

Boaz Ganor, *Global Alert: Rationality of Modern Islamist Terrorism and the Challenges to Liberal Democratic World* (Columbis University Press, 2015), 218.

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The founder and executive director of Israel's International Institute for Counter-Terrorism, Boaz Ganor, offers a contemporary study of modern Islamist terrorism in *Global Alert*. Prof. Ganor serves as the Founding President of the International Academic Counter-Terrorism Community (ICTAC), an international association of academic institutions, experts, and researchers in fields related to the study of terrorism and counter-terrorism.

In chapter one, the author tries to explain how the phenomenon of terrorism is redefining the concept of war. Terrorism adapts changes to accommodate the interest and motivations of its so called chiefs and followers. This changing patterns in terrorist organizations leads to set new trends in terrorism. In this chapter the author reveals that in modern warfare new patterns of hybrid terrorists organization are emerging. The author also attempts to explain the relationship between terrorism and liberal democracy. The author is of the view that implementing the process of democratization in states where there is no education or norms of democratic values is never a successful experiment. Democracy should be the last in the evolutionary process not first.

The second chapter of the book gives a detailed analysis of strategies used by modern terrorists organizations and how these organizations became a eminent thereat to liberal democratic countries. The terrorists organizations create fear in the liberal democracies and on the later stages they try to translate this fear into political pressure on the government so that government is forced to draft such policies which are in the benefit of terrorists organization. In addition to this the targets, timings and patterns of attacks chosen by terrorists organizations are demoralizing psychological effect on the government. The writer

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concluded that no effective anti-terrorism policies can be drafted until the true concept of democracy is understood by all means.

In the third chapter, the writer raises the question of creating the balance between international humanitarian law and counter terrorism efforts by liberal democratic states. The writer highlights some old laws and new emerging threats in fighting terrorism. The writer using mathematical calculations proposes the proportionality equation for counter terrorism proportionality dilemma. He also tries to explain that how liberal democracies facing terrorism may balance efficient counter-terrorism efforts with liberal democratic values.

In chapter four, the author highlights that when a state sponsor any terrorist organization that sponsor has many shapes, it can be in the form of ideological support, financial support, military support, operational support and initiating attacks on enemy's soil. The writer mentions the case study of Iran and explain how Iran was involved in sponsoring the terrorists organizations to achieve certain aims and goals.

In chapter five, the author further explains the concept of hybrid terrorist organization. He quotes Hezbollah and Hamas as unique terrorist organizations which evolved in recent decades and their most operations are state-sponsored. The writer also tries to give exact definition of Hybrid terrorist organization by arguing that these organizations mostly work by winning the hearts and minds of the people.

In chapter six, the author makes an attempt to explain the risks to liberal democracies in promoting hybrid terrorists organizations. As a case study he analyses the recent anti- terrorism policies of United States. The author criticizes policy of US in which US supports the radical Islamist groups to put down their weapons and join politics and solve their issues through politics.

In the seventh chapter of the book, author gives the complete picture of the rationale of modern Islamist terrorism which will help the readers to understand tactics, strategy and formulating approach of these radical groups. As a case study the author studies the phenomenon of Global Jihad imposed by Al-Qaeda all around the world.

In the third last chapter the writer expands his argument and further support it by discussing the practical aspects of a terrorists organization's rationale. The writer explains the basic facts on which terrorists organizations decide to start warfare. The author also explains internal and external triggers that provoke the launching of terrorist attacks.

In the second last chapter the writer argues that the decision in a terrorists organization is taken by individuals on collective considerations. Only after understanding cost-benefit analysis and decision making process by these terrorists organizations can contribute in making an effective counter terrorism strategy.

In chapter ten, the writer analyzes Hamas as a terrorist organization to prove his argument that modern Islamist terrorists are rational actors. He provides eight basic principles that are considered most important while drafting national security policy and shaping national strategies. Those eight points includes, familiarity with the rationale of terrorist organizations, identify possible failure in terrorism, recognise the strength and weaknesses of liberal democracy, a consensus on legitimate definition of terrorism, understand difference between Islamic religious orthodoxy and violent extremism, distinction between military and political objectives of terrorists organizations, formulate such strategy that may target organization capabilities and effective media propaganda against terrorist organization.

According to my personal analysis the author's argument that the creation of Hybrid terrorist by democratic countries to pursue their own interests under the umbrella of promotion of democracy can create a very vulnerable situation in the upcoming decades. Ganor seems to give some valuable recommendations by saying that modern Islamist terrorism can be defeated easily but that will require a different approach. Western liberal democracies will have to examine their actions by considering the strategies of modern terrorism, they will have to see the problems not with the western lens rather they need to understand these terrorists organizations.

The book is a must read for strategists, political leaders, academicians, policy makers and national security experts. Global Alert

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will help them to better understand the rationale and threat of modern terrorism based on non-traditional warfare.