

# Globalization and International Terrorism: Its Implications on Global Peace and Security

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**Abstract:** *Globalization and terrorism are interrelated phenomena, with globalization creating new opportunities for terrorists to exploit, such as the increased movement of people and goods across borders and the expansion of international trade and investment. Terrorism, in turn, poses a threat to globalization, as it creates instability and undermines the confidence of investors and consumers. In this paper we tried to study the historical background of globalization and terrorism so that we can provide insight into the roots of these phenomena and how they have evolved over time. We also investigated the impacts of Globalization on Terrorism and Global Peace, to do this, secondary data collection was employed, materials used was gathered from documented evidence, and descriptive and qualitative data analysis was employed. In other to link globalization to terrorism the economic, political, and cultural dimensions of analysis was used as a theoretical linkage, while Conflict theory was used as the theoretical framework to analyze critically the subject matter of our work. Our findings proved among other things that globalization has created economic and social inequalities, which have led to grievances and frustrations among some groups, leading to the resort to terrorism as a means of expressing these grievances. Investing in international cooperation and coordination in the fight against terrorism, including the development of new tools and mechanisms for sharing information and resources was recommended as part of the ways to control global terrorism in the quest for global peace and security.*

**Keywords:** Globalization, Terrorism, Global Peace and Security, Conflict.

## INTRODUCTION

### Background of the Study

Globalization came with it many benefits to the world, including increased economic growth and cultural exchange. However, it has also led to the emergence of new challenges, one of which is the rise of international terrorism. The phenomenon of international terrorism has become a major threat to global peace and security, as evidenced by the numerous terrorist attacks that have occurred in different parts of the world in recent years (Hoffman, 2018). The impact of terrorism on global peace and security is significant, with its effects felt not only by the victims of the attacks but also by the international community as a whole.

One of the key factors contributing to the rise of international terrorism is globalization (Furedi, 2019). Globalization has aided the spread of extremist ideologies and provided terrorists with access to modern communication technologies, making it easier for them to recruit new members and coordinate attacks (Hafez, 2017). In addition, globalization has created new opportunities for terrorists to exploit, such as the increased movement of people and goods across borders and the expansion of international trade and investment (Acharya, 2018). These factors have made it difficult if not impossible for governments to effectively counter the threat of terrorism and ensure global peace and security.

The basic aim of this paper is to examine the implications of globalization on international terrorism and its effects on global peace and security. The paper will interrogate the various ways in which globalization has contributed to the rise in international terrorism and the challenges it presents for global peace and security. Additionally, the paper will analyse the various strategies that have been employed by governments and international organizations to address the threat of terrorism and promote global peace and security. Dealing with international terrorism is a challenging and intricate matter that demands a collaborative approach from various stakeholders, including governments, international institutions, and the public, to effectively combat this threat. By exploring the implications of globalization on international terrorism, this paper aims to add to the ongoing discourse on global peace and security and provide insights into the challenges and opportunities presented by the phenomenon of globalization.

### RESEARCH QUESTIONS

In other to give justice to the research problem raised, the following questions were put up for answers in this paper.

1. What is the relationship between globalization and terrorism?
2. What are the impacts of globalization on terrorism and global peace?
3. What are the implications of globalization and terrorism for global peace and security?

### Conceptual Clarifications

The incident of globalization has had an obvious impact on the world, transforming economies, cultures, and societies. However, globalization has also brought about new challenges, including the rise of international terrorism. The objective of this literature review is to present a comprehensive account of the meaning of globalization and international terrorism, and how they are

interconnected. The review examines various perspectives on the definition of these concepts, including academic discourse and official definitions provided by international organizations and governments.

### **Definition of Globalization**

Globalization has been defined in various ways by scholars and practitioners. According to Held and McGrew (2002), globalization is a process that involves the increasing interconnectedness and interdependence of the world's economies, cultures, and societies. The process is driven by technological advancements, trade liberalization, and the movement of people and ideas across borders. Similarly, Giddens (1990) defines globalization as the intensification of worldwide social relations, which connects distant localities in a way that local realities are shaped by events happening many miles away.

