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# Globalization and Terrorism: A Complex and Contested Relationship

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MANVENDRA SINGH RATHORE<sup>1</sup> AND MAYANK BODHA<sup>2</sup>

## ABSTRACT

*The abstract discusses the intricate relationship between globalization and terrorism, acknowledging both their interconnectedness and conflicting nature. It emphasizes how globalization facilitates communication, travel, and trade, providing opportunities for terrorist networks. The role of technology, social media, and funding in connecting terrorism to globalization is explored. The Hamas-Israel case study illustrates globalization's impact on conflicts. Despite globalization contributing to terrorism, the article suggests ways it can combat terrorism, such as international collaboration, addressing root causes, and enhancing security measures. The conclusion advocates for a balanced approach, leveraging globalization for international cooperation while addressing challenges to ensure effective counterterrorism efforts.*

**Keyword:** Globalization, terrorism, relationship.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Globalization, the interconnectedness of economies, cultures, and societies globally, has brought about profound changes in how nations interact and conduct business. While it has facilitated economic growth, cultural exchange, and technological advancement, it has also introduced new challenges, one of the most significant being the rise of terrorism. Globalisation and its link to terrorism is a significant debate in the sphere of international relations, which has no definitive answers. Globalization and terrorism have contrasting relationships. Terrorism is a phenomenon that everyone around the globe is familiar with and is dealing with, but globalization is a new age concept.

The relationship between globalization and terrorism is complex and multifaceted. Globalization has provided opportunities for increased communication, trade, and travel, fostering a more interconnected world<sup>3</sup>. However, this interconnectedness has also created vulnerabilities and opportunities for terrorist networks to thrive. One way globalization and

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<sup>1</sup> Author is an LL.M. Student at Amity University, Jaipur, India.

<sup>2</sup> Author is an LL.M. Student at Amity University, Jaipur, India.

<sup>3</sup> Alam khan, *Globalization and Terrorism: An Overview*, 54 Quality & Quantity International Journal of Methodology 8-10 (2016).

terrorism intersect is through the ease of communication and information sharing. The internet and social media platforms have allowed extremist ideologies to spread rapidly and transcend national borders<sup>4</sup>. Terrorist organizations can recruit and radicalize individuals across the globe, thus fostering a sense of global solidarity among like-minded individuals.

Moreover, the global movement of goods and people have made it easier for terrorist groups to fund their activities. Illicit financial flows and money laundering can occur across borders with greater ease, making it challenging for law enforcement agencies to track and disrupt the financial networks supporting terrorism.

Globalization has also led to increased geopolitical tensions, contributing to the emergence of new forms of terrorism. The competition for resources, political influence, and power in a globalized world can fuel grievances and motivate terrorist acts. At the same time, the interconnected nature of the global economy means that a terrorist incident in one part of the world can have widespread and far-reaching consequences. The economic repercussions of a terrorist attack can transcend national borders, affecting global markets and trade.

Addressing the nexus between globalization and terrorism requires international cooperation and coordinated efforts. Countries must work together to share intelligence, strengthen border security, and disrupt the financial networks that sustain terrorist activities. Additionally, addressing the root causes of terrorism, such as poverty, political instability, and social inequality, is essential to creating a more secure and stable global environment.

## **II. IS TERRORISM PART OF GLOBALIZATION?**

Many researchers and scholars have stated to the world from time to time through their studies that the terrorist attacks that have taken place in recent years are due to the result of globalization. They have stated that all terrorist attacks are due to globalization, and they very rarely come from domestic factors. Globalization means creating a connection between many countries. With such links come both the benefits and grey areas. And one such grey area is terrorism. If the country's people do not like how foreign interference affects their country, they are likely to take matters into their own hands. They see another country as an intruder trying to change the way they live and making them do things that they have only believed to do for centuries.

With the sudden growth in technologies, it is much easier for terrorists than before to carry out their business and spread their ideas. From time to time, the internet has proven to be the most

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<sup>4</sup> Tanzania's Newly Adopted Electronic and Postal Communication Code is Retrogressive and an Affront to Free Speech – AFEX - African Freedom of Expression Exchange.

helpful way to carry out terrorist activity. They use software, chatrooms, and software programs to integrate the idea of terrorism easily and spread it worldwide. The advancement of technology on such a large scale is accessible globally<sup>5</sup>.

Another primary source connecting globalization to terrorism is the rapid growth in social media. Social media connects people from all over the world. Terrorists considered social media as a perfect platform to instigate their ideas into the minds of the young generation. Terror activities were present before the internet and social media; they have gained more power recently due to the increase in globalization and social media.

Another advantage that globalization brings to the table of terrorist is that it has made it easy for them to transfer their funds and resources to their people across the world without getting noticed. Globalization has been proven to be a benefit and a crutch at the same time. Terrorist sees this as an opportunity to carry on their beliefs and attacks. Terrorists use technology to reach new heights of terror by using it more efficiently and coordinately to deceive the common public and carry out their terror activities. Many researchers state that the primary root cause for terrorism is birth from globalization, which creates poverty and inequality. This is crucial to understand because, at some stage, globalization tends to cause inequality and poverty in some countries that cannot adapt to the impact of globalization, which creates social and economic failure in the country, which leads to frustration, which causes frustration and violence in the minds of the people of the country. People with such a mindset are more likely to join terrorist groups to attain their goals. This is especially noticed when a country changes through globalization.

