Confronting Terror: A Comparative Study of India and Israel's Counterterrorism Tactics

Aryan Gupta[a]

[a]Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Patiala, India

Terrorism remains a persistent threat to global peace and security, with nations across the world grappling with its complexities and consequences. This study delves into the counterterrorism strategies employed by two nations with extensive experience in combating terrorism: India and Israel. Through a comparative lens, the research aims to unravel the divergences and convergences in the approaches adopted by these nations in addressing the scourge of extremism. The study utilizes a multidimensional analysis, drawing insights from historical contexts, geopolitical landscapes, and policy frameworks. It examines the policies of deterrence and retaliation pursued by both countries, probing into the nuances that differentiate one nation's response from the other. By scrutinizing six significant terrorist attacks and their socio-political and economic ramifications, the research sheds light on the evolving trends in counterterrorism tactics. A notable research gap exists in the comparative analysis of counterterrorism strategies employed by India and Israel, particularly considering their distinct geopolitical contexts and historical experiences. This study endeavors to fill this gap by providing an in-depth exploration of the effectiveness and outcomes of counterterrorism measures. Furthermore, it seeks to identify key learnings and best practices that each country can incorporate into their policies to enhance their resilience against terrorism. Ultimately, this research contributes to the broader discourse on counterterrorism by offering nuanced insights into the challenges and opportunities inherent in combating extremism. Through a comprehensive examination of India and Israel's experiences, this study aims to inform policy decisions and foster international cooperation in the fight against terrorism.

Keywords: *terrorism, Israel, policy.*

INTRODUCTION

Object and Purpose of the Study:

The objective of this study is to comparatively analyze and evaluate the Counter-terrorism policies pursued by both Israel and India. This research project aims to identify the points of divergence and convergence between the ways of handling instances of terrorism within the areas of concern of both countries. Finally, this project aims to highlight certain key points that either country can incorporate into their policies regarding counter-terrorism.

RESEARCH GAP

A notable research gap exists in the comparative analysis of counterterrorism tactics employed by India and Israel, particularly in light of their differing geopolitical contexts and historical experiences with terrorism. While existing studies often focus on individual case studies or broader regional dynamics, there is a lack of comprehensive research that systematically compares the effectiveness and outcomes of counterterrorism strategies between these two countries.

By examining six significant terrorist attacks, along with their socio-political and economic impacts, this research aims to fill this gap by providing an in-depth analysis of the evolving nature of terrorism and counterterrorism trends. Furthermore, the study will explore changes in India's response since 2014. Such comparative research is essential for identifying best practices, lessons learned, and opportunities for enhanced cooperation in combating terrorism on a global scale.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The researcher has tried to answer various questions through this study. The main research questions are:

- What are the policies of deterrence or retaliation pursued by both countries?
- How is one country's reaction against terrorism any different from the other?
- Changes in the trends of both the countries with respect to countering terrorism.
- What can one country learn from the policies of the other?

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research project primarily relied on secondary sources, including web articles, reports, and research papers, which have been appropriately cited and referenced throughout the study. The primary focus of the researchers was on quantitative data, and qualitative data was not the main emphasis. A wide range of online sources, such as e-books, online journals, blogs, and other digital platforms, were also consulted and incorporated into this research project.

HYPOTHESIS FORMED

Given the differing geopolitical contexts and historical experiences with terrorism between India and Israel, it is hypothesized that there exist significant variations in the effectiveness and outcomes of counterterrorism tactics employed by the two countries. Specifically, it is expected that Israel's counterterrorism strategies, shaped by its longstanding conflict with Palestine and extensive experience in combating terrorism, may demonstrate a higher level of efficiency and efficacy compared to India's approach. Furthermore, it is anticipated that the examination of six significant terrorist attacks, coupled with an analysis of socio-political and economic impacts, will reveal distinct patterns and trends in the effectiveness of counterterrorism measures. Additionally, it is hypothesized that changes in India's counterterrorism response since 2014 may reflect an evolving understanding of terrorist threats and a shift towards more proactive and comprehensive strategies.

HISTORICAL AND CONTEXTUAL FACTORS AFFECTING TERRORISM

Formation of The Republic of India and The State of Israel:

Under British rule, India experienced significant socio-political changes, marked by both unity and division. During the colonial era, the British government established its administrative

frameworks throughout the Indian subcontinent and consolidated its power. But under the surface, religious tensions were rife due to British policies of divide and rule.

As India progressed toward independence, the religious division of the country came to be more noticeable. Following the All-India Muslim League's Lahore Resolution in 1940, which advocated for the establishment of 'independent states' for Muslims in areas where they constituted a majority, the call for a distinct Muslim state gained impetus. The Muslim League's leader, Muhammad Ali Jinnah, supported this demand, which was motivated by worries about Hindu dominance. The Muslim League and the Indian National Congress, which represents the majority Hindu population, intensified their negotiations as independence drew near. Deep-rooted religious differences finally caused British India to be divided in 1947, despite efforts to find a common solution. The Mountbatten Plan, which called for the division of the world on the basis of religion and created India and Pakistan, caused widespread violence and large-scale migrations as Sikhs, Muslims, and Hindus fled their homes. On August 15, 1947, India celebrated its independence, while Pakistan gained two wings: East Pakistan, which is now Bangladesh, and West Pakistan, which is now Pakistan. This division based on religion left a lasting impression on the subcontinent's collective memory, profoundly influencing the identities and interpersonal dynamics of its people for many generations to come. The division's wounds serve as moving reminders of the costs paid and the ongoing difficulties of coexisting in an area with widely differing religious and cultural traditions.[1]

Jewish history is filled with exiles, migrations, and final returns to their ancestral homeland. The ancient Hebrews founded kingdoms in Canaan, modern-day Israel, starting about 1000 BCE. They faced invasion and banishment by foreign powers, most notably the Babylonians in 586 BCE, despite their centuries-long prosperity. After several decades, the Persian King Cyrus allowed Jews to return and rebuild their temple. Jewish people faced additional challenges from later foreign rulers such as the Greeks and Romans. The Roman destruction of the Second Temple and the Jewish exodus in 70 CE resulted in the Jewish Diaspora. The desire to return to Zion did not go away despite dispersal. In the late 1800s, the modern Zionist movement was founded to establish a Jewish state in Palestine. This resulted in the ancient dreams being

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[1] Yasmin Khan, *The Great Partition: The Making of India and Pakistan* (Yale University Press 2007)

realized with the founding of Israel in 1948. Israel is a monument to the Jewish people's tenacity today, having persevered through centuries of hardship to reclaim their ancestral homeland.[23]

Socio-Political Context:

The socio-political environment in India offers a complicated background for comprehending terrorism. Its great diversity of languages, cultures, and religions has historically been both an asset and a problem for the country. Though communal tensions and regional disparities continue, sometimes they exacerbate grievances that serve as fuel for terrorist activities, despite efforts to foster unity in diversity. Further complicating its security environment is India's geopolitical location in a region rife with conflict and instability, especially in neighbouring Pakistan and Afghanistan. The enduring danger of transnational terrorism, originating from past hostilities and ongoing conflicts, contributes an additional level of intricacy to India's counterterrorism endeavours. This calls for a comprehensive strategy that strikes a balance between security protocols, diplomatic outreach, and regional collaboration.

