



United States of America's Global Counter-Terrorism Since September 11th 2001: An Appraisal

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Abstract

Generally, human history is implicated in crisis, and instances of unresolved ones dot the landscape of human history. There are some crises that threaten global peace, and often lead to social disequilibrium. One of such is terrorism. Terrorism continues to plague the global peace. Terrorism is not a natural phenomenon. It is man-made. Unjust social structures create the environment for terrorism to thrive. 9/11 attacks on the U.S. had grave lethal implications. In the wake of the attack, the U.S. has continued to pursue global counterterrorism. Descriptive survey was used to explore historical data on the 9/11 attacks. Data analysis used was content analysis using the tool of textual argumentation. Methodological framework under which the study was done is class theory of terrorism. The results of the findings reveal that the U.S. counterterrorism is inflexible. It requires the rejigging of its approaches in order for it to come to terms with contemporary realities. The conclusion arrived at is that once the war on global poverty is won then terrorism will die a natural death, since global terrorism is fostered by ideological warfare between democracy and Islam. It was recommended that the United Nations must rise to the challenge of forging world peace

1. Introduction

The human race has been on the march of civilization. This journey has not been a seamless one; it has many junctures, which are often times critical. Each epoch fosters unique features. In the midst of this complex and interwoven enterprise are the human beings that are at the center of all historical interactions. In the world today, we have a human population of about 7.5 billion (www.theworldcounts.com) distributed across the 195 countries. There are 195 countries in the world today. This total comprises 193 countries that are member states of the United Nations and 2 countries that are non-member observer states: The Holy See and the State of Palestine (www.worldometers.info). The relationship amongst the world's peoples occurs across diverse lines: political, economic, cultural, religious, intra-national, transnational, and regional and international.

Due to diverse environmental, psychological and many other intervening factors, human beings behave differently. In human relations, there are moments when crises occur. When they are properly management, harmony is restored. But in most cases, the crises take many dimensions. Generally, human history is implicated in crisis, and instances of unresolved ones dot the landscape of human history. There are some crises that threaten global peace, and often lead to social disequilibrium. One of such is terrorism. Terrorism continues to plague the global peace. Countering terrorism requires strategic action. We shall discuss terrorism in the light of 9/11 attacks on the United States coordinated through the al-Qaeda terror network and the actions of the United States in counter-terrorism under the title: United States of America's global counter-terrorism since September 11th 2001: An appraisal.

Background of The Study

Under the regime of terrorism, peace is rattled in a disturbing proportion. It leaves in its wake casualties in which human beings are the most vulnerable with collateral damage to human civilization. In Biblical history, the first recorded act of terrorism was the fratricide hatched and executed by Cain against his blood brother Abel (Genesis 4: 1-18). In that instant case, the death toll was one. No human society has ever lived without crisis. It was in reaction to the personality crisis instigated against God by Lucifer that led to the purging of the erring angels from heaven, and they were dragged down to the earth.

Terrorism was a strategy of choice against imperialism and the local compradors. Left-wing terrorism has ideological undercurrent. The right-wing ideology fosters unequal relations, while left-wing ideology favours egalitarianism.

Campaigns of political assassinations, bombings and hijacking are employed in this case to foster the left-wing ideological interest. The opposing ideologies trigger conflict that is class sensitive. Islamic terrorism pursues the agenda of imposing Jihad on all infidels who subscribe to other religions apart from Islam. Islamic terrorism traces its history to the Iranian revolution of 1979, and it is still ongoing. The Islamic terrorism has ambitions pan-Islamic dreams of uniting fundamentalist Muslim states, freed from western

cultural contamination, under Caliphate hegemony and Shar'ia law (Shughart, 2006). Despite the enunciated categories of terrorism, the reasons for the emergence of terrorism remain fluid.

The lethality of global terrorism has led to the evolution of strategies against terrorism. In the wake of 9/11 attacks on the United States of America, US has led a global campaign against terrorism. The enormity and sheer scale of the simultaneous suicide attacks on September 11 eclipsed anything previously seen in terrorism. Among the most significant characteristics of the operation were its ambitious scope and dimensions; impressive coordination and synchronization; and the unswerving dedication and determination of the 19 aircraft hijackers who willingly and wantonly killed themselves, the passengers, and crews of the four aircraft they commandeered and the approximately 3, 000 persons working at or visiting both the World Trade Center and the Pentagon (Hoffman, 2011).

