THE PHENOMENA OF RADICALISM AND EXTREMISM: SOCIO-LEGAL HYPOTHESES FOR THE RESPONSE

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Abstract: One of the socio-dangerous phenomena that infringe on the rights of citizens to security is organized crime, in particular, the activities of terrorist groups united by the ideas of radicalism. The phenomena of radicalism and extremism are a global trend, in particular on religious grounds. This article aims to highlight socio-legal hypotheses for countering radicalism and extremism. Methodology. This article used a quantitative methodology based on a statistical analysis of the Global Terrorism Database (GTD) containing data regarding the number of terrorist attacks from 1970-2020, regions of terrorism, targets of attacks, types of attacks, target groups, victims, and information on Perpetrator. The results show that the number of terrorist attacks for 2011-2020 is significantly higher than between 1970 and2010, in particular, due to the growth of terrorism in the Middle East, North Africa, and South America, which are characterized by high religiosity. Terrorist attacks have a variety of goals, closely intertwined with a complex structure of connections: political, economic, religious, social factors; goals to intimidate, attract and expand the audience. The main targets and victims of terrorist attacks are citizens and their property (25% of cases between 1970 and 2020), military (16%), police (14%), government (12%), business (11%). Terrorist groups are mostly composed of Islam adherents' members. In addition to radicals, terrorist attacks are actively carried out by extremists who are supporters of communism or by paramilitary, militant groups advocating freedom rights because of the uprising.

Keywords: radicalism, counterradicalism, extremism, anti-terrorist security, soft power, terrorism, radicalization of society.

1 Introduction

A great achievement of humanity is the rule of law, which is the basis of civil society and the guarantor of the quality of life of citizens. One of the socially dangerous social phenomena that infringe on the rights of citizens to security is organized crime, in particular, the activities of terrorist groups united by the ideas of radicalism. The phenomena of radicalism and extremism are a global tendency, in particular, for religious beliefs. They easily spread due to technological advances, especially in the information and communication sphere (Nur et al., 2020). Their range and upward tendencies are evident, which entails the deformation of the reform process, threatening the foundations of statehood, constitutional legality, and the security of citizens. In this regard, strengthening the rule of law is the most important task facing modern society, is one of the state priorities.

The main reasons for the unprecedented growth of organized crime lie in the instability of society, legal nihilism that has engulfed all strata of society, including the power structures at different levels, the destroyed system of prevention and prevention of crimes. The imperfection of the legal framework, especially on the regulation of criminal activity in the information environment, also harms the level of security of citizens. Mass media does not contribute to the fight against organized crime, so the leaders of criminal formations exert informational influence on the general population, especially on minors. Modern terrorist organizations have a complex network structure, which implies the presence of different actors, including different degrees of terrorist qualification and the degree of awareness of their decisions.

This article aims to highlight socio-legal hypotheses for the prevention of radicalism and extremism.

2 Literature review

Radicalism, as a term, appears from the early XVII century, while the notion of extremism is quite modern. Extremism characterizes an ideological position encompassing opposition to entities that understand politics as a struggle for supremacy rather than peaceful competition between parties with different interests, seeking popular support to advance the common good (Josefsson, Nilsson & Borell, 2017). Extremism exists on the periphery of societies and seeks to gain its center of influence over citizens through society's sense of fear. Extremists divide citizens and foreigners into friends and enemies, without territorial affiliation to form different opinions and alternative lifestyles (O'Hara & Stevens, 2015). Extremism, due to its dogmatism, is intolerant and should not be compromised. Extremists tend to form circumstances that allow them to organize aggressive activities led by a warlord, including criminal acts and mass violence, to gain political power (Wibisono, Louis & Jetten, 2019). In places where extremists gain state power, they tend to destroy social diversity and seek to prove an overarching homogenization of society based on their ideology with apocalyptic traits. On a societal level, extremist movements are authoritarian, and if extremist rulers are in power, countries tend to become totalitarian. Extremists glorify violence as a mechanism for conflict resolution and oppose the constitutional state, majority-based democracy, the rule of law, and human rights (Bötticher, 2017). Schmid (2014) defined an extreme group as one that holds an understanding of extreme violence or extremism. Compared to radicals, extremists tend to be closed-minded, impatient, anti-democratic and can justify any means, including fraud, to achieve their own goals. This group is different from radical groups, groups of people who embrace radicalism (Schmid, 2014).