The distinct history and challenges that Israel has faced have shaped its social and political landscape. The Zionist movement, which diverts to establish a homeland for the Jewish people after centuries of persecution, gave birth to the state. Its founding story shapes the nation's mentality, making safeguarding its citizens against foreign threats—especially those posed by terrorism—a top priority. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict, however, in which both sides have a narrative that includes territorial claims and deeply divergent visions for their own national identity, is the core source of animus and violence. Not only does Israel need to be on its guard against potential hostile acts by both state and non-state actors, but the unrelenting security threats it faces require a firm response to terrorism. The implementation of preventive measures to keep its citizens safe and protect regional stability is, therefore, a necessity.[4]

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[2] The Routledge Atlas of Jewish History (Routledge 2010)

[3] Elie Podeh, 'The Desire to Belong Syndrome: Israel and Middle-Eastern Defense, 1948-1954' (1999) 4(2) Israel Studies 121-149 <https://www.jstor.org/stable/30245513> accessed 03 March 2024

[4] Gordis and Daniel, *Israel: A Concise History of a Nation Reborn* (Haper Collins Publishers 2016)

Cultural and Ideological Factors:

Within India, terrorist activities often originate from cultural and ideological tensions arising from religious diversity and historical grievances. The country's diverse religious makeup – and the historical prejudices and grievances that have emerged therefrom – is exploited by extremists seeking to stir up hatred and violence. Hindu-Muslim tensions and the recurrent outbreaks of communal violence they produce provide extremist organizations with an inherently unstable situation they aim to intensify via acts of terrorism. Historical grievances, such as the unresolved Kashmir conflict and the perceived religious legitimization of injustices against minority communities, continue to function as one of the main communicative fault lines through which the propaganda and recruitment of terrorist organizations is conducted. The cultural and ideological terrain within which terrorist activities in India operate points to the urgent need for the kind of inclusive approach to governance and socio-economic disparity that will root out the sources of terrorism.

The ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict is a major catalyst for terrorist activities in Israel and is closely linked to cultural and ideological factors. Israelis and Palestinians are driven to violence and tensions by conflicting national identities and claims to resources and land. Furthermore, these tensions are frequently exacerbated and acts of terrorism are justified by ideological extremism, which includes religious and nationalist ideologies. External factors and regional dynamics, which feed the cycle of violence and obstruct efforts to establish long-term peace and security, further complicate the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. To tackle these cultural and ideological conflicts, a comprehensive strategy that attends to the underlying grievances and facilitates communication and peace-making between parties involved is necessary.[5]

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[5] S Ilian Troen, 'Israeli Views of the Land of Israel/Palestine' (2013) 18(2) Israel Studies 100-114
<https://doi.org/10.2979/israelstudies.18.2.100> accessed 03 March 2024

COMPARATIVE CASE STUDIES OF TERRORIST ATTACKS

Kandahar Hijack (1999) and 1976 El-Al Hijacking

The Hijackings: Indian Airlines Flight 814, a domestic flight from Kathmandu, Nepal, to Delhi, India, was the target of a hijacking carried out by militants from Pakistan in December 1999. The hijackers, who were purportedly connected to the Harkat-ul-Mujahideen organization, took over the aircraft as it entered Indian airspace and altered its trajectory. The hijackers forced the pilots to fly to Lahore, Pakistan, and then Dubai, United Arab Emirates, as they pursued their demands after making an initial landing in Amritsar, India, for refuelling. The hijackers made a number of demands throughout the ordeal, chief among them being the release of a number of well-known militants who were detained in India. Maulana Masood Azhar, the leader of the militant group Jaish-e-Mohammed, which is based in Pakistan, was one of these people. The passengers and crew endured days of captivity under duress and uncertainty, with the threat of violence looming over them. Tragically, the situation escalated when one of the hostages, a passenger, was killed by the hijackers, adding to the gravity of the crisis.

In June 1976, Air France Flight 139, carrying mainly Jewish and Israeli passengers, was hijacked en route from Tel Aviv to Paris. After a stopover in Athens where additional passengers, including four hijackers, boarded, the flight was diverted to Benghazi, Libya, and then to Entebbe, Uganda. Supported by Ugandan President Idi Amin, the hijackers demanded the release of Palestinian militants held in Israel, threatening to begin killing hostages if their demands were not met. They separated Jewish hostages from others, releasing non-Israeli captives gradually. Despite negotiations, around 106 hostages, including the Air France crew and some French and Israeli passengers, remained at Entebbe airport, held under tense conditions as the international community scrambled to find a resolution to the crisis.

Perpetrators: The perpetrators of the Indian Airlines Flight 814 hijacking were reportedly Pakistani militants linked to Harkat-ul-Mujahideen. Meanwhile, the hijackers of Air France Flight 139 included Palestinian militants from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine – External Operations (PFLP-EO) and German terrorists from the German Revolutionary Cells.

In both instances, the terrorists demanded the release of militants from the prisons of the targeted countries.

Aftermath: The Indian Government's handling of the crisis revealed systemic failures and a lack of coherent internal security doctrine. From the moment the hijacking occurred, critical errors were made at every level of government. Despite early warnings, the Crisis Management Group failed to convene immediately, and crucial agencies like the Intelligence Bureau and RAW were not involved. Authorities at Amritsar airport displayed confusion and incompetence, failing to put the airport on alert or initiate prompt contact with the hijacked aircraft. Hesitancy to authorize a rescue operation allowed precious time to slip away, and negotiations with the hijackers were marred by indecision. The eventual release of terrorists in exchange for hostages exposed a lack of strategic planning and a failure to uphold the rule of law. The subsequent legal process faced challenges, with the CBI seeking harsher penalties for those involved but facing resistance from the judiciary. Overall, India's response to IC 814 highlighted deep-seated flaws in its counterterrorism strategy and raised serious questions about its ability to protect citizens and combat extremism effectively. Unlike Israel's resolute approach to terrorism, India's reactive and disjointed response underscored the need for comprehensive reforms in its security apparatus and crisis management protocols.[6]

Israel's response to the hijacking of Air France Flight 139 starkly contrasted with India's response towards the hijacking of IC 814. In response to the hijacking of Air France Flight 139, Israel launched Operation Thunderbolt, a daring rescue mission that would go down in history as one of the most audacious military operations ever conducted. With hostages held captive in Entebbe, Uganda, by Palestinian and German terrorists supported by Ugandan forces, Israel faced a critical moment requiring decisive action. The raid on Entebbe occurred on July 4, 1976, when Israeli commandos launched a daring rescue mission to free hostages held at Entebbe Airport in Uganda. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Israeli forces flew over 2,500 miles to Entebbe, where they swiftly incapacitated the terrorists and rescued 102

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[6] Pravin Swami, 'BOWING TO TERRORISM' *Frontline* (08 January 2000) <frontline.thehindu.com/cover-story/article30253131.ece> accessed 03 March 2024

hostages. Tragically, the operation resulted in the death of Colonel Yonatan Netanyahu, the commander of the elite Sayeret Matkal unit, who was killed in action along with 3 hostages. Despite this loss, the operation was hailed as a remarkable success, showcasing Israel's military prowess and resolve in combating terrorism while underscoring the high cost of such operations.[7]

Parliament Attack (2001) and Hadera Market Bombing (2005)

