

## **Extremism and Terrorism – Text and Context**

The words extremism and terrorism are very often used misleadingly and misguidingly. Many use the words to mean the same thing. But these words have to be clearly understood in the context in which they are preached and practiced.

The Oxford Learner's Dictionary defines extremism "the holding of extreme view" especially in politics or religion, which terrorism is defined "the use of violence for political aims or to force a government to act". Extreme view may be of conservative or revolutionary nature. There may be many people within a particular religion or party or organization who hold extreme views regarding a particular theoretical or practical aspects. They may continue to hold such views, argue and propagate such views and sometime break away from the parent body to form new organizations. Almost all political parties in India have gone through such an odyssey in the course of their history.

But terrorism is entirely different from the facts mentioned above. It professes the indiscriminate use of violence and force which very often result in the annihilation of innocent poor people. It is now being developed as a cult which attracts the adolescent youth towards it who execute the commands of their unknown masters at the risk of their own life. It is not much different from the act of a devotee who places his/her head beneath the rolling wheel of the giant chariot of the Jagannatha temple at Puri on the genuine conviction that he/she would attain salvation. Faith, whether it be religious or terrorist, is an intoxication. It opiates the sense of the believer. It seems to be difficult to de-addict such victims to restore to normalcy.

If one analyses the age group of those who are employed for terrorist action, it can be seen that they belong to the adolescent youth hood. The late teenage and early youthhood period in the life of a human being is the formation period of his/her character. Being revolutionary and romantic the youth will go to any extreme to execute his or some body's plans. Exhibiting heroism and hero worship add flavour to his personality. The youth becomes infatuated towards ideologies and ideologues. It is at this ripe age that they are being indoctrinated and initiated to terrorism by the master brains.

Terrorist acts are performed very often on religious, ethnic or casteist camouflage. There may be some genuine reason for one to be really aggrieved of religious, racial or caste injustice done to him or to his kith and kin. Such aggrieved persons are picked up to become terrorists by igniting the flame of revenge which is dormant in his emotions. Once they are trapped, there is no way out and eventually transforms himself both thoughtfully and emotionally a terrorist. Once he is mentally prepared, the rest is easy. He collects or is forced to collect the required number of persons by luring them by means of money or materials.

The methodology of terrorist actions is that the most sophisticated devices are employed for the blasts for employing such devices precise and delicate training is required. The recent revelation that army officers are deputed as master trainers in imparting instructions to the young recruiters is quite alarming. The explosive devices are placed in busy areas such as market places, bus stands, railway stations, shrines and places of worships etc. As a result of the blasts, the poor and innocent people become the victims. They are nobody's enemies.

Huge amount is for being pumped to execute a terrorist act purchase of vehicles, explosives, sophisticated training, pay offs to the personnel etc require huge amount of money. Where does the money come from? What is the motive of the financiers?

If a financier invests money in an enterprise, he should get the dividends. What is the dividend which he expects out of it? The motive of the financiers may be political or economic or both. Political destabilisation of a nation state is inevitable for imperialist penetration. Destroying the sovereignty of nation states is the politics-economic agenda of globalisation to enable the free flow of capital, goods and ideologies. The destabilisation process is executed by inciting religious and ethnic sentiments of the people within a nation state. Linguistic and caste feelings can also be exploited for achieving this aim.

Globalisation decries democracy as a form of administration run by incompetent elected representatives. What the present context requires is the substitution of democracy by meritocracy. Once democracy is declared as unwanted, elections become unnecessary. Since elections are unnecessary, political parties become unnecessary. Hence politics become unnecessary. Therefore, depoliticisation of production and distribution is a precondition of globalisation. Factories, workplaces, campuses and households shall be liberated from politics.

Depoliticisation of the campuses has two effects. The first is that the vast majority who join the labour force after their education becomes political eunuchs and will do no harm to the entrepreneurs. The second is that a microscopic minority can be initiated to terrorism who in future could be employed to use violence to suppress resistance.

Campuses are the nurseries of democracy. Politicisation is a precondition for the healthy growth of the seedlings of democracy. The vacuum created by the elimination of democracy will be filled by fissiparous tendencies of parochialism, communalism, racism, casteism and terrorism. Let not our campuses be infected by such viruses. Let our campuses be the flourishing nurseries of democracy.

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