

Organized Crime and Terrorism

Student's Name

Course Name

University

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CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION

1.1. Introductory remarks

Terrorism and organized crime are regarded by the researchers as the most serious delinquencies in the contemporary world. However, only a negligible number of researchers have managed to make specific insights into the available intersections between the vicious natures of both phenomena. In other words, terrorism and organized crime, being separate types of illicit activities, are regarded by certain scholars as reciprocal.

Thus, Grabovsky and Stohl (2010) are disposed to think that organized crime and terrorism are similar in some respects. Taking into consideration the suggested feasibility of Grabovsky and Stohl's approach to the issues of terrorism and organized crime, it should be asserted that the present study is going to follow the author's way of thinking in order to verify the existence of linkages between terrorism and organized crime. Moreover, the current independent research is conceived to detect those ties between the analyzed phenomena that the previous authors have ignored. Also, the most appropriate methodology is deemed to provide sufficient furtherance on the road towards the scientific success.

1.2. Theoretical framework

The core purpose of the current study lies in the exploration of relationship between organized crime and terrorism. Moreover, the present research is conceived to clarify both separate and joint menaces of terrorism and organized crime to the present world. To elaborate further, there will be evaluated in the current research both theoretical and practical implications of anti-terrorist policy measures in order to expand criminology empirical and theoretical domain. Hence, the thesis statement needs to be formulated as follows: *There is an undeniable interplay between terrorism and organized crime, which is dictated by common requirements for prosperity and survival.* In order to augment the coherence and logical

consistency of the study appropriate research objectives must be elaborated. The research objectives should be enumerated as follows:

- To expound on both theoretical and practical dimensions of the phenomenon of terrorism.
- To explicate the phenomenon of organized crime in its relation to terrorism.
- To examine the nexus between terrorism and organized crime.
- To investigate the implications of anti-terrorist policies, as well as their secondary impacts on organized crime.

Also, the success of the present study highly depends on the proper answers to the research questions, which must be specified as follows:

1. Is there a direct nexus between organized crime and terrorism?
2. What types of organized crime are compatible with terrorist activities?
3. Are there sorts of organized crime stringently focused on the attainment of political spoils or achievements beside the profit-making activities?
4. What are benefits in the cooperation between organized crime and terrorist organizations?

Apart from the above, the current study is going to test the following research hypotheses: a) Organized crime and terrorism intersect only if interdependent interests between two types of illicit organizations emerge; b) The transition from organized crime to terrorism, and vice versa, is possible only if the “status quo” of previous activities changes; c) There are no universal panacea against terrorism and organized crime and, therefore, each emergent threat requires individually elaborated countermeasures.

CHAPTER II: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. Introductory remarks

The core significance of the present chapter lies in its capability to demonstrate all relevant to the research objective opinions, approaches, and judgments of previous authors. However, the current chapter is not composed merely to depict the already comprehended findings in respect of terrorism and organized crime, but rather to attain the research objectives by means of the critical evaluation of the secondary data.

Furthermore, the available researches are considered to be helpful in grasping the meaning of the terms. However, it should be taken into consideration that the review of existent publications is a secondary data collection method. Therefore, the method of literature review, being insufficient for the ubiquitously valid and reliable study, is going to be supplemented by appropriate primary data collection method, described in the chapter “Methodology”.

2.2. Terrorism

2.2.1. *Definition of terrorism*

First and foremost, it might be appropriate to note that there are a large number of various definitions of terrorism. Grabovsky and Stohl (2010) give preference to the determination of terrorism as “an act or threat of violence to create fear and/or compliant behavior in a victim or wider audience for the purpose of achieving political ends” (p. 5).

Also, according to the U.S. Code the concept of terrorism is associated with premeditated, politically motivated violence, which is conducted against noncombatant targets by subnational groups of clandestine agents (U.S. Code Title 22, Ch.38, Par. 2656 f(d)). The aforesaid definition of terrorism accentuates on the following characteristics of the phenomenon: a) - the politically motivated deliberate actions; b) - the actions are directed

against noncombatant targets; c) - the actions are performed by sub-national groups of clandestine agents.

To put it briefly, the US Code does not recognize any other motivation of terrorism with the exception of political. It means that each terrorist act is conceived to deliver a peculiar message in order to incite the players in the domain of politics to either perform certain actions or refrain from conducting specific deeds. In the context of the second particularity of terrorism, a mental note should be made that the US Code confines the range of targets of terrorists by noncombatants only. Hence, it follows that any politically motivated action, which is conducted against combatants is not recognized as a terrorist act.

