

Research Article

Taliban, Fanatism and Stereotype of Islam

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ABSTRACT

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This study aims to explain and describe the correlation of the existence of the world's largest terrorist groups, the taliban, with fanaticism and its relation is the religion of Islam that they profess. The method used in this research is descriptive qualitative method, method that examines a phenomenon of the researcher's subjects meanwhile the data collection method used is content analysis. The purpose of this method, which is a systematic research approach with documents as the data source, is to examine and discover the significance, position, and connection between a policy or new or existing program in order to ascertain the advantages of these things. Researching the content of a message, a book, and other materials is another way that content analysis is used. By using this style of study to gather data, the researcher concentrates on portraying the extreme religion that gave rise to the anarchistic group known as the Taliban. the results of the study found the linkage and influence of deobandi understanding which the taliban group adheres to with bigotry which gave birth to their acts of terrorism.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Taliban, an Islamic military group in Afghanistan that emerged around the 1900s, were originally only a small group of people who adhered to strict Sunni Islam, particularly Deobandi thought. They apply an extreme version of Sharia law, forcing their understanding of Islamic practice onto the people in the areas they control. Taliban sought to create an Islamic state based on their deeply fundamentalist understanding, and in the process, they suppressed individual freedoms, ignored human rights, and rejected social and cultural developments in line with the times. Women's fundamental rights are restricted and denied by them, such as education and employment (Thomas, 2021). The group also targets ethnic and religious minorities; they impose their beliefs through coercion and violence. The Taliban's actions and the anarchist acts that they commit are included in the category of terrorism allegedly stemming from their bigotry towards Islam, they have a deodandi ideology in which their group believes that whatever they believe and do is the most correct thing and assume that things that are believed or done by others are wrong, in simple terms they consider themselves to be more correct than others.

Extreme, uncontrollable, and frequently irrational devotion or enthusiasm for a specific religion, cause, ideology, or person is a sign of fanaticism (Chung et al., 2018). Fanatics, sometimes known as zealots, often fiercely defend their ideas, even when doing so requires disbelieving opposing evidence or rational arguments. Fanaticism entails a passionate and unquestioning commitment to whatever the fanaticism is focused on. Fanatics frequently hold highly rigid beliefs and will not accept compromise or opposing viewpoints. They frequently believe they are the only ones who have these ideals, and everyone else must be overcome as an enemy. Aggression towards others who do not share a group's bigoted ideas can take the form of verbal or physical abuse (Chouraqui, 2019). In addition, bigotry can encourage intolerance, prejudice and even acts of violence by encouraging the rejection of diversity and difference.

Islam is the second most popular religion professed by mankind (Khaled, n.d.). This is of concern to many parties because these religious teachings are considered as religious teachings that teach fanaticism to their followers as shown by the taliban group and this paper aims to explain the correlation or linkage of the existence of one of the

largest terrorist groups in the world. the taliban with the notion of fanaticism and its link is the Islamic religion that they adhere to (Jansen, 2011).

3. RESEARCH METHODS

This research uses a descriptive qualitative method, an emerging method that examines a phenomenon of the researcher's subjects are the main instruments to conduct literature reviews and library searches in providing pertinent data (Sugiyono, 2013). It is aligned to the book *Research Design Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed Methods Approaches* by Creswell that qualitative research methods defined as understanding and exploring human problems in the social sphere with stages of raising questions from a problem, then analyzing data, and finally interpreting the meaning of the data.

The data collection method used is content analysis / document analysis. According to (Hardani et al., 2020) in the *Quantitative Qualitative Research Methods* book, this method is a systematic research method for which the data source is documents, the aim is to analyze and find the meaning, position and relationship between a policy or a new or existing program in order to find out the benefits of these things. In addition to important documents or records, content analysis applied in researching the content of a communication, book, and others. By implementing this method of analysis in collecting data, the researcher focuses on describing the religion fanaticism gave rise to the anarchistic group known as the Taliban.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The Taliban group began to develop and spread from what was originally just a group that wanted to spread the teachings of Islam (Thomas, 2021) and then began to spread into the political and military realms by occupying the Afghan government when there was a government vacuum that is clearly indicated in Figure 1. A group of Afghan mujahideen, Islamist warriors opposing the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan, revived the Taliban in the early 1990s with covert assistance from the US Central Intelligence Agency. The Taliban is a member of a Sunni Islamic sect. In 1996 Taliban took control of Afghanistan (Prakash, 2021). The organization installed its leader as ruler and declared the Islamic nation. In 2001 Afghanistan was invaded by NATO which had been accused of harboring Al-Qa'ida (Doran, 2002). Taliban attack on Afghan government (D'Souza, 2016) unresolved along with the led of the US government. For the time being the Taliban have taken control of all of Afghanistan. The Taliban group moved rapidly and in such a short period of time that they could easily take over control of Afghanistan (Fuschillo, 2020).

