

Religious Terrorism

Floralyn L. Doquilla
University of the Cordilleras
Legarda Road, Baguio City

Abstract:-The main purpose of this study is to know the religious-political motivational ideologies that link to terrorism. This further describes how religious ideologies influence the believer to do terroristic acts.

This study made use of a Descriptive Analysis in determining the different religious-political ideologies concerning terrorism. Descriptive Analysis provides detailed information since the data gathered is both qualitative and quantitative and therefore gives a holistic understanding of research.

Based on the findings, there are three (3) identified major religious motivational ideologies that link to terrorism: To practice freely their religion, Conflicting Ideologies, and Akin Groups – Differing Ideologies.

I. INTRODUCTION

Religion according to religious crusaders can save you from the abyss. It can direct a person to the right path that life might bring. However, what if a religion (ideology) brings terror to the world?

Although religion is rarely a single, simple cause of terrorist action, religious underpinnings are frequently prominent in belief systems linked to terrorism. Since before the time of the Crusades, and even before the Bible, religion and violence have had a symbiotic relationship. Terrorism with a religious motivation, rationale, organization, or worldview is referred to as religious terrorism. The relationship between terrorism and terrorist organizations' and actors' religious beliefs has been the topic of immense scholarly research. (siteresources.worldbank.org)

Religious motives have been the reason for a variety of terrorist actions throughout history, yet it is crucial to note that religions do not generate terrorism. Religious terrorists may employ terrorism to chastise "ungodly" behavior in society or to retaliate for perceived attacks on their beliefs. (<http://www.globalterrorism101.com/>)

The centrality of religion has been a terrorist motivator throughout history, according to David C. Rapoport. Furthermore, he claims that until the onset of modern terrorism, religion was the only viable intellectual support for terrorist attacks.

It is not always the case that one religion attacks another in religious terrorism. Terrorist attacks have been perpetrated throughout history as a result of religious divisions, such as between Protestants and Catholics or Shia and Sunni Muslims. (Coady, 2019)

Religion can be a strong tool for mobilizing and uniting people, and it has been exploited and abused in this capacity throughout history. Religious combativeness, on the other hand, does not rise in a vacuum. Extremist religious practices have arisen in response to historical circumstances, especially when people have felt threatened. (Coady, 2019)

When a segment of a community rejects the presence or influence of a challenge to its sense of self, religious extremism emerges. Extremists regard a violent or threatening response as religiously mandated, whether the encounter is cultural, political, economic, or a combination of these. (Juergensmeyer, 2018)

Not only between different religions, but even inside one, religious conflicts can arise. Religious extremists may criticize a government's policies in a variety of ways, claiming that a purer, tighter form of religion would address many issues.

Other political disputes have erupted as a result of religious divisions. Lebanon is a case in point, where groups compete for political influence along religious lines, owing to French colonial control.

Religion can be an efficient means to channel dissent to an external threat or a repressive state, and it can even be the only political outlet if other opposition groups have been suppressed. A religiously structured opposition movement gains several advantages right away: a familiar language in which to articulate arguments, as well as religious institutions such as mosques, churches, synagogues, or religious schools, which provide a handy network for organizing and recruiting. (Robespierre, 2018)

Behind the terror acts of some religious crusaders are mostly hidden religious-political motivations. They tend to take sympathy from other members by showing the constructive way to let them believe that their acts are legal and it conforms to the ideology and teachings of their religion.

There are a lot of religious-political motivations that will lead to terrorism.

II. OBJECTIVE

This research study aims to know the various religious political motives and ideologies that will lead a religious group tend to terroristic acts.

III. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

This study aims to describe religious terrorism, specifically is sought to identify the following problem:

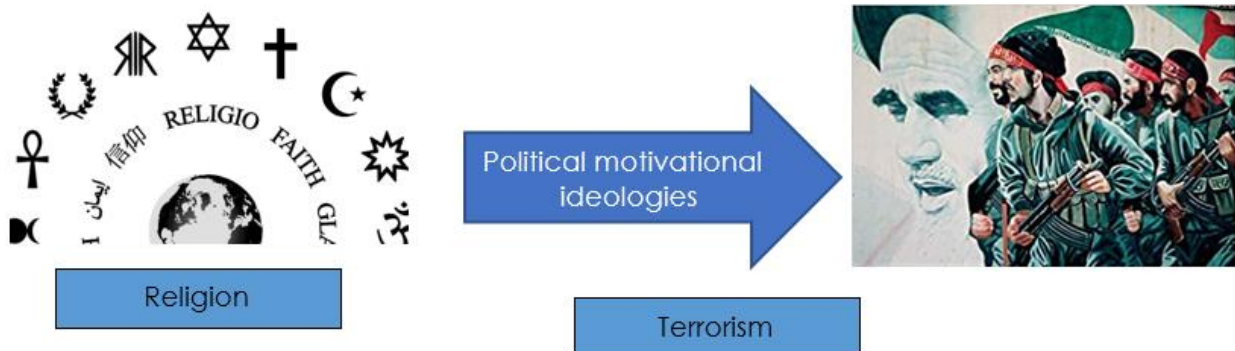
1. What are the religious motivational ideologies that link to terrorism?

IV. DEFINITION OF TERMS

Religion. The important aspects of life that some of its members have different interpretation towards the beliefs and teachings that might influence a group to do act of terrorism.

V. SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

This study is delimited on the different religious political motivational ideologies that link to terrorism.



➤ *Research Paradigm*

The research paradigm shows the various religious sects or faith with different beliefs based on their religious teachings where some of which used it for their own purposes, ambitions and hidden agenda to gain power through political motives and use violence through terrorism to pursue their selfish goals.

group's alleged terroristic attack sparked more open revolt and insurgency, but the hoped-for apocalypse did not occur, and the Romans were able to hold out in the end.

➤ *Conflicting Ideologies*

Religious terrorists frequently assume that they are the "righteous remnant" among their fellow believers. Anyone who claims to be a fellow believer but refuses to take up arms in favor of the organization is deemed an apostate-outside of God's will, because they are the only ones willing to actually sacrifice for what their version of God has ordered them to do.

VI. METHODOLOGY

This study made use of a Descriptive Analysis in determining the different religious political ideologies in relation to terrorism. Descriptive Analysis provides detailed information since that data gathered is both qualitative and quantitative and therefore gives holistic understanding of research.

Theological justification of terrorism, according to Bruce Hoffman, makes God the primary, if not only, element of the religious terrorist, making all of the terrorist's actions legitimate and commanded by God. The religious terrorist sees his or her violent acts as an attempt to restore humanity's sinful relationship with God. This means that religious terrorism is more than a random attack on innocent people; it is an endeavor to sacramentally respond to God's ultimate demand. It is part of a metaphorical fight against evil, as are all acts of terrorism, but the in-group justification is unquestionable: God has authorized the group's use of violence.

VII. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This section presents the analysis of the data gathered about the various religious motivational ideologies that link to terrorism.

Upon analysis of the data gathered, these are the identified religious motivational ideologies that link to terrorism:

➤ *To practice freely their religion*

Consider the conflict that erupted between the Jewish Zealots and the Romans in Palestine. For the right to freely practice their religion and the hope of the Messiah's Armageddon, Jewish Zealots fought the Romans. The

For example, when Al-Qa'ida attacked the United States on September 11, 2001, killing nearly 3,000 people (some of whom were fellow Muslims), Bin Laden and other Al-Qa'ida leaders justified the attack as a way of steering the US away from actions and policies they considered immoral and contrary to God's law. Theologically, Al-interpretive

