

An Analysis of the Causes of Terrorism in Europe

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Abstract

This paper discusses the major causes of terrorism in Europe. Terrorism is a complex set of phenomena. There are common root causes which result in the proliferation of violence in different parts of the world including Europe. This paper provides a comprehensive discussion about the role of right wing and left-wing extremism, and national, regional, and international terrorist groups, and the way they affect the peace in the region. The paper also discusses how the treatment of minorities and their suppression might lead to incidents of extremism and terrorism. The aspects of religious and political differences between the people living in the Europe, and how these differences make Europe more vulnerable are covered as well. Based on our previous study (Encinas, 2018), this paper divides Europe into 7 strategic blocks to help understand the terrorism in a regional perspective.

Keywords: Counter-Terrorism, Deradicalization, Conflict Studies, Peace & Conflict, Strategic Security, Extremism, Political Violence

1. Introduction

Terrorism causes instability at national, regional, and sub-regional levels. It is the most serious threat to democratic governments as it affects masses. Europe is known for its diversity and heterogeneity in the culture. Lack of tolerance and prejudice result in severe harm to societies and can be considered as one of the major causes of terrorism in the region. Our study focuses on potential causes of terrorism incidents reported earlier in each group also we will discuss causes of group focused enmity in each block (Benni, 2017).

Europe has been subjected to terror attacks since 1970's. From IRA in Northern Ireland to ETA in Spain, to Italy's Anni di Piombo, the groups organized bombing in different regions. These attacks were much similar to the today's ISIS attacks. According to Global Terrorism Database there were more than 16,000 terror attacks in past 45 years, which makes an average of 350 attacks each year. Altogether in 1970's there was a ratio of 10 attacks per week. In 1979, a record number of terror attacks i.e. approximately 1019 attacks were observed. While 1988 was the deadliest year when 440 people died mainly in Pan Am bombing. The highest of all time is 1853 casualties in year 2004, due to Madrid attacks. The rest of this section discussion some reasons behind the spread of terrorism spreads in Europe.

Widespread impact and media coverage: Attacking Europe means delivering a message of terror to the entire world. As America has been subjected to a lot of terror attacks, Europe being much peaceful when attacked gains high publicity and attention. Similarly attacking Nigeria or Indonesia has no or very little impact on the world. Secondly Europe is very easy target with a lot of transit population in major cities like London, Spain, Moscow and others. Lack of security checks at each station and entry point provides ease to the attackers, hence, making these cities an easy target. Third, attacking developed countries who consider themselves safe, causes more damage, as value of life is more in these states than in underdeveloped countries. Also, when an attack is successful the government's credibility is challenged among its own people (Akhtar, 2013).

Links between foreign policy and Terrorism: Foreign policy is directly related to terrorism in the region. In 2003 British intelligence agencies warned government that attacking Iraq would result in terrorism incidents like Manchester attack. That includes terrorism incidents from Al-Qaeda and other Muslim terror agencies as well as individuals. Muslims across the world are called one Ummah hence when Iraq was attacked Usama Bin Ladin called for all the Muslims to form coalition in order to defeat west. In this way many from across the world along with Muslims within the UK flew to Iraq to participate in the war. Also due to attack on Iraq many British Muslims were spurred to anger. Hence it shows very clearly that domestic and foreign policies are inter-connected. It proves that actions taken outside the borders have effects within home as well. (Schwarz, 2017)

Refugee crisis: Millions streamed into Europe with the beginning of war in Middle East. In 2015 about 1.1 million refugees, while 135,000 refugees came to Europe in 2016. ISIS recognized it as a golden opportunity to flee into Europe along with refugees. Europe is also especially concerned about civilization war between West and Islam. Government is now designing policies according to which they will accept on Christian refugees. ISIS has been conflating terrorists along with refugees and they have been very successful (Bremer, 2016).

Security and intelligence gaps: With the increase in terrorist attacks, number of casualties and foreign fighters pose a huge threat to Europe. Europe should be especially concerned about intelligence sharing through Europol. The most difficult of them is to enhance intelligence where states have their own sovereignty concerns. Government was on red alert before few major attacks, but still the attacks could

not be prevented. This proves that Europe needs to evaluate their security policy. Delarue, a French agency chief said, "We think there should be cooperation, we rely on other countries to give it to us and I don't think the Belgians gave us precise information." Only with high level cooperation the agencies will be able to prevent terrorist incidents (Sengupta, 2016).

