EXAMINE THE POTENTIAL CAUSES OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM AND ITS IMPACT ON THE INTERNATIONAL WORLD

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Abstract - It is said that one man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter. The concept of terrorism since 9/11 terror attack on the US continues to attract both national and international attention as both national and international level governance seek to nip the heinous and nefarious activities of terrorist in the bud. There is problem regarding the definition of terrorism as different scholars and institutions define the term from different point of view. The aim of the research is to examine some potential causes and impact of international terrorism. Drawing from related literature such as peer reviewed articles; the researcher discovered the following among other things as the potential causes of international terrorism: economic deprivation, socio-economic and demographic dynamics, globalization, political transformation and instability, clash of civilization and identity, pattern of global politics and economy. Similarly, the study concluded that international terrorism most often result in phenomena such loss of lives, destruction of property, low productivity, fear, injuries, loss of jobs, low influx of international investors, etc. Interestingly, the study found out, contrary to popular opinion, that country which were terrorist prone received came on top of UN list of countries which received greatest Foreign Direct Investment between 2001 and 2003. It is hope that based on these findings, countries around the world would promote welfare policies to cater for economically marginalized societies around the world. Also national leaders, it is hoped, would respect the rule of law and refrain from perpetuating their stay in power. Finally, religious, political and cultural diversity should be respected everywhere around the world to foster peace.

Keyword - Terrorism, International, Potential causes.

I. INTRODUCTION

DEFINITION OF TERRORISM:

It is said, "One man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter." Issues bothering on terrorism continue to be a paramount issue in state and global affairs. Terrorism as a concept has no single universally accepted definition and as a result different scholars and institutions define it from different point of view.Again, the challenge inherent in the definition of terrorism lies in agreeing on a common ground to determine when the use of violent conduct is legally accepted. This makes the definition of terrorism very debatable. This is due to the fact that the application of violence to attain political goal is usual with both state and non-state actors.

The UN General Assembly ones provided a provision in 1994, titled "Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism" commented on terrorism in this way: "Criminal act intended or calculated to provoke a state of terror in the general public, a group of persons or particular persons for political purposes are in any circumstance unjustifiable, whatever the considerations of a political, ideological, racial, ethnic, religious or any other nature that may be invoked to justify them".

In 1998, another definition was given by the Arab Convention, for the suppressing of terrorism as, "Any act or threat of violence, whether its motives or purposes, that occurs in the individual's advancement, agenda of collective criminal, seeking to sow panic among people, causing fear by harming them, puttingtheir lives, liberty and security in danger, seeking to cause damage to the environment,public and private installations,property or to occupying and seizing them, as well as seeking to jeopardize national resources".

United Nations Security Council Resolution 1566 adopted in 2004 also defined terrorism as, "Criminal act, including against civilians, committed with the intent to cause death or serious bodily injury, or taking of hostages with the purpose to provoke a state of terror in the general public, or in a group of persons, or a particular person, intimidate a population or force a government and an international organization, either to do or to abstain from doing an act."

The United Kingdom's Terrorism Act 2000 defines terrorism to comprise an act "designed seriously to interfere with or seriously to disrupt an electronic system." This definition did not even see violence as a pith and core of terrorism. Last but not least, the Organization of African Union, (OAU), convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism adopted on July 1, 1999 defines terrorism as, " Any act which is a violation of the criminal laws of State Party and which may endanger the life, physical integrity or freedom of, or cause serious injury or death to, any person, any number of group of persons or causes or may cause damage to public or private property, natural resources, environmental or cultural heritage and is calculated to intimidate, put in fear,force or induce any government, body or institution to or abstain from doing any act.."

The definition given by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), terrorism is, "the unlawful use of force or violence against persons and property, to intimidate or coerce a Government, the civilians,or

any existingsegment, in furtherance of political or social objectives."

In their work titled, "Democracy, foreign Policy and Terrorism," BurcusSavun and Brian J. Phillips, citing the work of Enders and Sandler, opine that terrorism can be explained as "the premeditated use or threat to use violence by individuals or sub-national groups so as to obtain a political and social objectives through the intimidation of a large audience beyond that of their immediate victims.

In summary, it is obvious from the above definitions that terrorism defies a single universally accepted definition. Howbeit, the definitions share common ideologies and illustrations relating predominantly to violence, threat, force, induction, injury, death, destruction of properties, etc. It can also be deduced from the definitions that what one considers as an act of terrorism the same is considered as a fight for freedom; hence goes the adage, "one man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter".

