

**TITLE –**  
**NON-TRADITIONAL SECURITY THREATS IN RECENT**  
**DECADES**

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## NON TRADITIONAL SECURITY THREATS IN RECENT DECADES

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### Abstract

As the purpose for this research paper is to deal with non-traditional security threats to India in recent years. Non-traditional security threats are defined as challenges to the survival and well being of peoples and states that arise primarily out of non military sources such as climate change, cross border environmental degradation and resource depletion, infectious diseases, natural disaster, irregular migration, food shortages, people smuggling, drug trafficking and other forms of transnational crime. Hence these non- traditional threats are much more intimidating than the traditional ones as they require the national leadership to look not only outwards to cultivate international cooperation but also inwards with an open outlook to execute internal socio- economic and political reforms. This research paper will deal with some of the security threats as such issues are directly affecting government institutions and civilian populations where the threats may be upshots of certain acts by individuals or social groups rather than the action of states. For the purpose of comprehensive analysis one can identify six broad branches of non- traditional security namely International Terrorism, Trans-national Organized Crime, Environmental Security, Illegal Migration, Energy Security and Human Security. Hence with these given wide canvas of such threats each of these branches of non-traditional security of threats deserves an independent analysis of each issue giving the changing global realities and the new security environment of the contemporary world as the traditional concept of security envisages use of military means to deal with the threats to the units, territorial integrity, unity and sovereignty of a state.

Keywords - Non-traditional, Transnational crime, International terrorism,

Environmental security, illegal migration, Energy security.

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## **INTRODUCTION**

*'In traditional terms security is about threats to the existence of a nation state and adoption of emergency or extraordinary measures to deal with them. But non- traditional approach to security tends to make it all – inclusive'*

**– Morshed Khan**

### **Defining non- traditional security threats**

The nature of threat and security discourses is incessantly changing and this expanding security agenda has gone beyond state and military security. With a disintegrated soviet union and a transformed socialist world, the global strategic environment has been in a constant flux. In recent years, the debate has moved on to discuss a broader concept of security which envisages threats to an individual; to a community besides dealing with threats to state. This is a liberalist view of security, the non-traditional view, in which an individual's right to freedom from fear is emphasized. Non-traditional security issues include a variety of topics such as climate change, food security, water, energy security, environment, health, organized crime etc. The broadening of the concept of security have adverse created a lively debate on the definition of security itself. Speaking at the 14th Asian Security Conference held at the IDSA in February 2012, the Defence Minister, Shri A.K. Antony had said that the concept of security was expanding to include economic progress, climate change and good governance. Thus, there is a growing view that issues of environment, development, progress, justice, if not addressed in time, could have security consequences. Speaking at the same conference, the National Security Adviser, Shri Shivshankar Menon, cautioned that the concept of security had been made so large that it was "not helpful in understanding or prioritizing among security challenges, and it is certainly no guide to the actions required to deal with such threats or good."

Not getting entangled into semantics, one could make a case that due to a variety of factors such as growing competition for resources, increasing salience of human security, globalization, interdependence, demography & natural factors, the NTS will continue to gain salience in security discourse.

We should also recognize that there is interplay between traditional and non-traditional issues. Securitization of non-traditional threats & challenges is becoming a growing trend. Some of the non-security issues are beginning to have serious geopolitical and geo-economic impact. Climate change, regarded as an existential threat in the long term, is being securitized. The projected consequences of climate change such as floods, droughts, sea rise, ice melt and extreme weather events can have serious security implications. Thanks to climate change, the Arctic Sea is melting as a result of which the geo political environment in the region is changing. The quest for hydrocarbons and other resources in the Arctic Sea has intensified. New shipping routes have opened up. India will need to study the impact of Arctic melt-down as its own security & foreign policy. Countries like China, Japan, South Korea, the non-arctic countries are positioning themselves in the Arctic debate.

In the meanwhile, cyber space has emerged as a lawless region, where attribution is difficult and enemies cannot be identified. Cyber crime is on the increase. Cyber fraud and cyber terrorism is a major threat. A recent report released by a US security firm Mandiant has implicated a PLA unit in attack on American Corporations. Cyber Security is today a top security concern for all nations.

Energy security receives top billing in any security in any security discussion. Given the scarcity of energy resources, high energy prices, difficulties of access, transportation and shipping of energy resources, the threat of sabotage, ensuring energy supplies has become a top priority for foreign policy and security establishments.