Fracturing unity: Member states of Europe have been debating whether to leave Europe or not. UK's referendum has put the future of Europe in question. Other member states like France, Germany and Sweden are also planning to follow the UK's stance. Imagine if this happens, countries will be even more politically unstable and easy target for terrorists.

Geography of Europe versus US: Although Europe is an ally of US, but it is more vulnerable than US. The reason why Europe faces more violence is that it is easier for terrorism to spread through Libya to Italy than through Libya- USA or Canada, as ocean separates North America from conflict zones Middle East and Africa. Europe can be considered a soft target also it is less risky to attack Europe with high gains.

Home grown Terrorism: Home grown Terrorism is major threat to Europe. Increase in number of converts each year and youth inspiration from ISIS helps terrorists to easily approach plan and attack in the region. Few migrants living in this region from third or fourth generation having links with violent groups make the region even more insecure. There are number of recruitment bases within Europe. More than 5000 Europeans have left for Syria and Iraq. From 2012 to 2015, 400 people flew from Belgium to join ISIS. Almost 1200 people went from France to Iraq and Syria in order to join terrorist organization ISIS. This makes France European capital for ISIS fighters. Most of them are still actively involved in plotting terrorism in Europe (Precht, 2006).

Terrorism in Schengen states-Visa policies: Terrorism in Schengen state spreads through the common borders with conflict zone (Middle East and Sahel regions). Once someone crosses the border, it becomes very easy to travel through other states as well. The Madrid bombing 2004, were plotted by terrorists from Morocco and East along with Spanish nationals. Although UK is not a member of Schengen area but still it was subjected to bloody attack in July 2005. The attacks were planned and perpetrated by British nationalist; one of them was able to cross the national border and entered Rome where he was arrested. The Perpetrator of Paris attack was French, who after successful attack, reached Spain and now he is currently in Syria. Improvements in "Schengen information System" and increase in security at Schengen border area can highly reduce the threat (Vitorino, 2015).

Evident increase in Extremism and Radicalization: According to TE-SAT Report number of arrests and attacks has slightly increased by Far-Left and anarchist. Also, far-rights are seen more involved in violence than ever before. European Union should be concerned about not only large groups but also about small cells and individuals involved who use new and unpredictable actions to spread crimes. Also, individuals involved are more suspected to spread radicalization and extremism across countries. Individuals involved in terrorism are mostly due to lack of tolerance in society or personal grievances.

Involvement of Europe in other states: Europe has shown active involvement in different states. If we go in history, wrong division of sub-continent was a major reason why Kashmir and Hyderabad Dakan are still fighting for freedom, not only this, but Europe was also involved in Kurdistan which resulted in unjustified division of a very vast creed. It also played an important role in division of Turkey which was also divided in sub states like Yugoslavia, Bosnia and others. Although Europe left from there, but the consequences were long lasting. Few past grievances are still the reason behind terrorism in Europe.

Terrorism in the name of religion: Terrorism based on religion is one of the major threats to Europe. Although it cannot be associated with single religion. The term was initially introduced for Egyptians and

Algerians in 1990s for few groups who were extremely violent with rigid mind sets and lack of tolerance for infidels. These groups embark to isolation and have certain intensification of their beliefs (Justice, 14 Jan, 2015). The rapid increase in foreign fighters such as ISIS, Al-Qaeda and Taliban has increased the threat level. With passage of time these organizations have become even stronger along with the stronger roots in different countries. Like minded groups make alliance to plan terror attacks across the land, also war by NATO in Middle East and Afghanistan gave reasons to them to attack Europe. The United States and French coalition against repressive governments and empowering smaller groups to perform in certain ways in the name of counter-terrorism spreads resentment within the countries. ISIS, Al-Qaeda and other agencies are mostly blamed after every attack in order to achieve government's political stance, to achieve their narrow interests and often to escalate war in certain region. Europe's coalition with US is the major reason why it is more subjected to ISIS terror attacks. United States role against Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria and other countries provoked terrorism based on religion especially in Muslim world. Also France has always been in frontline against war in Muslim countries. Although grievances such as ISIS and Al-Qaeda are slightly low in this region, ordinary Muslims face discrimination especially due to their personal beliefs rather than any concrete evidence of criminal act. As a result, already marginalized community faces routine abuse and threats. Sometimes stabbing incidents and sometimes results in mosque attacks.