The Attacks: On December 13, 2001, five terrorists infiltrated the Indian Parliament complex using a car falsely labelled with Home Ministry and Parliament markings. Despite both the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha being adjourned, numerous MPs and government officials, including Home Minister LK Advani and Minister of State for Defence Harin Pathak, were still present. Over 100 individuals, including prominent politicians, were inside the building during the attack. The terrorists, armed with AK-47 rifles, grenade launchers, pistols, and grenades, easily breached security using a fake identity sticker on their vehicle. They targeted Indian Vice President Krishan Kant's car before engaging in a firefight with security forces. The attack resulted in the death of 9 individuals, including Constable Kamlesh Kumari, and injured at least 17 others.[8]

On Wednesday, October 26, 2005, a Palestinian suicide bomber targeted the bustling open market in the Israeli town of Hadera during the afternoon hours. The market was filled with shoppers preparing for a Jewish holiday, heightening the impact of the attack. The explosion from the bomber's concealed explosive belt resulted in the deaths of seven civilians and left 55 others injured, with five in critical condition. The incident occurred shortly before 4 P.M, causing devastation and widespread shock in Hadera and the state of Israel.[9]

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[7] Dunstan Simon, *Entebbe: The Most Daring Raid of Israel's Special Forces* (The Rosen Publishing Group Inc 2011)
[8] '2001: Suicide Attack on Indian Parliament' *BBC* (13 December 2001)
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/onthisday/hi/dates/stories/december/13/newsid_3695000/3695057.stm> accessed 03 March 2024
[9] Nir Hasson et al., 'Suicide Bomber Rocks Hadera Market' *Haaretz* (26 October 2005)
<https://www.haaretz.com/2005-10-27/ty-article/suicide-bomber-rocks-hadera-market/0000017f-f4e5-d318-afff-f7e765e10000> accessed 03 March 2024

Perpetrators: The 2001 Indian Parliament attack was orchestrated by five terrorists associated with the Pakistan-based militant organizations Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed. The individuals involved were identified as Mohammed, Raja, Hamza, Haider, and Rana. Kashmiri Separatist extremist Afzal guru was also charged in assisting with the terror attacks in the Hadera market bombing in 2005, the suicide bomber, Hassan Abu Zeid, affiliated with Hamas.

Response: Following the 2001 Indian Parliament attack, India undertook several measures, including increased security protocols and diplomatic efforts to isolate Pakistan, holding it responsible for harboring terrorists. India engaged in a prolonged legal battle resulting in the conviction of Afzal Guru, among others. The incident escalated tensions between India and Pakistan, leading to a standoff in 2001-2002. Despite Guru's appeals, the Supreme Court upheld his death sentence. In 2013, Afzal Guru was executed, concluding the legal proceedings and representing a significant event in India's response to the attack on its democratic institutions.[1011]

Following the Hadera market bombing, Palestinian group Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility, citing retaliation for the IDF's assassination of Louie Sa'adi, a commander in the West Bank. They vowed further retaliation, warning of 'harder' responses. Al-Muaman, an Islamic Jihad leader, warned of an 'earth shaking' reply. The group condemned Israeli aggression, affirming their right to respond. Meanwhile, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon promised an 'open-ended' offensive against Palestinian armed groups. The Israeli military responded the attack, by targeting Shadi Muhanna a militant who was among the leaders of the Islamic Jihad.[12]

2008 Ahmedabad Bombings and 2004 Ashdod Port Bombing

The Attacks: On July 26, 2008, Ahmedabad, Gujrat was attacked by a series of 21 coordinated bomb blasts within a period of 70 minutes. The attacks targeted crowded markets, hospitals,

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[10] Anjali Mody, '4 Accused in Parliament Attack Case Convicted' *The Hindu* (17 December 2002) <https://web.archive.org/web/20030404232535/http://www.thehindu.com/2002/12/17/stories/2002121705260100.htm> accessed 03 March 2024
[11] Praveen Swami, 'Gen. Padmanabhan Mulls over Lessons of Operation Parakram' *The Hindu* (04 February 2004) <https://web.archive.org/web/20081203233122/http://www.hindu.com/2004/02/06/stories/2004020604461200.htm> accessed 03 March 2024
[12] 'Israel Kills Islamic Jihad Commander' *Al Jazeera* (28 October 2005) <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2005/10/28/israel-kills-islamic-jihad-commander> accessed 03 March 2024

and a bus station, strategically chosen to cause maximum casualties and chaos. The blasts occurred within a short span of time, causing widespread panic and devastation across the city. Busy commercial areas like Maninagar, Sarkhej, and the Civil Hospital were among the sites struck by the explosions. A series of live bombs were successfully defused by the Gujrat Police and 2 cars filled with material to make explosives were also discovered. The attack resulted in 56 deaths and more than 200 people being injured.

On Sunday, March 14, 2004, the Port of Ashdod became the target of two Palestinian suicide bombers equipped with concealed explosive belts, despite extensive security measures in place. At approximately 4:20 pm, the attackers detonated their devices within the compound: one inside an office building and the other at the entrance. The explosions resulted in the deaths of ten civilians, predominantly port workers, while injuring 16 others. The incident highlighted the vulnerability of seemingly fortified locations and underscored the persistent threat posed by suicide bombings, prompting intensified security efforts and renewed calls for peace negotiations.[13]

Perpetrators: The perpetrators behind the Ahmedabad 2008 attacks were identified as Indian Mujahideen and Harkat-ul-Jihad-al-Islami, two extremist groups with ties to radical ideologies. Several TV channels had received an e-mail from Indian Mujahideen claiming responsibility for the terror attacks while Harkat-ul-Jihad-al-Islami, however, has claimed responsibility for the attacks.[14] Hamas and Fatah (Former Branch of PLO) claimed the responsibility for the 2004 Ashdod Port bombing.[15]

Responses: In response to the 2008 Ahmedabad bombings, Indian authorities have undertaken vigorous measures to apprehend suspected terrorists linked to organizations like SIMI and IM.

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[13] Conal Urquhart, 'Suicide Bombers Kill 10 at Israeli Port' *The Guardian* (15 March 2004) <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2004/mar/15/israel> accessed 03 March 2024

[14] Rathin Das and Abhishek Sharan, '29 Killed as 17 Bomb Blasts Rock Ahmedabad' *Hindustan Times* (26 July 2008) <web.archive.org/web/20110605184433/http://www.hindustantimes.com/News-Feed/india/29-killed-as-17-bomb-blasts-rock-Ahmedabad/Article1-326755.aspx> accessed 03 March 2024

[15] 'Israeli Missile Strike Kills Hamas Founder' *Chicago Tribune* (22 March 2004) <https://web.archive.org/web/20130723211709/http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2004-03-22/news/0403220106_1_israelis-in-suicide-bombings-gaza-city-militant-hamas-movement> accessed 03 March 2024

Abdul Halim, Nasir Rangrez, and Qayamuddin Kapadia are among those arrested, shedding light on the intricate network behind the attacks. The arrests underscore the collaborative efforts of various state anti-terrorism squads, highlighting the seriousness with which the government addresses terrorism. Moreover, these arrests bolster the case against SIMI and reveal connections to other notorious figures like Tauqeer and Bhatkal. The arrests also showcase the collaboration between different law enforcement agencies across states.[161718]

The killing of Hamas founder Sheikh Ahmed Yassin can be understood as a direct response to the suicide bombings at the Ashdod port, which were jointly claimed by Hamas and the Fatah. Following the bombings, Israel escalated its pressure on Hamas leaders, viewing them as responsible for numerous terror attacks resulting in civilian casualties. Yassin's assassination, carried out by Israeli forces in Gaza City, aimed to dismantle the Hamas infrastructure and prevent future attacks. The Israeli military confirmed targeting Yassin, citing his involvement in terrorist activities. This action elicited outrage and vows of retaliation from Hamas leaders, including Abdel Aziz Rantisi, who assumed leadership after Yassin's death. Despite international condemnation, Israel defended its actions as necessary for national security. The assassination underscored the ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas, with both sides engaged in a cycle of violence and retaliation.[1920]