Some scholars define radicalism as an ideology (idea) that involves making changes to the social and political system through violent/extreme methods. The core of radicalism is the attitudes and actions of an individual or group using violent methods to achieve the desired change. As a rule, radical groups seek abrupt and immediate changes that tend to contradict the dominant social system (Nur et al., 2020). Radicalism refers to political doctrine encompassing social and political movements advocating individual and collective freedom and emancipation from the dominance of authoritarian regimes and hierarchically structured societies (McCoy & Knight, 2017). In this sense, radicalism advocating radical political change is a form of hostility against the status quo and its establishment. The origins of radicalism are frequently found among the sons and daughters of the bourgeois elite, young people who identify with the social conditions of the majority and seek to improve their condition. Historically, radical political parties have been key drivers of progress toward greater democracy in several states. Radicalism as an ideological mindset tends to be highly critical of the existing status quo, with the goal of restructuring and/or overthrowing outdated political structures. Their opponents often portray radicals as violent. Thus, this is only partially correct since radicalism is generally historically associated more with progressive reformism than with utopian extremism, the glorification of which radicals reject as violent (Kruglanski, 2018). Radicalism is emancipatory and does not seek to subjugate people and ensure the domination of conformism, unlike extremism. Radical narratives contain utopian ideological elements, but they do not advocate any means of achieving goals. While radicals are unwilling to compromise their ideals, they are open to rational arguments about the means to achieve their goals. Unlike extremists, radicals are not necessarily extreme in their choice of means to achieve their goals. Unlike extremists, radicals also recognize themselves as radicals (Bötticher, 2017).

Carter (2018) explores the signs of right-wing radicalism, extremism: a strong state, authoritarianism, nationalism, racism, xenophobia, anti-democracy, populism, anti-establishment rhetoric, using the ideology of different political parties as examples. Exactly these attributes are evident in radical political forces, but not all of them are defining characteristics (Schmid, 2014). The research found that all attributes are present for the ideology of only one party, the Austrian National Democratic Party. Carter (2018) concluded that the "call for a strong state" was not fully present in the ideology of the Dutch centrist party. Also, the sign of anti-democracy was absent in the

ideologies of the Communist Party, and the German National Democratic Party. The anti-democracy and "strong state" are not the defining features of right-wing extremism/radicalism, only nationalism, racism, and xenophobia. Carter (2018) argues that authoritarianism, anti-democracy, and an exclusive and/or holistic type of nationalism are defining features of right-wing extremism/radicalism. As a comparison, xenophobia, racism, and populism are concomitant characteristics of this concept. Thus, Carter (2018) formulates a definition of right-wing extremism/radicalism as an ideology that encompasses authoritarianism, anti-democracy, and exclusive and/or holistic nationalism. The holistic nature of the nationalism of some extreme/radical right-wing parties requires the subordination of the individual to the will and purpose of the nation, thereby undermining and limiting rights and freedoms (McCoy & Knight, 2017). The nationalism of another extreme/radical right party is not like this. However, it is also anti-democratic because it is based on opposition to pluralism and rejects the principle of equality. All extreme/radical right-wing parties, then, believe in different ways that the nation is in danger, and their response to this threat is anti-democratic. As for the relationship between authoritarianism and nationalism, the traditional values (i.e., conventionalism) promoted by extreme/radical right parties are largely shaped by their view of the nation as an organic entity to be valued and protected, as well as the specific attitude toward membership in the nation (Nur et al., 2020). In turn, the protection the nation needs require respect, order, and discipline (i.e., submission), and threats to the nation, particularly from outsider groups that do not conform to the traditional understanding of the national community, must be met with aggression (Kruglanski, 2018). Thus, the authoritarianism of right-wing extremist/radical parties is guided by their nationalism. In some cases, the traditional values espoused by the parties are anti-pluralistic, promote inequality, or limit civil and political freedoms. The ideas appealed to by political forces also entail restrictions on individual rights and freedoms. Aggression toward those who do not conform to these values (which is found in condemnation, discrimination, and punitive measures) exposes the rejection of pluralism, equality, and individual freedoms (Carter, 2018).

