Investigation of the Causes of Terrorism Tendencies of Balouch People in Cyberspace

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Abstract

Killing human beings under any pretext is expanding today and has become the language of protest in various political, economic, cultural, and social areas. In this study, efforts have been made, using the cyberspace, to investigate the reasons for the spread of terrorism among Balouch people. The real question is this: What are the causes of the spread of terrorism in cyberspace? In response, contrary to common perception among most experts and scholars who know the root of terrorism in the province ethno-religious conflicts, what is discussed as the causes of terrorism in cyberspace in Sistan and Baluchestan is due to the lack of attention to economic development and Balouch subculture. The content analysis was used to prove the hypothesis.

Keywords: terrorism, Sistan and Baluchestan, economic development, Balouch culture, Ahmadinejad’s government.
Introduction

Terrorism, today, has exceeded as being only a political organization and is active as a political regime; some regimes and governments such as the Zionist regime on Palestinian land is based on terrorism. Terrorism sets forth its activities based on terror, intimidation, occupation, and inhuman acts and under the flag of a religion and belief conducts violence. "According to statistics from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of United States of America between the years 1968 and 1982, about 8000 terrorist acts were conducted… The annual rate of terrorist acts fluctuated between 580 and 600 acts, i.e. about two operations per day. They have mainly been concentrated in the United States and Western Europe" (Borineh, 2003, as quoted in Firahi, Zahiri). Several samples of these groups and organizations are seen in the world including ISIS, Al-Qaeda, Boko Haram, and the Taliban. These groups fight on the basis of race, ethnicity, and religion with the people and forces protecting the country's borders and do not hesitate to slaughter their fellows. Radicalization of these groups who sometimes are under the command and support of the great powers causes chaos and internal strife. On the other hand, using terror, they seek concessions from the other party who are often the central governments. In the meantime, the importance of economic and cultural issues is normally neglected in assessing terrorism because terrorist acts often tend to take sacred and blessed sense, and it is believed that they have roots in the religion and ideology of these groups. This neglect prevents proper strategy and efforts to control and eliminate this inauspicious phenomenon. More importantly, today, violence and anti-humanity acts have given way to tolerance and dialogue, and terrorism and intimidation are suspected both at the national and international levels. Islamic Republic of Iran is among the countries that has been the victim of terrorist groups from the onset of the Islamic Revolution. One of the clear samples of such organizations was the Mojahdin Khalgh Organization (MKO). In other provinces, terrorist groups also, depending on the location and political, social, and economic conditions, conduct terrorist acts to threaten internal security. In Sistan and Baluchestan, movements such as terrorism, kidnapping, start packing, tribal conflicts, drug trafficking, occasional clashes with military forces from different evil groups have been occurring for years including insecurity that has affected the province's security during the past years. The primary concern of this study is, via asking the question of what the causes of the spread of terrorism in cyberspace are, to investigate this political phenomenon among Balouch people. In response to the original question, using the theoretical foundations of Marxism, the present study claims that contrary to common perception among most experts and scholars who perceive the roots of terrorism in this region as ethno-religious differences, what is discussed in cyberspace as the causes of terrorism in Sistan and Baluchestan is the lack of attention to economic development and Balouch subculture. To prove this hypothesis, content analysis method was applied.

Theoretical foundations

To explain the phenomenon of terrorism, the theoretical foundations of Marxism were used. Based on the class conflict theory, historical development is the result of class conflict and class war. All current social, economic, and intellectual conditions of a nation are nothing but class struggle, i.e. the materialist philosophy of history is the cause and intensifying factor for
class conflict, the history of societies is made by class struggle. According to this concept, the development of all economic systems has been achieved following the class struggle (Namazi, 2008, p.81). In this struggle, the revolutionaries led by revolutionary elite come into action and, inevitably, urge the society to follow them. Socialized humanity that is born from within the human community has been plagued by divisions and war throughout its history (Marx, p. 199). Accordingly, revolution means acting of the vast majority of human beings to possess the material means of production. The basic argument of Marx is that the industry, i.e. the whole multitude of tools or material forces of production, is as "productive organs of men in society". When communist revolution is considered this way, it means the process by which the human mass re-appropriates his productive organs. This is the basis of Marxism claims; the transformation of the material conditions is done through praxis or purposeful revolutionary action (ibid: 23).

Definition of terrorism

No comprehensive definition of terrorism has been provided yet which researchers, experts, scholars in the field are agreed about it. But, what is important and researchers have reached a consensus about it is that violence and threat in terrorism is very obvious. Richard Hahnel, in his book "Terrorism, a New Form of War", defined terrorism: "Terrorism is a conscious effort to conduct terror through a symbolic performance, which contains the use or threat of use of abnormal and lethal force in order to influence an individual or a target group" (Hahnel, 2004, p. 136).