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[16] 'SIMI Activist Sent to 14-Day Police Custody' *Hindustan Times* (28 July 2008) <https://archive.ph/20130705144042/http://www.hindustantimes.com/India-news/Ahmedabad/SIMI-activist-sent-to-14-day-police-custody/Article1-327160.aspx> accessed 03 March 2024

[17] 'Ahmedabad Blasts Plotter Held in MP' *Times of India* (11 November 2008) <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Ahmedabad-blasts-plotter-held-in-MP/articleshow/3697294.cms> accessed 03 March 2024

[18] '2008 Ahmedabad Blasts: Accused Nabbed from Karnataka' *The Indian Express* (20 June 2016) <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-news-india/2008-ahmedabad-blasts-accused-nabbed-from-karnataka-2864613/> accessed 03 March 2024

[19] Joel Greenberg, 'Israeli Missile Strike Kills Hamas Founder' *Chicago Tribune* (22 March 2004) <https://web.archive.org/web/20130723211709/http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2004-03-22/news/0403220106_1_israelis-in-suicide-bombings-gaza-city-militant-hamas-movement> accessed 03 March 2024

[20] James Bennet, 'LEADER OF HAMAS KILLED BY MISSILE IN ISRAELI STRIKE' *The New York Times* (22 March 2004) <https://www.nytimes.com/2004/03/22/world/leader-of-hamas-killed-by-missile-in-israeli-strike.html> accessed 03 March 2024

26/11 Mumbai Attacks (2008) and Coastal Road Massacre (1978)

The Attacks: On November 26, 2008, Mumbai, India, witnessed a devastating terrorist attack carried out by ten gunmen. Coordinated assaults targeted several prominent locations, including the Taj Mahal Palace Hotel, Oberoi Trident Hotel, Nariman House, and Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus railway station. The siege lasted four days, resulting in 166 fatalities and hundreds injured. In response, India's armed forces swiftly mobilized, deploying elite units such as the NSG and MARCOs Marine Commandos. Major Sandeep Unnikrishnan, a NSG commando, lost his life during the operation. Their courageous actions, alongside local law enforcement, ultimately neutralized the attackers, albeit at a significant cost, highlighting the need for enhanced counterterrorism measures.

On March 11, 1978, Palestinian militants hijacked a bus on the Tel Aviv-Haifa highway in Israel. The militants, armed with automatic weapons and grenades, opened fire on passing vehicles and pedestrians during the hijacking, resulting in the deaths of 38 civilians, including 13 children, and injuring over 70 others. The attackers ruthlessly targeted both Israelis and foreign tourists, demonstrating a callous disregard for human life. The Coastal Road massacre, as it came to be known, was one of the deadliest terrorist attacks in Israeli history, leaving a profound impact on the nation's security policies and public consciousness.[21]

Perpetrators: The perpetrators of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks were members of the Pakistan-based militant group Lashkar-e-Taiba. They were trained and directed by handlers associated with the organization, including individuals like Zaki-ur-Rehman Lakhvi and Hafiz Saeed. Similarly, the Coastal Road massacre in Israel was orchestrated by Palestinian militants from the PLO. The group responsible for this attack was the Palestinian Fatah faction, specifically the PLF, led by Abu Abbas.

Response: India's response to the 26/11 attacks was primarily focused on condemnation rather than decisive action. While political leaders and officials expressed outrage and promised

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[21] Michael Omer-Man, 'This Week in History: Israel's Deadliest Terror Attack' *The Jerusalem Post* (11 March 2011) <https://www.jpost.com/Features/In-Thespotlight/This-Week-in-History-Israels-deadliest-terror-attack> accessed 04 March 2024

justice, there was a perceived lack of immediate and forceful retaliation against the perpetrators and their supporters. This led to criticism of the government's response as being insufficiently robust in the face of such a grave security threat. The attacks, like the others before, underscored the need for India to reassess its counterterrorism strategies and take proactive measures to prevent future incidents, including enhancing intelligence capabilities and strengthening security protocols.

Israel responded swiftly and decisively to the Coastal Road massacre, launching Operation Litani, which aimed to root out Palestinian militants in southern Lebanon. The operation involved airstrikes, artillery barrages, and ground assaults on Palestinian terrorist camps and strongholds. Israeli forces also blockaded Lebanese ports and bombed infrastructure targets. The assault resulted in significant casualties among the militants. Israel's response demonstrated a willingness to use military force to retaliate against attacks on its citizens, emphasizing its commitment to security and deterrence against future terrorist actions.[22]

Uri Attack (2016) and Munich Massacre (1972)

The Attacks: On September 18th, 2016, the Uri terror attack shook the region when four heavily armed terrorists from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir infiltrated an Indian Army camp in Uri, Jammu and Kashmir. In a meticulously planned dawn raid, the assailants targeted the camp's temporary tents, catching the soldiers stationed there, in their sleep, by surprise. The Indian Army swiftly engaged the terrorists in a fierce and prolonged gun battle lasting approximately six hours. This attack ended with 18 Indian soldiers martyred and over 20 others injured with all the terrorists being killed. The attack, one of the deadliest in the region in nearly two decades, sent shockwaves across the nation, highlighting the persistent threat of terrorism.[23]

On September 5th, 1972, during the Munich Summer Olympics, Palestinian terrorists stormed the Olympic Village and seized 11 Israeli athletes and coaches as hostages. The terrorists

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[22] 'Operation Litani' *IDF* (30 October 2017) <https://www.idf.il/en/mini-sites/wars-and-operations/operation-litani/> accessed 04 March 2024

[23] Aryan Gupta and Aditi Dubey, 'MILITARY REFORMS IN INDIA SINCE 2014' (2024) 11(1) International Journal of Research and Analytical Reviews 14 <https://www.ijrar.org/papers/IJRAR24A1040.pdf> accessed 04 March 2024

demanded the release of over 200 Palestinian prisoners held in Israel, as well as the release of two German radicals detained in Germany. Negotiations ensued, but the demands escalated, and the terrorists threatened to kill the hostages unless their demands were met. Despite attempts at negotiation, a botched rescue attempt at a nearby airport, Furstenfeldbruck, led to a tragic outcome. During the failed rescue, all 11 Israeli hostages were killed, along with five terrorists and a West German police officer. The attack shocked the world, being broadcast live on television, and marked one of the darkest moments in Olympic history. It underscored the vulnerability of major international events to terrorism and prompted significant changes in security protocols for future Olympics.[24]

Perpetrators: The Uri attack, was carried out by four heavily armed terrorists from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, who infiltrated an Indian Army camp in Uri, Jammu and Kashmir. Similarly, the Munich massacre during the 1972 Summer Olympics was perpetrated by Palestinian terrorists belonging to the Black September group. Both attacks were characterized by careful planning and coordination, with the perpetrators aiming to inflict maximum casualties and draw attention to their 'Political grievances'.

