

Terrorism - Methods, Types of Terrorist Activities and Trends in the Development of Modern Terrorism

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Abstract

The article brings to attention the key elements that define terrorism, but also the main types of terrorist activities that are common today, the use of violence or the threat of violence, political, ideological or social goals, the intentional targeting of the civilian population, the unpredictability and unjustified nature of the violence, the creation of panic and fear for political purposes. Trends characteristic of modern terrorist organizations are identified, for example, the active use of information and psychological measures, the geographical extension of the spread of terrorism, the increase in the level of terrorist organization (the creation of global and regional terrorist centers), which should be taken into account at the initial stage of an investigation.

Keywords: terrorism, terrorist, terrorist organizations, violence, fear, panic.

JEL Classification: K14, K33

1. Introduction

Terrorism is a complex and controversial subject. In general, terrorism refers to the use of violence or threats to intimidate or coerce a population or a government, usually for political, religious or ideological purposes. These purposes may include destabilizing governments, influencing public policy, undermining national security or causing public panic. It is often perpetrated by non-state actors against civilians or non-combatants.

Governments and international organizations have different definitions and approaches to countering terrorism, ranging from military action to diplomatic efforts, intelligence gathering and counter-radicalization programs.

It is a multi-faceted problem with deep-rooted causes such as socio-economic inequality, political grievances, religious extremism and many others. Combating terrorism requires a comprehensive approach that addresses these root causes while maintaining security measures to prevent attacks and protect populations.

The term 'terrorism' can cover a wide range of activities, including attacks on civilians, sabotage, kidnappings, hostage-takings, bomb attacks and other forms of violence and destruction. These actions are usually carried out by terrorist groups or organizations, but can also be carried out by individuals or radical groups.

Combating terrorism is an ongoing struggle and requires long-term commitment and sustained efforts from the entire international community. It is a priority for the international community and requires a comprehensive and coordinated approach, integrating both preventive measures and measures in response to immediate threats, and this can be achieved through:

- international cooperation, in which states and international organizations must

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work together to exchange information and experience, coordinate operations and develop common counter-terrorism strategies. This involves cooperation between intelligence services, law enforcement agencies and other relevant entities.

- prevent radicalization and recruitment by identifying the factors that contribute to the radicalization of individuals and their attraction to terrorist groups. This may include efforts to combat extremist propaganda, promote social and economic inclusion, education and engagement of vulnerable communities.

- border security by improving border security and cross-border cooperation to prevent the movement of terrorists, arms trafficking and terrorist financing.

- monitor and combat terrorist financing by identifying and disrupting the flow of funding to terrorist organizations. This involves monitoring suspicious financial transactions, cooperating with the banking sector and other financial institutions, as well as combating smuggling and other illegal activities that can finance terrorism.

- law enforcement. It is important that terrorists and their supporters are brought to justice and held accountable for their actions. This requires improving investigative and law enforcement capabilities and ensuring that criminal legislation is adequate to deal effectively with the terrorist threat.

- working with local communities: Engaging and working with local communities is important for identifying and countering the terrorist threat at the local level and promoting community resilience against radicalization and extremist violence.

2. Key elements that define terrorism

Law no. 58/2019 for amending and supplementing Law no. 535/2004 on preventing and combating terrorism², published in the Official Gazette of Romania, Part I no. 271 of April 10, 2019, formulates a definition of terrorism in Article 1 as those actions, inactions, as well as threats in relation to them, which present public danger, affect the life, bodily integrity or health of people, material factors, international relations of states, national or international security, are politically, religiously or ideologically motivated.

Thus we get the idea that there are several key elements that define terrorism, such as:

- *Use of violence or threat of violence*: Terrorists use violence or the threat of violence to achieve their goals. This may include bomb attacks, kidnappings, hostage-takings, armed attacks or other forms of violence.

- *Political, ideological or social purpose*: Terrorism usually has a political, ideological or social purpose, which may include destabilizing governments, overthrowing political regimes, promoting a particular ideological agenda or undermining social order.

- *Intention to cause fear and panic*: One of the main objectives of terrorism is to cause fear and panic among the population or certain target groups. Terrorists hope that by creating fear they will be able to influence the policies or behavior of others.

- *Deliberate and calculated*: Terrorist acts are planned and executed in a

² Law no. 58/2019 on amending and supplementing Law no. 535/2004 on preventing and combating terrorism, published in the Official Gazette of Romania, Part I, no. 1161 of December 8, 2004, with subsequent amendments and additions

deliberate and calculated manner. Terrorists seek to achieve maximum impact and cause maximum damage using available resources and methods.

It is important to note that the definition and perception of terrorism can vary depending on the political, social and cultural context. For example, some groups or governments may call the violent actions of other groups or individuals 'terrorism', while the latter may consider themselves 'freedom fighters' or 'resistance fighters'. Thus, there is often debate and controversy around the precise definition of terrorism.