Terrorism can be seen from two spectra: Domestic terrorism and International terrorism. The FBI of the US defines domestic terrorism as terrorism orchestrated by individuals and or groups inspired by or associated with basically US based movements that espouse extremist ideologies of a religious, political, environmental or racial nature. Buttressing its definition, the FBI cites the June 8, 2014 Las Vegas shooting incidence as a test case. The attack was carried out by a married couple who disagreed with the government policies and as a result wanted to use the shooting to commence some revolution in that part of the state. The FBI report further indicates that the attack led to the death of two US police officers who were in a restaurant at the time of the shooting. This definition suggests that perpetrators of domestic terrorism originate from within that particular state. In the words of Burcu and Brian of the Political Science Department at the University of Pittsburgh, terrorism may be described as domestic when an event involves the perpetrator, an audience, and victims of the country of which the event occurs.

International or transnational terrorism, on the other hand, according to the FBI, is an act perpetrated by individuals and or groups inspired by or associated with a particular foreign terrorist organizations or nations (terrorism sponsored by states). To support its definition, the FBI cites the case of the December 2, 2015 shooting in San Bernardino, CA, killing 14 people and left 22 wounded. The FBI account shows that the attack was committed by a married couple who became radicalized and was inspired by various extremist ideologies and transnational terrorist groups. Burcus and Brian share a similar opinion with the FBI definition when the adjunct scholars described international or transnational terrorism to involve an act committed in one country involves victims, perpetrators, government or institutions, or citizens of another state.

Tim Kriegner and Daniel Meierrieks of the Department of Economics- University of Paderborn, Germany, succinctly opine that international or transnational terrorism refers to terrorism involving more than one state. Additionally, the adjunct scholars maintain that every act of terrorism without foreign involvement is a domestic terrorism.

The activities and the modus operandi of terrorists are complex and unimaginable to the extent of doing the unthinkable just to press home their demand or announce their existence. This has often led scholars to fish out what could be the potential causes of terrorism in the international system as well as study the impact of this nefarious activity on the globe.

II. POTENTIAL CAUSES OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

This paper seeks to unearth some potential causes of international terrorism and equally study the impact of international terrorism.

Some common potential causes of international terrorism which this paper seeks todevelop include: economic conditions, socio-economic and demographic dynamics, globalization, institutional order, political transformation and instability, clash of civilization and identity, pattern of global politics and economy, contagion, etc.

First and foremost, a major potential cause of terrorism in the international system is economic deprivation. Thus, the persistent denial and unavailability of basic necessity of life as advanced by Abraham Maslow including: food, clothing, shelter, security, etc. can lead to act of violence in the state.Krieger and Meierrieks, in their work titled, "What causes terrorism?'' indicate that terrorism is situated in economic deprivation, that is, in poverty and inequality that exist within the country. The authors citeGurr (1970) in his 'relative deprivation' typology where Gurr indicates that violence arises when there is obvious differences between what a person thinks he/she deserves and what he/she receives through the economic redistribution system. According to Krieger and Meierrieks, bad structural economic situations unleash frustration which has the tendency to create violence.

The researchers suggest that the link between economic deprivation and terrorism should be taken seriously by countries where the terrorist organizations exist. They support their suggestion by indicating that it is less costly (easier) for terrorist groups to recruit frustrated followers or to be funded by supporters in instances where there is prevalence of deprived economy. Commenting on the target countries of terrorism, the writers opine that economic success may breed attack when economic deprivation is globally assessed. It can be inferred from the authors concluding sentence that whereas it is easy to recruit potential terrorists from deprived

economy, those countries with successful economic standing often risk being attacked.

A second potential cause of terrorism in the international system is changes in socio-economic and demographic patterns. Possible indicators characterizing this determinant include unemployment rate, inflation, levels of welfare systems as well as demographic issues such as population growth, age, size, structure and its associated urbanization among others. This premise is supported by the work of Krieger and Meierrieks. The two terrorism experts in their work argue that modernization fosters terrorism. According to the authors, modernization encapsulates economic change, new forms of lifestyle (shift from agrarian to urban society), communication and new ideas among others. Citing Robison et al. (2006), Krieger and Meierrieksindicates that such a change may create problems associated with socio-economic and demographic strain. For instance, the authors express that economic change(economic growth) may lead to labour market restructuring and that may create grievances for 'modernization losers.' In terms of communication, the authors expressed that whereas traditional elements of society may be challenged by modern forms of communication on the basis of alienation and challenge to traditional social patterns creating conflict between modernity and tradition, terroristscapitalize on the new form of communication to disseminate information more effectively. In summary, it may be deduced from the discussions that unstructured changes in socio-economic livelihood of citizens leading to loss of social and economic advantage, increasing inequality, etc. has the capability of fueling the cause for violence leading to eruption of terrorism. For example in Accra, the capital of Ghana, where modernization and urbanization is gradually taking over the city, people indiscriminately erect structures which create slums. The usual practice is that the city authorities often destroy these structures unannounced, usually at dawn, causing loss of properties. Such situation often creates violence between the police and the affected people. Issues of such nature have the potency of degenerating in terror.