Energy security is linked with maritime security. Today, powerful navies are routinely performing the tasks of protecting sea lanes of communications, against piracy and terror attacks. The challenge of providing food and water for billions of people is daunting. Climate change, global warming is expected to cause severe draughts & floods affecting agriculture productivity. Thus, food and water security are emerging as major issues. There is growing literature on whether nations could go to war on food & water. Food and water issues are, in turn, linked with climate change, environment degradation and governance issues. In any conflict, food, water & energy emerge as salient issues. The idea of water wars may not be accepted as yet, but scarcity of water could lead to migrations with negative consequences.

The non-traditional security issues are quite diverse in character but still have some commonalities. They affect large number of people and they are mutually re-enforcing. NTS

issues challenge state sovereignty all the time. The issue of global commons and their preservation has become an important topic of international discourse. They require wider international cooperation for effective handling.

### **International Terrorism**

The unlawful use of force or violence against person or property in order to coerce or intimidate a government or the civilian population in furtherance of political or social objectives.

Terrorism is fundamentally an attack on the state. It may be described as an act of violence, committed against innocent people to create fear, with an underlying political motive. This fear is an intended effect and not merely a by-product of terrorism. Terrorists are therefore criminals and not so-called freedom fighters. International Terrorism has international or trans-national consequences in which terrorists strike targets outside and beyond their country of origin such as the 11th September<sup>1</sup> or the strikes by Pakistan-based outfits in J&K<sup>2</sup>. International Terrorism also implies that such terrorist groups, e.g. JEI, Al Qaida, etc. have an organisation/ network/ linkage in a number of countries. For instance, we have identified terrorists who are nationals from 16 countries, currently operating in J&K. The question is that if collateral damage and casualties from terrorism are inevitable, should the Government have any qualms about swift and ruthless retaliation?

#### **Long term strategy**

Following from the above understanding of the nature of international terrorism that faces us today, it is clear that a long-term strategy is required to counter terrorism. It has to be comprehensively addressed on all fronts, political, economic, social and military. This strategy needs to be evolved from our national aims and objectives to protect 'core values'. These core values are:

- Consolidate as a secular, federal democratic state with freedom of speech, equality and justice.
- Protect sovereignty and territorial integrity.
- Promote socio-economic growth and development.

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<sup>1</sup> World trade centre attack

<sup>2</sup> Jammu and Kashmir

Political/diplomatic strategy International terrorism<sup>3</sup> cannot effectively be fought alone, as has been our experience so far. All nations must join hands to combat it, as is being done for Osama bin Laden and Al Qaida.

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### **Internal Strategy**

Our policy of meeting political / economic aspirations has succeeded in many cases through the creation of new states and autonomous councils with limited military containment. However, it has not succeeded where ‘internal support’ has been potent.

Enhance our economic and military capabilities so as to widen the gap between India and Pakistan sufficiently, and act as an economic and military deterrence for Pakistan, which would then realize the futility of trying to catch up.

### **Social Environment**

Promote moderate and secular polity by media, intelligentsia and religious institutions. The path of developing a composite culture as already developed in the Armed Forces may serve as a useful role model.

Address the outdated education system of Madrassas by quality modernisation and laying down guidelines for uniform syllabii. We cannot continue to recognise religious education such as those in the Madrassas as an entrance-system for universities. Suitable alternatives have to be created.

Upgrade our communication systems so that television and telecommunication spreads to our remote and border areas, which are currently under constant reach of Pakistan propaganda.

There should be realistic psychological and information warfare so that the will of the anti-national elements is suffocated and the hearts of the populace are won.

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<sup>3</sup> Activities that involve violent acts or acts dangerous to human life that are a violation of the criminal laws of the U.S. or of any State, or that would be a criminal violation if committed within the jurisdiction of the U.S. or of any State; appear to be intended to intimidate or coerce a civilian population; to influence the policy of a government by intimidation or coercion; or to affect the conduct of a government by assassination or kidnapping; and occur primarily outside the territorial jurisdiction of the U.S., or transcend national boundaries in terms of the means by which they are accomplished, the persons they appear intended to intimidate or coerce, or the locale in which their perpetrators operate or seek asylum.

## **Military Strategy**

We need to clearly spell out our counter terrorism strategy / doctrine. This should tackle the causes and not just the symptoms. I must stress here that J&K is only a symptom of terrorism and NOT the cause. The direction of military strategies should be as under:

1 The aim of military operations should be to create a secure and suitable environment, so that social, economic and political issues can be addressed effectively. Seeking political solutions to accommodate the aspirations without fully eliminating the terrorists, their structure and support bases only results in a ‘fire fighting’ situation and actually prolongs terrorism. This results in enormous costs, militarily and economically.