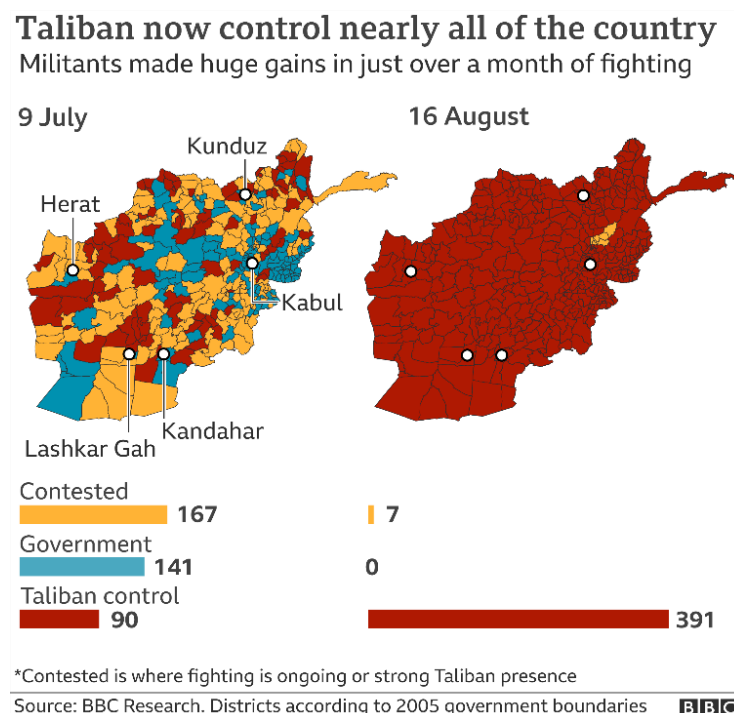


Figure 1. before and after Taliban control in Afghanistan

Global Terrorism Index 2020 Measuring The Impact Of Terrorism by the Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP)

According to (Institute for Economics and Peace, 2019) in Figure 2 explained 4,990 deaths in 2019 were caused by the Taliban, an 18% reduction from 2018. The total number of Taliban terrorist attacks grew by 5% in 2019, reaching 1025. Averaging 4.9 fatalities per incident in 2019, compared to 6.3 in 2018, attacks are now less deadly. 14 percent of the 1,025 strikes that the Taliban are blamed for in 2019 did not result in fatalities, while 13 percent left more than 10 people dead.

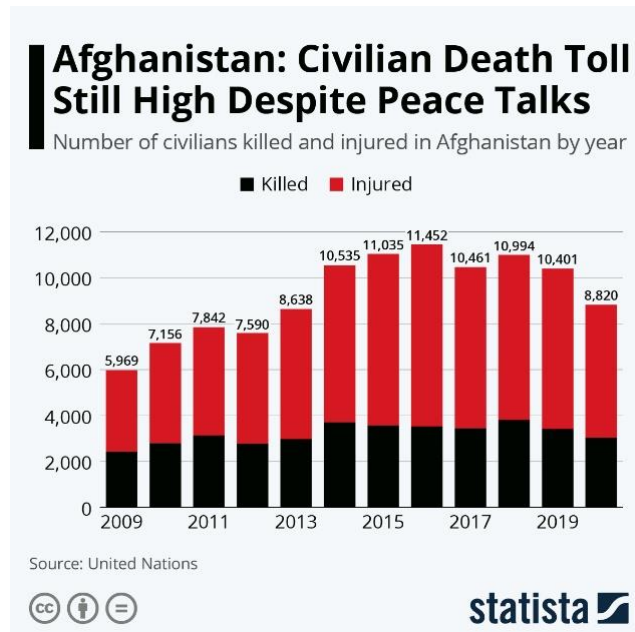


Figure 2. The number of people killed and injured in Afghanistan Global Terrorism Index 2020 Measuring The Impact Of Terrorism by the Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP)

It is applied a strict interpretation of Sharia law (Rahman, 2021), such as imposing restrictions on individual behaviour, dress codes, prohibiting certain forms of entertainment, and banning activities deemed un-Islamic, such as music, dancing, and flying kites. Under Taliban rule, women and girls (Lone et al., 2018) faced severe restrictions and oppression. They were banned from education, employment, and participation in public life. Women were required to wear the burqa in public, and violations of this rule often resulted in punishment and public floggings. The Taliban have also carried out attacks and acts of terrorism (Sahel, 2020), targeting Afghan security forces and civilians. They carried out suicide bombings, assassinations, and ambushes, which caused many casualties. the extremist actions of the Taliban were based on fanaticism.

The Taliban's adherence to the deobandi ideology makes them believe that they are the most correct compared to others (Ahmad, 1996). They do not tolerate the slightest person or understanding that is different from their own. This is what makes them so fanatical about what they believe in and spreads to their extremist actions. With an extremely arrogant and firm understanding of Islamic law, the Taliban adhere to a fundamentalist version of Islam showed in Figure 3. They claim that they adhere to Islamic law strictly and defend the customs and beliefs they keep dearly. This ideology is what makes this group commit acts of terrorism, because of their bigotry with their ideology. the taliban is not the only fanatical group that exists, there is also a large group known among the wider community which was al Qaeda which was involved in the 9/11 incident. They recruit people aged 20-28 who are mostly from poor and unemployed countries, they are trained for a long time to be able to master certain skills such as studying at flight schools for certain purposes that have been determined by those at the top and in control, everyone there also knows that they are volunteering to carry out suicidal actions. The root causes of this fanatical terrorism movement, whether all the members of this group are fanatics with radical views who want to cause damage and chaos, that is not the goal of every member (Moris & Michael, 1970).