Thirdly, globalization serves as a potential cause of transnational terrorism. Globalization has been explained as an advancement and increase in the exchange of ideas, goods and persons around the globe. Globalization has led to the creation of networks of likeminded terrorists who share information and association. The conditions of globalization which permit transnational trade, commerce, and technological ideas across national frontiers have made it easy for terrorist to move to target countries without much difficulty. It has been found that most of the terrorist arrested and investigated had moved from their home country to perpetrate their heinous act on their target countries. The underlining factor is that although globalization has been argued to be very beneficial, yet its other side has led to promotion of terrorist movement around the world. As a result of the internet to a larger extent, globalization has made communication easier and promoted terror. For example the 9/11 September attack on the US was done effectively as a result of easy communication. Although the terrorist boarded the planes at different places, they were able to communicate to know what was happening at every location. Closer look at the 9/11 Commission Report indicates that the attack was made easier as a result of how globalization has made things flexible in the international system. The free movement of people and goods come with a whole lot of problems. A person may enter a country as a tourist but will end up being a disguised terrorist. Several weapons of mass destruction travel across national frontiers used in committing terror act as a result of impact of globalization. Thus globalization has made it possible for dissent group to strike across national boundaries by attacking external bodies they perceive as enemies, according to Lutz and Lutz.

A fourth potential cause of terrorism has to do with form of government practiced in a state. Thus whether a country is ruled by a democratic or autocratic regime can serve as a fertile ground for breeding terrorism on the globe. Krieger and Meierrieks indicate that there is an ongoing research to establish a relationship between regime type (political and institutional order) and the likelihood of terrorist attack. According to Krieger and Meierrieks some of thefindings showed that transnational terrorist attacks are common with democratic and liberal political systems.Blomberg and Hess 2208a, 2008b, Blomberg et al 2004, Braithwaite and Li, 2007 Piazza, 2008b among other researchers came out with this conclusion. However, some researchers, according tothe authors, indicate that transnational terrorist attacks are mostly associated with repressive regimes. These researchers include: Eyerman1998, Piazza2006 etc. Meanwhile, there are others who found no significant/consistent relationship between the operational political system or institutional order and terrorist attack. These researchers include:Drakos and Gofas 2006a, Koch and Cranmer 2007. Regardless of the nature of the political regime, government policies definitely have some impact on the activities of terrorist actions. It is found that welfare policies ofgovernment discourage potential emergence of terrorism. It is also believed that political order which is liberal decreases terrorism because most often, fringe groups would be willing to settle scores non-violently. Democracy is seen as a more efficient means of curbing terrorism due to its non-violent nature. However, it is also found that democracy is not able to effectively clamp down on terrorists due to its respect for civil rights and liberties. Autocratic institutions which are able to use force to bring about compliance are also not reliable

since the violent nature degenerate into the creation of terrorists. In short, this paper concludes that the political or institutional order has the possibility of causing terrorism.

A fifth potential cause of international terrorism is political transformation and instability. Unwarranted and undemocratic change in government through coups may create a state of political turmoil and instability. Political instability characterized by violent protest and manslaughter has the tendency to result in terrorist movement from dissenting group. The underlining issue is that illegal change in government and the propensity for political demagogues to entrench their stay in power is a potential cause of terrorism. Usually, other country's government may support the dissent group to usurp power or the incumbent to suppress the opposing group. According to Krieger and Meierrieks, terrorism can be more in a politically instable environment. The authors clarifies that studies have realized that politically stable regime discourages terrorist attack. Similarly, studies also found that failed state, strikes, demonstrations, riots, civil wars, etc. encourages terrorist attack.More so, studies as published by the duo found out that the likelihood for established democracies to be attacked by terrorist is very less; however, according to the studies, new democracies arising out of autocratic and repressive regimes are prone to terror attack. On the whole, the two prolific writers blatantlyindicate that the link between political transformation/instability and terrorist attack is that the former attracts the latter.

