

The influence of terrorism on economic processes. Part.2. - Robert Cegiela

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The causes of terrorism



The causes of terrorism can be found in numerous diverse conditions, among which the following political, religious, ideological, national and cultural issues should be taken into consideration together with the socio-economic factor. It is the socio-economic factors which have a major influence on the occurrence and birth of such tendencies as: radicalism, nationalism and fundamentalism what in turn lays perfect ground for the growth of terrorism. In numerous cases these tendencies are connected with backwardness and poverty, which influence the level of social frustration and feeling of injustice, what in turn stimulates growth of aggression and more then not terror. A proof for this can be a list of countries (more than not the poorest ones) in which terroristic attacks happen most often. This is confirmed by a report by the National Counterterrorism Center which was published in April 2008. The report shows the top of the countries with the highest number of fatal casualties who are victims of terrorist attacks. (*Wojciechowski, 2/2009; 28.*)

The following countries were mentioned on the list: Iraq (13606), Afghanistan (1966), Pakistan (1335), Somalia (767), Sudan (403) and Chad (178). It is obvious that terrorism concerns not only poor countries. Nevertheless, terrorists usually are people who originate from poor countries or environments which in turn sympathize with them. Terrorists usually justify their actions saying for example that this is to protect their natural resources or interests. More than not terrorism is an act of revenge for harms done or it is a way to attract attention to the injustice which happened to them. Thus, poverty stimulates terrorism effectively. This is particularly visible in such countries as Palestine, Iraq, Kashmir or Afghanistan and what is more in both contexts- the context of frequent terroristic attacks as well as the context of motives which evoke a wide range of social approval for them (*Ibidem; 28-30.*)

Chart 6 illustrates GDP in a selection of poor countries (in million PLN).

Country	2000	2005	2007	2008
Afghanistan	..	14,5	16,2	..
Iraq	-4,3
Pakistan	4,3	7,7	6,0	6,0
Chad	-0,9	7,9	0,2	-0,4
Sudan	8,4	6,3	10,2	8,3

Reference: Study on the basis of Internet 1

In some cases there is no data on this issue, nevertheless if we look carefully at the GDP of those countries which are endangered with terrorism and poverty, we see that Sudan, Iraq and Chad are on the top.

Chart 7 shows official development help in a selection of poor countries (in million PLN) in chosen years.

Country	2000	2005	2007
Afghanistan	136	2750	3951
Iraq	100	22048	9115
Pakistan	700	1625	2212
Chad	130	384	352
Sudan	220	1829	2104

Reference: Study on the basis of Internet 1

According to the data provided by the World Bank as much as 17% of Pakistan's population lived on the verge of poverty, for less than 1 dollar per day in 2002 (*Internet 2*). Next, in recent time that is in 2008 with regard to the world finance crisis Pakistan was supported by

IMF with 7.5 billion USD in order to stop the dramatic growth of inflation and at the same time, to reduce the effects of reforms on the poorest people. (*J. Jędrzejewski, 2009; 7.*).

The influence of terrorism on people's life.



The scope of poverty or economic-social disproportions which occur in contemporary world has been investigated from numerous points of view. From the most commonly used dichotomies the one which divides the world in two parts i.e. the rich north and poor south is most popular. Such a division has an economic-geographical character. It shows, among others, what part of population inhabits a particular region. According to this division almost 25% of the world's population inhabit northern territories, whereas, the remaining 75% inhabit the poor Southern regions. If we add selected economic rates to the above mentioned data this dichotomy becomes utmost clear. It can be most seen in the region's share of the world production and consumption, where the differences are even greater and amount to 15% for South and 85% for North. If we look at this division from the perspective of time, we can easily notice that the growth of North's share in world consumption is often achieved at the expense of the South. Another way to show disproportion around the world is to picture the division of international society from the perspective of its share in the world trade, investments or GDP. By doing so three groups of countries were distinguished:

- Developed countries which comprise the richest ones and as a direct result the ones which play the biggest role on the international arena. Approximately 1/5 of the world's countries belong to this group.
- Middle group countries, which comprise developing countries. They have low or no share in world economy. Approximately 3/5 of the world's countries belong to this group.
- Outsiders are the poorest countries which have little economic meaning on the international arena. Just like in the case of the richest countries, approximately 1/5 of the world's countries belong to this group.