The phenomenon of radicalism and extremism arose out of the social protest movements of the 1960s and 1970s in Western Europe and North America. Today, the problem has spread around the world. In post-communist Europe, radicalism development has taken place in a regionally specific way, influenced by various historical processes. These processes included the existence and fall of communist regimes, post-communist political and economic transformations, and the Westernization of post-communist societies. The birth of radicalism and extremism is caused by reactions from different opposing political forces in different world regions. The attempts to combat this phenomenon are mainly made by the police and intelligence agencies at the level of security policy, and by neoliberal and conservative political forces at the level of political discourse. At the same time, there is a certain amount of restrained tolerance for some radical activity, predominantly on the left side of the intellectual spectrum. The struggle against the more problematic aspects of the radical/extremist movement was

sometimes accompanied by measures against various political, economic, and social regulations (Mareš, 2008).

Thus, the literature identifies the essence of radicalism and extremism, their ideological position, signs of right-wing radicalism, extremism: strong state, authoritarianism, nationalism, racism, xenophobia, anti-democracy, populism, and anti-establishment speeches.

3 Methodology

This article uses a quantitative methodology based on a statistical analysis of the Global Terrorism Database (GTD) containing data regarding the number of terrorist attacks from 1970-2020, regions of terrorism, targets of attacks, types of attacks, target groups, and victims, and information on Perpetrators. The database is available on the official START website – National Consortium for Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (2021).

The statistical analysis was supplemented with the analysis of attacks' cases, in particular, the belonging of terrorist groups' members to a certain political force or religious commitment. It allowed us to conclude that the members of the groups are, in most cases, radicals, extremists, belonging to the communist parties or other political forces in the country.

The research identified the main motives, reasons, and desires (Kothari, 2017) in committing terrorist attacks. As stated by Creswell & Poth (2016), Denzin and Lincoln (2011), qualitative research involves identifying practices in a particular area. Qualitative research was conducted using the case study method (attacks in different countries by different terrorist organizations from 1970-2020) (Yin, 2013), given that this method allows researchers to conduct empirical studies of phenomena in the context of their environment to identify the relationship between attacks and the environment in which they occur (political, economic, social, religious). In addition, points of similarity and difference were taken from the GTD database to maximize results and conclusions about radicalists and extremist activities (Kothari, 2017).

4 Results

The number of terrorist attacks between 2011 and 2020 is significantly higher compared to the period between 1970 and 2010. It happened, in particular, as a result of the terrorism growth in the Middle East (share is 28.04%), North Africa, South America (share is 9.73), South Asia (share is 25.5%), and Sub-Sahara countries (share is 10.81%). In other words, terrorism has increased in countries with low levels of socio-economic well-being (Table 1). These countries are also characterized by high religiosity and radical thinking. The share of terrorism in Western European countries is high – 8.47%, which is associated with the migration flows of citizens from the Middle East to these countries, the policy of developed European countries regarding inclusion, equality, attracting a labor force due to the demographic crisis and an aging population.

Table 1 – The distribution of terrorist attacks by regions between 1970 and 2020, %

Region	1970-1980	1981-1990	1991-2000	2001-2010	2011-2020	Total	Total share, %
Australasia & Oceania	23	89	101	21	71	305	0.15%
Central America & Caribbean	1988	6736	1545	46	59	10374	5.16%
Central Asia	0	0	356	136	82	574	0.29%
East Asia	79	208	336	70	132	825	0.41%
Eastern Europe	27	100	1238	1352	2549	5266	2.62%
Middle East & North Africa	1527	2940	5201	9298	37448	56414	28.04%
North America	1671	519	671	260	577	3698	1.84%
South America	1328	10455	4837	1147	1805	19572	9.73%
South Asia	63	3459	4594	9652	33533	51301	25.50%
Southeast Asia	281	1347	1551	2924	7976	14079	7.00%
Sub-Saharan Africa	300	1968	2429	1860	15185	21742	10.81%
Western Europe	5288	4560	3841	1288	2056	17033	8.47%
Total	12575	32381	26700	28054	101473	201183	100.00%

Source: START (National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism) (2021).

