

## **1. Introduction**

This paper seeks to analyze and discuss how has globalization assisted in the spread of global terrorism. This will attempt to provide insights into how several indicators have helped in assisting the spread of terrorism under the hypothesis or essay statement that globalization and its necessary effects have directly and indirectly influenced global terrorism to attain its objective of instilling fear among nations of the world. The paper will conclude and what should be done in the light of realities that would be discovered in defending the hypothesis.

## **2. Analysis and Discussion**

### **2.1 What is globalization and its objectives?**

Globalization could be defined as a “primarily economic phenomenon, involving the increasing interaction, or integration, of national economic systems through the growth in international trade, investment and capital flows” or “a decoupling of space and time, emphasizing that with instantaneous communications, knowledge and culture can be shared around the world simultaneously.”<sup>1</sup> It could be defined “as a process in which geographic distance becomes a factor of diminishing importance in the establishment and maintenance of cross border economic, political and socio-cultural relations<sup>2</sup>. Using definition by left critics of globalization, it could also be a “worldwide drive toward a globalized economic system dominated by supranational corporate trade and banking institutions that are not accountable to democratic processes or national governments.” It

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<sup>1</sup> Globalization Guide (n.d.) What is Globalization? (Paraphrasing made) citing sociologist Anthony Giddens

<sup>2</sup> Ibid (Paraphrasing made), citing a Dutch academic named Ruud Lubbers

would be also difficult to disagree with Globalization Guide<sup>3</sup> when it said that globalization is a “capitalist process” that has come “in the wake of the collapse of the Soviet Union and of socialism as a viable alternate form of economic organisation.” Based on these definitions, globalization could therefore be taken as an economic strategy that has started from the west to bring the world together economically for the realization of economic benefits to people around to the globe. However, Cavusgil admitted unequal distribution of income and economic opportunity as one of its unintended adverse affects, of the term to some societies, classes, and regions.<sup>4</sup>

Bowdish<sup>5</sup> agreed that globalization has enabled tremendous prosperity for America but admitted a backlash against globalization including within the United States, which had disruptive societal effects such as threatening “industries, jobs, living standards, and imposes unwanted societal values upon them” and with the United States believed as the champion of globalization, became target to stop globalization through both peaceful and violent means.”<sup>6</sup> In a separate situation, Tanzania President Benjamin Mkapa, has described the effects of globalization as "untenable" and that "countries with impoverished, disadvantaged and desperate populations are breeding grounds for present and future terrorists."<sup>7</sup>

## **2.2 What is global terrorism and its objectives?**

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<sup>3</sup> Ibid, (Paraphrasing made)

<sup>4</sup> Cavusgil, S. T. (n.d.) Interface Of Globalization With National Security: New Agenda For Cibers,

<sup>5</sup> Bowdish, R. (2002) Chapter 5, Global Terrorism, Strategy, and Naval Forces (Paraphrasing made)

<sup>6</sup> See discussion in Frank Carlucci, Robert Hunter, and Zalmay Khalilzad, Taking Charge: A Bipartisan Report to the President Elect on Foreign Policy and National Security—Discussion Papers MR1306/1–RC (Santa Monica, CA: RAND, 2000), 9–11

<sup>7</sup> BBC News, 2004 “Can globalisation be tamed?”

After knowing what globalization is and its unintended effects, it is best to see now how such effects have in fact assisted in way one or the other the spread of global terrorism. Knowing the effects prompts us to start with the determining the objectives of terrorism from its definition. Bowdish<sup>8</sup> defined terrorism as “the calculated use of unlawful violence or threat of unlawful violence to inculcate fear; intended to coerce or to intimidate governments or societies in the pursuit of goals that are generally political, religious, or ideological.”<sup>9</sup> He added that “it is a tactic of psychology and violence, used by the weak against the strong, to achieve disproportionate ends via otherwise modest means of violence, through the leverage of fear<sup>10</sup>.”

Bowdish, pointed the irony of the same mechanism enabling globalization to have also push terrorism on a global scale, citing examples as global financial transactions guaranteeing terrorist acts around the world and “networked communications, whether Internet, conventional or cellular phone” across continents and nations. The latter allowed terrorists to interconnect in near-real and real time. He mentioned the effect of a global media that allows instantaneous and worldwide spread terrorists’ message of terror on an unparalleled scale<sup>11</sup>.

Global terrorism comprises two components: the physical act and the psychological impact<sup>12</sup>. The physical act has the elements of “destructive acts of violence directed against the people and symbols of the enemy”, which is “an intermediary act against the

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<sup>8</sup> Bowdish, 2002 , see above

<sup>9</sup> U.S. Department of Defense, Joint Publication 1–02, Department of Defense Dictionary of Military and Associated Terms (Washington, DC: Department of Defense, April 12, 2001).