3. Main types of terrorist activities

Terrorism today can take many forms and is fueled by a variety of ideologies, motives and groups. Among the main types of terrorist activities common today are:

Bomb attacks - these can be bomb attacks placed in public or private places, such as squares, government buildings, public transportation or other places with large numbers of people. Bomb attacks in public or private places are forms of terrorism that aim to cause material destruction, serious injury or death among civilians and to create panic and fear in society. These attacks can have devastating consequences and can seriously affect people's lives and security as well as a country's infrastructure and economy. A few notable examples of such attacks are the September 11, 2001, hijackings and commercial airliner strikes on the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington, DC resulted in massive destruction and huge loss of life; the Boston Marathon in 2013, where two bombs exploded near the marathon finish line, killing three people and injuring hundreds; or the 2018 Baghdad market attack in 2018, where the placement of multiple bombs in the central Baghdad market killed more than 30 people and injured dozens more.

Kidnappings and hostage-taking - kidnapping people or taking hostages in order to impose demands on terrorists, draw attention to their cause or to obtain ransoms.

Kidnappings and hostage-takings are common tactics used by terrorists and extremist groups to achieve various goals. These actions can be used to impose political, social or religious demands, such as the release of detainees or changing government policies. Terrorists try to get these demands met by threatening hostages with violence. By kidnapping people or taking hostages, terrorists can draw attention to their cause; in some cases, terrorists may kidnap people or take hostages to obtain financial ransoms or other material benefits. These ransoms may be used to finance terrorist activities or to fulfill other objectives of the terrorist group.

Cyber attacks - with the advancement of technology, cyber attacks have become a significant threat. Terrorists can target computer systems, networks and online infrastructure to cause disruption and damage.

Cyber-attacks can target a wide range of targets, including computer systems, communications networks, critical infrastructure and government institutions, to cause disruption, damage and panic. They can use ransomware attacks to lock computer systems or encrypt data, then demand a ransom to unlock it. This could affect government organizations, financial institutions or other critical entities. They could also try to manipulate information and create misinformation or panic among the public by hacking websites, social media accounts or other online platforms. Last but not least, they could target financial institutions to cause economic disruption or fund terrorist activities by stealing financial data or manipulating transactions.

Extremist-inspired attacks - sometimes individuals or small groups can be inspired by extremist ideologies to commit terrorist acts without being directly linked to known terrorist organizations. These attacks can be difficult to prevent and detect in advance. Extremist-inspired attacks are a distinct form of terrorism in which individuals or small groups are motivated and influenced by extremist ideologies to commit violent or terrorist acts, without being directly linked to known terrorist organizations. These attacks can be motivated by a variety of extremist ideologies, including political, religious or racial ideologies.

A distinctive aspect of these attacks is that the perpetrators can usually act independently or in a small circle of close associates, without the coordination or logistical support of well-structured terrorist organizations. Instead, these individuals may be radicalized or influenced by extreme propaganda on the internet or other media.

Notable examples of extremist-inspired attacks include the 2017 Westminster attacks in London, the Paris attacks in 2016 and 2017, and the Stockholm vehicle attacks in 2017, all committed by ideologically radicalized individuals acting independently.

4. Tendencies characteristic of modern terrorist organizations

4.1. Propaganda and manipulation of information

The active use of intelligence and psychological measures is a common tactic in the terrorist arsenal. Terrorists use various psychological strategies to achieve their objectives, which may include:

Propaganda and manipulation of information: Propaganda and manipulation of information are vital tools in the terrorist arsenal. Terrorists use these tactics to advance their agenda, recruit new members, and affect public perceptions in ways that serve their goals.

Terrorists use propaganda and information manipulation by creating and promoting narratives that support and justify their actions. These narratives may include distorted or false stories about their enemy, their motives and objectives and the effects of their actions. The aim is to influence public perceptions and gain support for their cause.

Terrorists also use the media to promote their propaganda and messages. This may include broadcasting video or audio material, sending press releases or publishing articles and messages online. Using the media allows terrorists to reach a wide audience and extend their influence.

Another way that terrorists exploit to promote their messages and communicate with potential supporters and recruits is through social networks. This can include publishing posts, images and videos promoting their propaganda and interacting directly with social network users to influence their opinions and behavior.

Terrorists use propaganda to recruit and radicalize new members. This can include offering strong ideological messages, promoting hero or leader images, and presenting terrorist actions as an act of resistance or struggle against a perceived injustice.

Through their propaganda, terrorists try to create and amplify fear and panic among the population. This can make people feel insecure and vulnerable, and more receptive to terrorists' messages and demands.