In lethality terms alone, the September 11 attacks are without precedent. For example, since 1968, the year credited with marking the advent of modern, international terrorism, one feature of international terrorism has remained constant despite variations in the number of attacks from year to year without exception. At no time was the death toll as many as that of September 11 (Hoffman, 2011).

Owen (2012) tells the story of the mission to Abbatobad that led to the killing of Osama bin Laden under the title: "No easy day: The Navy Seal mission that killed Osama bin Laden. The period after September 11 set in motion US counter-terrorism blueprint. The focal point of the America's global counter-terrorism shall form the subject of our appraisal.

Statement of The Problem

Terrorism breeds unrest. Terror acts are occurring frequently in different dimensions. The resultant effects of all terror attacks are lethal. Terrorists are using sophisticated techniques to execute attacks. During the September 11 attacks in the United States of America over 3, 000 casualties were recorded. When more of these attacks occur with more casualty figure, human population will be threatened.

The importance of human beings in driving further the march of civilization cannot be overemphasized. Terrorism remains the albatross of development since peace is the only precondition for sustainable development. In the graphic illustration of the state of nature, the natural condition of mankind, Thomas Hobbes is of the view that such situation makes the existence of government, civilization and law if not impossible, but difficult. Under such condition, there is no common power to restrain human nature, and the life of man will be solitary, nasty, brutish and short.

However, terrorism is not a natural phenomenon. There are conditions that make it possible and exacerbate it. What are those conditions? What actions are taken to end those conditions that foster terrorism? Would the American counter-terrorism agenda be potent enough to end global terrorism? All these are the questions that would stimulate the discussion of "United States of America's global counter-terrorism since September 11th 2001."

Clarification of Concepts

Definition of concepts offers contextual understanding of a subject matter. Authors hold different opinions concerning certain state of affairs. This essay will adopt a common understanding of the basic concepts that underlie the subject matter.

September 11th 2001, also known by the abridged nomenclature 9/11 was the day that al-Qaeda terrorist network led by Osama bin Laden hijacked four passenger aircrafts to execute suicide mission on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

Terrorism is defined as the perpetration of ideologically inspired acts of violence against people or of acts intended to cause property damage and calculated to result in social disruption, in order to undermine and destabilize society, create a climate of fear among the general public or influence political decision-making (Netherlands, 2016). Terrorism is fostered through extremism. Extremism is defined as a phenomenon whereby individuals or groups who are motivated by a certain ideology engage in serious criminal behavior or take actions that undermine the democratic legal order (Netherlands, 2016).

2.2 Literature Review

Graff (2013) applied content analysis as a method in critiquing United States of America's counterterrorism in the wake of Snowden's leaks saga in which the strategies of counterterrorism as pursued by the National Security Agency was seen to be

ineffectual. The conclusion reached in the paper was that even though the threat of global terrorism is ebbing, but US counterterrorism policies are not. It recommended that a shift of emphasis must be made to ensure that peripheral terrorism within the American homeland must be fought instead of focusing energy in amassing information on global terrorism threats that are not effectively processed.

Shughart (2006) wrote under the title, "An analytical history of terrorism." In the paper, history of modern terrorism was traced to have begun from the end of the Second World War to the beginning of the twenty-first century. It divides that history into three stylized waves: terrorism in the service of national liberation and ethnic separatism, left-wing terrorism, and Islamic terrorism. Adopting a constitutional political economy perspective, the paper argues that terrorism is rooted in the artificial nation-states created during the interwar period and suggests solutions grounded in liberal federalist constitutions and, perhaps, new political maps for the Middle East, Central Asia and other contemporary terrorist homelands.

Newell (2016) writing under the title of the origins of American counterterrorism argues that terror attacks have been a recurring event in the history of America. The paper applied historical and descriptive survey method in conversing with the historical timelines of terrorism within America's homeland. Its findings reveal that racial inequities that classify the citizens differently provide fertile ground for terrorism. It concludes that if all the conditions that promote terrorism are not exterminated that the United States of America will live with the vicious effects of terrorism all through history. It recommended the application of social justice in race relations in the United States.

Literatures dwelling on terrorism are many, but none explored "United States of America's global counter-terrorism since September 11th 2001." This gap in literature is what this essay endeavors to fill. The conclusions and recommendations of this paper shall enrich the bulk of existing knowledge as it concerns counterterrorism in the United States of America.

