

NALSAR Directorate of Distance Education
M.A. (Security Studies and Defence Laws)
Semester 3

Introduction to Terrorism and Counter-terrorism

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Terrorism : Meaning and Objectives

- Terrorism is use of violence by a group or non-state actors to challenge the State power and legitimacy.
- Terrorism is often the last method chosen when peaceful and political means fail to get justice.
- Methods used by terrorists include attacking innocent civilians/terrorizing them to bring pressure on the State to change its policies or take their grievances seriously. Attacking/assassinating prominent political personalities, individuals, military personnel to create panic and fear in the state apparatus and general society.
- Attack on state properties, agencies, public transport system or legislative bodies . Attack on Indian parliament in 2001 is one such terror strategy.

Causes of Terrorism

- Claim a territory under the State control through violent means. Example, PLO attacks on Israel to regain Palestine territories.
- Resistance to US/European domination of global politics, resources, regions and countries. This is the *Al Queda* political ideology.
- Religious extremism or fundamentalism. Establishing a pan-Islamic state (Caliphate) by replacing violently secular or moderate ruling regimes. This is Taliban's goal in Afghanistan.
- Violent struggle against a ruling State for secessionism. Example, *Eelam* movement by LTTE.

Sources of Support for Terrorism

- Funding by like minded groups and sympathizing States. Arab group/state finding to Islamic fundamentalists.
- Arms supplies by smugglers, drug traffickers, insurgent and other criminal groups.
- Moral, political and material assistance by internal groups/sympathisers/ supporters.
- Money laundering, covert banking transactions, fake currencies for terrorist activities.

Counter-terrorism Strategies

- Direct State actions and strategies like training special anti-terrorist armed squads/agencies. Establishing counter terrorism training institutions.
- Plugging the funding, arms and other sources of support to terror groups.
- Special intelligence gathering, coordinating mechanisms to monitor and curb terror strategies and movements.
- Agreements with foreign countries on combating together terrorist threats to security.
- Joint counter-terrorist training, combat exercises.

Thank you