— The first step should be to build-up the military forces and their capabilities (which are not adequate currently), and thereafter consolidation of these capabilities and finally destruction of the militants.

— A reactive response is not the answer. A reorientation of armed response is required so as to launch proactive and specific surgical military operations.

— An important element of a proactive effort is to increase the costs of proxy war to Pakistan, by undertaking ‘Hot Pursuit Strikes’ across the LoC and into POK<sup>4</sup>.

The evolution of a superior Intelligence System is imperative. This should encompass human, technical, electronic intelligence, as also modernisation of data processing and dissemination – both external and internal.

Effective surveillance and management of the borders to check infiltration<sup>5</sup>, is also necessary. This should be achieved through technical means of surveillance, backed by highly mobile, specialized forces as ‘Reaction capability’ rather than the present system, which is manpower intensive.

Foreign-based terrorists have to be hit at their bases, training camps and sanctuaries to end the surrogate terrorism or the proxy war by Pakistan. We have to create the means and the will to do this. Special Forces both overt and covert, need to be employed for this task. Imaginative security of our vital installations, nuclear assets and airports. Static posts or piquets are not the answer. Electronic sensors and effective intelligence is the need.

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<sup>4</sup> Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir

<sup>5</sup> International Border/ Line of Control

Preventive measures against NBC <sup>6</sup>and cyber-terrorism. The Army is the ultimate weapon of the state and its over-employment affects its operational role. The Police and the Para-military should normally handle the internal security. However, they are incapable of fighting a proxy war such as in J&K unless their capabilities are upgraded.

India ranked seventh in the list of countries most affected by terrorism in 2015, according to the GTI <sup>7</sup> released by the Institute for Economics & Peace, a Sydney-based think-tank. Ultimately, the roots of terrorism have to be removed through good governance. Political corruption and lack of good governance is a basic contributor to frustration setting in into a society, which is then exploited by unfriendly nations. Needless to say, this has to be addressed immediately by striving to achieve economic well-being, social justice and political aspirations of the populace. In a country of our size and population, this will take considerable time. Therefore, we have to put in a sustained effort to initiate, plan for and implement such efforts seriously, and take them out from merely the realm of election speeches.

### **Transnational organized crime**

Transnational organized crime involves the planning and execution of illicit business ventures by groups or networks of individuals working in more than one country. These criminal groups use systematic violence and corruption to achieve their goals. Crimes commonly include money laundering; human smuggling; cyber crime; and trafficking of humans, drugs, weapons, endangered species, body parts, or nuclear material.

Transnational crime ring activities weaken economies and financial systems and undermine democracy. These networks often prey on governments that are not powerful enough to oppose them, prospering on illegal activities, such as drug trafficking, that bring them immense profits. In carrying out illegal activities, they upset the peace and stability of nations worldwide, often using bribery, violence, or terror to achieve their goals.

Transnational criminals often operate in well-organized groups, intentionally united to carry out illegal actions. Groups typically involve certain hierarchies and are headed by a powerful leader. These transnational organized crime groups work to make a profit through illegal activities. Because groups operate internationally, their activity is a threat to global security, often weakening governmental institutions or destroying legitimate business endeavors.

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<sup>6</sup> nuclear, biological and chemical

<sup>7</sup> Global Terrorism Index 2016



Well-known organized crime groups include:

**Russian Mafia-** Around 200 Russian groups that operate in nearly 60 countries worldwide. They have been involved in racketeering, fraud, tax evasion, gambling, drug trafficking, arson, robbery, and murder.

**La Cosa Nostra-** Known as the Italian or Italian-American mafia. The most prominent organized crime group in the world from the 1920s to the 1990s. They have been involved in violence, arson, bombings, torture, loan sharking, gambling, drug trafficking, health insurance fraud, and political and judicial corruption.

**Yakuza** -Japanese criminal group. Often involved in multinational criminal activities, including human trafficking, gambling, prostitution, and undermining licit businesses.

**Fuk Ching** Chinese organized criminal group in the United States. They have been involved in smuggling, street violence, and human trafficking.

**Triads** Underground criminal societies based in Hong Kong. They control secret markets and bus routes and are often involved in money laundering and drug trafficking.

#### Illegal migration

Every nation, country or colony often has rules and laws that control and regulate people who come in from other places. Migration becomes illegal if people do not have the permission of the country or borders they are entering into.

In recent time, illegal migration has been on the rise. Illegal migration is often fueled by pull factors. People sneak into other countries by land or sea, and other organized groups help people to sneak into other countries to work illegally. This is known as human trafficking.