Terrorist attacks have a variety of goals, which are closely intertwined with a complex structure of connections: political, economic, religious, social factors; the goals of intimidating, attracting, and expanding audiences who are potential members of terrorist groups. Also, terrorist attacks are usually outside the scope of international humanitarian law (Table 2).

Table 2 – The distribution of terrorist's goals of attacks between 1970 and 2020, %

Region	Cases, number			Share, %		
	Criterion 1	Criterion 2	Criterion 3	Criterion 1	Criterion 2	Criterion 3
Australasia & Oceania	297	305	290	0.15%	0.15%	0.17%
Central America & Caribbean	10166	10354	7352	5.11%	5.18%	4.20%
Central Asia	563	573	501	0.28%	0.29%	0.29%
East Asia	813	821	791	0.41%	0.41%	0.45%
Eastern Europe	5144	5253	4335	2.59%	2.63%	2.48%
Middle East & North Africa	56128	55942	47741	28.23%	28.00%	27.28%
North America	3589	3638	3645	1.80%	1.82%	2.08%
South America	19413	19516	17945	9.76%	9.77%	10.25%
South Asia	50686	50925	46098	25.49%	25.49%	26.34%
Southeast Asia	13709	14035	11986	6.89%	7.02%	6.85%
Sub-Saharan Africa	21439	21585	18515	10.78%	10.80%	10.58%
Western Europe	16904	16844	15827	8.50%	8.43%	9.04%
Total	198851	199791	175026	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

Source: START (National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism). (2021).
Note: Criterion 1: POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, RELIGIOUS, OR SOCIAL GOAL; Criterion 2: INTENTION TO COERCE, INTIMIDATE OR PUBLICIZE TO LARGER AUDIENCE(S); Criterion 3: OUTSIDE INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

The predominant terrorist attack types are bombing/explosive crimes, armed assault, assassination, hostage taking (kidnapping), attacks on facilities/infrastructure, unarmed assault, and hostage taking (barricade incident) 1). 89% of terrorist attacks between 1970 and 2020 are successful, i.e., that ensures that the group's objectives for the target of the attack are met.

The success of a terrorist strike is defined according to the tangible effects of the attack. Success is not judged in terms of the larger goals of the perpetrators. For example, a bomb that exploded in a building would be counted as a success even if it did not succeed in bringing the building down or inducing government repression. The definition of a successful attack depends on the type of attack. Essentially, the key question is whether or not the attack type took place. If a case has multiple attack types, it is successful if any of the attack types are successful, except for assassinations, which are only successful if the intended target is killed.
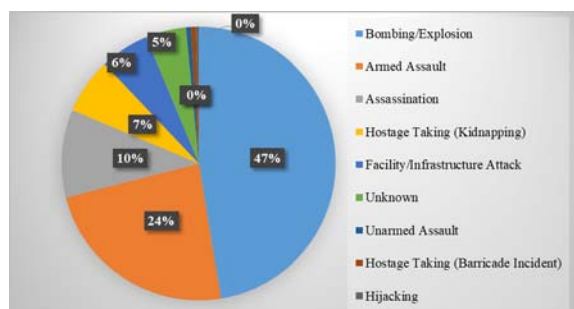

Figure 1 – Terrorism Attack's Type Hierarchy between 1970 and 2020, %
Source: START (National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism) (2021).