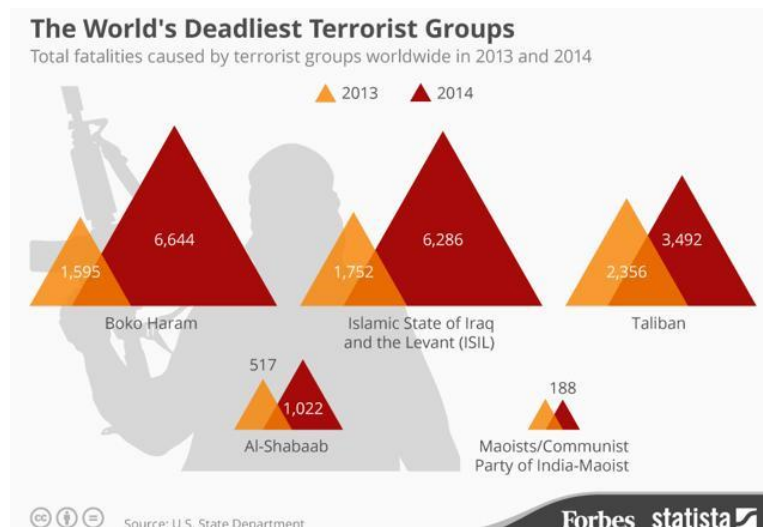


Figure 3. list of deadliest terrorist group

Global Terrorism Index 2020 Measuring The Impact Of Terrorism by the Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP)

Marimaa (2011) Fanaticism is a behavior that exists in every individual and is presented in the form of human behavior and mindset (Chouraqui, 2019). Fanaticism is not only in the form of fanaticism towards a political group or a religious community. It can be concluded that fanaticism is not an ideology of a certain group but returns to the human mindset itself (Graaff, 2010). Therefore, if people think or rebuke that groups or communities like the taliban in this case are fanaticism caused by an ideology, then all of that is felt to be inaccurate because all things done by groups like the taliban cannot be pinpointed to all members of the group but return to the mindset of the individual. Therefore, in many cases, certain people take advantage of the name of a group even though the idea comes from that person and does not represent the thoughts of the entire group.

However, fanaticism is not always a negative phenomenon. Fanaticism in the right proportion can be a good thing and depends on the side of the person looking at fanaticism itself. As in the case of the fanaticism of nature lovers (Chirico et al., 2023) who are fanatical about what they believe in, namely to protect nature and not destroy it. they take action against people who are on the opposite side, who are trying to pollute the earth. such as the government with the plan to develop forests into office buildings and of course these fanatics will fight against it, these actions certainly lead to the positive side.

Islam is a peaceful and tolerant religion. The essential principles (Gujarati & Porter, 2010) of this religion are forgiveness, compassion, peace, and justice. Islam demands that its adherents live in harmony with the cosmos and other people. Islam does not advocate terrorism in any of its teachings (Dauda, 2021). Islam as a religion places a high value on tolerance, compassion, and peace. The core tenets of Islam are broken by the act of terrorism. Terrorist acts are violent action that Islam does not allow. Except in limited circumstances, such as self-defense in life-threatening situations, the Qur'an makes it abundantly plain that killing people is a serious sin. Islamic principles are incompatible with terrorism, which involves attacks on innocent people without regard for motive (Rico, 2019).

In addition to the Al-Qur'an, hadiths and sunnah (the deeds and words of the Prophet Muhammad SAW) also emphasize the need of upholding peace, acting fairly, and abstaining from unjustified violence. The teachings of the Prophet Muhammad himself included illustrations that emphasized the value of upholding justice, peace, and good relations with all people, including followers of other religions (Ali, 2006).

However, certain individuals or groups stray from Islamic teachings and incorrectly use religion to legitimize violent behavior (Anugerah et al., 2021). They might interpret their faith in a radical or excessive way. Because the majority of Muslims live in peace and abhor violence, it's crucial to avoid generalizing about all Muslims based on the conduct of these terrorist organizations (Fuschillo, 2020). When examining Islam or any other religion, it's critical to make a distinction between the teachings of the religion itself and the behavior of those who misuse it.

4. CONCLUSION

It can be concluded that the taliban group in carrying out their anarchist and terrorism activities is based on their deobandi ideology which refers to bigotry. However, all these anarchist and terrorist actions are not entirely correct

if we generalize the understanding that it is the religion of Islam that makes this bigotry happen because if we look back at the definition of fanaticism itself, the point is mindset and behavior. individuals or humans themselves and not the result of the ideology of a group. Initially, the Taliban group only wanted to practice and spread Islam, nothing more and nothing less. Thus, it can be concluded that the actions of the Taliban group are not the result of fanaticism towards Islam, but rather the fanaticism of individuals from groups who misuse the group's name or power.

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