Ethnic and ethnicity

Ethnicity is a relatively ambiguous concept in social sciences, and hasty decisions, assertive boundary makings, and imponderable rejections should be prevented. Ethnicity cannot be conceptualized as isolated, without contact with overseas, homogeneous, independent from government communities, and in constant conflict with governments (Burton, 2001, p. 65). The origin of the concept ethnicity is rooted in the Greek word ethno-ethnikos, commonly used to describe unauthentic people meaning non-Greeks, and later to describe non-Jews, non-Christians, and people from the lower class. In sociological terms, David Riesman used the term in 1953 (Mashlovich, 2012, p. 13). Max Weber, in his book “Economy and Society”, defines ethnic groups as human groups that, because of physical similarities or customs or having common colonial memories or due to migration or both, have a subjective belief in common about common race, and having blood ties or not is not important at all. So, what is critical here is, firstly, the existence of ethnicity on the basis of certain groups’ beliefs. If there is no common group believes, an ethnic group is not formed. Secondly, the origin of a belief is absolute, belief in a common race. And eventually, although this belief in common descent is often legendary, but is influenced and strengthened through physical and cultural similarities as well as shared collective memories (Mashlovich, 2012, p. 231).

In general, it can be said that ethnic is introduced as a differentiated, closed, and sustainable social set that imagines its roots in the mythical past (Burton, 2006, p. 235), possessing features such as real common ancestors and belief in mythical ancestors, common name, territory, language, environment, traditions, values, and a sense of belonging to a single group.
(Ghanbari, 2006, p. 51). The lives of different ethnics including Persians, Turks, Kurds, Baluches, Turkmens, Arabs, and Lors in a unique geopolitical context represent ethnic-cultural mosaic of the Iranian civilization. All Iranian ethnic groups have, more or less, acquired ethnic consciousness. While they are coterminous with countries with the same languages or ethnics, these ethnic groups are joined and concentrated. On the one hand, it should be recognized that ethnic minority in Iran is not a contemptible minority, and enjoying more or less equal rights, demand maintaining their own culture and characteristics (Khalili, 2008, p. 94).

Baluchestan and Balouch ethnics
Sir Henry Pilling, English traveler and historian, believes that land of Balouch ethnic is located in North of Iran and in the East of the Caspian Sea, and also he believes that these people, due to their failure from yellow-raced Chinese ethnics, migrated to Kerman, and after 700 years, because of attacks from the Seljuk Turks and suffering injuries, they migrated to the Baluchistan region (Nikbakhti, 1995, p. 37). Baluchistan is divided in Pakistan, Iran, and Afghanistan countries. More Balouch people live in Pakistani Baluchistan, Sistan and Baluchestan of Iran, and the provinces of Nimroz and Kandahar of Afghanistan. Some of these people live in Kerman, Khorasan, Hormozgan, Sistan, and Lorestan of Iran. Also they live in the Arabic countries, especially Oman, the United Arab Emirates, and South West of Punjab. Some of these people, searching for business, have gone to Gorgan and Turkmenistan and are living in those areas (Yaghmaei, 1957, p. 37-40). Balouch people are Muslim; their religion is mostly Sunni Hanafi; however, in Chabahar, some Balouch are Shiites, who are known as Hyderabadi (Nikbakht, 1995, p. 77). Baluchistan is divided into two parts of North Baluchistan (Frontier) and South Baluchistan or Makran. Semi-feudal structure in southern Baluchistan and Sardari in the north has been effective in socio-political and economic relations with other independent nations in the region, on the one hand, and with other neighboring ethnics on the other hand. The spirit of militancy in the northern tribes and Iran’s Baluchistan border has been more than southern tribes because southern tribes were dependent on agriculture and northern tribes, due to the lack of water, on livestock and looting. Tribal and Sardari structure in Baluchistan underwent major changes with the advent of the modern state (Yaghmaei, 1956, p. 49), including the uprising of Dost Mohammad Khan (1906-28), a tribal centrifugal uprising, inclined to national democratic separatist and supported by Great Britain. He could set up an independent state but failed.