Methodology

Descriptive approach is to be used in discussing the relevant issues on the subject matter. Information shall be obtained majorly through secondary data by sourcing information online. The information to be obtained shall be appraised by means of content analysis using the tool of textual argumentation. The analysis will be guided by the objectives of the study which is to find the conditions that make terrorism possible in order to recommend the most effective counterterrorism strategy.

Theoretical Framework

It is a tradition in the social sciences to adopt existing paradigms or theories to enable us articulate our analysis. Theories are simply the foundations upon which explanations or predictions can be made. In many ways, a theory is a guide to action and an aid in search for the essential meaning of occurrence. It presents a systematic view of phenomena by specifying relations among variables with the purpose of explaining and predicting phenomena (Eze, 2013).

For this study, we shall adopt class theory of terrorism. Class theory was used by Karl Marx in his utopia philosophy to expose the role of exploitation in the emergence of class struggle. The bourgeoisies apply the instrument of state power to keep the proletariat in perpetual discontent. But the exploitation will not persist as the lumpen class will rise against the ruling class in protest. This class struggle underlies historical materialism that tracks up the movement of history from the era of feudalism to socialism, to capitalism up to the last stage of communalism that will usher in the dictatorship of the proletariat after which there would be a classless society. Historical materialism springs from a fundamental underlying reality of human existence: that in order for human beings to survive and continue existence from generation to generation, it is necessary for them to produce and reproduce the material requirements of life (Seligman, 1901).

Class theory of terrorism is an off-shoot of historical materialism. The exposition of historical materialism to terrorism studies was first articulated by Jonathan (2011) paper on "Terrorism as a social relation within capitalism." The rationale was to develop historical materialism as a general framework for conceptualizing terrorism across societies, and to draw on how historical materialism is grounded in class analysis of terrorism. Class theory is embedded in historical materialism. It holds the key that unlocks the root cause of present-day terrorism, which is resulting from class antagonism inherent in the triumphalism of global capitalism pitching its tent against vast poverty.

3.1 Discussion of The Findings

According to Title 22 of the United States Code #2656f(d), terrorism amounts to premeditated, politically motivated violence perpetrated against non-combatant targets by subnational groups or clandestine agents, usually intended to influence an

audience. The US Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Department of Defense also adopted the foregoing definition of terrorism although with a slight emphasis. It is an unlawful use of force or violence explicitly including both people and property as its casualty targets. It credits terrorism with furthering social, religious, or ideological goals, in addition to political ones – objectives which are pursued through coercion or intimidation (Office of the Coordinator of Counterterrorism, 1997; Hoffman, 1998).

There are four distinctive characteristics of terrorism. Terrorism is violence (or its threat) for political effect (Sandler, 2005) in Shughart (2006). Second, terrorism is a planned, calculated, and indeed systematic act (Hoffman, 1998). Third, terrorists are not bound by established rules of warfare or codes of conduct (Hoffman, 1998). Fourth, terrorism is designed to have far-reaching psychological repercussions beyond the immediate victim or target (Hoffman, 1998). The underlying snag with the conceptualization of terrorism as “unlawful use of violence” is found in the application of a semantic that is difficult in separating terrorism from other acts of liberation struggle. There should be a bold line separating terrorism from liberation struggle. The latter pursues social justice and equity and must be considered based on its core objective. Often times, the proscription of liberation struggle and branding the activists as terrorists leads to the use of terrorism as the last resort in countering state terrorism that fails to address the demands of the liberation struggle. Conor Cruise O’Brien refuses to attach the terrorist label to anyone resisting an authoritarian regime (Crenshaw, 1990). Oftentimes, the terrorist enterprise bears subjective reference – what amounts to terror to one may not be the same for another. The understanding of terrorism is often too vague. For instance, in order to inquire into the reason for Boko Haram insurgency in Nigeria, there are six competing theoretical models espoused by Ossai (2014).

Basically, there are over 24 terrorist groups operating in the world today with mutual affiliations. They are all sustained through the fervor of Islamism. Their recruitment catchment areas include the Arab world and people persuaded by indoctrination of Islamic fundamentalism.

