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А.И.Китченко (2 курс, ЮФ), О.Г.Ветрова, к.ф.н., проф.

ТЕРРОРИЗМ: ИСТОКИ И СОВРЕМЕННОСТЬ

Terrorism became widespread; almost every country in the world has taken some damage from different acts of terror. In my report I would like to tell you about what we should expect from terrorists in the nearest future, and what measures can be taken for saving lives of civilians. But first of all we should take a look into the history of our topic. That's the way to know our enemy better. So, terrorism has been practiced throughout history and throughout the world.

The ancient Greek historian Xenophon (c. 431–c. 350 BC) wrote of the effectiveness of psychological warfare against enemy populations. Roman emperors such as Tiberius (reigned AD 14–37) and Caligula (reigned AD 37–41) used banishment, expropriation of property, and execution as means to discourage opposition to their rule. The Spanish Inquisition used arbitrary arrest, torture, and execution to punish what it viewed as religious heresy. The use of terror was openly advocated by Robespierre as a means of encouraging revolutionary virtue during the French Revolution, leading to the period of his political dominance called the Reign of Terror (1793–94). After the American Civil War (1861–65) defiant Southerners formed a terrorist organization called the Ku Klux Klan to intimidate supporters of Reconstruction. In the latter half of the 19th century, terrorism was adopted by adherents of anarchism in Western Europe, Russia, and the United States. They believed that the best way to effect revolutionary political and social change was to assassinate persons in positions of power. From 1865 to 1905 a number of kings, presidents, prime ministers, and other government officials were killed by anarchists' guns or bombs.

The 20th century witnessed great changes in the use and practice of terrorism. Terrorism became the hallmark of a number of political movements stretching from the extreme right to the extreme left of the political spectrum. Technological advances such as automatic weapons and compact, electrically detonated explosives gave terrorists a new mobility and lethality. Terrorism was adopted as virtually a state policy, though an unacknowledged one, by such totalitarian regimes as those of Nazi Germany under Adolf Hitler and the Soviet Union under Joseph Stalin. In these states arrest, imprisonment, torture, and execution were applied without legal guidance or restraints to create a climate of fear and to encourage adherence to the national ideology and the declared economic, social, and political goals of the state.

Terrorism's public impact has been greatly magnified by the use of modern communications media. Any act of violence is certain to attract television coverage, which brings the event directly into millions of homes and exposes viewers to the terrorists' demands, grievances, or political goals. Modern terrorism differs from that of the past because its victims are frequently innocent civilians who are picked at random or who merely happen into terrorist situations. Many groups of terrorists in Europe hark back to the anarchists of the 19th century in their isolation from the political mainstream and the unrealistic nature of their goals. Lacking a base of popular support, extremists substitute violent acts for legitimate political activities. Such acts include kidnappings, assassinations, skyjackings, bombings, and hijackings.

As such considerations indicate, terrorism goes beyond al Qaeda, which it not only predates but will also outlive. Given this, if terrorism is to be countered most effectively, any understanding of it must go beyond the threat currently posed by that particular organization. Without such a broad-based approach, not only terrorism will be unsolvable but it also risks becoming unmanageable.

Possibly, we will see a relative decline, perhaps even extinction, of what we traditionally considered "ideological" terrorism: namely, the phenomenon that brought terrorism to the global

stage via hijackings and bombings beginning around 1968, perpetrated by such groups as Red Army Faction, Red Brigades, Japanese Red Army, etc. The end of the Cold War has resulted in the drying of the well of support for anti-Democratic/anti-Capitalist, Marxist-based ideologically motivated political terrorists. Although there are a few of these ideologically motivated groups still active (particularly in Peru), the world will see these groups become extinct one by one, though possibly not without each one perpetrating one last paroxysm of violence before they disappear.

However, relative to two forms of terrorism (ethno-religious and ideological), single-issue terrorism will rise disproportionately. In the post-print age, groups, even nationalities, will organize themselves without geographic constraints, bringing diaspora together and uniting issue-oriented groups and religions through the course of globalization, which will paint clearer pictures of who and what has the ability to affect and influence masses of people. This, coupled with the general evolution of state sovereignty (in which many super- and sub-state organizations, including corporations, could challenge the state-centered international system), will likely drive terrorism and guerrilla warfare into being more broadly rejectionist: attacking more than just the general legitimacy of states, but also Non-Governmental Organizations, Multi-National Corporations, etc.

What can the society do to stop the spreading of terrorism? Speaking about our country, I think, first thing to do is to change current heads of internal reconnaissance in our country, because they are not doing their work properly. They should retire, because too many acts of terror have happened during their direction. Our counter-terrorist forces (squad "Alpha") should be paid well. They need special equipment – the newest inventions of our science. A new generation video-security system should be placed in cities, especially in crowded places. These security systems should be under control of qualified operators. But these are the measures against consequences of terrorism. And we need to fight with the reason – and according to different independent sources, the main reason in every country is the corruption. Corruption is widespread between government officials, and it's not only "pawns" – many top-level officials are corrupted too. Terrorists are well-sponsored, and there's nothing unusual that they can share their money with a man who has some power in the region they want to see as a next target of their evil deeds.

As we can see, during the human history terrorism has fixed itself deep into society. And actually, terrorism cannot be stopped – it can only be reduced with special measures taken. This fight (which can be called in fact the "Third World War") will continue, with short peace-breaks, until the last man on the Earth dies (a bit pessimistic, isn't it?). It's all about peculiarity of human nature, but this is the question of psychology and even philosophy; maybe we will discuss it some other time. I'd like to end this report with quote: "I don't know what kind of weapons will be used in the third world war, assuming there will be a third world war. But I can tell you what the fourth world war will be fought with - stone clubs." Albert Einstein.