Another, more detailed, division of the world's countries was created for the World Bank. This division also consists of three categories:

- Central countries, which Gross Domestic Product is above 15 000\$.
- Semi-peripheral countries, which Gross Domestic Product was between 7 500\$ and 15 000\$.
- Peripheral countries which have Gross Domestic Product below 7 500\$.

In the last of the mentioned countries 1/4 of the population lives on less than 1\$ per day, whereas, in the richest ones (central countries) only 0.03% of their population shares such fate. Much greater disproportions will be noted if we compare the ten richest countries with the ten poorest ones (the value of GDP was the coefficient). Among the richest countries the average Gross Domestic Product per capita was over 25 000\$, whereas, in the second group it was less than 700\$. Major differences were also noted when it comes to an individual's access to food. In the poorest countries every six seconds someone dies of famine. Similar disproportions were noted among such factors as access to health care or development of scientific research. When looking at those data we should bear in mind the before mentioned arguments, that poverty often leads to violence and in extreme cases to terror, which can happen among individuals as well as organizations or even ruling "politicians"(Wojciechowski, 2/2009; 28-30). Chart 8 illustrates central and "peripheral" would countries and economical inequalities.

Chart 8. Central and "peripheral" would countries and economical inequalities.

Description	Number of countries	Population		Gross Domestic Product per capita (in \$)	Population living for less than 1\$ (in %)
		mln	%		
The world in general	132	5 975	100	6 490	24,0
Central countries ●	23	841	14,7	22 121	0,03
Semi-peripheral countries ●●	13	340	5,7	9 962	9,84
Peripheral countries ●●●	96	4 794	80,2	2 815	25,62
The 10 richest countries ●●●●	10	484	8,1	25 474	0,02
The 10 poorest countries ●●●●●	10	305	5,1	659	50,47

Reference: S. Wojciechowski, 2/2009; 29.

- Countries with Gross Domestic Product per capita over 15 000 USD per year.
- Countries with Gross Domestic Product per capita between 7 500 USD and 15 000 USD per year.
- Countries with Gross Domestic Product per capita below 7 500 USD per year.
- Countries: the USA, Switzerland, Singapore, Norway, Denmark, Belgium, Japan, Australia, Canada, the Netherlands.
- Countries: Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Zambia, Yemen, Mali, Niger, Madagascar, Mozambique, Nigeria.

In poor countries it happens quite often that there is no strong government or no well working police apparatus. In such cases the government officials are almost always corrupt and the richest citizens gather power for themselves. Such a situation leads to chaos. At the same time the situation is perfect for illegal procedures such as slavery, trade in weapons or drug production. For those who benefit from such a situation it is unprofitable for the situation in the country to change. This is why they block help offered by other countries, often using terroristic methods for this purpose.

Additionally, taking control over the situation is made difficult by the fact that groups are formed for which fights and terroristic attacks are a form of their struggle. We see such situation for example in Afghanistan, where almost all political parties don't see anything wrong in growing poppy and they benefit from it at the same time. According to the research conducted by NATO 90% of the world's demand for heroin in 2005 was met by drugs coming from Afghanistan. According to those data during 2005 the production of opium (the material used to produce heroin) in this country exceeded 4000 tons. It is estimated that the production in question brought an income of 3 billion USD. 60% of this country's economy constitutes drug business. The situation in which the citizens of Afghanistan fought together with American soldiers against orthodox Taliban in order to hold democracy and the country's development should be called paradoxical. Their objection is aimed at the attempt to introduce a nation-wide ban on growing and processing poppy. In such a country as Afghanistan opium gives power and wealth. Corruption goes hand in hand with the drug business and corruption in this country is tremendous. Both judges and policemen are corrupt. For example in the region where poppy is grown, policemen decided to introduce a ten per cent tax on the value of crops and production. Even the ministers and President Hamid Karzai are suspected of supervision over and taking part in drug trade. No wonder that we get