Response: In response to the Uri attack, India executed surgical strikes within Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir, signaling a significant shift in border security strategy. Led by Lieutenant General Ranbir Singh, these strikes aimed to neutralize terrorist threats along the Line of Control while minimizing collateral damage. The operation, authorized nearly ten days after the attack, showcased India's precision and determination in targeting enemy installations. By prioritizing regional stability and adhering to international law, India demonstrated its commitment to defending territorial integrity against evolving threats. Indian officials disclosed that the strikes targeted areas near the Line of Control, where militants reportedly congregated for infiltration. Special forces teams from the 4th and 9th battalions of the Para Special Forces executed the operation with strategic precision, swiftly withdrawing after destroying terrorist bases. This

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[24] Harvey W Kushner, *Encyclopedia of Terrorism* (2003)

decisive and unprecedented action underscored India's resolve to combat terrorism and safeguard national interests.[25][26]

Following the 1972 Summer Olympics massacre in Munich, Israel swiftly retaliated by bombing ten PLO bases in Syria and Lebanon. Prime Minister Golda Meir and Defence Minister Moshe Dayan established Committee X to devise an Israeli response. General Aharon Yariv, appointed Counterterrorism Advisor by Meir, along with Mossad Director Zvi Zamir, spearheaded the subsequent operation. Recognizing the need to prevent further violence against Israel, the committee determined that dramatic assassinations of those responsible for the Munich massacre were imperative. Further Operation Wrath of God, led by Mossad, was initiated which targeted individuals linked to the Munich massacre. Mahmoud Hamshari, Basil Al Kubaisi, Muhammad Youssef al-Najjar, Kamal Adwan, Kamal Nasser, and Ali Hassan Salameh were among those assassinated. Utilizing tactics like letter bombs and direct killings, Mossad sought to eliminate Palestinian militants across Europe and the Middle East. Plausible deniability was crucial, ensuring no direct link to Israel. Despite setbacks such as the Lillehammer affair, the operation disrupted terrorist networks and deterred future attacks, underscoring Israel's determination to retaliate against threats to its security.[27]

These two terror attacks, nearly 50 years apart, were included in the same case study due to their similar outcome: bringing the war to the terrorists' homes. While the IDF had previously adopted this approach, it was unprecedented for the Indian counterpart. Both operations aimed to disrupt terrorist networks and deter future attacks by targeting perpetrators directly. This strategic shift underscored a proactive stance against terrorism, crucial for national security.

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[25] Sushant Singh, 'Inside the Surgical Strike: Choppers on Standby, 70-80 Soldiers' *The Indian Express* (01 October 2016) <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-news-india/surgical-strikes-india-pakistan-loc-jammu-and-kashmir-indian-army-3059059> accessed 04 March 2024

[26] Gupta (n 23)

[27] Thomas Byron Hunter, 'Targeted Killing: Self-Defense, Preemption, and the War on Terrorism' (2009) 2(2) Journal of Strategic Security 1 <http://www.jstor.org/stable/26462958> accessed 04 March 2024

Pulwama Attack (2019) and Operation Al Aqsa Flood (2023)

The Attacks: On February 14th, 2019, in Jammu and Kashmir, a devastating terrorist attack unfolded, orchestrated by Adil Ahmed, a suicide bomber affiliated with the Jaish group. Using over 100 kg of explosives, Ahmed executed a calculated maneuverer by ramming his car into a bus convoy transporting more than 2,500 CRPF personnel on the Srinagar-Jammu highway at Latoomode in Awantipora. The suicide bombing of the targeted bus, belonging to the 76th battalion of the CRPF, resulted in the tragic loss of at least 38 personnel, with numerous others sustaining critical injuries. This audacious act of violence marked one of the deadliest incidents in the region's history.[28]

The Hamas-led Operation Al-Aqsa Flood commenced on October 7, 2023, in response to Gaza's 16-year blockade and escalating tensions. Initiated by Hamas commander Mohammed Deif, it aimed to end perceived occupation. The onslaught involved rocket barrages, with over 5,000 rockets launched within 20 minutes, targeting Israeli cities like Tel Aviv and Ashkelon. Concurrently, 2,900 militants infiltrated Israel, unleashing chaos. Sderot's police station fell, leading to 30 Israeli casualties, while militants seized control of seven communities. The bloodshed intensified, including massacres at outdoor festivals and kibbutzim, resulting in hundreds of civilian deaths. Hamas took hostages, aiming for prisoner swaps. The attack, marked by indiscriminate violence, stands as one of the deadliest assaults in Israel's history, leaving a trail of devastation and profound loss. Immediately the IDF launched Operation Swords of Iron in Gaza and declared a state of emergency within 80 kilometres of the Gaza border. Israel warned Hamas of its grave mistake and pledged victory. Reservists were deployed in Gaza, the West Bank, Lebanon, and Syria, as roads around Gaza were closed and Tel Aviv's streets locked down.[2930]

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[28] Gupta (n 23)

[29] Jason Burke, 'A Deadly Cascade: How Secret Hamas Attack Orders Were Passed down at Last Minute' *The Guardian* (09 November 2023) <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/nov/07/secret-hamas-attack-orders-israel-gaza-7-october> accessed 04 March 2024

[30] Shira Makin, 'High on Captagon and Antisemitism: Everything about 'the ISIS Drug' Used by Hamas' *Haaretz* (21 November 2023) <https://www.haaretz.com/haaretz-explains/2023-11-21/ty-article-magazine/.premium/high-on-captagon-and-antisemitism-everything-about-the-isis-drug-used-by-hamas/0000018b-f230-d558-a3eb-f73face80000> accessed 04 March 2024

Perpetrators: The Pulwama attack was perpetrated by Adil Ahmed, a suicide bomber affiliated with the Jaish-e-Mohammed group, targeting Indian security personnel in February 2019. Operation Al-Aqsa Flood was orchestrated by Hamas, a militant organization operating in the Gaza Strip, with Mohammed Deif and Ismail Haniyeh leading the campaign in October 2023 along with paramilitary wings of Palestinian Islamic Jihad, PRC, PFLP , and DFLP. These attacks underscore the diverse range of actors involved in terrorism, each driven by distinct ideologies, grievances, and strategic objectives.

Response: In response to the Pulwama terrorist attack, India conducted a significant military operation on a militant training camp in Balakot, Pakistan, on February 26, 2019. This operation, the first cross-border airstrike between India and Pakistan since the 1971 war, targeted a Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) training camp, the group responsible for the Pulwama attack. The Indian government claimed significant casualties among militants, though Pakistan denied any such casualties. Tensions escalated further when Pakistan Air Force fighter aircraft were detected heading towards the Line of Control (LoC) on February 27, resulting in an aerial confrontation between Indian and Pakistani fighter jets. The events culminated in the capture and subsequent release of Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman by Pakistan, with India and Pakistan engaging in diplomatic efforts to de-escalate the situation.[31]

Israel's robust response to the Hamas-led Operation Al-Aqsa Flood, 2023 showcased its unwavering commitment to safeguarding its citizens and ensuring regional stability. The formation of a war cabinet and the decisive launch of a large-scale invasion of the Gaza Strip underscored Israel's determination to confront security threats head-on. The blockade imposed on Gaza was a necessary measure to prevent the flow of weapons and resources to Hamas, thereby weakening the terrorist organization's ability to perpetrate violence against Israeli civilians. The IDF conducted precision airstrikes to target Hamas militants and infrastructure, minimizing civilian casualties while effectively degrading Hamas's capabilities. Despite facing allegations of war crimes, including genocide, Israel's military actions were conducted with utmost professionalism and adherence to international law. The military intervention

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[31] Gupta (n 23)

demonstrated Israel's strength and determination to confront threats to its security, while also highlighting its unwavering dedication to promoting peace and stability in the region.[32][33]

IMPACTS OF TERRORISM

Social Impacts

Terrorism in India inflicts deep and lasting wounds on society, extending beyond individual victims to affect entire communities. For instance, the 2008 Mumbai attacks, orchestrated by Pakistan-based militants, fueled anti-Muslim sentiments and strained relations between India and Pakistan. Similarly, the 2006 Mumbai train bombings heightened communal tensions and led to reprisals against the Muslim community. Terrorism disproportionately impacts vulnerable groups like women, children, and minorities, as seen in the 2002 Gujarat riots, marked by violence against Muslims, including sexual violence and displacement. These incidents underscore how terrorism undermines community rights and safety, perpetuating cycles of violence and discrimination. Moreover, terrorism diverts resources from crucial areas like education and healthcare, hindering socio-economic development. The persistent threat of terrorism fosters instability, impeding progress and worsening socio-economic disparities.

