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THE TYPICAL TOPIC MODEL OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH OF TERRORISM

ABSTRACT: In this original scientific paper, we consider terrorism as a phenomenon and process, that is, the possibilities of scientific research of terrorism by the typical research topic model. The typical topic model of scientific research of terrorism in social sciences, especially in political science, given that terrorism is primarily a political phenomenon, is a general model that applies to both terrorism and terrorist activities.

KEY WORDS: Terrorism, scientific research, research model

Introduction

Terrorism as a phenomenon and a process, in the near or distant past or contemporary political conditions, is classified by the majority of authors as one of the most current political problems. All those events have always been topical, particularly important and present in the media coverage in all areas, considering the irreparable damage and consequences for people and their communities, regardless of religion or nationality, or affiliation with a particular country or a federation of countries. In the current scientific foundation, widely

known is the fact that, during the last eighty years, about 900¹ terrorist organizations were registered, the groups that can be named as: religious, left-wing, right-wing, anarchist, nationalist, separatist, and others. They carried out around 9,500² terrorist actions. The number of people killed in the total number of terrorist actions carried out was about 45,000 people, while the number of wounded was about 110,000 victims of terrorism.

The important features of the typical topic model of scientific research of terrorism

Considering the mentioned statements, several questions are being raised. First, the question of whether terrorism as a social and political phenomenon can be scientifically researched. Second, if the answer to the first question is affirmative, the question of whether it is even possible to set a general topic model of scientific research of terrorism. The answer is affirmative. In fact, terrorism, as well as other phenomena, has to be, above all, noticed, manifested as other real things. At the same time, it has to be distinguished from all other phenomena of reality. As a specific political phenomenon, it occurs in specific conditions, has its own structure, entities, objectives, organization, duration and distribution, extent, frequency, intensity, forms of manifestation, activities, methods and means, effects, consequences and results, which is an essential condition for scientific research of every phenomenon. Terrorism as a specific phenomenon occurs by actions of people, individuals, groups, communities, states, and the like, in relation to other people, individuals, groups and communities, states, by exercising total or partial violence against them.

In political theory, the methodology of political science in the Republic of Serbia and other countries of former Yugoslavia, the general research model of the structure of social and political phenomena,³ is widely known and accepted, as applicable and necessary in scientific research of terrorism. Terrorism as a social and political phenomenon, a process and structure, is dynamic, and takes place in a given political and state system, and in this context, it

¹ Source: MIPT Terrorism Knowledge Base. Available at: URL: <http://www.mipt.org/>

² Ibid.

³ The model was set up by the late Prof. Dr Slavomir Milosavljevic, a professor at the Faculty of Political Sciences in Belgrade, at the Department of Political Theory and Methodology, which was then (and now) developed by other methodologists in the former Yugoslavia at all faculties of social sciences.

establishes and makes specific relationships with the given system (systems). Terrorism, as well as many other phenomena, has a processual and developing nature, which means making changes through specific stages of development, starting from, on the one hand, the emergence of the phenomena, its growth and strengthening, to its culmination; and on the other hand, to stagnation, decline and cessation, or a change into something else, or within something else.

The structure of the typical topic model of scientific research of terrorism

Bearing in mind the above-mentioned statements, we can emphasize our view that reads: it is possible and necessary to scientifically research terrorism using a research topic model, as a specific process, structure, system in relation to specific conditions, entities, needs, motives, interests and goals, activities, methods and means, effects, results and consequences. In this context, it is possible both to imagine and practice the typical topic model of scientific research of terrorism by using the following procedure:

1) *Conditions for the exercise of terrorism* always occur and are being realized in specific conditions, which we understand as a set of factors whose existence is the basis of realizing phenomena and the manifestation of the characteristics of a specific phenomenon — phenomena, thus, we can perceive numerous conditions and their important factors, variety, multiplicity, and contradiction. We can conclude that we have, on the one hand, the necessary and sufficient conditions, and on the other hand, the other conditions. The necessary conditions are the conditions without which the phenomenon — phenomena could not occur or be realized. The sufficient conditions are the conditions that ensure the establishment and realization of the phenomenon as *sui generis*, temporally and spatially related. The other conditions are in fact the conditions of presence, conditioned by the factors of favorable — adverse situations, but they occur after necessary and sufficient conditions. We will define necessary and sufficient conditions as relevant, and the other as irrelevant conditions. Then we can identify the conditions that are appropriate, that stimulate the development and manifestation of terrorism, which can be called favorable conditions, in contrast to those that do not favor the realization of terrorism, which we define as unfavorable.

2) *Terrorism entities* include numerous participants who, directly or indirectly, with more or less intensity, directivity, voluntary or involuntary, participate in the exercise of terrorism. They can be

classified according to the criteria of the role and position of entities, according to the composition, according to the criteria of organization, voluntariness, officiality, legality, legitimacy, activeness, orientation, methods and means, as well as other classification criteria.

3) *The needs, motives, interests, and goals of terrorism entities*; this means that they all have specific needs, motives, interests, goals, individual, group, social, political, which they achieve by taking actions in relation to specific conditions and situations. They can be immediate, short-term, long-term, individual, group, organized, spontaneous, in a particular community, at a particular time and place.

4) *The activities of terrorism entities* indicate a variety of activities of terrorist entities, that is, the orientation towards the achievement of specific interest i.e. this is the actual behavior in the process of making and achieving important decisions and acts of terrorism, which are performed in phases. A terrorist activity is characterized by the presence of force, violence, coercion, intimidation.

5) *The methods and means of terrorist organizations* that are used depending on the nature of the organization and the society, ranging from propaganda means, to the use of firearms, explosive devices and mines, mutilation, killings, horrendous beheadings, for example ISIL in Syria, and the like. Methods and means are applied depending on the situation and on possible and available funds.

6) The effects, results, and consequences of terrorism are realized through various activities by terrorist entities and the entities of the given community. The effects, results, and consequences can be positive or negative, intended — unintended, maximal — minimal, direct — indirect, functional — dysfunctional, aimed at maintaining, improving or worsening the current situation in its totality or in partial segments.

Conclusions

The typical topic model of scientific research of terrorism necessarily imposes the need to scientifically investigate terrorism, bearing in mind the conditions, entities and their motives, needs and interests, the activities of terrorist entities, as well as the methods and means used, and the effects, results, and consequences of terrorist activities, at the given time and in the given area.

The application of the typical topic model of scientific research of terrorism leads to scientific knowledge on terrorism and its processing, development, determines the time of occurrence of terrorism, its growth and culmination, and its stagnation, decline, in

other words, the stages and phases of the development of terrorism as specific social and political phenomena at the given time and in the given areas.

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