

EDUCATION THE PANACEA TO TERRORISM: A SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE

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Abstract

Terror is a tyrant act against another person by a terrorist. A terrorist is a person who at a point in time chosen to promote a particular thought, basically an ideology pleased to him/her usually by force. Some forty three percent (43%) of lone wolf terrorism in UK is motivated by religious beliefs. Some forty percent (40%) of the terrorist were unemployed at the time of their arrest or terrorist event. Predominantly some of the global based claimed dominating religions devise terrorism as method of achieving domination and converts from other population outside the founders groups. In order to actualize peaceful coexistence amongst the diverse Nigeria's population the 1999 constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria clearly established procedures of preventing, controlling and managing terrorism. *Section 14(1) The Federal Republic of Nigeria shall be a state base on the principles of democracy and social justice. (2)(a) Sovereignty belongs to the people of Nigeria from whom government through this constitution derives all its powers and authority. (2)(b) The security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of government. Section 18(1) Government shall direct its policy towards ensuring that there are equal and adequate educational opportunities at all levels. (2) Government shall promote science and technology.* Sociology is the scientific study of human society. Religion is indeed the sigh of the oppressed creature, the heart of a heartless world. It is the opium of the people. The abolition of religion as the illusory happiness of the people is required for their real happiness. The demand to give up the illusion about its condition is the demand to give up a condition which needs illusions. As people become sociologically educated they will discover the irrelevance of mosque, churches and other temples. The focus of sociology is a commitment to develop scientific theories about events in societies. A scientific theory is a universal, empirical statement, which asserts a causal connection between two or more types of events. This paper recommends

that sociology of religion be taught at all levels. Terrorist already imprisoned or sentenced to Nigerian Correctional Service can be educated sociologically in critical perspective while at rehabilitative centers. Teaching of religion must be criminalized at all levels and practice of religions should be restricted to private life and no government should provide religious facilities.

INTRODUCTION

Paleontological study in the last 150 years provided new basis for the understanding of evolutionary patterns preparing the appearance of human beings on Earth. Human beings occurred late in the history of living beings. The precursors of the Vertebrates are recognized to be life forms inhabiting the earth in the Cambrian period, about 500 million years ago. The earliest Primates appeared about 65 million years ago. In the Tertiary period about 3-4 million years ago one of the branches of the Primates evolved into humans. Human fossils, molecular genetics and biochemical evidence demonstrate the existence of early life forms, developed before and prepared the present living beings (Tanzella-Nitti, Colagé and Strumia, 2002). According to the recent African origin of modern humans theory, modern humans evolved in Africa possibly from *Homo heidelbergensis*, *Homo rhodesiensis* or *Homo antecessor* and migrated out of the continent some 50,000 to 100,000 years ago, gradually replacing local populations of *Homo erectus*, Denisova hominins, *Homo floresiensis*, *Homo luzonensis* and *Homo neanderthalensis*. Archaic *Homo sapiens*, the forerunner of anatomically modern humans, evolved in the Middle Paleolithic between 400,000 and 250,000 years ago. The transition to behavioral modernity with the development of symbolic culture, language, and specialized lithic technology happened around 50,000 years ago (Facchini, 2002). The UN based estimated data shows that world's population is around 7.7 billion. China with a population exceeding 1.4 billion is the most populous country in the world. India is the second largest population that

has a population of over 1.355 billion people. The UN estimated that over 80 million new lives are added annually (World Population Review, 2019).

Terrorism is an act of individual or group that is capable of inflicting pain (physical, social, psychological, economic or political) against others who are targets or neighbors of targeted persons or groups in a society. Pains from terrorism, is a traumatic one resulting in damages and casualties that are not easily estimated. Unlimited lives are often lost and sometimes complete properties of peoples and communities are destroyed to zero level. The post effect of those destructions remained impacted on the surviving families of victim of terrorism forever. Terrorism affects the demographic profiles of a population in a nation. This paper is an attempt to diagnose the factors responsible for existence of terrorism, its perpetuation and ways out through an effort to answer the following questions. What is terrorism? Is education a factor in creating terrorism? Can education be used to prevent, control and manage terrorism? What are the ways out of terrorism in sociological perspective?

WHAT IS TERRORISM?

Terror is a tyrant act against another person by a terrorist. A terrorist is a person who at a point in time chosen to promote a particular thought, basically an ideology (economics, social, or political manners) pleased to him/her usually by force. The force applied by a terrorist to a target is unlimited (ranging from physical, psychological, economic, social and political threat). Such threats include killing and all other forms of injuries in forms of mutilation, incarceration, burning, poisoning of utilities and total destruction. Terror threats are directed to targets with clear mission of particular benefit by actors. The benefits may include selling

the intended ideology forcefully to actualize converts to form a group that can further terrorize around for more converts. It also results in clear economic benefit that terror threats conditions surrender of properties under due rest by owners to actors, and such properties are robbed and subsequently laundered. It must also have political benefits. These include creating an entity surrendered for subjugation. Terrorist may end up as very clear authorities in their created entities. Terror leads to very clear experimentation and the implementation of promoted ideology. Particularly under the created entity which can be expressed as geographical, socio-economic and political emergent entity.