Most countries who have not been exposed to this are at a disadvantage and have been used to how the economy works in their country for years. Terrorists thrive on spreading false claims and lies to gain sympathy and numbers for their cause. Since many people do not like foreign innovations messing with their way of life, it is easy for terrorists to fabricate how bad they are.

### **III. HAMAS AND ISRAEL: A CASE STUDY**

Globalization has proven to be a boom for one country and a crutch for another. Hence, a war between Hamas and Israel is an excellent example of how globalization leads to terrorism. In the Hamas and Israel wars, globalization played a crucial role.

Hamas is a political party that, with the help of the internet and social media brain, brainwashed the people of Palestine and instigated their ideas into the minds of people. As the internet is not

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<sup>5</sup> Nafiu Ahmed, *The Effect of Globalization: Terrorism and International Crime*, 18 IOSR Journal of Business and Management 42-44 (2016).

the only root cause, another cause is the funding of money and resources which gets to make such terrorist attacks from other countries due to globalization.

### **Globalization: combating terrorism**

Globalization can significantly combat terrorism by fostering international cooperation, addressing root causes, and enhancing security measures<sup>6</sup>. There are several ways in which globalization can contribute to the fight against terrorism:

#### **1. International Collaboration:**

- **Intelligence Sharing:** Globalization allows countries to share intelligence and information swiftly and efficiently. Enhanced collaboration among intelligence agencies helps identify and track potential threats to borders.
- **Multilateral Cooperation:** Forming international alliances and partnerships, such as through organizations such as INTERPOL, Europol, and the United Nations, enables joint efforts in counterterrorism initiatives.

#### **2. Border Security and Information Exchange:**

- **Secure Communication Channels:** Globalization facilitates the development of specific communication channels and technologies, making it easier for nations to coordinate responses and share critical information without compromising security.
- **Border Control Measures:** Coordinated efforts to strengthen border security and monitor the movement of people, goods, and funds across borders are essential for preventing the free flow of resources to terrorist organizations.

#### **3. Financial Monitoring and Regulation:**

- **Anti-Money Laundering (AML) Efforts:** Globalization allows the establishment of international standards and cooperation in combating money laundering and terrorist financing. Implementing effective AML measures helps disrupt financial networks that support terrorism.
- **International Banking Regulations:** Collaboration in creating and enforcing international banking regulations makes it more difficult for terrorist organizations to exploit financial systems.

#### **4. Addressing Root Causes:**

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<sup>6</sup> Genc Mekaj, *Globalisation as a Facilitator of Terrorism*, 8 ILIRIA International Review 5-9 (2018).

- **Economic Development:** Globalization can contribute to economic development by reducing poverty and inequality—factors that are often associated with the root causes of terrorism. International efforts to promote sustainable economic growth can help create more stable societies.
- **Social and Educational Initiatives:** Investing in education and social programs on a global scale can help counter radicalization and address the grievances that terrorists often exploit.

#### **5. Cultural Exchange and Understanding:**

- **Promoting tolerance:** Globalization facilitates cultural exchange, which can foster understanding and tolerance among diverse populations. Building bridges between diverse cultures and religions can undermine extremist narratives that thrive on division and misunderstanding.

#### **6. Technological Advancements:**

- **Cybersecurity Collaboration:** Globalization enables collaborative efforts to develop and implement robust cybersecurity measures to protect critical infrastructure and information systems from cyber threats, which are increasingly intertwined with terrorism.

#### **7. Global Legal Framework:**

- **International Law and Cooperation:** A global legal framework that criminalizes and prosecutes terrorism ensures that there are no safe havens for terrorists. International cooperation in extradition and legal proceedings is crucial for holding terrorists accountable.

#### **8. Soft Power and Diplomacy:**

- **Soft Power Initiatives:** Diplomacy, cultural diplomacy, and soft power initiatives can help build positive international relationships, reduce the likelihood of conflict, and create an environment that is less conducive to terrorism.

#### **9. Global Response to Humanitarian Crises:**

- **Humanitarian Assistance:** A coordinated global response to humanitarian crises can address the displacement of populations and the associated vulnerabilities that terrorist organizations may exploit.

**10. Public Awareness and Education:**

- Counterterrorism Education: Global efforts to educate the public about the threat of terrorism and prevent radicalization can empower communities to resist extremist ideologies.

While globalization offers opportunities for cooperation, it also presents challenges. Striking a balance between security measures and respecting individual rights and privacy is crucial to ensuring practical counterterrorism efforts in a globalized world.

**IV. CONCLUSION**

While globalization has fostered terrorism through increased communication and funding opportunities, it also provides tools to combat terrorism. The interconnected world allows for international collaboration, secure communication channels, financial monitoring, and addressing root causes like economic development and education. This article discusses the role of technology, social media, and the global legal framework in countering terrorism. The case study on Hamas and Israel illustrates how globalization can both benefit and challenge nations. Overall, the conclusion advocates for a balanced approach, leveraging globalization to strengthen international cooperation while addressing its challenges to ensure effective counterterrorism efforts.

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