information from Afghanistan about terroristic attacks, because in such a corrupted country terrorism has become a tool to gain power and influences and what follows to get money. (K. A. Kasperska, E. Lichocki. 2/2009; 31-32.).

Terrorism caused by poverty and lack of the country's structure can be seen in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Yasser Arafat was the person who wanted to show the situation of Palestinian people and who drew the world's attention to this issue with the use of terroristic attacks. This figure did not take part in the initial phase of the Palestinian Israeli conflict of 1948. Arafat did not become involved in the case of Palestinian people until the mid-50s when he joined the Muslim Brotherhood. At the same time he was appointed chairman of the Palestinian Student Association on the University of Cairo. At the end of the 50s Arafat moved to Kuwait where he was the co-founder of the Al-Fatah organization (Fatah means Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and the word itself means victory by means of Jihad). The brutality of this organization enabled them to take over power or to swallow other Palestinian organizations. Initially the aim of this organization was to destroy Israel. At the end of the 60s Arafat together with his "warriors" settled on the territory of Jordan, from where he carried out attacks on Israel (including Israeli civilians). In 1970 the number of Fatah casualties exceeded one thousand. The warriors of this organization succeeded in high jacking several planes, what was meant to be a lesson for Americans supporting Israel. Such a situation led to an offensive against the Jordan Fatah. All peace treaties signed by Palestinians at that time were violated by them very quickly. The battles took place until the end of 1971, when the remaining Palestinians were moved from Jordan after the majority had moved to Lebanon, where several years later they took part in a bloody civil war, which turned this well prospering country into charred remains and ruins. Despite those events, the entire world accepted Arafat's policy, a proof of which is the acceptance of Palestine Liberation Organization by the Arab League and till the end of the 1980s by all countries around the world. At the same time Yasser Arafat (not admitting it) still conducted his terroristic activity, which forced Israel to invade Lebanon. As a result he was acknowledged as a great politician. His activity was financed among others by Iraq. Finally in 1993 Israel and PLO sat down to peace talks which resulted in signing a peace treaty in Oslo. In this treaty Arafat promised not to use terrorism and to educate his fellow men which would lead to a peaceful co-existence of those hostile nations. Gaining world recognition, Yasser Arafat became a Nobel Peace Prize winner in 1994. Three years later Yasser Arafat was elected president of the Palestinian National Authority. Pursuant to the Oslo treaty he could hold this function until 1999. Nevertheless the government of the Palestinian National Authority still took part in preparations and financing of terroristic attacks which were aimed against Israel. The Americans, when seeing the Palestinians' sluggishness in fulfilling the obligations signed by Arafat, decided to organize a summit which took place in Camp David, where Arafat received an offer to create a Palestinian country in the Gaza Strip and in 92% on the territory of the West Bank with a capital city in the Eastern part of Jerusalem. Despite the fact that the Palestinians had never got such a kind "offer" before they still rejected it. Dennis Ross, the special Middle East coordinator under President Bill Clinton, said at that time: "Arafat could not accept Camp David because with the end of the conflict the situation which defines Arafat as such would also end". Within a very short period of time after those events, never seen

before terroristic attacks on civilians began in which over 120 Muslim suicide bombers took part. Their aim was to kill as many Israeli people as possible, regardless if they are military or civilian targets. The terrorists were encouraged by their faith, promising that for such a deed (killing infidels) one goes to paradise, full of virgins and wine. Yasser Arafat, blocked in his headquarters in Ramallah, still supported terrorism signing checks for numerous diverse terroristic groups and for the families of suicide-bombers. In his speeches he encouraged to fight with Israel. After his death (11.11.2004) Yasser Arafat became an example to follow for many Muslims. (*Ibiden.* 32.). The Americans are afraid of similar behavior when it comes to the killing of Osama bin Laden, who could become a martyr after his death. (*K. Lidel.* 2006; 23.).