Combating terrorist propaganda and manipulation of terrorist information requires an integrated approach including education, monitoring and active countering of terrorist messages. It is important that society is aware of the tactics and is prepared to counter them.

Another way used by terrorists as a psychological strategy is through threats and intimidation.

Terrorists use various ways to threaten and intimidate individuals and communities. These tactics are designed to provoke fear and panic, to try to gain respect for or undermine the authority and security of institutions, or to force governments to comply with their demands.

The ways terrorists threaten and intimidate are diverse.

The most direct and brutal ways terrorists intimidate are violent attacks. Violent attacks can include bomb attacks, armed assaults or suicide attacks that cause material and human damage and provoke panic and fear among the population.

Another way is through kidnappings and hostage-taking. Terrorists may kidnap or take hostages to promote their demands and to force governments or communities to fulfill certain conditions. Hostage-taking and kidnappings are designed to intimidate and put pressure on authorities and populations.

Terrorists can also target critical infrastructure, such as electricity, communications or water networks, to cause chaos and panic and disrupt the functioning of society.

At the same time, they may issue threats of future attacks to cause uncertainty and fear among the population and to discourage normal activities. These threats may be transmitted through public messages, online communications or other media.

Furthermore, they may use psychological tactics to intimidate and manipulate people. These tactics may include spreading fear and panic messages, creating chaos and confusion, and using symbolic violence or threats to induce stress and anxiety.

It is important to emphasize that, despite their scare tactics, communities and governments can take action to counter terrorist threats and ensure the safety and security of their populations. These measures can include strengthening emergency response capacity, improving critical infrastructure security, and promoting community resilience and solidarity.

Terrorists also use the manipulation of emotions as a psychological strategy. They manipulate emotions to achieve their goals and influence people's behavior in various ways. The use of emotional tactics is an important part of their arsenal, as emotions can be a powerful tool to create emotional connections, to induce fear or to generate sympathy and support for their cause.

By inducing fear and anxiety, terrorists try to induce fear and anxiety in the population by disseminating threats, propaganda and by committing violent attacks. Fear can be used to control and manipulate people's behavior and induce them to act in accordance with the terrorists' demands.

Terrorists sometimes try to manipulate feelings of anger and resentment to gain support for their cause and recruit new members. They may use propaganda to support ideas of injustice and injustice and to fuel feelings of anger and revolution.

They may try to induce feelings of guilt and shame among the population to make them feel responsible for certain actions or policies. This can be used to try to gain support for their cause or to make people oppose existing governments or institutions.

But they may also undertake certain actions to cultivate feelings of solidarity and comradeship among their members and sympathizers in order to strengthen group bonds and reinforce their commitment to the terrorist cause.

To exploit sympathy and sympathy, to promote their agenda and to gain support for their cause, they can use presenting victims as heroes or martyrs and appealing for help and support from other communities or countries.

Manipulating emotions is a powerful and insidious tactic used by terrorists to achieve their goals. It is important for individuals and communities to be aware of these tactics and be prepared to counter them through critical reasoning, resilience and solidarity.

Use of technology and social media: Terrorists often use technology and social media to recruit and radicalize individuals, to communicate and coordinate attacks and to spread their propaganda. This can include the use of websites, online forums, social networks and encrypted messaging applications to organize and coordinate their activities.

They can use these platforms to distribute video, audio and text materials promoting their agenda and to try to influence public perceptions and attitudes. Terrorists use technology and social media to communicate and coordinate attacks. They may use encrypted messaging applications and private online communication channels to organize their activities and stay in contact with members of their group. They may use shocking images and videos to induce strong feelings of fear and anxiety and provoke intense emotional reactions.

The use of technology and social media as a psychological strategy can be very effective for terrorists, as it allows them to communicate and influence a wide audience quickly and effectively. It is important that society is aware of these tactics and develops effective strategies to counter terrorist propaganda and manipulation online.

Some terrorist actions are designed to create chaos and confusion among the authorities and the population so as to make it difficult to detect and prevent future attacks by surprise attacks, without issuing any advance warning or leaving clear clues that would allow the authorities to prevent the attack. They use asymmetric tactics, such as guerrilla attacks or urban combat tactics, which are difficult for traditional security forces to anticipate and counter. Terrorist attacks can also target a wide range of targets and locations, without a clear pattern or presenting a variety of methods and tools, making it difficult to anticipate next actions.

Another way in which terrorists create chaos and confusion is by spreading disinformation and propaganda to mislead authorities and the public about their real intentions and the planned locations and methods of future attacks.

All these tactics are ultimately aimed at creating a climate of uncertainty and fear, thereby undermining the authorities' ability to prevent and counter terrorist threats effectively.