Links between terrorism and Government policies: Reasons why terrorism spread in nations is mainly due to bad policies formed by the government. If we go in history of Europe, Neofascism spread immediately after the end of dictatorship. Communism and Socialism which divided west paved ways for terrorism to make its roots in the region. Europe's alliance with NATO is the major cause behind terrorism incidents done by Taliban, ISIS and other organizations. NATO has been operating in different states like Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq which makes Europe more vulnerable to threats.

Far-right extremism: Europe needs to recognize that Far-right extremism is a major threat to it. Finsbury mosque attack is an evident example. Few governments such as Germany, has accepted and defined policies to overcome this threat but others remain ignorant. Individual governments will have to tailor down their policies to ensure safety for locals. Although Far-right contains white younger generation but others may also be involved such as radical religious or political mind-sets. Far-right has their own categorization of European and non-European, according to them anyone lying outside this interpretation is justified to face violence (Aristotle Kallis, Sara Zeiger, Bilgehan Öztürk, 2018).

Far-left extremism: Left wing extremism has its roots from anarchist in 19th and 20th century. They are the people who have common goals and certain objective to harm state people or communities; they cause security risks to the societies (Ham, 2018).

Discrimination Prejudice and intolerance: Group focused enmity is considered as a syndrome which leads towards prejudice against certain group identified as 'others'. This takes form of anti-immigrant, racism, anti-Muslim attitudes toward groups. Despite each type of group is different but they all shared common status of being inferior or un-equal. Minorities living in the region are often isolated and discriminated. Racial discrimination on the basis of colour was prevalent in west but after Nelson Mandela a prominent change in mind sets across the world was observed. If a similar strategy is used in order to educate people against minorities and immigrant rights, the threat of terrorism against them can be highly reduced. Europe has ever increased inward migrations. With about 2 million immigrants every year, Europe should be especially concerned about the prejudice against them. While at one extreme the native extremist try to isolate and threaten migrants, on the other end media portrays negative image of non-Europeans living in Europe.

Internet's role in spreading terrorism: Internet plays a vital role in spreading terrorism across the world. As internet helps in connecting people from across the world, teenagers mostly involve themselves in these kinds of activities through it. Maria Giulia Sergio (Fatima) a convert and a very prominent Italian foreign fighter in Syria was radicalized through social media and converted by Haik Bushra who was a university student in Bologna. Later she became famous when she threatened Italy by her repressive statements.

Structural, motivational causes and other triggers: Some notable structural causes are evident increase in individualism, modernization, deprivation and isolation, class structure, discrimination and prejudice on the basis of cast and colour. Few people indulge themselves in these kinds of activities due to personal grievances. Motivational speakers and politicians sometimes influence minds of people which act as a trigger behind terrorism. Other triggers may include revenge due to a momentous or an outrageous event (Bjorgo, 2005).

2. Discussion

According to the reports of 2017, 5215 people died from bombing between years 1970 to 2016. 2463 were assassinated, 2240 were assaulted, 957 were held hostage, 88 from attacks on building. Thousands were wounded or went missing. Taking into account that terrorism is a worldwide issue; it can be solved or at least diminished if entire dimensional palette of manifestation is addressed at national and international level.

2.1. Block 1

It includes United Kingdom and Ireland while the main incidents observed in this region are related to stabbing, shooting, attacks on religious buildings and Vehicle ramming.

The study shows that most of the people involved in knife crimes in UK are teenagers. Social background and personal upbringing is the major reason why one chooses to get involved in crimes of this type. Young people facing deprivation, marginalization and lack of family support often involve themselves in violent activities hence harming others (Bloom, n.d.). Another reason behind terrorism in UK is group focused enmity which is due to difference in ideologies. The attacks on religious building such as mosques and churches are an evident example of it. Hate crimes have propelled largely in the recent years, acts of vandalism against mosques and racial discrimination is at its peak. Almost every mosque has been attacked since 9/11 incident.

Northern Ireland and UK conflicts of past is another major cause of terrorism in this region. BBC News attack was associated with IRA. The network has planned and harmed the sovereignty of UK on several occasions in the past. The incident like London Bridge attack was associated with Muslim terrorist organization. United Kingdom has been a leading ally of US in so call war on terror (Cornish, 2005). ISIS operating in west is held responsible for most of the incidents; also, they even take the responsibility of the attack once it is successful. Their prime motive behind these incidents is no other than to spread fear and agony within the community also to threaten the governments.