Many of the *illegal migrants* involved end up in very difficult and dangerous situations, as they do not have the proper documents to get a job.

The flow of illegal migrants is often from poorer countries to richer countries. The people involved often are not the poorest in their home countries. They tend to be people with a lot of information, knowledge, ambition and motivation, which often fuels their desire to migrate for better life.

## **Undocumented Immigrants**

These are people who live in a place without permission and the authorities have no record of them. It also includes people who visit a country for tourism or education or health purposes legally, but do NOT go back. This means even though they went there legally, they are now illegal immigrants because they have out-stayed the time period they were given. In a similar way, immigrants who have expired documents, or who came in with fake documents all fall under undocumented immigrants.

Illegal immigration takes several forms, four of which are the most common:

1. Undocumented/unauthorized entrants: These are nationals of one state who enter another state clandestinely. Most such entrants cross land borders, but sea routes are also employed regularly, and wherever inspection regimes are permeable, so are air routes. In all instances, the entrant manages to avoid detection and hence, inspection.

2. Individuals who are inspected upon entry into another state, but gain admission by using fraudulent documents: The fraud in question may involve the person's identity and/or the documentation in support of admission. A variant of this class of entries involves the making of fraudulent asylum claims where issues of identity, documentation, and the narrative in support of the asylum claim may be falsified.

3. Violators of the duration of a visa: These include individuals who enter another state properly but 'willfully' overstay their period of legal stay, thus lapsing into irregular status.

4. Violators of the terms and conditions of a visa: Nationals of one state who enter another state with the proper documents and procedures, but at some point violate the terms of their visa. The most frequent such violation is the acceptance of employment. In a nearly institutionalized variant of such violation, language schools in some countries, such as Japan, have been notorious for admitting students who actually spend their time working. Another variant of this class of violation is when persons with special visa privileges — such as holders of 'border crosser visas'

that allow border residents from an adjacent country to reside and be employed in the other country within strictly prescribed time and geographic parameters — systematically abuse these parameters."

The sovereignty of States must no longer be used as a shield for gross violations of human rights." The broadest definition of human security is "freedom from fear" and "freedom from want" (UNDP 1994). It encompasses economic security, food security, health security, environmental security, personal security, community security, and political security (UNDP 1994).

According to Mely Caballero-Anthony Non-traditional security threats may be defined as "challenges to the survival and well-being of peoples and states that arise primarily out of non-military sources, such as climate change, cross-border environmental degradation and resource depletion, infectious diseases, natural disasters, irregular migration, food shortages, people smuggling, drug trafficking, and other forms of trans-national crime."

V. R. Raghavan rightly observes that, "The existing state-centered approach to national security, confined to the defense of a country against territorial aggression, has been widened to the idea of security inclusive of a larger set of threats to the people of the state." It is therefore becoming increasingly crucial to analyze how the non-traditional security threats are reshaping the global institutional architecture.

## CONCLUSION

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India has a long history of being sensitive to concerns relating to poverty, environment, population growth, socio-economic irregularities etc. Over the last few decades, the Indian government has launched numerous schemes of poverty alleviation etc. However, these issues were regarded as developmental issues and not security issues. Even today, the government is reluctant to regard climate change as a security issue. It is felt, with some justification, that securitization of developmental issues will be counterproductive. While the government has focused on climate change, energy security etc. as developmental issues, the security implications of non-traditional challenges cannot be ignored & will need to be addressed in a holistic fashion.

India needs assured supplies of energy for economic growth. India is an energy deficient country. Thus, energy security will be on top of Indian agenda. India's neighbors are equally exposed to non-traditional threats.

Thus, India will remain exposed to the challenges of large scale migrations. Food, water, illegal migrations, public health etc. are likely to, become major issues of concern in India's relations with its neighbors. India's population is still growing and will not stabilize until 2050/2060. Thus, India has the daunting task of providing jobs, food, water, education, health facilities and other necessities to the vast population. Any shortcoming in this will have adverse consequences. Backdrop of emerging salience of non-traditional threats basically is that there is need to have an accurate assessment of the non-traditional threats India faces. Even a cursory consideration will show that India is vulnerable to terrorism, organized crime, illegal migrations and to the adverse effects of climate change. The non-traditional security issues are quite diverse in character but still have some commonalities. They affect large number of people and they are mutually reinforcing. NTS issues challenge state sovereignty all the time. The issue of global commons and their preservation has become an important topic of international discourse. They require wider international cooperation for effective handling.

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