By using these psychological strategies, terrorists seek to maximize their impact and achieve their goals in an efficient and effective way. It is important that society is aware of these tactics and develops strategies to counter and prevent terrorist propaganda and manipulation.

4.2. The geographical spread of terrorism

The spread of terrorism can be attributed to a number of factors, and its geographical spread can be influenced by a number of circumstances, including:

Political and social dysfunction: Political and social instability in certain regions can create an environment conducive to the organization and propagation of terrorist groups. Ethnic conflicts, religious tensions, corruption and lack of social and economic development can fuel resentment and discontent, which can be exploited by terrorist groups. Political and social instability can create fertile ground for terrorist groups to emerge and flourish. Disputes between different ethnic or religious groups can fuel tensions and violence in a region. Terrorist groups can exploit these conflicts to recruit members and justify their violent actions. Corruption and lack of economic opportunities can create resentment and discontent among the population. When people feel marginalized or wronged by the government, they may be more likely to join terrorist groups that promise radical change or offer an alternative to the status quo. The lack of a strong rule of law can lead to impunity for criminals and a lack of protection for citizens, can create a sense of insecurity and hopelessness that can be exploited by terrorist groups to attract supporters. In regions affected by armed conflict or ruled by authoritarian regimes, citizens may be subject to human rights violations and systematic violence. These conditions can generate resentment and despair that can be manipulated by terrorist groups. The presence of regional conflicts or wars can provide terrorists with fertile ground to expand their operations. Conflict-affected areas are often characterized by weak governments and the absence of the rule of law, allowing terrorist groups to operate relatively freely.

Ideological and religious extremism: Radical ideologies, be they political or religious, can attract individuals who feel marginalized or disillusioned by the society in which they live. Extremist propaganda can be spread through the internet and social media, facilitating the recruitment and radicalization of individuals around the world. Ideological and religious extremism can become a serious threat with global implications. The internet and social media offer extremist groups an unprecedented channel for propaganda and recruitment. These groups often use online platforms to promote their ideologies, recruit members and radicalize vulnerable individuals. People who feel marginalized or disillusioned by the society in which they live may be more likely to be attracted to extreme ideologies. These ideologies can provide a sense of belonging and purpose for individuals who feel excluded or wronged by the dominant society. International political and social events can influence the spread of ideological and religious extremism. For example, conflicts in different regions of the world can stir resentment and fuel extremist discourse.

Extremist groups use various online radicalization techniques to attract and manipulate vulnerable individuals. These techniques can include intense propaganda, manipulation of emotions and the use of hate speech to influence individuals' thinking and behavior.

Global mobility and connectivity: Advances in technology and transportation have shortened distances and facilitated global mobility. This means terrorist groups can recruit members from around the world and coordinate operations internationally with relative ease. Thanks to the internet and social networks, terrorist groups now have the ability to recruit members from all over the world. Individuals can be radicalized online

and lured to join terrorist groups without the need for direct face-to-face contact. Advanced technology and communications have made it easier to coordinate terrorist operations globally. Terrorist groups can communicate quickly and securely using encryption and other technologies, allowing them to plan and execute attacks internationally. Advanced transportation technology has made it possible to travel quickly and affordably to destinations around the world. This allows members of terrorist groups to move between countries to prepare or execute attacks, or to avoid pursuit and capture.

Terrorist financing: Terrorist groups can obtain funding from a variety of sources, including drug trafficking, arms smuggling, kidnap for ransom and private donations. These sources of funding can originate in different regions of the world and can contribute to the spread of terrorist operations to other countries. Terrorist groups may engage in illegal drug trafficking to raise funds. This may include the production, distribution and sale of drugs such as heroin, cocaine or methamphetamine. The illegal sale of weapons can bring substantial revenues to terrorist groups. These weapons can be used to support terrorist activities or subsequently sold to other groups or individuals. They may also kidnap people to obtain substantial ransoms from governments, companies or individuals. These funds can then be used to finance further terrorist activities. Some terrorist groups receive funding from individual supporters, either in the form of direct donations or through charitable or religious organizations that can be used to launder money and transfer funds illegally.

4.3. Creating global and regional terrorist centers

The increasing level of terrorist organization is a serious and complex concern for the international community. The emergence of global and regional terrorist groupings is a worrying development, as these structures can facilitate the coordination and amplification of terrorist activities globally and in specific regions.

Global and regional terrorist hubs are made up of terrorist groups or organizations that join forces to consolidate resources, share expertise and coordinate actions more effectively. These centers have access to funding, technology and other resources needed to plan and execute terrorist attacks.

As an example we refer to ISIS, also known as the Islamic State. ISIS is an extremist terrorist organization with origins in Iraq and Syria. It aims to establish an Islamic caliphate in the region and impose a radical interpretation of Islamic law. ISIS has become known globally in particular for its brutality in carrying out terrorist acts and for spreading violent propaganda through the internet and social networks.