Adding to the already discussed potential causes is clash of civilization (identity and cultural clash). It is the conflict that arises between two or more cultures as a resort of globalization. The situation is in such a way that one group feels its culture, race, tribe, beliefs, religion, etc. is better and superior than the other and as a result those considered to have inferior culture is coerced to adopt the foreign one in place of his inferior culture. This has the probability to cause terror.Taking into consideration the link between identity conflict and terrorism, Krieger and Meierrieks noted that some notable researchers in the field such as Tavares (2004); Piazza (2006), etc. find thatlinguistic/ethnic differences may encourage terrorism significantly. However, others like Blomberg and Hess (2008b);Sambanis(2008) and Drakos and Gofas(2006a) find less significant and consistent association between ethnic difference and terror attack.KurrildKlitgaard et al (2006) came out with a unique finding which indicates that linguistic diversity drives terrorist attack substantially while ethnic diversity does not. Generally, the authors indicate that the findings present some proof for the notion that identity diversities tend to drive terrorism. Thus, transnational ethnic of tribal violence is a recipe for terrorism.

On the basis of religion, writers such as Piazza (2006) find that religious fractionalization encourages terrorist attack. Other studies also find no significance and conclusive results connecting religionand terrorist attack (Blomberg and Hess 2008a, 2008b; Krueger and Laitin 2008; Tavares2004 etc). Summing up, it is undisputable fact that identity crises and religious inclinations are potential recipe for terrorist attacks. Lack of respect for and marginalization of ethnic and religious divides undoubtedly can breed discontent and violence. For example, the emergence of Boko Haram in Nigeria, in 2009, was based on the fact that the extremists found Western education/culture as taboo and something inconsistent with the local people. The terror groups believe that the prevailing education system is inconsistent with their beliefs and religious principles.They have always preferred the use of Sharia laws based on Islamic laws.

Another potential factor for terrorism to occur is international economic and political order. Thus, the nature of global economic and political integration can lead to occurrence of terrorist attack. Terrorist are more likely to strike trade partners of their enemy countries. Krieger and Meierrieks find that some aspect of global economic and political structures matter to international terror attacks. It is on record in the authors' work that high levels of openness in international trade may lead to terror attack. For example, the authors discover that trade between target country and country of origin of terrorists' movement can pave way for easy access for terror attack. Allowing free movement of goods and services through transnational trade may give rise to influx of terrorists in target countries which may lead to probable attack. Moreover, discontent for one another through unfair global economic trade between and among countries has the tendency to breed terror attack.

Political integration among and between countries can also be a potential cause of terror. This goes with the adage, "My enemy's friend is my enemy." However, it is also found out by scholars such as Blomberg and Hess2008a, that participation in transnational organization (international cooperation) discourages transnational attack. This finding is not out of place since such cooperation may generate friendly relations among countries.Thus, peaceful political cooperation discourages transnational attacks while cooperation inflicted with crises and disputes may also result in terror attack. Furthermore, military alliances between two countries or more in a bilateral or quasi multilateral form can also generate terror attack on target countries. Distinguished scholars such as Dreher and Gassebner (2008), Gassebner(2009) cited by Krieger and Meierrieks find that a country's politicalties with the United States (US) is associated with a massive increase in a potential terror attack on that country. This explains why many Ghanaians, for example, agitated strongly against the establishment of a US Military Base in Ghana in 2018. The rationale was that Ghana will be

a target country for terror groups who are oppose to the US..

Last but not least potential factor for terror attack is geographical proximity. This means that distance between countries have the potency for terror attack. Krieger et al refer to this as 'contagion' and posit that there is strong support for this premise. Research finding by Plumper andNeumayer suggest that terrorism decreases with long distances (spatial contagion) between states. Researchers Braithwaite and Li posit that there is a high tendency for a country to experience terrorism if the country is within terrorism prone areas.

Concluding on the potential causes of international terrorism, it can be inferred that several factors from political, economic, cultural to social have the potency to bring about terror attack. Thus, the order of political integration, global economic orderthat exist in trade transaction, conflict associated with diverse cultures especially infiltration of western culture into non-western territories, migration of people, proximity in terms of geography among others have the potentials of bringing about terror activities.It was also realized that it is not always the case that these factors may automatically lead to terror attack especially where these factors are well managed, since it was found out that global, cooperation for example, may discourage terror attack.

III. IMPACTS OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

Research findings concerning the impact of transnational terrorism in the international system abound as much as the causes. Paramount among the impact of terrorism in the international system included but not limited to: loss of lives, loss of properties, cause of injury, cause of fear and panic, insecurity, economic waste, low influx of foreign investors,diversion of government activities, etc.