Official definitions of globalization provided by international organizations and governments tend to emphasize the economic aspects of globalization. For instance, the World Bank (2000) defines globalization as "the growing interdependence of countries resulting from the increasing integration of trade, finance, people, and ideas in one global marketplace." The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP, 1999) defines globalization as "the process of spreading the connectivity and interdependence of the world's markets, businesses, and nationals"

### **International Terrorism**

International terrorism, on the other hand, has been defined by various scholars and international organizations. According to Crenshaw (1981), terrorism is the act of using of violence or the threat of violence to achieve political objectives. International terrorism therefore is all acts of terrorism that are carried out across national boundaries which involve individuals or groups from different countries. The United Nations General Assembly (1994) defines terrorism as "Criminal actions that are deliberately planned or executed to induce a state of terror among the general public, a group of individuals, or specific persons with the aim of achieving political objectives."

### **The Connection between Globalization and International Terrorism**

Globalization has been seen as a contributing factor to the rise of international terrorism. According to Acharya (2018), globalization has facilitated the spread of extremist ideologies and provided terrorists with access to modern communication technologies, making it easier for them to recruit new members and coordinate attacks. In addition, globalization has created new opportunities for terrorists to exploit, such as the increased movement of people and goods across borders and the expansion of international trade and investment. To address the challenges presented by the connection between globalization and international terrorism, governments and international organizations have developed various strategies. For instance, the United Nations has established various counter-terrorism measures, including the adoption of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in 2006 and the establishment of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre in 2011 (United Nations, n.d.). Similarly, governments have developed various policies and strategies to counter the threat of terrorism, including increased security measures, intelligence sharing, and the use of military force (Hoffman, 2018).

Despite these efforts, the threat of international terrorism remains a significant challenge to global peace and security. As globalization continues to shape the world, it is important to continue to explore the relationship between globalization and international terrorism, and develop new strategies and policies to effectively address the threat.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **Historical Background of Globalization**

The historical background of globalization and terrorism provides insight into the roots of these phenomena and how they have evolved over time. This review aims to provide an overview of the historical background of globalization and terrorism, and their interrelation. The genesis of globalization can be traced back to the early stages of human history when people started trading with each other across regions and cultures. However, it was only in the modern era that globalization became a major force, driven by technological advancements, trade liberalization, and the movement of people and ideas across borders (Held & McGrew, 2002). The advent of the Industrial Revolution in Europe and North America signaled the beginning of modern globalization, as the development of steam-powered transport and communication technologies made it easier and cheaper to move goods and people across long distances. The post-World War II era marked a new phase of globalization, driven by the creation of international institutions like the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, two global financial institutions, which promoted free trade and investment (Stiglitz, 2002).

### **Historical Background of Terrorism**

The genesis of terrorism can be traced back to ancient times, where acts of violence were used to achieve political objectives. However, modern terrorism can be traced back to the late 19th century when nationalist groups began using violence to achieve independence from colonial powers (Laqueur, 2003). In the 20th century, terrorism became a major concern for governments and international organizations, as various groups and individuals began using violence to advance their political or ideological goals.

The 1970s signaled a turning point in the history of modern terrorism, as various groups like the Irish Republican Army (IRA) and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) carried out high-profile attacks that captured the world's attention (Hoffman, 2018).

### **Forms Globalization**

Theoretical frameworks linking globalization and terrorism provide a lens through which to understand the relationship between these two phenomena. This work at this point aims to provide an overview of the theoretical frameworks that have been used to explain the link between globalization and terrorism, including academic discourse and perspectives from policymakers and experts. There are several theories that have been used to explain the link between globalization and terrorism. These frameworks include the economic, political, and cultural dimensions of globalization, and how they interact with the motivations and tactics of terrorist groups.