Abu Nidal is a terrorist connected with the Palestinian issue. He was a leader of the Abu Nidal Organization (ANO), also known as the Fatah Revolutionary Council. He began his revolutionary activity in the 70s at Yasser Arafat's side. After the Olympic massacre in Munich Abu Nidal decided to act on his own. It was then when he became a leader of the Fatah Revolutionary Council. This organization works in all Western European countries organizing terroristic attacks which killed several hundred people. The attack of 3rd June 1983 on the ambassador of Israel in London Shlomo Argov brought him bad reputation. Since then Abu Nidal became one of the most wanted terrorists in the world. He also had a Polish episode in his life. Just like many other terrorists Abu Nidal sought refuge in communist countries. Thus from 1980 to 1984 he lived in Warsaw at 3/24 Bagno Street. His company, SAS Foreign Trade and Investment Company, which dealt with weapon trade, had its seat also in Warsaw in the Intraco skyscraper at Stawki Street. It was closed only in 1987 what was done on the request of the United States of America. (*Internet http://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abu_Nidal#cite_note-0*.).

The next terrorist who i would like to mention is also an Islam follower. He is one of the most wanted persons in the world. Both his name and surname as well as the name of the group which he founded and leads arouses a feeling of fear and helplessness among people. I'm talking of course about Osama bin Laden. (*Editor's note – the article was written in February 2011 r, before the information about Osama bin Laden's death was made public*). In 1970, when he was 22, Osama bin Laden gathered money and supplies for Afghan warriors, who fought with Soviet soldiers. The organized help originated in a large extent from such countries like: The USA, Pakistan or Saudi Arabia, Bin Laden established a guest house in Pakistan, where warriors fighting with the invader- the Russian Army- could find shelter. Of those volunteer warriors bin Laden established his own organization Mastab al.-Khidamat. He took financial resources for his purposes from the family fortune which he inherited after his father. At the end of war Osama established warrior camps by himself. This is how Al-Qaeda came into existence. Osama bin Laden accepted the jihad (the holy war) as the basis for his ideology. He took the United States of America and Saudi Arabia as his main enemies calling those countries invaders of the Islam world. Being the head of Al-Qaeda, Osama bin Laden

established close cooperation with numerous Islam groups and organizations. Those organizations are said to be responsible for the following attacks(K. Lidel. 2006; 22-23):

- 1993- the explosion of a car bomb in the World Trade Center underground garage;
- 1996- killing of 19 American soldiers in Saudi Arabia;
- 1998- a bomb attack on the embassies of the United States in Nairobi (Kenya) and Dar es Salam (Tanzania);
- 2001- attack on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon with hijacked passenger planes.

The main aims of Osama bin Laden and for Al-Qaeda are the following:

- Freeing Jerusalem and the Arabian Peninsula from all Jews;
- Religious war aimed against the United States of America and against their business in the Islam world (1998);
- Overthrowing "non-Islam" reigns in the Muslim world;
- Driving American forces out of the territory of the Persian Gulf and from Saudi Arabia;
- Restoring caliphate;

The next politician who used terror in his battles was Saddam Hussein. When, after the attack of September 2001, the United States of America did not manage to capture the leaders of Al-Qaeda, they focused on their closest allies. Among them was Iraq, where Saddam Hussein exercised dictatorial reigns. The argument, thanks to which the United States of America could attack Iraq, was introducing democracy and disarming the country from chemical and nuclear weapon (which wasn't found) and the will to break up Al-Qaeda which was in close relationship with Saddam Hussein's regime. In order to carry out such armed operation in Iraq the American needed allies which would support them militarily. The president of The United States of America G. W. Bush felt confident when the British offered their help as the first country (Korzeniowski. 2004; 9 – 10).