Qa'ida's divinity supplied them with a justification for attacking and killing Americans. Al-Qa'ida, far from being "crazy" or "irrational," chose a tried-and-true way to spread their cosmic message. Because they were not a part of God's cause, the people killed in the process were considered guilty in Al-Qaeda's eyes. Even though those outside the organization couldn't understand the basis for their acts, their hermeneutic commanded that they act. At this stage, the theological framework serves as more than just motivation: it also serves as "evidence" that the assailants are "righteous," as well as a framework for comprehending the past, present, and future. It allows an inconsequential individual or a small group of people to play a considerably greater, and often crucial, role in a historical turning point. (Brannan, 2019)

➤ *Akin Groups – Differing Ideologies*

Religious Terrorists believe their attacks were commanded and ordained by God. Some religions such as the Taliban, Al-Qa'ida, Hezbollah are all in Islamic organizations, have the same religious traditions, but have different use of religion and beliefs systems. The Taliban that ruled Afghanistan from 1996 to 2001, the country was being managed and controlled in accordance to the Taliban's interpretation of Islamic principles and implemented their attributes through violence and coercion. Some analysts define both Taliban and Al-Qa'ida as fundamentalist Islamic groups. However, the Taliban concentrated only on Afghanistan, unlike Al-Qa'ida's global vision. This example is a true illustration that though either two or three groups can be in a very similar way, they vary in terms of their beliefs, ideology, methods, and supreme goals.

VIII. CONCLUSION

Religious terrorism is one of the most serious types of political violence in use today, but few people understand what it is and how it varies from other motivations for sub-national political violence, such as extremism on the right or left, or single-issue motivations. Some religious sects tend to use their beliefs and different interpretations to bring coercion and in the end, the innocents or the community itself is in chaos. Moreover, some of them use their supreme religious power to control the most vulnerable group that will lead to rising opposition. In so doing, nothing will happen but destructions, war, and terrorism.

REFERENCES

➤ *Websites*

- [1]. Jerusalem Syndrome: the madness that grips foreigners on the streets of the holy city.
- [2]. <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/03/26/jerusalem-syndrome-the-madness-that-gripsforeigners-on-the-stre/> accessed March 26, 2016.
- [3]. Religiously-based civil unrest and warfare. http://www.religioustolerance.org/curr_war.htm accessed, May 21, 2017.
- [4]. A Root Cause of Terrorism is Not Religion. [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/steve-mariotti/a-root-](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/steve-mariotti/a-root-cause-of-terrorism_b_10063938.html)

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/steve-mariotti/a-root-cause-of-terrorism_b_10063938.html accessed on January 27, 2017.

- [5]. The Root Causes of Terrorism and Solutions. <http://sahanjournal.com/root-causes-terrorism/solutions/#.WItpIrGZP1w> Accessed on January 27, 2017.
- [6]. The economics and education of suicide bombers. <https://newrepublic.com/article/91841/doespoverty-cause-terrorism>, Accessed on January 28, 2017.
- [7]. What the Real Root Cause of Terrorism: Poverty or Anger, Feb 19, 2025. <https://thinkprogress.org/whats-the-real-root-cause-of-terrorism-poverty-or-angerd9d3f53324c5#.dxm5t2vc5>, accessed on January 28, 2017.
- [8]. Inequality Caused the Rise of ISIS. <http://money.cnn.com/2015/12/03/news/economy/isismoney-thomas-piketty/>, Accessed on January 27, 2017.
- [9]. What's The Real Cause of Terrorism: Poverty or Anger, <https://thinkprogress.org/whats-the-realroot-cause-of-terrorism-poverty-or-anger-d9d3f53324c5#.dxm5t2vc5>, Accessed on January 28, 2017.
- [10]. The Causes of Terrorism: September 30, 2016) http://terrorism.about.com/od/causes/a/causes_terror.htm, accessed on September 27, 2017.
- [11]. Kerry links Wave of Terrorism in Israel to settlement activity” Oct 14, 2015: <http://www.jpost.com/Israel-News/Politics-And-Diplomacy/Kerry-to-visit-Israel-amid-crisis-423892>, accessed on January 27, 2017.