According to the US State Department³, ISIS has maintained an enduring global enterprise, promoting a large-scale campaign of terrorism in the Middle East, Africa and Asia. While the death of ISIS leader Abu Ibrahim al-Hashimi al-Qurayshi in February marked an important milestone against the terrorist group, ISIS has remained capable of conducting large-scale attacks. In 2022, ISIS maintained a significant underground operational structure and conducted terrorist operations in Iraq and Syria. It is estimated that approximately 10,000 ISIS fighters, including 1,800 Iraqis and 2,000 ISIS fighters

³ Country Reports on Terrorism 2022, U.S. Department of State, p. 5, https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Country_Reports_on_Terrorism_2022-v3.pdf.

from outside Syria and Iraq, also remained in detention centers controlled by the Syrian Democratic Forces. In addition, 18,000 Syrians, 26,000 Iraqis and around 10,000 third-country nationals from more than 60 countries remain in the al-Hol and Roj IDP camps in northeastern Syria. In West Africa, ISIS affiliates have increasingly expanded across borders and coordinated asymmetric attacks, including a July prison break near the US Embassy in Abuja, Nigeria. ISIS has expanded its recruitment and operations in key locations, expanding its global network to approximately 20 branches and affiliates.

The organization has been involved in numerous terrorist attacks around the world and has been responsible for atrocities against civilians, including mass executions, kidnappings and other forms of extremist violence. Although it has suffered significant losses in recent years, including the loss of previously controlled territory in Iraq and Syria, ISIS remains a threat and continues to try to expand its influence through recruitment and online propaganda. They are responsible for the attack on the headquarters of the satirical magazine *Charlie Hebdo* in Paris, as well as other bloody atrocities on a museum in Tunisia, a mosque in Yemen, and in Saudi Arabia, and recently claimed responsibility for the massacre at the Crocus City Hall in Russia, where 143 people were killed and 200 wounded, and the US warns that it is planning an operation that threatens the Paris Olympics.

Al-Qaeda is one of the best-known and most influential terrorist organizations in the world. Founded in 1988 in Afghanistan by Osama bin Laden and other jihadist leaders, its stated aim is to fight "the enemies of Islam" and to establish a global Islamic caliphate.

Al-Qaeda has been responsible for many notable terrorist attacks, most famously the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, when members of the organization hijacked commercial airliners and used them to strike the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington, DC. The attacks killed thousands of people and marked the beginning of a broad global campaign against terrorism, particularly al-Qaeda and its network of supporters.

The group has also claimed responsibility for the 1998 attacks on the US embassies in Nairobi, Kenya and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, where more than 200 people lost their lives and thousands were injured. But we should also remember the Madrid, Spain, bombings in 2004, where bombs were detonated in the subway, killing 191 people and injuring more than 2000, or the London bombings in 2005, where a series of coordinated suicide attacks were committed on the public transportation network in London, UK. The attacks were carried out by an al-Qaeda cell and killed 52 people and injured over 700.

Over the years, al-Qaeda has remained active, although it has suffered significant losses as a result of the international community's counter-terrorism efforts. It has branched out and developed links with other terrorist groups and jihadist organizations in different parts of the world. Al-Qaeda continues to be a threat and remains a major target for the counter-terrorism operations of many states.

Founded in 2007, Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan (TTP) is a terrorist organization based in Pakistan and Afghanistan that opposes Pakistani military efforts in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, the former tribal areas and other parts of the country. The TTP aims to push the government of Pakistan out of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province and establish Sharia by waging a terrorist campaign against the Pakistani military and state. The TTP relies on ideological guidance from al-Qa'ida, while al-Qa'ida elements partly

rely on the TTP for safe haven in Pashtun areas along the Afghanistan-Pakistan border. This arrangement has given the TTP access to both al-Qa'ida's global terrorist network and the operational expertise of its members.

The TTP has carried out and claimed responsibility for numerous terrorist acts against Pakistani and US interests, including a 2009 suicide attack on a US military base in Khost, Afghanistan, which killed seven US citizens, and a 2010 suicide bombing against the US consulate in Peshawar, Pakistan, which killed six Pakistani citizens. The TTP is suspected of involvement in the 2007 assassination of former Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. The group directed and facilitated Faisal Shahzad's failed attempt to detonate an explosive device in New York's Times Square in 2010⁴.