1. Unemployment
Although the published statistics about the unemployment rate does not correspond to the realities of the province, unemployment as the biggest problem has overshadowed regional peace and security. Published statistics in the field of employment in the ninth and tenth governments reveal that unemployment index increased during the eight years of Doctor Ahmadinejad’s government. Iranshahr at a rate of 43.2, Zabol at the rate of 0.043, Sib and Soran at a rate of 38.8, Hirmand at the rate of 37.3, and Sarbaz at the rate of 0.030 are the first jobless twenty cities of Iran. In these statistics, Zahedan after Khorramabad at a rate of 25.5 % has the second rate of unemployment (Taftan News Agency, Tuesday, August 22, 2013).
Sistan & Baluchestan province with vast industrial, commercial, agricultural potentials and special geographical features was among the provinces which in the past government faced with neglect. And the employment status reached a critical level, causing many other social and security problems. The latest report of the Statistical Center of Iran shows that, despite the rhetoric of the ninth and tenth governments to create jobs and the promise to eradicate unemployment, the rate of this index, was more than the beginning of his administration. Accordingly, the unemployment rate which was 11.5 % in 2005 reached 2.12 % by the end of 2012, while the economic participation rate decreased from 41% to 37.7%. Recent surveys from unemployment index status suggest that 12.2 % of the active population were unemployed last year, a 0.1 % decrease compared to 2011. At the same time, economic participation rate increased 0.8 % (compared to 2011). But, a look at the unemployment index during the last eight years shows that government employment programs were not much successful because the country's unemployment rate increased since 2005 despite some fluctuations in some years. Statistics Center published the results of the latest estimates of the unemployment rate and economical participation last year, a report based on which, despite the increase in 15-24 and 15-29 year old youths’ unemployment rates last year compared to 2011, the unemployment rate in the country decreased by 0.1 % compared to the previous year. According to this report, the unemployment rate last year declined slightly to 12.2 % in the current year from 12.3 % in 2011. Estimates indicate that the unemployment rate among women was more than men and more in urban areas than rural areas. Over the last year, 8.9 % of the working population of the country was underemployed. This index was more among men than women and more in rural areas than urban areas. Unemployment in the ninth and tenth governments caused the emergence of phenomena such as migration of groups and individuals to neighboring countries, especially Pakistan.

2. Economic participation
In this time period, the country's economic participation rate (10 years and more) increased by 0.8 %, compared to 2011, and reached 37.7 %. The results show that economic participation rate was lower among women than men and lower in urban areas than rural areas. The highest economic participation rate in 2012 belonged to the province of West Azerbaijan, 8.42 %, and the lowest economic participation rate belonged to Sistan and Baluchestan province, 26.9 %. Over the past year, the service sector accounted for the largest share of economic activity, while its share from total economic activity in 2011 was 48 %, and it declined slightly to 47.5 %. The industrial sector accounted for 33.6 % of economic activities and agricultural sector accounted for 18.9 %. During the past year, the largest share of economic activity in the service sector was in Tehran; the highest share of industrial activities was done in Yazd, and most agricultural activities were carried out in West Azerbaijan.

3. Economic growth
Statistics Centre in this report has reviewed the unemployment status and economic participation rate during the last eight years. According to the information given, the unemployment rate at the end of the first year of the ninth government (2005) was equal to 11.5 %, and it faced little fluctuation in the following years. In 2008, it reached 10.4 % and in 2010, 13.5 %. However, economic participation rate during these years was faced with
considerable fluctuations. According to the estimates given, the highest economical participation rate over the last eight years was related to the tenth government, i.e. 2005. In this year, the economic participation rate was 41%. The lowest economic participation rate during these eight years is related to 2011 which is 36.9%. These statistics are published while in recent years, employment and reduction of the unemployment rate has consistently been one of the main policies of the government and emphasized by the officials. In this regard, promises such as the creation of 2.5 million jobs were given by the government, fulfillment of which was unrealized. Review of changes in the country's economic participation rate indicates 9.0% increase compared to the same period in the previous year (winter, 2011); however, it indicates 7.0% reduction compared to the last season (Fall, 2012). According to this report, in winter, 4.12% of 10-year active population and more were unemployed. The unemployment rate was higher among women than men and in urban areas compared to rural areas. Investigation of the unemployment rate of 15-year old population and more shows that 4.12% of the active population was unemployed.

In the winter of last year, 2.9% of the population was underemployed. This index was more among men than women, and in rural areas than urban areas. The study of employment in major economic sectors shows that the service sector with 7.48% had the highest share of employment. Industry sectors with 2.34% and agriculture with 9.16% were set in lower orders.

Conclusion
Terrorism, today, due to various criminal, political, economic, and cultural aspects, is affective on a wide dimension of communities. It should be noted that cyberspace has an undeniable role in the induction of the relationship between terrorism and economic factors. Review of websites show that in this province, there is a strong relationship between the economic poverty of the region and terrorist tendencies. Many terrorists have not religious motives but are economically in a difficult situation. So, poverty is a key factor to account for terrorism acts. In this period of time, we witness economic stagnation, a motivating factor for violent and terrorist tendencies.

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References