<sup>10</sup> Bowdish, 2002, see above

<sup>11</sup> Bowdish, 2002, (Paraphrasing made).

<sup>12</sup> Ibid

real target, the centre of gravity<sup>13</sup>”. Given this target, either by plan or chance, global terrorists basically focuses their efforts by propagating their message using the “global media to deliver maximum psychological impact against the enemy centre of gravity.”<sup>14</sup>

### **2.3 How global terrorism got assisted in the physical front?**

As noted there earlier, there is a physical and a psychological aspect of terrorism but this paper posits that it is the indirect cause or psychological reason that is driving the terrorist driving the terrorists to attain their objective which is to instil fear. Fear is of course an emotion and therefore a therefore psychological objective that sustains terrorists’ acts. Taking off also from the previous definition that terrorism have “pursuit of goals that are generally political, religious, or ideological.”<sup>15</sup>, it is argued that although the physical violence that may be seen by the naked eyes as necessary part of accomplishing the objective of terrorism, it is attainment of the goal that controls the strategic actions of the terrorists.

#### 2.3.1 The merging of banks afford global flow of currency.

Despite such argument giving emphasis on the psychological aspect of attaining the objectives of terrorism it would be easy to find the connection of globalization “incidents” to global terrorism. Bowdish said, “Through international and domestic legislation and strengthened law enforcement, the United States seeks to limit the room in which terrorists can move, plan, raise funds, and operate. Our goal is to eliminate terrorist

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<sup>13</sup> As defined by Carl von Clausewitz, is “the hub of all power and movement, on which everything depends...the point at which all our energies should be directed.” (Bowdish, 2006)

<sup>14</sup> Bowdish, 2002 (paraphrasing made), see above

<sup>15</sup> U.S. Department of Defense, Joint Publication 1-02, and Department of Defense Dictionary of Military and Associated Terms (Washington, DC: Department of Defense, April 12, 2001).

safe havens, dry up their sources of revenue, break up their cells, disrupt their movements, and criminalize their behaviour”<sup>16</sup> Globalization might have caused financial institutions banks to merged due to promise of synergy and have their global operation to serve their global clients. It can that the argued that the globalization which is supposed to serve the interest of the international community through the use of technology has also helped the terrorist to have their funds flow in the banking system. This is one of reason for the passage of the AMLA or the so called Anti-Money Laundering Law.

It is in this context that “The Department of State engages terrorism diplomatically, directly and indirectly, through policy aimed at designated terrorist organizations and state sponsors of terrorism. Designated terrorist organizations, of which the State Department currently lists 28, are addressed through policy that: makes members and representatives of those groups ineligible for U.S. visas and subject to exclusion from the United States. U.S. financial institutions are required to block the funds of those groups and of their agents and to report the blocking action to the U.S. Department of the Treasury. Additionally, it is a criminal offence for U.S. persons or persons within U.S. jurisdiction knowingly to provide material support or resources to such groups.”<sup>17</sup>.

### 2.3.2 Globalism as an economic strategy seeks an economic integration of world community.

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<sup>16</sup> Bowdish, 2002 citing U.S. Department of State, Patterns of Global Terrorism: 1999 (Washington, DC: Department of State, April 2000),1

<sup>17</sup> Ibid, citing U.S. Department of State, Patterns of Global Terrorism: 1999 (Washington, DC: Department of State, April 2000), 4

As an economic strategy, globalization lead companies where there is market. Market is translated into number of people who demand goods and services. Hence the world will basically seem to ignore ideological differences as long as there is business opportunity and hence every country of the world would not find it difficult to join the world. The WTO is one of the manifestations of globalization. As of this writing there are non members who want to join the WTO including Iraq, Libya, Sudan and Iran.<sup>18</sup>

Taken from the premise that globalization through the WTO may be helping global terrorism, it could be inferred that countries promoting globalization but fighting global terrorism like the US will make a move to stop state sponsors of terrorism. This could be reason why “the United States enlists sanctions against nations designated as state sponsors of terrorism in order to isolate them from the international community.”<sup>19</sup> The isolation is intended “to drain the swamps where terrorists seek refuge.”<sup>20</sup> The Cuba, Iran, Iraq, Libya, North Korea, Sudan, and Syria are part of the seven nations branded state sponsors<sup>21</sup>. As could be observer above Iraq, Libya, Sudan and Iran wanted to the WTO but perhaps because of there being listed as state sponsors of terrorism, their memberships are yet to come. As for Cuba, it was already a member of the WTO as of April 20,1995.<sup>22</sup>

2.3.3 The present technological status of communication technology, which is influenced by globalization, makes media more intrusive that may tilt the tide in favour of terrorists.