Iran has continued to be the leading state sponsor of terrorism in Asia, facilitating a wide range of terrorist and other illicit activities around the world. In 2022, Iran increasingly encouraged and plotted attacks against the United States, including against former U.S. officials, in retaliation for the death of Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps-Quds Force (IRGC-QF) commander Qasem Soleimani. In August, an IRGC member in Iran was charged with attempting to arrange the murder of a former U.S. national security adviser. At the regional level, Iran has supported acts of terrorism in Bahrain, Iraq, Lebanon, Syria and Yemen through proxies and partner groups such as the Hezbollah and al-Ashtar Brigades. At the global level, the IRGC-QF and the Ministry of Intelligence and Security remained Iran's main actors involved in supporting terrorist recruitment, financing and plotting in Africa, Asia, Europe and North and South America⁵.

The National Liberation Army (ELN) is a Colombian Marxist-Leninist group formed in 1964. It remains focused on attacking security services and economic infrastructure - especially oil and gas pipelines and electricity pylons - and extorting foreign and local companies. The ELN commits crimes and acts of terror throughout Colombia, including violence against the civilian population there and in Venezuela⁶.

5. Role of public authorities in combating terrorism

The role of public authorities in the fight against terrorism is important for maintaining national security and the safety of citizens. These authorities have the responsibility to identify, prevent and counter terrorist threats in an effective and lawful manner.

In the United Kingdom following the July 7, 2005 terrorist attacks in London, which targeted the public transport system and killed 52 people, the first reaction of the authorities was to investigate possible links with international terrorist networks, in particular Al Qaeda. However, the attackers, known as the '7/7 suicide cells', were found to be British citizens, born and raised in the UK, with no direct links to Al Qaeda.

This discovery led to a paradigm shift in the approach to terrorism in the UK and other Western countries. So-called 'home-grown terrorism' became a major concern for law enforcement agencies and governments, as it was found that radicalized and locally recruited individuals could pose as serious a threat as foreign terrorists.

⁴ Idem, p. 301.

⁵ Idem, p. 6.

⁶ Idem, p. 302.

The shift in focus has led to increased efforts to prevent radicalization and monitor communities vulnerable to extremist influence. It has also emphasized the importance of international cooperation and information sharing to combat terrorism in all its forms. The UK is often seen as setting the tone for the adoption of counter-terrorism policies and practices by other countries (particularly European)⁷, and the clearest institutional and political materialization of the first 'truth' of radicalisation in the UK came in 2006, when the Labour government introduced Prevent as a central component of the UK's counter-terrorism strategy⁸, seen by other countries as a model of preventive risk management⁹. Prevent is a component of the UK's counter-terrorism strategy that focuses on preventing radicalization and violent extremism. It was introduced in 2011 and is one of the four pillars of the UK's national counter-terrorism strategy, alongside Protect, Pursue and Prepare. Prevent's main aim is to identify and intervene early in cases of radicalization that could lead to involvement in violent extremism. This is achieved by local authorities, social services, schools, health services and other community organizations working together to identify and provide support to individuals vulnerable to radicalization or extremist influence. Public bodies in the UK - such as schools, nurseries and hospitals - all have a duty to ensure that their staff have received appropriate Prevent training in order to remain compliant with government regulations¹⁰.

In Norway, after September 11, immigration law, for example, was amended so that foreigners who have violated or harbored someone who has committed terrorist crimes and are aware of it can be deported. The Terrorist Financing Convention of 2002 and Resolution 1373 of 2001 also laid the basis for the introduction of a separate criminal provision in the Norwegian Penal Code, which, among other things, prohibited terrorist financing and contained a provision for the allocation of funds related to terrorist activities¹¹.

On July 22, 2011, Norway was rocked by two coordinated terrorist attacks in Oslo and on the island of Utoya. In the first attack, a booby-trapped vehicle exploded in the center of Oslo, close to the Norwegian government building, killing eight people and injuring dozens more. This explosion caused significant damage to the government building. Shortly afterwards, an armed assailant dressed in a police uniform opened fire on participants at a Young Workers League summer camp on the island of Utoya. The

⁷ Rita Augestad Knudsen, *Between vulnerability and risk? Mental health in UK counter-terrorism*, „Behavioral Sciences of Terrorism and Political Aggression”, Volume 13, Issue 1, 2021, pp. 43-61, <https://doi.org/10.1080/19434472.2019.1703782>.

⁸ Dimitris Skleparis and Rita Augestad Knudsen, *Localizing 'radicalization': Risk assessment practices in Greece and the United Kingdom*, „The British Journal of Politics and International Relations”, Volume 22, Issue 2, May 2020, pp. 309-327, <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/epub/10.1177/1369148120910987?src=getfr>.

⁹ Amy Thornton, Noemie Bouhana, *Preventing radicalization in the UK: Expanding the knowledge-base on the channel programme*. „Policing: A Journal of Policy and Practice”, Volume 13, Issue 3, September 2019, pp. 331-344, <https://doi.org/10.1093/police/pax036>; Tom Pettinger, (2020), *British terrorism preemption: Subjectivity and disjuncture in Channel "de-radicalization" interventions*, „The British Journal of Sociology”, Volume 71, Issue 5, pp. 970-984, <https://doi.org/10.1111/1468-4446.12754>.