### **The Economic Dimension**

The economic dimension of globalization has been linked to terrorism through the process of economic globalization. According to this perspective, economic globalization creates disparities and inequalities that provide the conditions for the emergence of terrorism (Ritzer & Atalay, 2010). The economic dimension of globalization has been linked to the spread of neoliberal economic policies, which are believed to have created economic insecurity and inequality, particularly in developing countries (Krieger, 2012).

### **The Political Dimension**

The political dimension of globalization has been linked to terrorism through the process of political globalization. According to this perspective, political globalization creates conditions that encourage the emergence of terrorism, including the spread of democratic values, human rights, and the rule of law (Nacos, 2016). The political dimension of globalization has also been linked to the spread of nationalism and regionalism, which are believed to have contributed to the rise of ethnic and religious-based terrorism (Gurr, 2000).

### **The Cultural Dimension**

The cultural dimension of globalization has been linked to terrorism through the process of cultural globalization. According to this perspective, cultural globalization creates conditions that encourage the emergence of terrorism, including the spread of Western cultural values and norms, which are believed to have contributed to the rise of Islamic fundamentalism (Huntington, 1993). The cultural dimension of globalization has also been linked to the spread of anti-Americanism and anti-Western sentiment, which is believed to have contributed to the rise of transnational terrorism (Juergensmeyer, 2008).

### **Conflict Theory**

Conflict theory is a sociological perspective which emphasizes the role of power and inequality in society. This theory is suitable to analyze the relationship between globalization and international terrorism and its implications for global peace. This discussion aims to provide an analysis of this topic using the conflict theory perspective. According to conflict theory, society is segmented into different groups that have competing interests and values. The relationship between globalization and international terrorism can be understood within this framework. Globalization, as a process driven by the interests of powerful actors, has contributed to the marginalization and exploitation of certain groups. This marginalization and exploitation have created conditions that encourage the emergence of terrorism as a means of resisting these global forces.

Globalization has led to the monopoly of economic and political capability in the hands of a few dominant actors, including multinational corporations and global financial institutions. This concentration of power has resulted in the exploitation and marginalization of many people, particularly those in developing countries (Harvey, 2005). This has created feelings of anger, frustration, and hopelessness among those who are marginalized and exploited, providing a fertile ground for the emergence of terrorist groups that seek to challenge the existing power structures.

Furthermore, conflict theory suggests that the response to terrorism by powerful actors often exacerbates the problem rather than solving it. The "war on terror" carried out by the United States and its allies after the September 11 attacks are an example of this. The response to terrorism has often been to increase military intervention and surveillance, which has further marginalized and oppressed certain groups, thereby fueling the cycle of violence and terrorism (Kepel, 2006).

Karl Marx, Max Weber, and Georg Simmel are the proponents of conflict theory. Marx argued that social conflict arises from the struggle between different classes that have competing interests and values (Marx & Engels, 1848). According to him, globalization has led to the concentration of economic and political hegemony in the hands of a few dominant actors, resulting in the exploitation and marginalization of many people, particularly those in developing countries. This has created feelings of anger, frustration, and hopelessness among those who are marginalized and exploited, providing a fertile ground for the emergence of terrorist groups that seek to challenge the existing power structures.

Max Weber, on the other hand, explained the role of cultural and political factors in social conflict. He argued that globalization has led to the spread of Western culture and values, which has created cultural tensions and conflicts with other cultures (Weber, 1922). This cultural tension can fuel resentment and anger, which can be channeled into acts of terrorism.