The main targets, victims of terrorist attacks are private citizens and their property (25% of cases from 1970 to 2020), military (16%), police (14%), government (12%), business (11%) (Figure 2). Thus, the attacks are mainly related to political, economic, social, and religious issues and their radical perception by terrorist groups members.
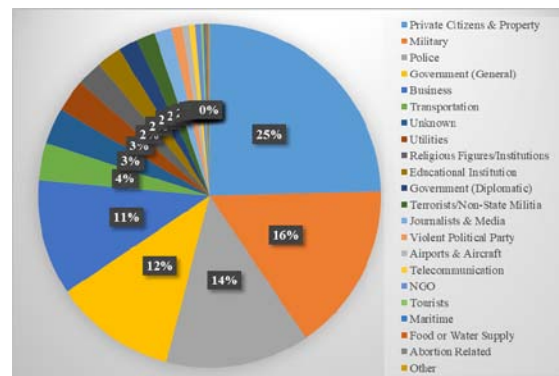

Figure 2 – Target/Victim Information between 1970 and 2020, %
Source: START (National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism) (2021).

According to the data in Fig. 3, it is obvious that terrorist groups are formed of Islam adherents' members. For example, members of the radical Sunni Islamist movement, which originated in Afghanistan among Pashtuns in 1994 and formed the Taliban organization, carried out 10094 attacks, the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant carried out 6864 attacks, the communist terrorist organization Shining Path (SL) carried out 4563 attacks, the radical Islamist fundamentalist group Al-Shabaab carried out 4126 attacks, the left-wing political party, one of the two largest parties in El Salvador, Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) carried out 3351 attacks (Figure 3).
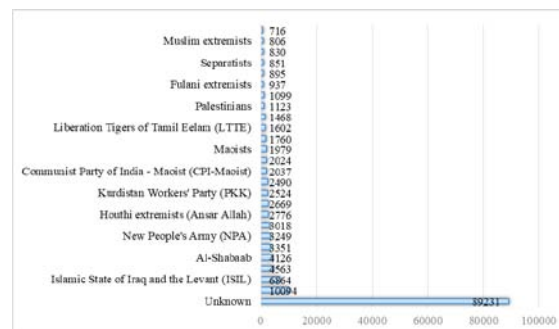

Figure 3 – Perpetrator Information of Terrorism Attack in 1970-2020, %
Source: START (National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism) (2021).

In addition to radicals, terrorist attacks are actively carried out by extremists (Fulani extremists carried out 937 attacks, Muslim extremists – 806 attacks, Sikh Extremists – 716 attacks), communists (for example, Communist Party of India – Maoist (CPI-Maoist9) 2020). Between 1970 and 2020, the new political forces in Yemen under the Houthi extremists (Ansar Allah) carried out 2776 attacks. The Irish paramilitary group Irish Republican Army (IRA), whose goal is to achieve full independence of Northern Ireland from the United Kingdom, including ending the military occupation of Northern Ireland, carried out 2669 attacks. The members of the IRA are the Catholic population of Ireland. The Kurdistan Workers' Party, a militant and political organization of the Democratic People's Union, has carried out 2524 attacks. The left-wing Colombian rebel organization Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) has carried out 2490 attacks. Thus, religion and religious beliefs are always the basis for radicals and extremists.

Table 3 – The type of terrorist attacks between 1970 and 2020, the number

Region	Unknown	The attack was miscellaneous international	Total
Australasia & Oceania	59	30	89
Central America & Caribbean	133	210	343
Central Asia	94	21	115
East Asia	27	25	52
Eastern Europe	279	185	464
Middle East & North Africa	1214	1670	2884
North America	61	210	271
South America	-61	838	777
South Asia	499	1536	2035
Southeast Asia	89	286	375
Sub-Saharan Africa	716	1735	2451
Western Europe	2025	1310	3335
Total	5135	8056	13191

Source: START (National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism) (2021).

«The attack was miscellaneous international» – the attack was different/international; the location of the attack is different from the nationality of the target(s)/victim(s). "Unknown" – unknown if attack was international or domestic; nationality of target / survivor is unknown.