Abdallah Azzam Brigades (AAB), Abu Nidal Organization (ANO) Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade (AAMB), Ansar al-Dine (AAD), Ansar al-Islam (AAI), Ansar al-Shari’a in Benghazi (AAS-B), Ansar al-Shari’a in Darnah (AAS-D), Ansar al-Shari’a in Tunisia (AAS-T), Army of Islam (AOI) Asbat al-Ansar (AAA) Aum Shinrikyo (AUM) Basque Fatherland and Liberty (ETA), Boko Haram (BH) Communist Party of Philippines/New People’s Army (CPP/NPA) Continuity Irish Republican Army (CIRA) Gama’a al-Islamiyya (IG) Hamas, Haqqani Network (HQN), Harakat ul-Jihad-i-Islami (HUJI), Harakat ul-Jihad-i-Islami/Bangladesh (HUJI-B) Harakat ul-Mujahideen (HUM) Hizballah

Indian Mujahideen (IM) Islamic Jihad Union (IJU) Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU), Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), Islamic State’s Khorasan Province, ISIL-Libya, ISIL Sinai Province (ISIL-SP), Jama’atu Ansarul Muslimina Fi Biladis-Sudan (Ansaru) Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), Jaysh Rijal Al-Tariq Al-Naqshabandi (JRTN), Jemaah Ansharut Tauhid (JAT), Jemaah Islamiya (JI)

Jundallah Kahane Chai, Kata’ib Hizballah (KH),

The United States of America has annually led the list of countries whose citizens and property were most frequently attacked by terrorists (Hoffman, 1998). Why the United States of America is targeted by terrorist network is because it remains the global symbol of capitalism with foreign policies that interfere with the domestic affairs of many countries that do not espouse the brand of liberal democracy and free market economy that find their stronghold in the U.S. The pivotal feature of the U.S. foreign policy is the defense of her homeland and citizens alongside her foreign interests. Capitalism is viewed by the terrorists as the driver of western civilization that fails to embrace other ideologies. The terrorists that are opposed to the practice of capitalism and democracy wage ideological war of attrition which mirrors a class struggle (Shughart, 2006).

In reactionary tone, Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany held the view that why terrorists attack democracies is because of its bulwark of freedom of speech (Bohlen, 2015). For President George W. Bush, America was targeted for attack because we’re the brightest beacon for freedom and opportunity in the world (Bohlen, 2015). Both views represent the triumphalism of democracy over other ideological models of governance. It is on record that democracies have come under repeated terrorist attacks over the last 14 years. There were the Madrid train bombings in 2004, the London subway attack in 2005, and in more recent years, sporadic cases across Europe. These included an attack on a Jewish school in the French city of Toulouse in 2012, killings at a Jewish museum in Brussels in 2014, a thwarted attack on a Catholic Church outside Paris and most recently, an aborted shooting spree on a Paris bound high speed train.

Terrorists that attack democracies do so in order to halt American expansionism that is sweeping across the globe with intent to slow the promotion of Islamic tenets. For the terrorists that wage violence against America and its allies, their actions are salutary, and carries a seal of martyrdom. The phenomenon of martyrdom in Islam has of course been discussed and examined (Hoffman,

1998). The act itself can be traced back to the Assassins, an off-shoot of the European Crusaders' attempted conquest of the Holy Land. The Assassins embraced an ethos of self-sacrifice, where martyrdom was regarded as a sacramental act – a highly desirable aspiration and divine duty commanded by religious text and communicated by clerical authorities that is evident today (Hoffman, 1998). The greatest motivation to martyrdom terrorism lies in the promise that the martyr would feel no pain in the commission of his sacred act and would then ascend immediately to a glorious heaven, described as a place replete with rivers of milk and wine . . . lakes of honey, and services of 72 virgins where the martyr will see the face of Allah and later to be joined by 70 chosen relatives (Hoffman, 1998).