Several political organizations are involved in terrorism to enhance their objectives, such as right-wing and left wing political organizations, nationalist groups, religious groups, revolutionaries and ruling governments. Terrorism related legislation has been adopted in various states, regarding "terrorism" as a crime. More than 61,000 incidents of non-state terrorism, resulting in at least 140,000 deaths, have been recorded from 2000 to 2014 (Besenyo, 2017).

Terrorism is therefore the act of perpetual application of terror act against individual(s) or communities with a mission of effecting a social change under due rest by terrorist(s).

WHY TERRORISM?

Some forty three percent (43%) of lone wolf terrorism in UK is motivated by religious beliefs. At least 37% lived alone at the time of their event planning and execution, 26.1% lived with others. Some forty percent (40%) were unemployed at the time of their arrest or terrorist event. Many were chronically unemployed and consistently struggled to hold any form of employment for a

significant amount of time. About 19.3% subjectively experienced being disrespected by others, while 14.3% experienced being the victim of verbal or physical assault (Besenyo, 2017).

Terrorism was applied to conquer and bring under a control of the new religion, subjugate the entity politically and almost colonize the nationalities. Application of force including that of military threats and subsequent intimidations are used by such religions. It is not clear why very few individuals could be critical of such dominations and after the domination it is also very unclear why many of the converts soon become much more terrorists than even the invading terrorists and terrorize their own population at worse.

IS TERRORISM NECESSARY IN ALL SOCIETIES?

Terrorism is not necessary in any society. Terrorism was founded on grounds of selfishness, insincerity, greed and clear motive of dominating others. It was purely under the very clear motive of political domination by exercising undue powers through intimidation. It was also motivated by conditioning successful economic exploitation by taking over all resources of victims to further condition endless trauma and anxiety to perpetually surrender properties for robberies. It also conditions actualization of undue popularity, recognition and explained accruing of prestige. Some of these terrorists ended up creating permanent cultures, religions and legalities that may prevail for very long period before it could be crushed. In the contemporary times the source of terrorism we know is the dominant religions such as Islam, Christianity, Hinduism, Buddhism etc fighting one another and ridiculing several others. People lived before those religions and certainly people can live freely without those religions. If the

religions that house and promote most of the terrorism in the world are not necessary for the existence and survival of the populations, then terrorism is not necessary in any society.

Sudan has been on the United States list of state sponsors of terrorism since August 1993. It has been under diplomatic sanctions by the United Nations since 1996. Sudan is in a strategic position to export its Islamic revolution because of its borders with both Egypt and Libya and with six African countries, including Ethiopia, which has a large and impoverished Muslim population. Terrorism was introduced to Sudan in the early 1990s when Osama Bin Ladin and his followers came to the country and built a training camp infrastructure as well as setting up a business and finance network. Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) has been accused of using terrorist methods in their fight for autonomy. In 2001, the SPLA attacked civilian oil targets, killing a significant number of civilians and aid workers, as well selling rockets to civilians. Sudan, being the third largest African country (after the secession of South Sudan in 2011) is a common place to hide a terrorist training center (https://www.state.gov/www/regions/africa/sudan_afghan.html).

CAN WE ACHIEVE TERRORIST FREE SOCIETIES?

So long as the bases for terrorism can be scrapped with mobilization then terrorism can be put to extinctions. All terrorist ideologies can be traced scientifically, discover for their irrelevance scientifically and design for their removal or scrapping scientifically. In order to actualize peaceful coexistence amongst the diverse Nigeria's population the 1999 constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria clearly established procedures of preventing, controlling and managing terrorism and terrorist activities.

Section 1(1) this constitution is supreme and its provisions shall have binding force on all authorities and its provisions shall have binding force on all authorities and persons throughout the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

(2) The Federal Republic of Nigeria shall not be governed, nor shall any person or group of persons take control of the government of Nigeria or any part thereof, except in accordance with the provisions of this constitution.

(3) If any other law is inconsistent with the provisions of this constitution, this constitution shall prevail, and that other law shall to the extent of the inconsistency be void.

If the fundamental rights of individuals and peoples are adhered to accordingly there shall be no prevalence for terrorism. The constitution is very clear on what constitute a social justice and equality.

Section 17(1) the state social order is founded on ideals of freedom, equality and justice.

(2) In furtherance of the social order-

(a) Every citizen shall have equality of rights, obligations and opportunities before the law.

There is need for adequate education about foundations and sources of terrorism. There is need for proper and scientific education about religions and ideologies. The scientific education about ideologies and religions will discover the social base that created them. The sociological understanding of this will provide backgrounds for clearer possibility for their eradication.

CAN EDUCATION BE USED TO PREVENT, CONTROL AND MANAGE TERRORISM?