Conflict between minorities and majority is another major reason behind terrorism in United Kingdom. At one end if government allows minorities to have freedom of expression, due to lack of tolerance majority starts criticizing and eventually it results in major mishaps such as Birmingham attacks. While if minorities are not allowed to fully practice their beliefs, this also induce hatred and eventually they harm or attack in order to force government.

2.2. Block 2

This Block includes France and Belgium. Major incidents in this region are related to knife attacks, Vehicle ramming, shooting incidents and bombing attacks (Bremmer, 2016). Almost all of the extremists found involved in attacks were already flagged by the France or Belgium agencies.

Starting from the attack of Charlie Hebdo satirical newspaper headquarter in which 11 People died was total consequence of hatred spread by the inappropriate cartoons of (Prophet Muhammad SAW) a Muslim icon and figure of respect. The cartoons moved and deeply sadden the entire Muslim community. On the hand government was not condemning the act which in turn induced outrage in the community. Charlie Hebdo and the crew mocked fundamentalism of Islam and Prophet Muhammad (SAW) in the name of freedom of speech, hence provoking Muslims to take action.

Attack on France such as Bataclan concert hall attack and nice attack done by Mohamed Lahouaiej-Bouhlel, who was a native Tunisian but a French resident, were linked to terrorist organizations Al-Qaeda and ISIS. France involvement in war against Syria and air attacks in ISIL region was considered the major reason behind nice attack. France has been escalating secretive war against IS from a long time. In 2014 to 2017 Syria's significant part was considered ISIL territory. France, Russia, US have directly participated in the war, supporting both, rebels and opposition. Which of course is the obvious reason why France is subjected to terrorist attacks by Islamic States? These attacks also signify the failure of French bureaucracy and intelligence agencies.

Reasons behind terrorism in Belgium are diverse. First of all, Belgium is located between three important countries of the world - France, UK and Germany. Being Schengen state no visa is required to travel between countries, hence making it easy for terrorists to travel, plot and leave the area. Third Belgium state agency have only 600 employees also its military counterpart has similar number. Hence, making it altogether 1000 intelligence officers for a country who hosts NATO and world custom organizations. It is obvious that security challenges are huge in the country; lack of intelligence is another reason behind successful attacks. Attacking this country means attacking whole Europe, as it is heart of continent. They attack the heart to make whole body feel the pain. One of the fore most reasons behind attacks is to gain maximum attention and show strength and determination to the entire world.

2.3. Block 3

It includes Greece and Italy, and the major terrorism incidents in this region are related to stabbing, vehicle ramming, shooting incidents and bomb attacks.

When economic, social and political instability were threatened in 1960, the result was terrorism. Few Neofascist groups along with other agencies started operating. Their prime focus was on nationalism opposite to liberalism. Also, they blamed non-Europeans for every problem (Britannica, n.d.). They began to derail and destroy trains in order to create stress and tension within the government. The tension began with the series of bombing in Rome and Milan. The bomb killed 16 and injured more than 90 people. The most facets of these attacks were on Bologna railway station which killed almost 85 people.

Left wing terrorism attracted a lot of youngsters who were not happy with policies. Later in 1980's the threat was greatly reduce when law enforcing agencies were given more powers in order to control the situation.

ISIS became an evident threat to Europe even more than other organizations like Al-Qaeda. In 2002 Usama bin Ladin threatened U.S allies including Italy. While ISIS threatened more to UK, France and Germany but the group also threatened Italy although it was least involved in airstrikes in Middle East. In

September, when US launched airstrikes against Syria Abu al-Adnani an ISIS member stated that “We will conquer your Rome, break your crosses, and enslave your women, the Exalted”

Italian agencies netted ISIS operating members in Italy who were planning to attack Rome (Hurd, 2018). 5 members were arrested while 20 are still under investigation.

Italian youngsters have been impressed by ISIS groups in Syria especially. One reason why Rome is subjected to threats is because threatening Rome means threatening entire Christendom. The past attacks in Vatican suggest that entire city will continue being subjected to threats.