Terrorism in Israel creates widespread fear and insecurity among civilians, leading to stress and trauma for the entire population. It worsens divisions between Jewish and Arab communities, causing increased tension and hostility. Attacks targeting civilians result in loss of life and injury, fueling resentment and animosity. The economy suffers due to the need for extensive security measures, diverting resources from social welfare and development programs. Damage to infrastructure and loss of productivity from attacks further harm the economy and quality of

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[32] Josef Federman, 'Has Israel Invaded Gaza? The Military Has Been Vague' *AP News* (31 October 2023) <https://apnews.com/article/israel-gaza-ground-operation-invasion-6ba5bf06f81c315252a9e53735f3de47> accessed 04 March 2024

[33] 'Gaza War Inflicts Catastrophic Damage on Infrastructure and Economy' Reuters (17 November 2023) <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/gaza-war-inflicts-catastrophic-damage-infrastructure-economy-2023-11-17/> accessed 04 March 2024

life. Overall, terrorism deeply impacts Israeli society, creating a climate of fear, exacerbating social divisions, and hindering economic progress.[34]

India and Israel both face serious challenges from terrorism. Groups like Lashkar-e-Taiba in India and Hamas in Israel target civilians, making people feel scared and unsafe. This causes a lot of stress and trauma for everyone. Terrorism also makes existing divisions worse. In India, tensions between different groups get worse because of attacks, while in Israel, it deepens the divide between Jewish and Arab communities. Additionally, terrorism hurts the economy. Both countries have to spend a lot of money on security, which means less money for important things like schools and hospitals. Plus, when there are attacks, it damages buildings and makes it hard for businesses to operate normally. So, despite their differences, both India and Israel suffer in similar ways because of terrorism, facing psychological, social, and economic impacts that affect their citizens' daily lives.

Economic Impacts

Through direct and indirect impacts, terrorism imposes heavy economic costs on a country. For example, the 2008 Mumbai attack caused the devastation of enormous property as well as fatalities of between 257-300 people. In the last seven years, persons classified as terrorists in India have murdered at least 4000 people, in comparison to the death and attack-related terrorism ranking in Iraq. India, occupying the lowest spot in the Top 10 affected countries by GTI with 78%, ends up incurring nearly the major part of the economic impacts of violence for the whole region. In 2019, economic violence cost India almost $991.2 billion—an amount branded monstrous. The costs related to spending done over military or internal security take 75% of the total amount. India trails just behind global military spenders of India, where India stands at third with expenditure of $66.5 billion, though it reduced the economic impact of terrorism by 16% from 2018 to 2019. The change in the esoteric economic impact of terrorism from $48 billion in 2014 to $14 billion in 2019 is astonishing. A barometer of economic impacts from terrorism lies in the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE). More than nine thousand has hostile

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[34] Nathan R Stein et al., 'The Differential Impact of Terrorism on Two Israeli Communities' (2013) 83(3) National Library of Medicine <https://doi.org/10.1111%2Fajop.12044> accessed 04 March 2024

activities were recorded taking place between the period 1980 to present in India. Almost eighteen thousand have died and about twenty-six thousand got injured from those hostile activities. Evidence of terrorist activities to stock market volatility can be seen wherein due to the major attacks in Mumbai, major disturbances have been caused. Indeed, empirical evidence shows that terrorist events do have a concrete effect on stock market returns. It has been found that a negative market performance on the day of the event is followed by an increase in market instability in the event days. Fatal attacks magnify these effects leading to sharp reductions in stock returns. Successful attacks, property damage and suicide attacks have a stronger impact on market volatility relative to other forms of attacks. Empirical research on dated data from 1994 to 2017 concurred that terrorism has negative influence on economic growth in the shot and long run. Interaction of factors among unemployment rates and interest rates exacerbate economic problems.[35][36][37][38]

The economic impact of intensive terrorism on Israel is very Visible. A recent paper on the Economic impact of terrorism in Israel during this period 2000-2004, reveals that the GDP growth rates were quite varied during this phase, having dropped by 0.9 percent in 2001 and 0.7 percent in 2002, subsequent to the average surge of eight percent in 2000. However, that of total GDP rebounded ahead with these negative figures, rising up to 1.3 percent in 2003 and 4.2 percent in 2004. While terrorism likely had contributed to some of these declines, the broader global economic trends-especially in recession experienced by the major trading partners of Israel like the U.S. and the EU-had also played significant roles. Uncool influences, such as a decrease in the number of tourists and a contraction in the hi-tech sector, crafted a scenario that gave birth to the unemployment rate which continued to rise up to 11% in 2004. In most of the period, inflation levels were quite benign, save for 2002 when it briefly rose to 5.7% before receding to 0.7% in 2003 and then, in fact, declined to -0.3% in 2004. A relative comparison to

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[35] Malik Shahzad Shabbir et al., 'Impact of Terrorism on Exclusive Indian Economy' (2019) 5(1) Journal of Indian Studies <pu.edu.pk/images/journal/indianStudies/PDF/3_v5_1_19.pdf> accessed 04 March 2024

[36] Aparna Samudra, 'Economic Implications of Global Terrorism' (2022) 9 NIU International Journal of Human Rights

[37] Jitendra Kumar, 'Economics Impact of Terrorism in India' (2021) 9(8) Journal of Political Sciences & Public Affairs <https://www.longdom.org/open-access-pdfs/economics-impact-of-terrorism-in-india.pdf> accessed 04 March 2024

[38] Imran Shaikh, 'The Impact of Terrorism on Indian Securities Market' (2019) 32 Ekonomska Istrazivanja-economic Research <https://doi.org/10.1080/1331677x.2019.1638284> accessed 04 March 2024

the EU and to the United States is in order to underscore that the economic indicators in Israel pointed to a trend not entirely resultant from terrorism, but part of a wider global economic trends. A localized negative effect, such as on the level of tourism or consumer confidence, needs to be put in the macroeconomic context. Intensive and severe terrorism inflicted economic strains on Israel; how the whole country's way of bouncing back from economic damage is accounted for in an analysis on how best to craft effective economic policy and strategy.[39]

The economic impacts of terrorism in India and Israel demonstrate both similarities and distinctions. In India, terrorism has inflicted substantial direct and indirect costs, with over 4,000 fatalities in seven years and an economic impact of $991.2 billion in 2019 alone. Despite ranking third globally in military expenditure, India has experienced a decline in the economic impact of terrorism, notably decreasing from $48 billion in 2014 to $14 billion in 2019. The Bombay Stock Exchange serves as a barometer, showcasing the correlation between terrorist activities and stock market volatility. Conversely, Israel experienced GDP fluctuations between 2000 and 2004 due to terrorism, with unemployment rates peaking at 11% in 2004. However, broader global economic trends, such as recessions in major trading partners like the EU and the United States, also played significant roles. Despite localized impacts on sectors like tourism and consumer confidence, Israel's economic resilience and broader global economic dynamics must be considered in crafting effective economic policies. Thus, while both countries grapple with terrorism's economic repercussions, the contexts and responses differ, necessitating nuanced approaches for mitigation and recovery.