First and foremost impact of international terrorism has to do with loss of lives. This is the most concerned impact of terrorism. Most terrorist who are suicide-bombers gird themselves with detonators and explode in places of public gathering killing several number of people. The loss of lives is a major worry to the international system since such deaths take away very skilled and industrious citizens whose contribution to development of the world cannot be replaced. Great, wealthy, and skillful artisans, scientist, leaders, philanthropist, etc. have died through one terror attack or another either in the US or Nigeria, Libya, etc. for example in 2014, the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) reported that Boko Haram kidnapped over 270 Chibok students from a girls' secondary school in the Northern part of Nigeria. Although most of the girls were rescued by the Nigerian army, a few of them were killed and others recruited to join the terrorist movement. Terrorists ambush, kidnap, highjack or attack their victims or kill themselves together with their victims where the need arises.

A second, impact of global terrorism is the destruction of properties. Wittingly or unwittingly, terrorist may destroy several infrastructural facilities in the cause of their attacks. These can be global heritage sites, world trade venues, government buildings such as Embassies, Seat of governments, legislative assemblies, etc. this is seen worrying in the sense that not only the cost of reconstruction is cumbersome but the beauty of the architecture may not be redeemed. The original builders of such structures may not be in existence or if even existing may not be in the best of strength to replicate the lost property. Most of these sites may be global heritage sites which haboured multi-million historical artifacts and information for future generation and their destruction becomes a big blow to the entire world. An example can be cited of the Word Trade Center (WTC) which served as a citadel of trade, situated in New York-USA, where people from all walk of live: businessmen, politicians, architects, financial consultants, etc. conducted business, was attacked by al Qaida terror network on September 11, 2001. The implications of the destruction had a far reaching effect of global economic and political conduct where international trade became destabilized.

A third impact associated with global terrorism has to do with diversion and destruction of government activities. Terrorists often attack in a sudden occasion where governments have made no contingency plans for the impact of the attacks. As a result of terrorist attack, governments are forced to divert attention to the problems created by terror groups. International bodies, such as the UN, have to raise funds to curb the atrocities committed by these extremist groups. On November 18, 2016, Forbes, an international media company which focuses on business, investment, entrepreneurship, technology, lifestyle, leadership among others published a report from the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) which showed that global cost of terrorist attack for the year 2015 reached $89.6 billion.

A fourth impact of terrorism worthy of note is low international productivity. Automatically, terrorism impacts on the production of goods and services in states around the world. Terrorist act may cause death of productive workers and damage several manufacturing companies and places of service to people around the world. Setting oil factories or firms ablaze may affect the rate of energy production in countries around the world due to shortage of production the situation may create. Workers will be gripped with fear and panic hence preventing free movement to work. Several people may also lose jobs which may affect the rate of productivity around the world.

Last but not least impact of terrorism is low rate of influx of foreign investors. One of the core impacts of

terror attack has to do with creation of insecurity in the state. The situation tends to put fear in investors who may be discouraged from investing in places of insecurity. Influx of foreign investors creates jobs, increase government revenue, foreign exchange earner, Foreign direct Investment (FDI) and promote high standard of living. This therefore indicates that countries terrified by terrorism risk losing a great deal of economic, technical, social and political benefits. However, Daniel Wagner, founder and CEO of Country Risk Solutions, a writer on political risks for IRMI.com, indicates that although it is common for one to assume that terrorism prone countries stand the chance of losing investors, the adjunct writer disputes the fact by showing that records show terror risk countries like Azerbaijan, Angola and the Gambia, were third, fifth and Seventh respectively on UN world ranking of first 20 countries to have enjoyed impressive FDIbetween 2001-2003. He said Germany placed 102nd, US 112th and Japan 132nd out of total of 104 states. The writer indicates that the reason is based on what one wants to invest in. Generally, I the author of this paper goes with the fact that insecurity posed by terror deters foreign investors more than invite them.

CONCLUSION

The potential causes of international terrorism are complex as well as the impact. This paper attempts to review some scholarly definitions of terrorism and identifies a number of potential causes of international terrorism as well as the impact of terror on the global setting. Among the potential causes identified include but not limited to: economic deprivation, global political and institutional order, political transformation and instability, clash of identity and culture, geographical proximity, etc. Among the impacts identified include: loss of lives, properties and records, low productivity, low influx of foreign investors, etc. in all these, the paper examines the issues hitting on argument by proponent and opponents drawing on researched work of scholars in the field and finally taking a positions where necessary.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the analyses above, this paper recommends the following:

1. Countries around the world must endeavor to promote welfare policies to cater for the under privilege and economically deprived individuals or groups
2. National leaders must respect the rule of law by refraining from entrenching their stay in power as that may lead to political alienation which is a recipe for terrorism
3. Nations sponsoring terror groups against others must cease from such acts.
4. Religious, political and cultural diversity should be respected everywhere in the world.

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