Education can be used to prevent, control and manage terrorism. Education has two sides. You can educate people to become terrorists as in case of the trainings and vice versa. According to Shanbera (2018) about 82% of Libya's

population is literate, yet its population is terrorized. The number of Libyans attending university went from 33 students in 1956 to 279,150 in 2008, yet it went through revolution in 2011 that resulted in thousands death. However, education in Libya was somehow distorted of its processes as a result of corruption and apparent insincerity from the side of the authorities. There was serious financial waste in the sector and there was no academic freedom, and so scientific research was a compromise.

The impact of science education on human development can't be overemphasized. The constitution has further clarified as follows:

Section 18(1) Government shall direct its policy towards ensuring that there are equal and adequate educational opportunities at all levels. (2) Government shall promote science and technology. (3) Government shall strive to eradicate illiteracy, and to this end government shall as and when practicable provide (a) free, compulsory and universal primary education. (b) free university education (c) free adult literacy program.

The type of education dominating a society determines also its general level of development. Art education must be ranked lower in comparison to science and technical education. Thus, Comte (1986), describe arts and religion as forming the lowest stage in societal development, called theological stage. Society transformed from religious or theological stage to philosophical and subsequently to positivist or scientific stage. Large populations of the world are obsessed by arts education with the display of mythical conclusions like the existence of God and supernatural powers.

The contemporary formation of criminal justice system is a product of social science education. Criminology is science and it focuses on diagnosing the

criminal justice system and all processes associated are necessary for proper and adequate understanding of content of terrorism as an offense. Criminology as social science education understands terrorism scientifically, can also effectively design its prevention, control and management at the various levels of the criminal justice system.

WHAT IS SOCIOLOGY?

Sociology is the scientific study of human society. Society is a geographical entity with a population that maintains a social existence. In a social setting people are interacting constantly which can be described as social consensus and changes are bound to occur through such interaction which can be described as social dynamic. This interaction is a system of socialization which can also be described as system of general education. Sociology has the objectives of diagnosing the prevalence and transformation of societies by designing to systematically discover factors and forces leading to such changes. Terrorism is a major event or occurrence and a social action that must be focused in Sociology for designated studies. Why, how, where and when the terrorism happens or ends are necessary concerns of sociology. According to Ogunbameru (2010) knowledge is produced through roles played by combination of institutional powers, such as political, religious, familial, industrial, print and electronic communications. Those factors play significantly different roles leading to differences in the social value attributes to, hence differences in expenditure invested into the development of different forms of knowledge. Sociology as the objective entails, if properly applied will be seriously contributing to the understanding of foundation, effects and challenges of terrorism, and therefore

can address its issues in the dimension of preventing, control and managing. The continuum is from SCIENCE=KNOWLEDGE (+ +) to ART BASED BODY OF LITERATURE OR STATEMENTS (- -). Religion is under ART LITERATURE (- -) and therefore very doubtful. Any decision taken particularly with a forceful threat for just to be obeyed because it is claimed to be from undisputable source referred to as GOD, is terrorism. The concept GOD is statement that cannot be substantiated scientifically. Clearly any coercive indoctrination of religious principles is oppressive and violation of human rights.

HOW DOES SOCIOLOGY ASSIST IN PREVENTING, CONTROLLING AND MANAGING TERRORISM?

Accordingly, Karl Marx further confirmed to the non -existence of God and falsified all claims of religion and its founders, thus;

Religion distress is at the same time the real distress. Religion is the sigh of the oppressed creature, the heart of a heartless world, just as it is the spirit of a spiritless situation. It is the opium of the people. The abolition of religion as the illusory happiness of the people is required for their real happiness. The demand to give up the illusion about its condition is the demand to give up a condition which needs illusions (Marx, 2017;205).

And since those who engage in terrorism can't prove the existence of god, they are simply acting on ignorance and emotions that can adequately be regulated under science based laws. The more sociological education is the more the chances for abolishing of religion and its practices the more the chances for ending terrorism. For instance about 10 countries in the world are actively hostile to religion in general. These are Azerbaijan, China, Cuba, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan,

North Korea, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Vietnam, places where government officials seek to control worship practices, public expressions of religion and political activity by religious groups. Several of the countries are former Soviet republics which were founded through Marxism and Leninism that propagated socialism and communism enhanced by sociological thoughts. Before the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991, religion was tightly restricted by the state and sometimes harshly repressed (Rémond,1999).

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. There must be sociology of religion to be taught at all levels (both at undergraduate and postgraduate levels).
2. Terrorist already imprisoned or sentenced to Nigerian Correctional Service can be educated sociologically in critical perspective while at rehabilitative centers.
3. Practice of religions should be restricted to private life and no government should provide religious facilities.
4. Constitutional responsibility of government must be observed at all levels. Historically penetrated impunity against the violation of the constitution by contradictory actions of government officials should be totally eradicated.
5. The supremacy of the constitution should be clearly enforced by categorical humiliation of religious norms and rules that propagate religious supremacy. Section1(1) "this constitution is supreme and its provisions shall have binding force on all authorities and persons throughout the federal republic of Nigeria"

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