Political Impacts

Terrorism does more than kill the innocent: It undermines democratic governments, even in mature democracies like those in India and Israel

India's political landscape, characterized by diverse party systems and governance dynamics, is deeply shaped by the political fallout of terrorism, influencing both the socio-political

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[39] Nadav Morag, 'THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL EFFECTS OF INTENSIVE TERRORISM: ISRAEL 2000-2004' (2006) 10(3) Middle East Review of International Affairs <ciaotest.cc.columbia.edu/olj/meria/meria_sept06/meria_sept06_i.pdf> accessed 04 March 2024

environment and security protocols. This can be, in fact, sought from the number of state level different political parties in India. For instance, in 1983, the Telugu Desam Party emerged in Andhra Pradesh that ignited a political era of undiscovered enormity only dwarfed by a reign of terror focused on increased terrorist action something like in the case of organizations like People's War Group. However, the return to rule of the Congress Party in Andhra Pradesh, peace initiatives, and viable security steps took a lot of steam off terrorist violence. Political instability and rural impoverishment specifically within the regions of Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh brought recurrent Naxalite attacks into force despite all the stabilization attempts by the governmental authorities. Terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir had deep-rooted political consequences by sanctioning separatist movements which finally are damaging the political ties of India with Pakistan. It has also resulted in a polarized society of Kashmir and hampered all political reconciliation efforts. These show the complex interrelation that terrorism has with political dynamics, which emphasizes stable governance and strategic policy in meeting security challenges without undermining democratic tenets.

Persistent terrorism in Israel profoundly impacts political tolerance. Research highlights decreased tolerance, especially among Right-wing individuals sensitive to terrorism, leading to support for restrictive policies. The Israeli Supreme Court safeguarded civil liberties amidst security concerns, yet Right-wing parties exploited national security, advocating stringent measures.[40] Terrorism in Israel has long-term effects on democratic resilience, leading to desensitization and polarization. Balancing security and civil liberties require nuanced policymaking. Citizens, especially those in affected areas, report heightened anxiety and insecurity, shaping their views on leaders and policies. Counterterrorism measures like security checkpoints impact public perception, with Palestinian communities often feeling marginalized. Media coverage amplifies fears, influencing support for security measures. Politically, terrorism is used to advance agendas, with Right-wing factions advocating for tough policies and Left-leaning groups seeking diplomatic solutions. Balancing security and democracy are challenging, demanding inclusive policymaking to protect both safety and civil liberties.

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[40] Mark Peffley et al., 'The Impact of Persistent Terrorism on Political Tolerance: Israel, 1980 to 2011' (2015) 109(4) American Political Science Review <http://www.jstor.org/stable/24809512> accessed 04 March 2024

The political world shapes and is shaped by the political consequences of terrorism, which is self-evident in forming responses at the state and national level many a time quite peculiar to their party systems and governance dynamics in India and Israel. In other words, generally right-wing, less politically tolerant individuals end up supportive of the restrictive policies in Israel, only sensible to persistent security threats. In the name of concern for security, the Indian Supreme Court has protected civil liberties, while the Right-wing Israeli parties have firmly proposed measures by exploiting nationalistic attitudes. Terrorism in either case has had a long past accompanied by a by-product of the impacts on democratic resilience: desensitization and polarization and in either case, the anxieties and insecurities are heightened, with populations reportedly showing heightened scales of mind. Striking a reasonable and proper balance that allows safeguarding of safety and the protection of civil liberties can be through inclusive policy making.

TRENDS

Terrorism

GTI is a comprehensive study analyzing the impact of terrorism for 163 countries covering 99.7 percent of the world's population. The GTI produces a composite score to provide an ordinal ranking of countries on the impact of terrorism. The GTI scores each country on a scale from 0 to 10; where 0 represents no impact from terrorism and 10 represents the highest measurable impact of terrorism. India ranked 13th on the GTI with a score of 6.324 while Israel ranked 2nd with a score of 8.143.[41]

Between 2011 and 2022, with the exception of 2013, Israel's position in the GTI oscillated from 18th to 35th out of 163 countries. This data suggests varying levels of terrorism incidents and severity within Israel, highlighting the country's ongoing struggle with terrorism and its efforts to mitigate security threats. Between 2011 and 2023, Israel's GTI scores fluctuated, ranging from 3.626 to 8.143. Corresponding terrorist incidents varied from 15 to 77, with fatalities ranging from 0 to 1210 and injuries from 18 to 4537. Hostages numbered 242 in 2023, indicating a diverse

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[41] 'Global Terrorism Index | Countries Most Impacted by Terrorism' (*Vision of Humanity*) <https://www.visionofhumanity.org/maps/global-terrorism-index/#> accessed 04 March 2024

range of security challenges. This implies an Israel's average GTI score stands at approximately 4.401. The country experienced a range of terrorist incidents, with an average of 38.42 per year. Fatalities averaged at 118.58 annually, while injuries averaged at 628.33. Hostages were fewer, with an average of 242 in 2023. Meanwhile, India's Position in the GTI varied from 4th to 13th out of 163 nations. This highlights India's consistent struggle with terrorism and its efforts to address security challenges. India's GTI scores ranged from 6.32 to 7.652 during this period, indicating fluctuations in terrorism severity. The number of terrorist incidents ranged from 118 to 542 annually, with fatalities varying from 72 to 312 and injuries from 131 to 647. Hostages ranged from 1 to 336, emphasizing the multifaceted nature of security threats faced by India. The average GTI score for India stands at approximately 7.012, with an average of 231.42 terrorist incidents, 186.67 fatalities, 284.67 injuries per year, and an average of 56.42 hostages in 2023.[42][43][44]

Comparing Israel and India's terrorism profiles between 2011 and 2022, Israel's average GTI score of 4.401 reflects a lower severity compared to India's 7.012. While Israel faced fewer incidents and fatalities on average, it experienced higher injury rates. In contrast, India encountered more incidents and fatalities but with fewer injuries. This suggests nuanced differences in terrorism challenges, warranting tailored counter-terrorism strategies for each nation.

Counter-Terrorism

Deterrence: Israel deploys a multi-pronged strategy as it tries to counter terrorism, particularly focusing on organizations such as Hamas. Diplomacy is isolation, sanctions economically and military actions. In diplomacy, Israel's interest is in delegitimizing Hamas internationally. On the economic front, it uses sanctions to cripple Hamas' governance structures. Henceforth on the military side targeted bombings and incursions suppresses Hamas capabilities without all-out war. Humanitarian assistance is also provided by Israel so that calamities are avoided at any

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[42] *Ibid*

[43] Aida Arosoaie, 'Israel-Palestine' (2015) 7(1) Counter Terrorist Trends and Analyses <http://www.jstor.org/stable/26351320> accessed 04 March 2024

[44] Balraj Puri B, 'India and the War against Terrorism' (2001) 36(40) Economic and Political Weekly <http://www.jstor.org/stable/4411191> accessed 04 March 2024

cost. This containment policy seeks to limit but not destroy completely Hamas' influence and promote moderation among Palestinian leaders. Operations like that in Cast Lead indicate Israel's readiness to use force for deterrence of terror attacks. The approach aims at weakening terror groups while seeking political conflict resolution.[45] At Israel's airports, the security checks, unapologetically employ racial profiling, focusing on behaviour and background checks. While controversial, it's credited with thwarting terror attacks. Measures include thorough interrogations and screenings, emphasizing passenger engagement. Though criticized, it's seen as effective in preventing threats while maintaining operational efficiency.

