

فاتحة المقالة

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي
أَنْزَلَ هَذِهِ السُّورَةَ
وَجَعَلَ فِيهَا آيَاتٍ
بَيِّنَاتٍ لِقَوْمٍ يَعْلَمُونَ

Terrorism under the guise of “Islamic Jihadist” Movement: Do these represent the teachings of Islam?

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Abstract

- While we must avoid the temptation to engage in simplistic assumptions and/or consequent conclusions that what Islam is in the text is what the religion is in different contexts of Muslims societies across the contemporary world, it is however arguable to say that the greater issue confronting the Islamicate world today is that of violent extremism or terrorism. The latter, which has variously been described as “Islamic Jihadist” movement, has enjoyed not popularity for improving cross-cultural dialogue across the world but notoriety for its promotion of violence.

Abstract

Represented in the West African subregion by the Boko Haram group, the activities of these so-called Islamic movements have equally raised questions about original teachings of Islam, the precepts and principles established by Prophet Muhammad for inter-religious dialogue and perhaps most importantly the position of Islam on freedom of, in and within religion. This presentation explores and engages the dialectics in these perspectives, rereads factors for the incidence of violent extremism in the West African sub-region and offers suggestions by which the region could achieve greater inter-cultural and inter-religious rapprochement through the exploration of intra-Islamic peace-building strategies and instruments

DEFINING TERROR; DEFINING THE INDEFINABLE?

- From latin to french to English: terere, terrorisme, terrorism; The Jacobin Club post-revolution France 1795
- Features individuals or groups carrying out violence directed against the public, against civilians.
- an action that has the effect of spreading fear by preventing people from taking any safekeeping measures against physical or property damage.
- may be overt or stealthy; may include serial murders, burnings, bombings
- Is it not synonymous with Irhab or khawf? Q2:155-157: we shall surely test you
- Is it another word for Faz'u: Q 38: 22

Semantics of Terror

- T is a tactic of demanding for the impossible and doing so at gun-point: e.g US must become an Islamic state; Southwest Nig. must belong to Xtianity; Abuja Must be Muslim
- T is the weapon of the outlaw against the oppressor; Muhammad Yusuf JAMAAT IZALAT BID"AH
- T is an emotion caused by the sight of an evil or peril
- T is warfare by extreme means
- T is an act of war measured by the scale of its victims not the merit of its cause
- T is the blackmail of the many by the few: Good Muslims versus Bad Muslims
- T is the transaction between State terrorism and non-State terrorism on the body of the civilian: eg Israeli vs Hamas; US drone attacks In Afghanistan vs the Taliban; 2009 Nigerian govt vs jamaat

APPROACHES TO ANTI-TERRORISM

- The How and What Approach
- US at State level: “Either you are with us or with the Terrorist”
- Intra-State War on Terror (ISWT): Division of Muslims into 2: Good vs Bad Muslims
- Psychological War on Terror: against the hijab, the beard, the Muslim name,
- Economic deprivations
- Prohibition of Muslim philanthropic organizations
- Summary: the “How” approach to the challenge posed by terrorism has produced terrorism of anti-terrorism

Approaches to Anti-Terrorism in Nigeria: The Governmental

- The “How” and what” Approach
- Killing of Muhammad Yusuf
- Global Standard: terrorism is an abyss; you have to stare it in the face: violence for violence
- Promulgation of 2011 Anti-terrorism bill (see Nigeria’s War on Terror: Between National Security and Human Right 2012)
- Entry into security alliance with foreign powers

Approaches to Anti-Terrorism in Nigeria: The Non-Governmental

- The Informed Approach: “Terrorism is an effect: government should confront the cause”; dialogue with the “terrorists” Where possible
- Un-Informed Approach: “this people want war: govt should confront them headlong: let Xtians pick up arms too”. Fani-Kayode). The approach ignores the fact that majority of those who have died so far have been Muslims;
- Prejudiced approach: split this country into two: embarrass Muslims wherever you see them e.g Nasarawa High Court