The view that Islamic terrorism is not seen as evil by the terror actors must not be glossed over in understanding the reason for the 9/11 attack. However, America, which remains emblematic of the democratic institution in the world do not see the Islamic struggle from the same interpretative prism as the terrorist networks do. There is a consensus among authors and international affairs commentators that Osama bin Laden attacked the United States in 2001 because of its military presence in the Middle East, not because of its freedoms (New York Times, 2001). The nationalistic loyalty that binds the citizens of the Arab World makes it easy for the terrorist network coordinators to find soft foot soldiers. Peter Bergen in a report by New America on "Why do terrorists commit terrorism?" is of the view that ". . . perpetrators are generally motivated by a mix of factors, including militant Islamist ideology; dislike of America foreign policy in the Muslim world; a need to attach themselves to an ideology or organization that gave them a sense of purpose; and a "cognitive opening" to militant Islam that often was precipitated by personal disappointment, like the death of a parent. For many joining a jihadist group or carrying out an attack allowed them to become heroes of their own story (New America, 2001). Those persuaded by the jihadist ideologies have been radicalized through the teaching of some extremist clerics that use the channels of social media and the Internet to spread their message worldwide. The extremist with the most widespread influence was the American-born cleric Anwar al-Awlaki, whose influence continues to play a role in radicalization half a decade after his death in an American drone strike in Yemen. Technological advancement which is the scion of the western civilization is used by terrorists for recruitment, coordination and execution of their attacks. The rise of social media as well as the use of the Internet more broadly to disseminate propaganda and connect people to extremist groups including encryption has reshaped the jihadist scene. Many extremists today either maintain public social media profiles displaying jihadist rhetoric or imagery or have communicated online using encrypted messaging apps. The percentage of cases involving such online activity has increased over time (New America, 2001).

From reports on the origins of fifteen lethal jihadist terrorists in the United States since 9/11 show that: 3 are African-Americans; 3 from families that hailed originally from Pakistan; 1 born in Virginia to Palestinian immigrant parents; 1 born in Kuwait to Palestinian-Jordanian parents; 1 born in New York to a family from Afghanistan; 2 are white converts – One born in Texas, another in Florida; 2 came from Russia as children; 1 emigrated from Egypt and conducted his attack a decade after coming to the United States; 1 emigrated from Uzbekistan (New America, 2001). By way of analysis, minority in the group comes from the wealthy U.S. and just 2 from Russia, the former capital of the communist bloc that express hostility towards America since the fall of communism. Other terrorists are from the Arab world whose Islamic ideology contradicts the American democratic and capitalist ideology. That is, an ideological war between the world's wealth capital and the world's poverty capital. Poverty of course is the undercurrent that drives terrorism. National Strategy for Combating Terrorism (2003) opines that at the base, underlying conditions such as poverty, corruption, religious conflicts and ethnic strife create opportunities for terrorists to exploit.

The foregoing background analysis will help us understand the scheme that gave rise to the 9/11 attack. The terrorist CEO, Osama bin Laden coordinated the 9/11 attacks through the al-Qaeda network. Al-Qaeda exemplifies how terrorist networks have twisted the benefits and conveniences of our increasingly open, integrated, and modernized world to serve their destructive agenda. The network is a multinational enterprise with operations in more than 60 countries. Its camp in Afghanistan provided sanctuary and its banks accounts served as trust fund for terrorism. At the top of the structure, the terrorist leadership provides the overall direction and strategies that link all factors and thereby breathes life into a terror campaign (National Strategy for Combating Terrorism, 2003). For reasons of operational security, Jihad Manual states that only the leaders of an attack should know all the details of the operation and these should only be revealed to the rest of the unit at the last possible moment (Hoffman, 1998). The impact of the 9/11 attacks was grave. Over 3000 citizens from some 90 countries died in the attacks (National Strategy for Combating Terrorism, 2003). But, until September 11, over the preceding 33 years a total of no more than perhaps 1, 000 Americans had been killed by terrorists either overseas or even within the United States itself. In less than 90 minutes that day, nearly three times that number was killed (Der Spiegel Magazine, 2002). After the 9/11 attacks, World Trade Center was laid waste, the Pentagon heavily damaged, and the wreckage of a fourth hijacked passenger aircraft strewn across a field in rural Pennsylvania (Shughart, 2006). The foregoing figures bring to fore the lethality of the 9/11 attacks. Although that was not the first time America was attacked by terrorists.

But it is crucial to state that the 9/11 attacks were not the first terror attack on the United States of America. Americans know that terrorism did not begin on September 11, 2001. Regrettably, its history is long and all too familiar. The first major terrorist attack on New York City's financial district for instance, did not occur on September 11, or even with the 1993 truck bombing of

the World Trade Center. It occurred September 16, 1920, when anarchists exploded a horse cart filled with dynamite near the intersections of Wall and Broad Streets, taking 40 lives and wounding about 300 others. Starting with the assassination of President William McKinley in 1901 and continuing with the bombings of the USS Cole in Yemen in 2000, American history in the 20th century was punctuated by terrorism (National Strategy for Combating Terrorism, 2003).

