which terrorism plays an important part is being waged in the beautiful Kashmir valley. Terror and counter terror have claimed innumerable lives and it is said that an average of ten people die everyday in Kashmir. The Kashmiri mujahideen use a variety of sophisticated new weapons, which are being supplied by Pakistan.

Recently London was bombed for two hours on 7 July, 2005. It was act perpetrated by the terrorists. These incidents just make us realise that we are no longer safe and this threat seems to have come to stay with us.

Concluding Remarks

Over time terrorism has moved from debates over tyrannicide (or removing a despotic ruler), to debates over social conditions and through nationalistic and political demands. Religion has always been an important element where the killing of innocents has occurred. A common feature has been that terrorism (except where used as an explicit state tactic) has been used by people who through weakness have been unable to achieve their aims in another way.49

With the advent of the 21st century, the definition of terrorism has expanded. “In the traditional 20th century model, terrorism was a volatile act committed by foreign operators or governments to promote a political agenda.”50 Today the most worrying and significant trend in terrorism is the growing lethality and the tendency towards indiscriminate attacks in public places, killing hundreds of innocent civilians. Also we now have to deal with so many new forms of terrorism like cyber-terrorism, bio-terrorism, narco-terrorism, eco-terrorism and most of all nuclear-terrorism.

Today terrorists can get weapons more easily, travel and communicate more easily and get their messages out more easily. This new world has been produced by technology. Islamic groups like Hamas and Islamic Jihad began the practice of launching suicide-bomb attacks against ordinary Israeli civilians. Terrorism has existed forever, but the 9/11 attacks symbolised the democratisation of violence on a large scale.

The terror today comes in new forms: suicide bombings have become sickeningly familiar. Mass hostage takings and missile attacks against commercial airliners are now part of our reality, while smallpox and cyanide strikes in the underground are part of our fears. No one is safe anymore.

Friedman tells us that the September 11 attacks against the US amount to World War III – the third great totalitarian challenge to open societies in the past 100 years. Quoting the longtime Middle East analyst Abdullah Schleiffer: “World War II was the Nazis, using the engine of Germany to try to impose the reign of the perfect race, the Aryan race. The Cold War was the Marxists, using the engine of the Soviet Union to try to impose the reign of the perfect class, the working class. And 9/11 was about religious totalitarians, Islamists, using suicide bombing to try to impose the reign of the perfect faith, political Islam.”

As Fareed Zakaria puts it that “Islamic terrorism is motivated not by a specific policy but a nihilistic rage against the modern world”. Zakaria further says that the resources of the terrorists are pitiful when compared with the combined power of governments all working together. That means more international co-operation and co-ordinated police work.

We’ve had to face terrorism throughout history and it certainly is not a new phenomenon. Yet, we have not learnt to deal with it effectively. The solution seems even more unreachable especially with the development of nuclear weapons. The access of terrorists to nuclear weapons, nuclear power plants, and nuclear waste storage facilities is a great cause for alarm. “In certain cases, today’s terrorists display a need to move, to shock, to goad, to outrage, to reveal potency. Should such terrorists ever acquire the

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51 Thomas L. Friedman, “This is World War III, get used to it”, *The Indian Express*, January 9, 2004.
instruments of nuclear violence, the results may well include an unprecedented spasm of gratuitous killing and maiming.”

Terrorism generates particular public alarm because it suggests that every person is vulnerable to attack. Today, the availability of weapons of mass destruction, including chemical and biological weapons, makes terrorism a dreaded game. Further with the introduction of the electronic media in various areas cyber terrorism now poses an enormous threat. It exposes vital areas of national life to mischief or sabotage by any computer hacker, and concerted sabotage could render a country unable to function. Hence the growing speculation about cyber terrorism and cyber warfare.

To trace the trends of brutality and injustice is to revisit the entire story of human kind. As we have discussed several main events from history provide some perspective on recent permutations and on the responses of societies in addressing, and sometimes successfully containing terrorism. Critical benchmarks along the way, ushered in by new technologies that upgraded weapons from knives and firebombs to guns and dynamite to nuclear devices and engineered disease viruses, have signalled a rise in the stakes of terrorism.

They say that he is wise man who learns from his mistakes. History has a very important role as it displays our weaknesses. Yet man even after dealing with this problem throughout the history of man has not learnt the art of curbing the menace of terrorism. Dr. S. Sanyal says that the roots of terrorism can be discovered, not in any unique pattern of abnormality, but in man’s innate propensity to violence, his propensity to war, to aggression and to brutality. She further says that there is no evidence of such an inherent tendency in the animal kingdom. Man, it appears is the only species that kills its own kind in such numbers, with such cruelty and with such cruelty and with such abandon.

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54 See Glenn E. Schweitzer with Carole Dorsch Schweitzer, supra 4 p. 24.