Terrorism changed with the passing of time as well as its influence on numerous areas of human life. In reality terroristic groups were perceived as organizations with a low risk level, which actions were predictable. The weapons which they used were firearms and bombs.

With time terrorists started to use vehicles which were loaded with explosives. 11th September 2001 was a turning point in the classification of terrorism. It was the first major terroristic attack in which passenger planes were used as weapons to destroy the World Trade Center buildings and the Pentagon. Terrorists use the development of weapons and technology. They also introduce changes in the way they carry out attacks what can be seen on the example of their targets and their diversity. In the past ten years the biggest changes were introduced in the field of suicide terrorism attacks and maritime terrorism. In present days the main aim of terrorists is to cause a stir in the media and thus focus the public opinion on them. This is why a machine gun is no longer a sufficient weapon for terrorists. They want to make the biggest impression on the biggest "audience". Since the attacks carried out by the Aum Shinrikyo sect, when the terrorists used sarin (GB), people have to be prepared on the possibility of attacks in which unconventional methods will be used. It cannot be excluded that terrorists will use chemical, biological or even nuclear weapons. Despite the fact that the Internet has been around for a short period of time it is already used by terrorist formations. We hear the word cyber terrorism more and more often. Bill Clinton, the former American president, said as soon as 1998 (shortly before the attacks on WTC and the Pentagon) that terrorism in the 90s changed a considerably. He said that contemporary terrorists take advantage of the quick development of information technology and weaponry. The development of technology and the easy access to them along with the growing mobility of terrorists create new, disturbing perspectives. Clinton noted, that the development of terrorism places each of us in the position of a potential victim (*W. Dietl, K. Hirschmann, R. Tophoven. 2009; 219-220*).

When discussing the issue of terrorism we should mention such formations as the Irish Republican Army (IRA) or the Basque Euskadi Ta Askatasun (ETA). Warriors of those formations decided to take as their aim the national-liberation war, and the path to reach this aim is terrorism. The destructive attacks of those formations caused considerable damages. Such attacks as suicide bombings, political assassinations or raking houses with machine guns were everyday reality in Northern Ireland. The IRA also carried out destructive bomb attacks in centers of British towns and cities. They often informed about such attacks by phone, thanks to which there were relatively little civilian casualties. The activities of this formation led to the division of Irish towns with walls and barbed wires. Only in 1997 did the IRA announce a ceasefire which lasts until today. And they laid down their arms after the attacks of Al-Qaeda of September 2001. They made this decision as a result of a lack of support from the Irish minority in America. Currently the IRA is not involved in any activity and occasional attacks are carried out by their fraction which are the Real IRA (RIRA) and Continuity IRA (CIRA). On the 28th of July 2005 the Irish Republican Army officially announced the end of armed fights. Two months later their members laid down their weapons (approximately 150 ton). As a response to this the British announced a normalization plan for Northern Ireland and reduced the number of soldiers stationing there to five thousand.

The terrorist from the Basque ETA show a very similar type of behavior. This formation is considered as a national independence organization which fights with the Spanish government to liberate the Basque Country. For the ETA warriors assassinating a Spanish politician is necessary evil which brings them closer to independence. The strategy which the followers of this Basque formation adopted is based on carrying out well prepared bombing attacks and assassinations of political enemies. In the 1980s two third of ETA victims were police officers. The remaining victims were politicians, soldiers and civilians. ETA cooperated among others with the IRA and the Arab Hamas. ETA financed its activity from kidnappings and robberies which ETA members called "revolutionary tax". ETA carried out its most bloody attack in 1987 when it placed a bomb in a shopping mall in Barcelona. In the attack 22 people were killed. The same day 11 people died, including 5 children, in a bomb explosion in Zaragoza. ETA is also responsible for the explosions of five bombs during an European Union summit in Seville in June 2002. Nevertheless, those five attacks did not bring the desired results. There were no casualties. Unfortunately the attack of 30 December 2006 which took place on a Madrid airport resulted in the death of two people and injured over twenty. The terrorist attack of 30 October 2008 was very renowned. At that time on the territory of a student campus in Pamplona a booby trap car exploded injuring seventeen people.