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<sup>18</sup> Wikipedia, 2007a, WTO

<sup>19</sup> Bowdish, 2002

<sup>20</sup> Ibid

<sup>21</sup> Bowdish, 2002 (Paraphrasing made) citing U.S. Department of State, Patterns of Global Terrorism: 1999 (Washington, DC: Department of State, April 2000), 2

<sup>22</sup> Wikipedia, 2007b, Understanding The WTO: The Organization Members and Observers

The present facilities for allows wider communication exposure of issues to more audience and therefore would result to more people to convince and at the same time to influence. The people in the media may also become more intrusive with their ease of feedback from an international audience and this could make media people to be more intrusive. Bowdish explained that in an “era of intense media intrusiveness—one in which legality, from domestic and international viewpoints, will become ever more important—sound judgment and close control will need to be exercised over the degree of physical destruction which it is possible, necessary, or desirable to inflict.”<sup>23</sup> He thus argued the “war on global terrorism will be a war of manoeuvre” so that “the strategy must be crafted such that measures implemented on the physical front work in harmony with psychological measures.” He recommended the focus of maximum effort to eliminate “the terrorist centre of gravity—its leadership, without fuelling more terrorism by lionizing their martyrdom.”<sup>24</sup>

## **2.4 How global terrorism got assisted by globalization in the psychological front?**

### 2.4.1 The World Trade Center was a symbol of America as centre of globalization and this may have attracted terrorist to attack the same in September 2001.

Psychological battles assume their significance in symbols represented by structures and things. Realizing that operations on the psychological front are burdened with not only the “danger of unintended consequences, but also uncontrollability and severe backlash” Bowdish argued that terrorism in the 21st century will be forever linked to the

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<sup>23</sup> Bowdish, 2002, see above

<sup>24</sup> Ibid

images of the fall of the World Trade Towers, images the terrorists actively sought to achieve. He observed that these images left their indelible mark on the psyche of this generation, with the intention to induce terror in support of al Qaeda objectives. On the same 9/11 attack however Bowdish saw the spontaneous picture of patriotic heroes as shown the fire-fighters holding the US flag at the ruins of WTC Towers and rallying American patriotism in action<sup>25</sup>. He inferred that this image have inadvertently “sown the seeds of terrorist defeat by galvanizing governments and people of all faiths throughout the world against them, rather than contributing to any of their objectives.”<sup>26</sup>

2.4.2 Globalization as economic strategy involves the use international celebrities, American leaders, broadcasters, and entertainers to promote products and services of companies around the world and such promotion may produce backlash.

Events in the form of pronouncements of American leaders and advertisements of products of companies may deliver different meaning across the world that may be supporting the cause of terrorist. Bowdish realized the governments’ worrisome dilemma on the psychological front on addressing and countering psychological manipulation, whether by terrorists or other enemies, given the power and reach of television. He thus observed the governments’ need expose terrorist propaganda as it surfaces, as well protection of influential American leaders, broadcasters, and entertainers from succumbing to its spell. He cited the case of the Vietnam War, when actress Jane Fonda was manipulated by communist propaganda to the point that she openly assisted the communists. The incident was about her visit to North Vietnam, where “she mounted the

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<sup>25</sup> Bowdish, 2002, paraphrasing made

<sup>26</sup> Ibid

gunner's seat of a communist Vietnamese anti-aircraft gun". He thus explained that although Fonda has not shoot down any American planes, the image was still damaging, buttressing the spirits of the North Vietnamese while hurting morale of American fighting men and women. The error by Fonda was however acknowledged eighteen years later with Fonda apologizing for allowing herself to be "duped as a propaganda vehicle"<sup>27</sup>

#### 2.4.3 Censuring the free press as result of globalized technology has become more difficult in the light of rights to information under the US Constitution.