¹⁰ HM Government, *Revised Prevent Duty Guidance: for England and Wales*, 2015, <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance>.

¹¹ Marianne Angvik, *Security and Rights. The development of Norwegian counter-terrorism measures post 9/11 and their impact on the private sphere*, UiO, Faculty of Law, University of Oslo, 2017, p 16.

attacker killed 69 people, mostly teenagers and young people, and wounded around 110 others before being captured by security forces.

After the terrorist attacks of July 22, 2011, Norway undertook several legislative and policy changes to strengthen security and to prevent such incidents in the future, the Norwegian Ministry of Justice was renamed the Ministry of Justice and Public Security, reflecting the stronger focus on national security and dealing with terrorist threats. Measures have been taken to strengthen the security of government buildings, including erecting new physical barriers and improving security and surveillance systems. The Norwegian Penal Code has been amended to include specific provisions targeting lone terrorists and their activities. These amendments were enacted in 2013 and were part of efforts to address threats from extremists acting alone. In addition, Proposition 68L came in 2015-2016, which proposed that police be granted "expanded access for the use of coercive methods in the investigation and prevention of serious crimes. The expansion includes communications monitoring, search, surveillance, technical tracking, camera surveillance, and coercive methods for preventive and protective purposes. These changes were aimed at strengthening the capabilities to prevent terrorism and protect Norwegian citizens against violent threats. They also highlighted the importance of adapting policies and legislation to respond to new security threats and challenges. The new protection paradigm emphasizes the shift in which citizens seek protection from the state against terrorists or criminals, or potential terrorists or criminals¹².

Greece has a rich history of politically motivated violence and terrorism - far left/far right¹³. Greek counter-terrorism policies have always been event-driven, and with the disbanding of the "first generation of terrorists" in the early 2000s and the conclusion of the Olympic Games, with the anticipation of low ebb threats, terrorism was no longer at the top of the agenda¹⁴, yet the murder of a teenager by a police officer sparked demonstrations in Athens that quickly spread throughout Greece. They lasted several days and were accompanied by riots, looting and widespread violence. In this context, the Center for Security Studies became increasingly active in the field of counter-radicalization. In 2012, it set up a research team specifically dedicated to the study of radicalization, terrorism and organized crime, while in 2015 it started to cooperate closely with the EU Radicalisation Awareness Network in implementing 'counter-radicalization' activities. In September 2016, the CSS and the Directorate of State Security of the Ministry of Public Order and Citizen Protection organized a series of training seminars and "train the trainers" workshops in five Greek cities for the purpose of "counter-radicalization and extremism". This was the first official attempt to localize "knowledge" of the concept of radicalization in the country. The aims of the workshops organized by the CSS and the Directorate of State Security are well grounded and action-oriented in counter-radicalization, as "countering radicalization is a sine qua non of the fight against terrorism and violent extremism"¹⁵.

Belgium's comprehensive and inclusive approach to the fight against terrorism is an important part of its national security strategy. This approach involves both

¹² Liv Hausken, Sara Rundgren Yazani, Trine K. Haagenen (eds.), *From terror and surveillance: surveillance in Norway, a critical prospect*, Vidarforlaget AS, 2014.

¹³ Dia Anagnostou, Dimitris Skleparis, *Trends in radicalization that may lead to violence: National background study, Greece. Report*, Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy, 2015, pp. 1-87.

¹⁴ Dimitris Skleparis and Rita Augestad Knudsen, *op. cit.*, p. 310.

¹⁵ *Ibid*

preventive aspects, such as rehabilitation and prevention of radicalization, and repressive aspects to counter terrorist threats. Close coordination and cooperation between different actors, from the federal to the local level, is essential to address these issues effectively and comprehensively.

The Threat Analysis Coordinating Body is central to this approach and serves as a hub for coordinating efforts among various government agencies and departments. It brings together numerous partners from different policy areas and levels of power to analyze and address terrorist threats in their entirety.

By involving various ministries and agencies, including the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Interior, Justice, Finance and Defence, Belgium aims to use a wide range of tools and resources to combat terrorism and radicalization. This holistic approach is essential to address the various aspects of the terrorist phenomenon and to promote security and stability in the country.

For some commentators, Belgium has become a rear base for international terrorism. In fact, the Paris attacks were prepared in Brussels by the Abaaoud network to strike the French capital at the Bataclan, the Stade de France and the terraces in eastern Paris. Belgium's crisis spread after these attacks. The fact that Brussels was subsequently hit could not alleviate the suspicions, but on the contrary reinforced them¹⁶. Terrorism therefore formed a significant threat in Belgium, characterized by some unique features that make it a risk management issue¹⁷.