Georg Simmel, in his work on conflict, emphasized the role of social differentiation and competition in shaping social conflict. He argued that globalization has led to the differentiation of society into various groups, each with its own interests and values. The competition for resources and power among these groups can lead to conflict and violence (Simmel, 1908). These three proponents of conflict theory highlight the root causes of terrorism as a response to the marginalization and exploitation of certain groups in society. The response to terrorism by powerful actors, according to conflict theory, often exacerbates the problem rather than solving it. The "war on terror" carried out by the United States and its allies after the September 11 attacks are an example of this. The response to terrorism has often been to increase military intervention and surveillance, which has further marginalized and oppressed certain groups, thereby fueling the cycle of violence and terrorism (Kepel, 2006).

In conclusion, conflict theory provided a useful framework for analyzing the relationship between globalization and international terrorism and its implications for global peace. The arguments of its proponents highlight the concentration of power and the marginalization of certain groups that result from globalization, which create conditions that encourage the emergence of terrorism as a means of resisting these global forces. Addressing the root causes of terrorism, therefore, requires a fundamental restructuring of the global power dynamics to create a more equitable and just world.

### **The Link between Globalization and Global Terrorism**

The relationship between globalization and terrorism is a complex one with various factors that contribute to it. Globalization has led to political unrest, economic deprivation, social inequality, and frustration among populations, which can be used by terrorists to their advantage (Kaldor, 2017). Zimmermann (2011) notes that globalization has facilitated terrorist networks by creating global communication and transportation systems that allow terrorists to plan and carry out attacks more easily. Nassar (2005) argues that the movement of people, ideas, and cultures that globalization promotes can also spread extremist ideologies and recruit new members to terrorist groups.

Economic inequality resulting from Western economic strategies has also led to dissatisfaction, making it easier for terrorists to recruit individuals by spreading false claims and lies (Mandelbaum, 2016). Technological advancements, especially in underprivileged countries, have led to changes in values and traditions, which terrorists can exploit by capitalizing on the reluctance of populations to change (Higgott & Reich, 2016). Migration resulting from globalization has led to the creation of different minority groups and displaced people, who are vulnerable to recruitment by terrorists (Lutz, 2016). The spread of globalization has also facilitated terrorism by opening up new ways for terrorists to recruit, obtain weapons, and access financial opportunities (Beck, 2018).

Murphy (2002) takes a nuanced approach, suggesting that the relationship between globalization and terrorism is complex and multifaceted. He argues that while globalization has facilitated the spread of extremist ideologies and provided terrorists with new opportunities, it has also created new challenges for terrorist groups, such as increased surveillance and international cooperation. Hobsbawm (2008) argues that the rise of globalization and the decline of the nation-state have created a power vacuum that terrorists are attempting to fill, but he also notes that democratic societies are better equipped to resist terrorism than authoritarian ones. In general, the connection between globalization and terrorism is intricate and diverse, encompassing a range of positive and negative consequences that are contingent on the specific circumstances. On the other hand, Sandler (2011) argues that globalization can also reduce terrorism by promoting economic growth and reducing poverty, which are factors that have been linked to terrorism. Additionally, Baylis, Smith, and Owens (2014) suggest that globalization has led to increased cooperation between nations and international organizations in addressing security threats like terrorism. While globalization has brought benefits like the spread of culture and technological advancements, it has also led to new challenges like the spread of terrorism, making it difficult to combat (Smith, 2016).

### **Impacts of Globalization on Terrorism**

Globalization has brought about significant changes in the global economic, political, and social landscape, and these changes have had a profound impact on the growth and spread of terrorism. One of the fundamental ways in which globalization has impacted terrorism is through the increased mobility of people, goods, and capital across borders (Fukuyama, 2003). This has facilitated the movement of terrorists across borders, making it easier for them to carry out attacks in different parts of the world.

Moreover, globalization has also led to the growth of transnational criminal networks that engage in a range of illicit activities, including drug trafficking, human trafficking, and arms smuggling (Nacos, 2017). These criminal networks often have links to terrorist organizations, providing them with the funds, weapons, and other resources they need to carry out attacks.