Terror attacks in Greece can't be neglected. Recently Greek institutions, banks and malls have been attacked through automatic weapons and explosives. Greece domestic terrorism began with radical leftist and anarchist ideologies. That started with military dictatorship from year 1967- 1974. Shortly after collapse of Dictatorship, leftists formed two notorious groups, ELA and 17N. Greece authorities eliminated 17N in 2002. New generation of terrorist groups emerged forming EA Revolutionary Struggle, SPF and SE-Sect of Revolutionaries. SPF took responsibility of Parcel bomb in 2010. Which resulted in series of arrests between years 2010 to 2011? In 2013, SPF took the responsibility of Korydallos bomb attack incident. They promised to launch more attacks along with other likeminded groups. In April 2014 the group took responsibility of parcel bomb attack on police station. Radical leftist, SE group last attacked in 2010, after 13 months when they assassinated Greek journalist outside Athens home.

Unknown groups in 2012 took the responsibility of attacks in Athens metro by the use of crude incendiary device. Attacks continued in 2013-2014 including spat attack of arson, continuous threats and attacks on journalists' home, bombing at the mall in Athens, violence between Anarchists and Extreme-rights part Golden Dawn and firing on German ambassador in Athens. Other groups involved in spreading terror are ZTO- Zero Tolerance organization and OLA a Group of popular Rebels (NCTC, n.d.).

2.4. Block 4

Block 4 includes countries in Eastern Europe. The main incidents include knife attacks, tear gas attacks, foiled incidents, bomb blasts and stabbing incidents. Terrorism in Eastern Europe is relatively low as compared to the other regions like North Caucasus Maghreb and Central Asia.

Terrorism incidents in Poland are also less, but the possibility of them cannot be excluded. Poland accession to Schengen states fosters terrorism in the state. Wide open borders which lift travel barrier is the reason why a lot of foreigners are living in Poland. Although no local terrorist groups are operating in the country also it is far away from the conflict zone, still it is frequently mentioned in Al-Qaeda's statements. Another reason why Poland can be targeted is due to effect of globalization of economic process (Zubrzycki, 2017).

Romania, Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania are also Schengen states hence vulnerable to threats. The tension between ethnic Russian population living in Latvia and ethnic Latvian often causes terrorism (OSAC, 2018). Secondly Romania's unstable geographical location is another important factor. It neighbours with Black sea, Balkans also it is not far from Caucasus. Third, it contains high number of Arabs which can be radicalized and brainwashed against country. Fourth, even though there is no direct Muslim threat to Romania, but due to its alliance with US and since 2007, relocation of US military bases in Romania can bring terrorism to the country (Cristiana, n.d.).

Bulgaria is small country situated in South-eastern Europe with very little terrorism incidents. In last 20 years, only nine terrorism incidents were recorded. Factors behind terrorism in year 1944 to 1989 were due to communist party domination and other political instability. From 1983 to 1987, the conflicts

between Christian and Turkish Muslims were the major reason behind terrorism in the region. In 1990 communist regime ended which caused high level crimes (Shanduorkov, 2012). Currently terrorist threats are linked with ISIS and other cells operating in the region. Master mind behind 2012 Bulgaria terrorist attack had connections with Hezbollah (Bob, 2018).

2.5. Block 5

This block includes Portugal and Spain. Major incidents of terrorism in this region are related to vehicle ramming, knife attacks, few bomb blasts and stabbing incidents.

Country has been on highest alert since 2004 Madrid attack in which 191 people died while more than 2000 were injured. The attack was linked to Al-Qaeda although no suspect was found connected to them. On the other hand, Spain has least xenophobia across the Western Europe. With 2.1 percent Muslim population residing only few national Syrian and Iraq fighters exist. Only 150 Spaniards flew from Europe to Syria compared to 1200 French who travelled and joined terrorist organizations. Spain has always been part of military missions against AL-Qaeda and Iraq. If we go in the history of Spain, it was once a land of Muslim Caliphs; this is also a reason why it is very important for ISIS to attack the country. Catalonia is the place where Mohamed Atta and Ramzi Binalshibh had a meeting before 9/11 attack.

The country has been on terror alert since 2015 and Cambrils was considered as a meeting place for radicals. Also, it is thought to be recruiting base for terrorists, hence making it more vulnerable. Lack of unity is another reason why terrorism prevails. The Catalan government referendum against seceding from Spain has left the country divided with least cooperation with Madrid and Barcelona (Jones, 2017).