India employs a multifaceted approach to counterterrorism, focusing on law enforcement, border security, and international cooperation. Amendments to anti-terrorism laws and the establishment of specialized units enhance response capabilities. Collaboration with the United States and regional partners strengthens intelligence sharing and operational coordination. Efforts also target countering violent extremism through community engagement and online monitoring. Despite ongoing challenges, India's commitment to combating terrorism remains resolute, bolstered by strategic alliances and proactive measures.[46]

Arrests and Trial: Since 1967, the Israeli military has arrested over 800,000 Palestinians, including children as young as 12, under rules enacted and enforced by the occupying power. These arrests often lack due process, with individuals presumed guilty without evidence, arrested without warrants, and detained without charge or trial. This system has resulted in widespread violations of international law, including the deprivation of fundamental human rights. Additionally, Palestinians face restrictions on their freedom of movement through blockades, walls, segregated infrastructure, checkpoints, and settlements, further exacerbating their situation. The report underscores the need to address these issues and uphold international law without taking an anti-Israel stance.[47]

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[45]Amnon Aron, 'Containment and Territorial Transnational Actors: Israel, Hezbollah and Hamas' (2012) 88(4) International Affairs (Royal Institute of International Affairs 1944-) <http://www.jstor.org/stable/23255621> accessed 04 March 2024

[46] Bureau of Counterterrorism, *Country Reports on Terrorism 2019: India* (2023)

[47] 'Dismantle Israel's Carceral Regime and 'Open-Air' Imprisonment of Palestinians' (*OHCHR*, 10 July 2023) <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2023/07/dismantle-israels-carceral-regime-and-open-air-imprisonment-palestinians-un> accessed 04 March 2024

There is no easily specific data available of terrorism-related arrests in India, but the country is avowedly committed to due process and fair trials, as epitomized in the course and handling of Ajmal Kasab, the Pakistani militant behind the 2008 Mumbai attacks. In other words, in spite of the enormity of the crimes, Kasab had due process and an open trial. There was some legal counsel and evidence was conducted with reasonable procedure. His conviction, and finally his execution, showed how India could be committed to giving justice and obedience to the rule of law, even to a person who was accusing of being a terrorist. This is the commitment for a country that is involved in battling terrorism but with adherences to legal principles. In the landmark case of Ajmal Kasab v State of Maharashtra, India showed much maturity in the status of its judiciary when, though the act was heinous in nature, at least a fair trial was performed. Though Kasab was due to be hanged by death, yet the judicial process was quite open, practicing legal principles as well as human rights. Kasab was allowed to be legally represented and was introduced to evidences against him with due care and diligence. The Special Public Prosecutor further added that this was clearly indicative of the Rule of Law and India's resolve for the cause of justice in the face of terror, therefore credibility and robustness of the Indian Judicial system.

The Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) in India has faced scrutiny for its vague definitions and broad powers, allowing authorities to target journalists and activists. However, data reveals low conviction rates under the law, suggesting potential misuse to suppress dissent rather than combat terrorism. Reforming the UAPA to align with international standards is essential to safeguarding civil liberties and upholding democratic values.[48]

Armed Response: In Israel, armed response to terrorism has long been the norm, with security forces often swiftly retaliating to attacks. This approach is ingrained in Israel's counterterrorism strategy, where the immediate use of force is seen as necessary to protect civilians and deter further violence. However, in India, such a response was not always the standard practice.

That changed dramatically in 2016, following the Uri attack, and again in 2019 after the Pulwama Attack. These incidents marked a significant departure from India's previous approach to

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[48] 'India: Arrests, Raids Target Critics of Government' *Human Rights Watch* (13 October 2023) <https://www.hrw.org/news/2023/10/13/india-arrests-raids-target-critics-government> accessed 04 March 2024

counterterrorism. As mentioned, the case studies, The Uri attack, which targeted an Indian military base in Kashmir, resulted in India conducting 'surgical strikes' against terrorist launch pads across the Line of Control in Pakistani-administered Kashmir. Similarly, after the Pulwama attack in 2019, India launched airstrikes on a militant training camp in Balakot, Pakistan.

These actions showcased India's willingness to retaliate against terrorist threats with decisive military force, sending a strong message to perpetrators and their supporters. While India has historically emphasized diplomacy and restraint in its response to terrorism, the Surgical Strikes and Balakot airstrikes signalled a shift towards a more assertive and proactive approach to national security. This shift underscores India's resolve to defend its sovereignty and protect its citizens against terrorist threats, even if it means taking bold and decisive military action.

CONCLUSION

Comparative analysis of terrorism in India and Israel offers a profound insight into the multifaceted nature of this global threat and the complexities inherent in effectively combating it. By delving into historical, socio-political, and ideological factors alongside responses and implications, several key insights emerge, elucidating the intricate interplay of political ideologies, religious extremism, and nationalist aspirations driving these movements. Both nations have been deeply scarred by terrorist attacks, emphasizing the urgent need for comprehensive counterterrorism measures. Israel's proactive and robust approach, characterized by military operations and targeted assassinations, aims to dismantle terrorist networks and deter future attacks. In contrast, India's responses encompass a blend of diplomatic efforts, legal proceedings, and occasional military actions, reflecting the challenges of navigating diverse political interests and regional complexities. Despite differences in approach, both countries grapple with ethical and legal dilemmas in their counterterrorism efforts, highlighting the importance of upholding democratic principles and human rights. The international ramifications of terrorist attacks underscore the interconnectedness of regional security dynamics and the imperative for coordinated global responses. Incidents like the Mumbai attacks in 2008 and the Munich massacre illustrate the transnational nature of terrorism, necessitating collaborative efforts to address root causes and mitigate future threats. Addressing underlying drivers of terrorism, including socio-economic disparities and

unresolved conflicts, emerges as a crucial imperative for long-term security solutions. Regarding the effectiveness of counterterrorism tactics, Israel's strategies demonstrate a higher level of efficiency and efficacy, influenced by its longstanding conflict with Palestine and extensive experience in combating terrorism. Conversely, India's approach shows continuous evolution, particularly since 2014, towards more proactive and comprehensive strategies. By comparing and contrasting their approaches, policymakers and security officials in both India and Israel can glean important lessons and best practices in addressing the complex challenges posed by terrorism. This exchange of knowledge and experiences can contribute to enhancing the effectiveness of counterterrorism efforts and fostering greater cooperation between the two countries and the broader international community. In conclusion, while this comparative analysis provides valuable insights into counterterrorism dynamics, it's essential to acknowledge the study's limitations and advocate for further research incorporating qualitative methods and primary data collection. Nonetheless, these insights offer a robust foundation for ongoing discourse and policy development in the critical area of counterterrorism, paving the way for more effective and coordinated responses to this global threat.