Furthermore, globalization has also led to the spread of information and communication technologies, which have made it easier for terrorists to plan and coordinate attacks (Wilner & Dubouloz, 2010). The internet, for example, provides a platform for terrorist organizations to spread their ideologies, recruit new members, and communicate with each other across borders.

### **Impacts of Globalization on Global Peace**

The impacts of globalization on global peace are complex and multifaceted. On the one hand, globalization has generated a significant economic growth, increased trade, and improved living standards for many people around the world (Friedman, 2005). These developments have contributed to greater interdependence and cooperation among nations, which can promote global peace. On the other hand, globalization has also led to greater inequality, poverty, and social exclusion in different parts of the world (Stiglitz, 2003). These conditions can fuel social and political unrest, providing a fertile ground for the emergence of terrorism and other forms of violent conflict. Moreover, the increased competition for resources and power that globalization has brought about can also fuel conflicts between nations, particularly over issues such as access to resources and markets.

In conclusion, the impacts of globalization on terrorism and global peace are complex and multifaceted. While globalization has facilitated a notable economic growth and cooperation among nations, it has also facilitated the growth and spread of terrorism through increased mobility, transnational criminal networks, and the spread of information technologies. Addressing the root causes of terrorism requires a comprehensive approach that can tackle the social, economic, and political factors that fuel its growth. Moreover, ensuring global peace in the context of globalization requires a concerted effort to promote greater equity, inclusion, and cooperation among nations.

### **Impacts of Terrorism on Global Peace and Security**

Terrorism has significant impacts on global peace and security, affecting individuals, communities, and governments. This paper examined some of the impacts of terrorism, drawing on relevant sources to support its arguments. One of the main effects of terrorism is the loss of life. As posited by the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks upon the United States (2004), terrorist attacks can result in the demise of hundreds or even thousands of people. This loss of life not only causes physical harm but also creates fear and uncertainty among the population, leading to a breakdown of social order and stability.

Terrorism also has economic impacts, both locally and globally. Abadie and Gardeazabal (2008) suggest that terrorist attacks can cause substantial damage to infrastructure and property, resulting in huge financial losses for businesses and governments. The indirect costs of terrorism can also be huge, including a decline in tourism, reduced foreign investment, and increased security and insurance costs. Furthermore, terrorism can have significant social impacts. Abrahms (2012) argues that terrorist attacks often target specific groups based on their ethnicity, religion, or political beliefs, leading to increased tensions and divisions within societies. This can create a breeding ground for further extremism and radicalization.

According to the Global Terrorism Database (2020), there were over 29,000 terrorist attacks worldwide in 2019, resulting in more than 16,000 deaths. Such attacks not only cause physical harm but also create fear and uncertainty among the population, leading to a breakdown of social order and stability. Terrorism also has reasonable economic impacts, both locally and globally. A study by Heinrichs and Voigt (2017) found that terrorist attacks can cause a great damage to infrastructure and property, resulting in huge financial losses for businesses and governments. The indirect costs of terrorism can also be significant, including a decline in tourism, reduced foreign investment, and increased security and insurance costs.

Furthermore, terrorism can have significant social impacts, such as the displacement of people, destruction of communities, and the breakdown of social cohesion. As noted by Hafez and Mullins (2015), terrorist attacks often target specific groups based on their ethnicity, religion, or political beliefs, leading to increased tensions and divisions within societies. This can create a breeding ground for further extremism and radicalization. Terrorism also has psychological impacts on individuals and societies. A study by Schild et al. (2017) found that the fear and trauma caused by terrorist attacks can lead to long-term psychological harm, such as anxiety, depression, and PTSD. These effects can also have a ripple effect on communities, leading to decreased trust in institutions and government. As noted by Galea et al. (2002), the fear and trauma caused by terrorist attacks can lead to long-term psychological harm, such as anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). These effects can also have a ripple effect on communities, leading to decreased trust in institutions and government.