The 9/11 attacks did not mark the end of terror attacks on the US. It is still ongoing with strategies on ground to neutralize or make future attacks possible. However, in the years after 9/11, jihadists have killed about 103 people inside the United States. The attack in Orlando was the deadliest terrorist attack in the United States since 9/11 and the deadliest shooting in America history (Bohlen, 2015).

3.2 Appraisal of United States of America's Global Counter-Terrorism Since September 11th 2001

"No group or nation should mistake America's intentions: We will not rest until terrorist groups of global reach have been found, and have been stopped, and have been defeated." The tone of President George W. Bush on 6 November, 2001 sets the ambition of America's global counter-terrorism strategy.

National Strategy for Combating Terrorism (2003) did not mince words in classifying the 9/11 attacks as an act of terrorism. "The terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, in Washington D.C., New York, and Pennsylvania were acts of war against the United States of America and its allies, and against the very idea of civilized society. No cause justifies terrorism. The world must respond and fight this evil that is intent on threatening and destroying our basic freedoms and our way of life.

The United States of America understands terrorism as premeditated, politically motivated violence perpetrated against non-combatant targets by subnational groups or clandestine agents. Those who employ terrorism, regardless of their specific secular or religious objectives, strive to subvert the rule of law and effect change through violence and fear (National Strategy for Combating Terrorism, 2003).

Let us briefly look at the components of the thrust of the U.S. global counter-terrorism from where we shall focus our appraisal for the purpose of drawing some conclusions and recommendations. Our information is drawn from the National Strategy for Combating Terrorism of February, 2003. The intent of our national strategy is to stop terrorist attacks against the United States, its citizens, its interests, and our friends and allies around the world and ultimately, to create an international environment inhospitable to terrorists and all those who support them. To accomplish these tasks, we will simultaneously act on four fronts:

1. The United States and its partners will defeat terrorist organizations of global reach by attacking their sanctuaries; leadership; command, control, and communications; material support; and finances.
2. To deny further sponsorship, support, and sanctuary to terrorists by ensuring other states accept their responsibilities to act against these international threats within their sovereign territory.
3. We will diminish the underlying conditions that terrorists seek to exploit by enlisting the international community to focus its efforts and resources on the area's most at risk.
4. Most importantly, we will defend the United States, our citizens, and our interests at home and abroad by both proactively protecting our homeland and extending our defenses to ensure we identify and neutralize the threat as early as possible.

There have been repeated calls for the U.S. to rejig and retool her global counter-terrorism approaches, as the current strategies applied are already falling out of synch with contemporary security protocols.

Terrorism is not natural phenomenon. It is man-made. At the base, underlying conditions such as poverty, corruption, religious conflict and ethnic strife create opportunities for terrorists to exploit. The 9/11 attacks on the soil the U.S. by al-Qaeda terrorist networks were planned, coordinated and executed by Osama bin Laden. The lethal proportion of the attacks was grave.

Since 9/11 till date, the U.S. has been waging counterterrorism campaign against all terrorist networks. This paper applied descriptive and historical survey to x-ray the reasons why terrorism is used as a tool to foster class struggle for promotion of ideologies. America represents the democratic and capitalism ideological bloc. The Islamic extremists that foment terrorism promote jihad with the goal of suppressing a secular state to enthrone a global Caliphate system under the rule of Shar'ia Law.

Class theory of terrorism was adopted as the interpretative model in the study. It argues that until the fifth stage of the struggle in the light of historical materialism in which there will be surrender and compromise between the two conflicting blocs that all counterterrorism strategies will be wasteful. The best strategy is to wage war against global poverty which will also successfully tone down religious fundamentalism, which is the only precondition for global peace.

Recommendations

The U.S. must not be belligerent in its approach to the counterterrorism struggle. She must not pose as the Big Brother, but must have to align with all the nations of the world, so that adopting a common United Nations approach for global war against poverty, the war against violent extremism will be won at a low cost.

The U.S. must retool her counterterrorism approaches to ensure that they are pursued under the rule of law. Her interloping foreign policies must have to be reconsidered to ensure that unlawful invasion of enemy boundaries must be stopped forthwith. Only the United Nations should carry out such oversight functions. The U.S. invasion of some countries in the Middle East gave birth to the Arab Spring which has morphed into various terrorist networks such as ISIS and her affiliates.

The United Nations must also arise to the challenge of fostering world peace. Under the auspices of the United Nations, member countries can through joint task force work for the end of poverty where it is most severe, and also work towards the reconciliation of all ideological differences whether at the political, economic, social, religious or cultural level.

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