Furthermore, the U.S. Code prescribes that terrorist's acts are performed exclusively by sub-national groups of clandestine agents. Taking into consideration the aforementioned constituent of the US legal definition of terrorism, it is possible to notice that the US Code does not admit the possibility of the terrorist's acts conducted by lone perpetrators. According to the US statutory law, a terrorist act may be conducted by a group of people only. Moreover, the aforesaid groups of people must consist of clandestine agents, who are well-disguised in order to surpass the law-enforcement and security agencies.

In view of the above, the legal definition of terrorism, which is available from the US Code, is insufficient for the comprehensive evaluation of its characteristics. To elaborate further, it should be noted that there is a large number of various definitions of terrorism in the domain of international law and politics.

For instance, United Nations Security Council Resolution 1566 offers the definition of terrorists' acts as "criminal acts", particularly against citizens, which are committed with the intent to inflict death or serious bodily injury, or capturing of hostages, aiming to ignite a "state of terror" in the general public or within a particular group of persons, and to incite the

authorities to do or to abstain from doing any act (UN Security Council Resolution 1566, 2004).

Taking into account the characteristics of terrorism, which are expressed in the aforesaid definition, it should be conceded that the international apprehension of the term is much wider than that in the US Code. Thus, the principal disparities between the already analyzed definitions lie in the fact that the UN Convention does not confine the range of targets affected by terrorists' acts. The convention prescribes that terrorism particularly, but not exclusively, strikes against citizens.

In contradistinction to the international conception of terrorism, the US Code constricts the targets of terrorism to noncombatants only. In this light, the acts of violence against military men are not considered to be terrorists' acts according to the US Code, which evinces one of the drawbacks of the legal statute.

Nevertheless, both definitions condemn the existence of terrorism in all forms. Also, in both documents terrorism is defined as a politically motivated violence, which makes terrorism extremely threatening not only to individual humans, but also to the stability in political systems and global community. In order to grasp the salient features of terrorism, a more profound analysis is required.

[...]

CHAPTER IV: RESULTS

The conducted study has reached the following results:

- The most comprehensive definition of terrorism has been found. Thus, according to the U.S. Code the concept of terrorism is associated with premeditated, politically motivated violence, which is conducted against noncombatant targets by sub-national groups of clandestine agents.

- The most popular impetuses to terrorism include a generalized protest, a desire for revenge in response to an apprehended injustice, an incentive to change the political regime and aspiration to assert a sense of manhood in a “disempowering world”.
- The core discrepancy between state and international terrorism lies in the fact that state terrorism is perpetrated, either directly, or indirectly through private persons, or latently, by official authorities of a particular state, whereas international terrorism is usually represented by non-state terroristic groups or non-governmental organizations.
- The most comprehensive definition of organized crime has been found. It implies that organized crime is “a widespread group of professional criminals who rely on illegal activities as a way of life and whose activities are coordinated and controlled through some form of centralized syndicate” (Wild, 2006, p. 192). The conducted research has verified the aforesaid definition of the concept as true.
- Organized crime is a very complex and profound phenomenon, which has the direct nexus with the level of social of social development in the state.
- According to Ruggiero (2008), there are three main categories of organized crime: predatory, parasitic, and symbiotic ones.
- The emergence of organized crime is connected with various factors, such as social inadequacies, deviant adaptations, strain, grievances, insufficiency of social control, weaknesses of state power, *etc.*
- Practical dimensions of organized crime are approachable through the diligent analysis of the structure and role of members of specific criminal organizations.
- State organized crime, being confined within a single state or a particular intrastate territory, is not potent enough to affect global processes, whereas transnational organized crime is a menacing phenomenon, which is enrooted in the multiplicity of countries.

- Multinational organized crime is more structured and organized than state organized crime, which is dictated by the primary objective to gain profit from various criminal activities, such as money laundering, trafficking of people, illegal drugs, and goods, functioning of various black markets, fraud, *etc.*
- The proliferation of transnational organized crime is dependent on global processes as well as on gaps in international regulation and policies, including restraints of trade, prohibition laws, liberalization of global economy, *etc.* In contrast to multinational organized crime, state organized crime predominantly depends on the processes being existent within the borders of a particular state.
- The emergence of either political or religious aspirations inside organized crime inevitably triggers the transition from a mere money-motivated functioning to politically or religiously motivated struggles. Contrariwise, the fading away of political or religious impetus is likely to foster the conversion of the terroristic organization into a mere criminal entity.
- The Sicilian case manifests the truth of a statement that the threat of prosecution may drive organized crime towards the implementation of terrorists' techniques in order to intimidate the authorities and guarantee security and safety of the criminal way of life.
- The nature of criminal networks encourages both criminal organizations and terroristic entities to cooperate and satisfy reciprocal needs without losing their integrity and independence.
- The interchange between organized and terrorism is impossible without a sufficient amount of trust. Therefore, trust is a very important prerequisite to the interactions between organized crime and terrorism, which evinces the mutual aspiration to avoid penetration and survive in the underworld.