In conclusion, terrorism continues to have significant impacts on global peace and security, affecting individuals, communities, and governments. These impacts include loss of life, economic consequences, social divisions, and psychological harm. It is crucial to address terrorism and its underlying causes to mitigate these effects and promote peace and security.

### **METHODOLOGY**

This study adopts a qualitative research design, which entails gathering and examining secondary data from diverse sources. This includes academic journals, books, reports, and other relevant publications on the topic of globalization and terrorism. The data collected in this study was analyzed using content analysis; this encompasses the methodical and unbiased recognition, classification, and interpretation of patterns and themes within the data.

### **SUMMARY OF FINDINGS**

1. The literature reviewed suggests that globalization has contributed to the rise of terrorism in several ways. Firstly, globalization has created economic and social inequalities, which have led to grievances and frustrations among some groups, leading to the resort to terrorism as a means of expressing these grievances. Secondly, globalization has facilitated

the spread of ideas and ideologies, including extremist ideologies, through the internet and social media, which have also contributed to the rise of terrorism. Finally, globalization has facilitated the movement of people, goods, and services across borders, making it easier for terrorists to operate globally.

2. The literature reviewed suggests that the impacts of globalization on terrorism and global peace are mixed. On the one hand, globalization has increased the threat of terrorism by facilitating the movement of people, goods, and services across borders. On the other hand, globalization has also increased international cooperation and communication, which have helped to improve global security and reduce the threat of terrorism.
3. The literature reviewed suggests that the implications of globalization and terrorism for global peace and security are complex and multi-faceted. Firstly, terrorism poses a significant threat to global peace and security, as it can cause widespread harm and disruption. Secondly, the response to terrorism, including measures such as increased surveillance and military interventions, can also pose a threat to global peace and security, as they can lead to the erosion of civil liberties and the exacerbation of existing grievances.

## CONCLUSION

The findings of this study suggest that globalization has contributed to the rise of terrorism, and that its impacts on global peace and security are complex and multi-faceted. The impact of globalization and terrorism on global peace and security are huge, and require careful consideration. The outcomes of this study align closely with prior research and the existing body of literature concerning the relationship between globalization and terrorism. The impact of globalization on terrorism is complex and multifaceted. One study found that globalization may have a positive effect on terrorism in low-income countries, but a negative effect in middle- and high-income countries (Enders et al., 2011). This suggests that the relationship between globalization and terrorism may be different depending on the economic context.

Another study found that countries with high levels of economic globalization are more likely to experience transnational terrorism, while countries with high levels of political globalization are less likely to experience terrorism (Li & Schaub, 2018). This suggests that different dimensions of globalization may have different effects on terrorism. Furthermore, globalization has facilitated the spread of extremist ideologies and the recruitment of terrorists through online channels and social media (Berger & Morgan, 2015). This has made it easier for terrorist organizations to spread their message and attract new recruits across borders.

However, globalization has also led to increased international cooperation and coordination in the fight against terrorism (Ran & Fang, 2019). The global community has developed a range of tools and mechanisms to combat terrorism, including international treaties, intelligence sharing, and financial sanctions. Overall, the relationship between globalization and terrorism is complex and multifaceted, and requires a nuanced understanding. While globalization has facilitated the spread of terrorism, it has also enabled increased international cooperation in the fight against terrorism.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Drawing from the findings of this study, the following suggestions are given as possible recommendations to tackle the impact of globalization and international terrorism on global peace and security.

1. Developing a nuanced understanding of the relationship between globalization and terrorism, and recognizing the different ways in which globalization can facilitate or hinder the spread of terrorism.
2. Investing in international cooperation and coordination in the fight against terrorism, including the development of new tools and mechanisms for sharing information and resources.
3. Addressing the root causes of terrorism, such as poverty, inequality, and political instability, and therefore to develop an effective counter-terrorism strategies that take into account the complex and evolving nature of terrorism in the context of globalization.

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