Yet Belgium's efforts to combat terrorism and radicalization have been ongoing and have involved a number of additional security measures over time. The fight against terrorism has been an extremely fertile ground for legislative changes, particularly with regard to special search methods and other surveillance measures. Since 2006, Belgium developed an 'Action Plan on Radicalism' (Plan R), which provided a strategic framework for tackling the problems of radicalization and violent extremism. This plan has been regularly reviewed and updated to keep pace with the evolving terrorist threat and to reflect a holistic and inclusive approach to the phenomenon. In early January 2015 the extension of the possibility to allow the loss of Belgian citizenship for persons convicted of terrorist offenses was announced by the Belgian federal government. This measure was taken in the context of growing concerns about terrorism and radicalization in Europe, and Belgium has taken several initiatives to combat these threats. The loss of citizenship is seen as a drastic measure, but it is intended to provide a stronger response against terrorism and to discourage citizens from engaging in terrorist or radicalizing activities. The measure of deprivation of nationality following a conviction for a terrorist offense already existed in the legislation, but the authorities wanted to extend the possibilities and facilitate the procedure. The Belgian Nationality Code was therefore amended to this effect by the law of July 20, 2015 aimed at strengthening the fight against terrorism. The new article 23/2, now exclusively dedicated to terrorist offenses, also only addresses "certain Belgians". A distinction is made between two categories of citizens depending on how their nationality was acquired: those whose nationality can

¹⁶ Sébastien Boussois, *Lutte contre le terrorisme: la Belgique, maillon faible?*, In „Foreign Policy” 2017/4 (Winter), pp 173-185, <https://www.cairn.info/revue-politique-etrangere-2017-4-page-173.htm#no1>.

¹⁷ Hannelore Crijns, Veroline Cauberghe, Liselot Hudders, *Terrorism threat in Belgium: The resilience of Belgian citizens and the protection of governmental reputation by means of communication*, „Public Relations Review”, Volume 43, Issue 1, March 2017, pp 219-234, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pubrev.2016.10.006>.

never be withdrawn and those whose nationality can¹⁸.

Strengthening multidisciplinary efforts has been a priority, and in 2017, Belgium adopted 28 additional measures to strengthen its security against terrorist threats. These measures included legislative and institutional enhancements to improve the effectiveness of the response to terrorism, strengthen border security, prevent and combat radicalization, and implement more effective prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration of radicalized individuals. The National Strategy against Extremism and Terrorism, implemented in September 2021, was an important development in Belgium's approach to these threats. The successor to Plan R, the strategy was built on past experiences and lessons learned, and focused on a comprehensive and coordinated approach. This strategy combines several aspects, including a socio-preventive, administrative, police and judicial approach, as well as an emphasis on the social reintegration of radicalized individuals. By integrating these different strands, Belgium aims to provide a comprehensive response to the threats of extremism and terrorism, regardless of their nature, be they religious, ideological or other. Another important feature of the strategy is the participation of all Belgian political levels, including the federal level and the federated entities, as well as the involvement of the different services in the fight against extremism. This collaboration between different levels of government and services is essential to ensure a coherent and effective response to threats.

5. Conclusions

Terrorism can take many other forms and manifestations depending on the regional context, the ideology of terrorist groups and other specific factors.

In conclusion, the spread of terrorism is a complex and multifactorial phenomenon, influenced by a combination of political, social, economic and ideological factors, which may contribute to its geographical spread.

It is important to emphasize that terrorism should not be confused with other forms of violence or conflict, such as wars between states or internal conflicts. Terrorism is distinguished by the use of violence to cause fear and panic in order to achieve political, ideological or social goals.

To counter this threat, the international community must take coordinated action and strengthen cooperation in the field of security and the fight against terrorism. These actions could include information sharing between law enforcement agencies and intelligence services, strengthening counter-terrorism legislation at global and regional level, and improving capabilities to prevent and respond to terrorist threats.

At the same time, it is also important to address the underlying causes of terrorism, such as poverty, social marginalization, conflict and lack of access to education and economic opportunities. Addressing these issues can help reduce the vulnerability of individuals and communities to the influence and recruitment of terrorist organizations.

Finally, combating terrorism in the era of the global and regional terrorist hub

¹⁸ Coline Remacle, Charlotte Vanneste, Sarah Van Praet, *Approche ethnographique et jurisprudentielle des poursuites en matière de terrorisme en Belgique, Synthesis Report*, 2022, p. 24, <https://www.belspo.be/belspo/brain-be/projects/FinalReports/AFFECT-RP51b-2022-INCC.pdf>.

requires a concerted and continuous effort by the international community, integrating both security and law enforcement measures, as well as efforts to develop and address the root causes of terrorism.

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