5 Discussion

Europe has launched a new counterterrorism program in response to the Islamist terrorist attacks of recent years. The scholars are not only trying to solve the "radicalization puzzle" to understand its causes (why young Muslims in Western countries are attracted to extremism) but are also making suggestions for de-radicalizing extremists and building trust with Muslim communities. Directly or indirectly, Muslim minorities in Europe are the targets of interventions and preventive work by members of terrorist organizations. This study suggests an alternative approach. Instead of viewing Muslims in Europe as more or less passive targets of various anti-extremist interventions, it is useful to look at strategies developed by European Muslims themselves to combat Islamist extremism (Josefsson, Nilsson & Borell, 2017). The example of Indonesia, as the country with the largest Muslim population and rich diversity, can serve as a role model for countering radicalism and extremism by spreading moderate Islamic practices among its supporters (Nur et al., 2020).

The research found that peaceful nations around the world face the activities of ideological radicals and extremists. The plans to counter or neutralize their ideology require different strategies, goals, and tactics than in traditional warfare. Prevention is as important as elimination. Long-term strategic planning for counterterrorism must take into account, if not emphasize, radicalization and recruitment by terrorists. There should be a clearer understanding of the appeal of militant jihadism to young people and the tactics used by radicals to mobilize their members for violent action. To this end, it is advisable to conceptualize and hypothesize social and legal countermeasures as a good-faith attempt to gather facts and analyze them to understand the problem before turning to large-scale and potentially damaging solutions.

If radicalization to violent extremism meets many of the well-established principles of other known systems and theories of development (and experience shows that it does), the following study of radicalization may consider the following assumptions as a starting point:

1. Radicalization is multi-deterministic; it is predetermined and sustained by several causes, not one cause. The goals of radicals and extremists are usually linked to political, economic, social, and religious factors, a desire to attract citizens to their activities, and to broaden their audience. Causal factors often include a broad level of discontent "pushing" individuals toward radical ideology and narrower, more specific "pull" factors that attract them.
2. Ideologies (and their group support) develop in the human consciousness of nested contexts and systems, including family, economic, social, and political structures.
3. Different paths can lead to radicalization (sometimes this hypothesis is called the equifinality principle); conversely, different individuals on a common path or trajectory can have different outcomes (sometimes this hypothesis is called the multi-infinity principle).
4. For some people, religion contributes to their adherence to attacks. For others, the sting contributes to their commitment to religion. For some, ideological attachment leads to group affiliation. For others, social or group affiliation leads to ideological commitment.
5. For some, the strength of personal conviction and commitment precedes their willingness to take subversive action. For others, engaging in disruptive action strengthens their conviction and commitment.
6. Not all terrorists are part of radical groups.
7. Violent radicalization and terrorist involvement are best viewed as a dynamic psychosocial process involving at least three phases: (1) involvement, (2) involvement as participation in unambiguous terrorist activity, and (3) disengagement (which may or may not lead to further deradicalization). In addition, involvement involves many potential roles and functions, which people very often change, sometimes playing multiple roles simultaneously.

The effective efforts to counter terrorist attacks by radicals and extremists need to be built on new operational and strategic reference systems to not only eliminate existing terrorists but also prevent terrorists from operating in the future.

6 Conclusion

The main reasons for the unprecedented growth of organized crime lie in the instability of society, legal nihilism that has engulfed all strata of society, including government structures at various levels, and the ruined system of crime prevention and prevention. The number of terrorist attacks in 2011-2020 is significantly higher than between 1970 and 2010, in particular, due to the growth of terrorism in the Middle East, North Africa, and South America, which are characterized by high religiosity and radicalism in their way of thinking. Terrorist attacks have a variety of objectives, closely intertwined with a complex structure of links:

▪ political, economic, religious, social factors;
▪ goals to intimidate, attract and expand the audience.

The main targets, victims of terrorist attacks are citizens and their property (25% of cases from 1970-2020), military (16%), police (14%), government (12%), business (11%). Terrorist

groups are mostly composed of Islam adherents' members. In addition to radicals, terrorist attacks are actively carried out by extremists who are supporters of communism or by paramilitary, militant groups advocating freedom rights because of the uprising.

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