Portugal is not targeted much by ISIS and other groups due to several reasons. The most important of them is that there are more important countries in Europe, attacking them would grasp more media attention than Portugal. Another reason is that Portuguese are least interested in Muslim terrorism, only few open-source articles have been published on this topic contrary to other European countries.

2.6. Block 6

It includes Germany, Austria, Hungary and Holland. The major incidents in Germany, Austria, Hungary and Holland are mostly related to gunshots, Hostage, foil attacks and stabbing. Causes behind them are discussed below.

German government is especially concerned about nationals becoming terrorists in past few years. Home grown terrorism has affected a lot to the country. German government is very vigilant about its security services, which in most of the cases have intervened early and prevented the attack. It is assumed that a number of terrorist networks exist within the Germany that are capable of carrying out attacks at massive scale. Germany has encountered growing threat of lone wolf, ISIS and Al-Qaeda.

Lone Wolf has been linked to number terrorist plot in Germany. In year 2006 two Lebanese nationals placed suitcases containing propane gas and detonators on trains in Cologne. The bombs did not explode as the trigger went off. German authorities reported that the bomb could have killed approximately 75 people. Both the perpetrators were caught and were sentenced prison.

Terrorism incident on 2nd March 2011 in which 2 men were killed by Arid UKA is considered as an influential case. He was born in Kosovska Mitrovica, but his family was settled in Germany for 40 years. He was radicalized through social media and motivated to carry out attacks. His Facebook page showed a side of him which was not known even to his family members. UKA confessed later on that he acted alone, and he does not belong to any cell or organization (Gohel, 2011).

Austria can be considered as secondary target. A Turkish born 14 years boy was convicted of terrorist attack including railway station attack in Vienna. According to police report, the boy had links with ISIS and Al-Qaeda (BBC, 2015). Another 18 years old boy was arrested in Vienna against charges of plotting a bomb attack in Capital Vienna. The boy belonged to immigrant background. Also, he had connections with terrorist cells and organizations.

In Hungary the tension lies at border with Serbia. A lot of migrants tried to cross the border. Few including Ahmed Hamed was convicted and jailed. Strict policies are developed in order to stop migrants from entering the state.

Holland suffers from home grown terrorism with ISIS links. Europe had 5000 foreign fighters who went to Syria or Iraq for war. These fighters are looking out for the ways to return back home (Daragahi, 2018). These influential groups not only harm non-Muslims but also cause polarization in society. Already marginalized Muslim community in Holland is suppressed day by day. Muslims are being alienated from rest of the world which helps terror groups achieve one of their goals, that is to make Muslims feel different from rest of the world and form integration with radicalized cells (Akerboom, n.d.).

2.7. Block 7

It includes Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Norway. Major incidents in this region are mostly related to vehicle ramming, bomb attacks, foiled attacks, stabbing incidents and attacks using hand grenades.

Norway, Sweden and Finland share common borders. Denmark is linked with Sweden through Oresund a bridge and shares southern border with Germany (Myrdal, 2005). Attacks on Nordic or Scandinavian states are much less and minor. According to Global Terrorism Dataset, 89% attacks did not cause any causality. Total 110 fatalities with 182 injuries were observed. Out of which 77 fatalities and 75 injuries occurred in Norway attack 2011. All together 22 attacks occurred which claimed lives and most of them were in Sweden.

There have been number of attacks in Sweden and Finland. There were approximately 200,000 asylum seekers in year 2015. First Islamic terrorist attack on Sweden was in year 2010. Taimour Abdul wahab al-Abdaly attacked in Stockholm and later exploded him in a busy shopping mall. Along with Islamic extremism, far right and NRM neo-Nazi based terrorism) also exist in Sweden which harms its peace. A lot of Swedish nationals have travelled and joined ISIS in Iraq and Syria which pose a major threat to country.

Terrorism in Norway and Denmark are mainly due to presence of ISIS, Right-wing terrorist groups and Lone wolfs terrorism operating groups. They both are Schengen states which is also a reason why it is very easy to attack them due to low border policies.

3. Conclusion

This paper concludes that Europe encounter threats from all kinds from external and internal sources. Al-Qaeda, ISIS, and other groups including far-right and far-left, are actively involved in disrupting peace of the region. Europe must be especially concerned about its security and intelligence gaps. States must not only enhance their security but revisit their policies in order to ensure peace and safety for the citizens. This paper has also covered the perspective of political and legal aspects of terrorism in the region.

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