Exploring Role for Religion 1

- Separate Muslims from Islam
- Of the ideological/organizational- the karikasa, the boko haram, the tabligh
- Of the Westomaniac and Westophobic

Exploring Role for Religion 2

- Rescue Islam from the Muslims
- Of nature –al-fitrah –Q2: 208; 3-80
- Of peace and Justice
- Of knowledge and war against ignorance
- Choice, Chance not compulsion
- Of four levels –shariah, tariqah, marifa h and haqiqah
- Of four features: practicality, universality, historicity, comprehensiveness

Exploring Role of Islam

- Islam privileges the Why Question
- The wrong notion of the Self: of Christians, Jews and Muslims; Q4: 123 and Q 5: 18
- ليس بأمانيكم ولا أمانى أهل الكتاب من يعمل سوءا يجزى به ولا يجد له من دون الله وليا ولا نصيرا؛
 - وقالت اليهود والنصرى نحن أبناء الله وأحبوه قل فلم يعذبكم بذنوبكم
- Thus to be Muslim is to be accountable;
- Wrong notion of the Other: 2: 256/ 60: 8 dar harb vs dar salam/al-ahd
- لا ينهاكم الله عن الذين لم يقاتلونكم في الدين ولم يخرجوكم من دياركم أن تبرّوهم وتقسطوا إليهم؛

Exploring the Role of Islam

- Violence for violence is abhorrent to Allah: Q2: 190;
example from our leader Q
 - وإن عاقبتم فعاقبوا بمثل ما عوقبتم...؛
- Wrong notion of the stage of Dawah with that of authority:
 - سيكولوجية المقهور
 - خلط مرحلة الدعوة بمرحلة الدولة
 - خلط الوعيد الإلهي بالمعاملة البشرية
 - سوء فهم مناسبات استعمال القوة في القرآن مثل سورة التوبة: آية
 - 29
- Do not think I have come to send peace on earth rather I have come to set a man against his mother... Mathew 10: 34-35/ luke 19: 26-27/deutronomy 7: 1-2

Exploring the Role of Islam

- Existential Factor
- Advocate Dawah that would promote economic prosperity not poverty:
 - كاد الفقر أن يكون كفرا
- Muslim Ummah should confront under/Employment of the youth
- Muslim Ummah should confront 'informed ignorance'
الرجال أربعة:
- Promote multiculturalism ... وقل الحق من ربكم فمن شاء فليؤمن...
- Peaceful engagement of Islamophobia not the promotion and celebration of westophobia

Exploring the Role of the Judiciary

- Nigeria is in need of honest and completely learned legal practitioners
- Of Judges who can speak truth to power
- Of judges who will not turn their courts to a space of terror like the judge in Nasarawa
- Of legal provision which will not consider me guilty before trial; nor terrorise me in the name of anti-terrorism

Terrorism: Causes vs Effects

- عن ابن عمر: قال الحبيب المصطفى:
- خمس خصال أخاف أن تترككم: ما ظهر الغلoul في قوم إلا ألقى الله في قلوبهم الرعب ، ولا فشا الزنا في قوم إلا كثر فيهم الموت ، ولا نقص قوم المكيال والميزان إلا قطع عنهم الرزق ، ولا حكم قوم بغير حق إلا فشا فيهم الدم ، ولا ختر قوم بالعهد إلا سلط عليهم العدو

- اللهم يا من لا تضره معصيتنا، ولا تنفعه طاعتنا أيقظنا من غفلتنا، ووقفنا لمصالحنا، واعصمنا من قبائحنا، ولا تؤاخذنا بما فعله السفهاء منا.
- اللهم يا من كان مع يونس في لجم البحار، ومع إبراهيم في النار، ومع محمد -صلى الله عليه وسلم- في الغار؛ كن معنا حيث كنا. برحمتك يا أرحم الراحمين..

