




Research Paper

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Analyzing the relationship between geography and terrorism using a data-driven approach

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Abstract


Introduction

With a little tolerance and comprehensiveness, it can be said that in the third millennium, the phenomenon of terrorism as a driving factor of political, social, economic, etc. developments has replaced well-known political phenomena such as revolution, war (full-scale wars between two or more political units with a specific identity in the form of national states), coups, rebellions, etc., and has challenged human life in its various dimensions, especially in political aspects and dimensions (subnational, national, and international political groups). The phenomenon of terrorism is spreading in the world. This phenomenon has become extremely widespread, especially in the last decades of the twentieth century and the first two decades of the twenty-first century. Terrorism is a phenomenon as old as human history. The broad conceptual scope of this phenomenon has led thinkers and experts from various academic disciplines such as political science, sociology, law, etc. to study and analyze this phenomenon from different dimensions and produce rich scientific literature for it. People, countries, governments, national and international organizations, and even civilizations of today's world are each faced with this phenomenon in some way. The problem is that people, countries, governments, and other political entities are forced to define this phenomenon and take a stand against it. The dispersion and intensity of terrorist operations in certain parts of the world suggests that geographical factors and components can be the basis for terrorist thoughts or operations.

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Methodology

This research is a type of developmental research that has been conducted within the framework of interpretive methodology and in the manner of qualitative research. The basis of the research method in this article is the "grounded theory" or "grounded data method", which is one of the most valid and widely used methods in qualitative research. This method was created in 1967 by Glaser and Strauss. If there is no comprehensive research in a specific field or there is a knowledge gap, grounded data research is used. Therefore, in grounded data research, unlike other research, instead of relying on existing theories, emphasis is placed on the formulation of theories and hypotheses by the researcher. Therefore, considering that there was no comprehensive theory regarding the exact relationship between geography and terrorism, data was collected in a library manner from books and reference studies, journals and reputable articles. In order to recognize and understand the geographical contexts that are effective in the emergence and intensification of terrorism, various sources have been examined and analyzed. The necessary documents and arguments have been extracted from various articles and books that have analyzed the subject of terrorism using the method of content analysis. Then, various indicators and components have been identified from various researches. In the next stage, by examining and reviewing the indicators, components and important geographical categories affecting the phenomenon of terrorism, the relationship between them has been determined in the "Atlas T" software and the final model has been drawn.

Result and discussion

The factors and components of natural and human geography have a significant impact on terror and terrorism. Terrorism, like other human activities, is affected by weather conditions. As any terrorist operation without coordination with the local weather is doomed to failure. Climate change has a significant relationship with terrorism. Geographical location is also one of the most important natural factors in shaping human activities. American geographer Alan Churchill Semple believes that the geographical location of any country is considered a very important factor in their history. It can be said that geographical locations are more vulnerable to their level of development and progress. This is not because they have more vulnerable, more valuable and more important points that can be chosen as targets by terrorists. In this regard, the buffering of a country's location and its role in strengthening and developing

terrorism in that country can be mentioned. Due to their national power, buffer states do not have the ability to change or oppose the policies of global powers. On the other hand, the imbalance of power between global powers in some cases leads to the occupation of the region and the buffer state by one of these powers. One of the perspectives explaining terrorism is spatial and economic injustice. Weak biological foundations and unbalanced distribution of natural resources at the country level can lead to the formation of asymmetric development. This issue and the lack of desirable spatial development of areas poor in terms of natural resources can create a platform for extremist activities. The physical structure of the land and the uneven topography and geographical shape of the regions are also other important and determining factors in the development and development of terrorist activities in countries. It is said that the existence of extensive geographical features and rough topography has increased the maneuverability of terrorist groups and armed criminals in the common border areas between Afghanistan and Pakistan, making it very difficult to identify and pursue terrorists in these areas. Furthermore, having long, influential and imposed geographical borders is actually one of the important factors in facilitating terrorist activities.

Conclusion

The study of the complex and multidimensional phenomenon of terrorism as one of the major trends affecting human life in the third millennium; is still on the agenda of researchers and scholars in various fields, but attention to the spatial-spatial dimensions of this phenomenon has been less paid attention. This is while there are places, spaces and specific geographical areas that act as the main places and headquarters for the development, development and strengthening of terrorism in the world. Therefore, terrorism is mainly formed in specific spatial-spatial areas. In fact, these places and spaces where terrorism is born have geographical conditions and indicators that are susceptible to terrorist activities. On the other hand, although "terrorism" is a political phenomenon in itself and by nature, firstly, geographical forces, factors and elements are very influential in the formation of this phenomenon, and on the other hand, its reflection and consequences are reflected in the space level and, in other words, it reproduces the space. Therefore, in order to analyze and explain terrorism, it is necessary to pay attention to a "geopolitical" theory and design a model for the geographical explanation of terrorism, based on such a theory, and a one-sided "political" or "geographical" view alone cannot lead to

an accurate understanding of this phenomenon and, consequently, to provide a solution for it. Therefore, in order to develop and develop terrorism in a geographical region, there must be a set of different political, security, social, cultural, economic, geopolitical and natural characteristics and indicators in space, which these seven parts, along with the variables below each of them, were explained in this study. Another noteworthy point is that the variables associated with each of these seven basic parts of geography have a synergistic effect on each other and, by interacting with each other, cause the formation and activity of terrorist groups.

Keywords: geography, terrorist operations, geography of terrorism

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