In the recent years terroristic attacks which were carried out on school grounds became more common. One of the recent ones was the explosion of a bomb on the school courtyard in the Iraq city of Sadra. The attack took place in December 2009 and as a result five boys at the age from 13 to 15 were killed and 34 other people were injured.

The occupation of a school in Bielsan resulted in a much greater number of casualties. On the 1st of September 2004 a group of over thirty Chechen fanatics took over 1000 hostages among which the number of children exceeded 900. The terrorists demanded the Russian soldiers to leave the territory of Chechen and to free 27 people from prisons. People who put up resist were murdered and the remaining parents, children and teachers were gathered in the gymnastic hall where they spent over forty-eight hours without water or food. The Russians decided to take the hall by force. At the same time the terrorists decided to detonate the explosives, there is a shooting. As a result of these actions over 400 people were killed, half of them were innocent children. This massacre is an example of what can terrorists do. For them the life of innocent civilians including children has no value. In order to get the attention of media or to give demands which are impossible to satisfy, terrorists sacrifice the life of hundreds of people, including their own.

Nevertheless, 11th September 2001 was the biggest shock for the entire world, when terrorists showed a new face of war. On this day the attacks on World Trade Center and the Pentagon were carried out. It was done only by nineteen suicide terrorists, which caused incredible damages taking the lives of 2973 people. The terrorists bought tickets of internal American airlines, buying at the same time a considerable part of seats in those airplanes, what made it easier for them to take over those aircrafts. After a relatively easy task of taking the planes over, they took over control of their rudders and started flying them towards the aims in the USA. Two of the hijacked planes hit the twin towers of the World Trade Center which were the "trade mark" of New York. The third hijacked plane hit the Pentagon destroying part of the building. The last of the hijacked planes was probably supposed to hit the White House. The passengers prevented them from doing so. After they got to know about the faith of the remaining machines they attacked the terrorists leading the machine to crash in the middle of nowhere. It was made possible thanks to phone calls which the kidnapped passengers made and thanks to the data from the black boxes. Apart from the passengers of those planes many other people who were in the attacked buildings were killed. The civil services, such as the fire department and the police also suffered many casualties (during the rescue actions over 300 officers were killed). This terroristic attack resulted in the biggest number of casualties in history. Never before had anyone thought about such great destruction caused only by a handful of people. The memory of the material losses caused by those attacks is still alive among New Yorkers because of the thousands of victims and their families. (*R. Kuźniar, Z. Lachowski. 200; 273*).

Schools, airports or other buildings which are easily accessible for the public are more and more often targets of terrorist attacks. They are a relatively easy target because of the fact that it is easy to access them. Unfortunately, terrorist when attacking such buildings also attacks civilians. Children, women, commoners which don't have anything in common with politics die of their hands. By taking their life terrorists become responsible for unaccountable crimes. Terrorists make the civilians feel unsafe with their attacks. Both uniformed services and commoners when facing such attacks become timid, they are less open on other people. They often when seeing "lost" people start thinking about their own security. Especially after 11th September 2001 people around the world learned their helplessness when it comes to terrorist attacks. They started to see the incredible thread of terrorism. They know that terrorist will not draw back because of anything before they reach their goal. To draw the public attention they are capable of sacrificing hundreds, even thousands of human beings. In the last decades terrorists more and more often decide to commerce attacks on public institutions and public buildings.

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