- The reality of correlation between organized crime and terrorism may be explicated by the disposition of organized crime to employ the tactics of terrorists' violence in certain cases. However, the violence of terroristic organizations differs from the terrorists' violence of criminal organizations. The core discrepancies may be found in the motives and frequency of violence.
- There is a disparity between organized crime and terrorism in the attitude to state adversaries. On the one hand, organized crime seeks to bribe and appease public authorities in order to have both a predictable adversary and to ensure the long-term survival. On the other hand, as the rule, criminal organizations are prone to favor each possibility of confrontation with public authorities, seeking no state protection or lenience.
- The example of a partnership between Al-Qaeda and the Taliban government of Afghanistan evinces the linkage between non-governmental terroristic network and the "criminal" government, which is motivated by the common feeling of enmity with regard to the USA and its allies.
- The interactions between organized crime and terroristic organizations are demonstrated by mutual aspiration towards the concealment of the traces of criminal activities. The emphasis on the secrecy is very substantial among various types of illicit entities, either terroristic or criminal ones, because the failure to hide the "money trail" may facilitate the governmental authorities to track them down.
- Also, terroristic and criminal organizations are interrelated during their engagement in either vertical or horizontal integration. The issue of integration is frequently motivated by the necessity to adjust to new environmental and governmental challenges.

- Physical extermination of people, as well as the destruction of property, is the most visible effect of terrorism and organized crime.
- Infliction of bodily and mental harm is another impact of terrorism and organized crime on individuals.
- Huge economic losses, which originate from the functioning of multiplicity of illicit markets, including stolen goods markets, are an undeniable effect of organized crime.
- Proliferation of fear, instability and violence due to the existence of biased coverage of terrorism and organized crime.

CHAPTER V DISCUSSION

The conducted research has manifested itself as a very profound theoretical evaluation of different publications on terrorism and organized crime. Taking into consideration all used resources, it should be claimed that Grabovsky and Stohl's publication on the nexus between terrorist and organized crime is considered to be the most comprehensive approach to the investigated issues. Also, the most valuable inferences have been made from Grabovsky and Stohl's premises.

Apart from the above, it might be appropriate to note that the theoretical dimensions of organized crime and terrorism have been comprehensively evaluated by virtue of Ruggiero's considerations. The author's classification of predatory, parasitic and symbiotic forms of organized crime has helped to expand the apprehension of the phenomenon. To elaborate further, it should be elucidated that a special emphasis has been laid on legal definition of the concepts of terrorism and organized crime.

The significance of legal provisions, specifying what terrorism or organized crime is, lies in their official character. Also, the legal definitions of the terms help to enhance the understanding of anti-criminal and counter-terroristic policies.

Besides, it should be claimed that the conducted research is not devoid of limitations and gaps. Thus, the most noticeable shortcoming of the performed investigations consists in their incapability to delineate various impediments and predicaments on the road towards the interplay between terrorism and organized crime. A diligent evaluation of the obstacles, preventing the cooperation between terroristic groups and criminal organizations might have aided states in the elaboration of more efficient counter-measures against both types of illicit activities.

CHAPTER VI: CONCLUSIONS

After everything having been given due consideration, it should be generalized that there is a true linkage between terrorism and organized crime, which is ignited by the necessity to survive and thrive in a challenging global environment. Thus, the thesis statement has been followed and tested as true. Also, the research objectives have been achieved completely:

- Both theoretical and practical dimensions of the phenomenon of terrorism have been explicated.
- The phenomenon of organized crime has been evaluated in its relation to terrorism.
- The nexus between terrorism and organized crime has been ascertained.
- The implications of anti-terroristic policies, as well as their secondary impacts on organized crime have been depicted.

Also, the success of the conducted study has been augmented by the proper answers to the research questions.

Apart from the above, the conducted study has verified the research hypotheses as true: a) Organized crime and terrorism genuinely intersect only if interdependent interests between two types of illicit organizations emerge; b) The transition from organized crime to

terrorism, and *vice versa*, is possible only if the “status quo” of previous activities changes; c)

There are not any universal panacea against terrorism and organized crime and, therefore,

each emergent threat requires individually elaborated countermeasures.

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