The US government in trying to fight terrorism but the press believing its duty bound to deliver the information may be actually assisting terrorism. Bowdish admitted of difficulty of attempts to censor the free press to control the psychological front. He explained his observation by quoting journalist Howard Kurtz of The Washington Post, who said "During the Vietnam War, journalists had free rein to accompany U.S. troops, and military leaders blamed that unfettered coverage for helping turn the country against the war. In the Persian Gulf War, the Pentagon slapped severe restrictions on the press, even censoring some dispatches, and made it all but impossible for journalists to accompany U.S. forces during the brief ground war. The public clearly sided with the first Bush administration. Nearly eight in 10 Americans in a 1991 Times Mirror poll supported the Pentagon's restrictions on journalists, and 60 percent said there should be more limits."<sup>28</sup>

Bowdish pointed out the need to withhold information that may put the lives of military members at risk. He realized that the Americans still want to know the truth "yet

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<sup>27</sup> Bowdish, (2002), (Paraphrasing made)

<sup>28</sup> Bowdish (2002) (Paraphrasing made), citing Howard Kurtz, "Journalists Worry About Limits on Information, Access," The Washington Post, September 24, 2001

one man's truth can appear as another man's propaganda". Hence, government must wise to intelligent when to withhold information or "the media will still fill the information void, airing and publishing the best guesses of pundits, journalists—even the enemy."<sup>29</sup>

2.4.4 Crafting a psychological strategy against global terrorism may have become more difficult with an international audience made easier by globalization allowing if not promoting freedom of religion.

The battle in the minds and heart of people may turn out into a situation where failure to explain any action to stop terrorism may bring people to the other side of the fence and they could become supporters of terrorism where recruits could be made. Bowdish cited a "particularly awkward problem in crafting a psychological strategy against global terrorism is how to address radical Islam." He argued that these radicals are perverted with the twisting of the Islamic faith, and that "radical Islam provides global terrorists with both a powerful recruiting tool and a means to get otherwise rational men to willingly give up their lives for the cause." He illustrated using "a five-page handwritten document in Arabic that includes Islamic prayers, instructions for a last night of life," which unearthed in the belongings of Mohamed Atta, one of the leaders of the September 11 acts of terrorism. Using the description by Bob Woodward of The Washington Post the document was "a cross between a chilling spiritual exhortation aimed at the hijackers and an operational mission checklist."<sup>30</sup>

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<sup>29</sup> Ibid

<sup>30</sup> Bowdish (2002) (Paraphrasing made) citing Bob Woodward, "In Hijacker's Bags, a Call to Planning, Prayer, and Death," The Washington Post, September 28, 2001

Bowdish explained that in the US where freedom of religion is right, the government is limited with of options to counter this weapon. Admitting President Bush having tapped “Islamic scholars for intellectual tools in speeches against radical Islam,”<sup>31</sup> there is limit with what can be done in the world of religion. Although globalization may have not promoted radical Islam, its spread of American globalization may have the meaning of propagating freedom of religion including radicalism.

2.4.5 The dissemination of globalized information and free movement of humans, services and goods, assist terrorists in network building and terrorism on a large scale.

The first reason as to why global terrorism has evolved into a threat to national security is the development of globalization where globalized information affords easy dissemination and movement of humans, services and goods, have allowed terrorists to “build networks and conduct international terrorism on a large scale.”<sup>32</sup>

Shinmi explained that “global terrorism, through globalization and its attendant, highly-developed mass-media outlets, can effectively threaten citizens, criticize governments, and insist on political demands.”<sup>33</sup>

Terrorists could draw unnecessary attention to them, by giving information which is advantageous to them and “manipulate both mass-communication and public opinion.” They could use the global media to deceive public opinion under a wrap of anonymity to sow fear amongst the citizenry with threats of violence, while “pushing the responsibility for this fear-creation on others, e.g. governments, and not onto themselves.”. hence they

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<sup>31</sup> Dana Milbank, “Professor Shapes Bush Rhetoric,” The Washington Post, September 26, 2001, A6

<sup>32</sup> Shinmi (2006)

<sup>33</sup> Ibid

both “confuse the international community and divide public-opinion by making use of unanticipated violence, threats, and one-sided messages.”<sup>34</sup>

### **3. Conclusion**

Knowing the assistance provided by globalization should not stop us from there but we should be more concerned with the solution on global terrorism. Since it has become global, terrorism has become a problem all over the world not only the United States. It has in fact become a threat to national security of each nation that would necessitate passage of news laws for each country necessitating actions to counter terrorism. But since it has become global so that a supporter an anti-terrorism effort will become potentially a potential target of terrorists. Would it mean therefore stopping globalization to stop global terrorism? Certainly, no. The better option is to use globalization to stop terrorism around the world. This should make then every nation to take their stand for using globalization to stop terrorism. Countries all over the world has to go back to the roots of global terrorism, one of which is poverty and lack of freedom and use the benefits of technology to address the root causes. This is not an impossible task to accomplish if the world community will realize that we are in one world where nations live interdependently and one country needs another for survival and enjoyment of happiness.

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<sup>34</sup> Ibid, (Paraphrasing made)

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