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Topic: An analysis of reasons for terrorism: Can Maslow's hierarchy of needs explain the change in reasons for today's terrorism?

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Declaration

I declare that this assignment is my own work and does not involve plagiarism or collusion. The sources of other people's work have been appropriately referenced, failing which I am willing to accept the necessary disciplinary action(s) to be taken against me.

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Abstract

This paper aims to provide a range of reasons for terrorism in Asia and the Middle East through the application of the theory of self-actualization, Malow's hierarchy of needs among the ever-changing state of affairs. This paper seeks to explain the range of complex and varied reasons spanning from political, cultural, religious and economic factors among others factors through the utilization of online media sources from different agencies of unique perspectives to explain reasons for terrorism. Through examining the most prominent terrorist groups in Asia and in the Middle East, it can be seen that reasons of terrorism have been affected by the changes in the dynamics of today's world, which follows Maslow's hierarchy and the nuances present in general.

Chapter 1: Introductory Chapter

1.1 Background Information

Terrorism has come a long way, from its early roots, tracing back to the first century AD Sicarii Zealots, who stemmed from the Roman province of Judaea who heavily opposed the Roman occupation of the area and attempted to expel them and their supporters (Horsley 1979), to the first use in English of the term 'terrorism' occurred during the French revolution's reign of terror, when the ruler of the revolutionary state, Maximilien Robespierre, employed state terrorism to control his people via means of mass executions by guillotine, to compel obedience to the state and intimidate regime enemies terrorism in the modern era, in the 20th century, where terrorism spreads to regions such as the Middle East, causing several Iranian prime ministers, presidents, and ministers to be assassinated by militant groups, including but not limited to Prime Minister Mohammad Javad Bahonar and Minister of Labor Dariush Forouhar, believed to be instigated by political oppinents.

Throughout these times, the reason for terrorism has shifted from political factors like toppling governments and establishing new ones, done by the Fenian Brotherhood and the Irish Republican brotherhood, to a war of ideologies and the politicization of religion to achieve various political aims, much due to global changes such as a lower likelihood of countries occupying other countries or even globalization, which could result in problems such as social stratification, which could lead to members of society being dissatisfied and deciding to take up arms. Terrorist groups are formed due to complex reasons, which are affected by a multitude of factors that have possibly changed over time.

1.2 Rationale

Even during the 21st century, reasons for terrorism continue to change for different terrorist groups around the world, often due to different degree of satisfaction for their various needs. According to Mannik (2011), the "end of Soviet occupation of Afghanistan and the Gulf War brought about a change in the main enemy of Islamic terrorists", where Osama bin Laden then "became an increasingly decentralised organisation defending Islam". Without the presence of the Soviets, Islamic terrorists were no longer forced to side line the ideological war against the West and instead focus on the preservation of the movement as a whole when the Soviet occupation actively threatened their safety and their ability to practise their religion, becoming increasingly focussed on their American targets. In lieu of such changes, this paper aims to provide reasons which are up to date and applicable by including the most relevant region in the world, Middle East and more applicable region, Southeast Asia and view the reasons for terrorism through a unique lens, the theory of self-actualisation.

1.3 Research Questions

1. What are the causes of terrorism in both the historical context and modern context within Asia?

2. How have the causes of terrorism changed from the historical context to modern context in Asia?

3. Do the change in reasons for terrorism fall into the ranking of priorities within Maslow's hierarchy of needs (Maslow 1954)?

1.4 Thesis Statement

The gradual change in the reason for terrorism for terrorist groups in Asia **is in line with the theory of self-actualization** and has **moved from reasons such as safety needs** or political reasons **to esteem and self-actualization** or religious and cultural reasons.

1.5 Scope of Research / Delimitation(s)

This paper will focus upon Asia, which has been comparatively under explored as compared to regions such as the Middle East, but will address such regions to ensure it is representative, and will look at four articles on three different terrorist groups each, 2 from before 9/11 attacks and 2 from after 9/11 attacks to show how different terrorist groups' reasons have changed before evaluating them and finding a general trend among such groups. Two of such terrorist groups will be ones in Asia while the other will be one from the Middle East. This will be done through the analysis of news reports among other forms of media, preferably of different perspectives on issues of terrorism, to best reflect the reasons for terrorism of the terrorist groups at any given point of time

1.6 Significance of Research

This research paper aims to focus upon improving the current understanding of the reasons for terrorism of groups in Asia, so that the general reasons provided are built upon clear objectives and are applicable to terrorism that has and will continue occurring. It will also attempt to encompass changes that have occurred in the region to allow for predictions in the future to be possible. It will attempt to minimise media bias by taking sources from organisation with different perspectives.

1.7 Limitations

"Lone wolf" will not be included in this research paper, as it is difficult to evaluate their reasons for terrorism as they can vary greatly among individuals and they often do not release media which reflect their reasons for terrorism, creating an inability to engage in meaningful analysis. Sources which are analysed could possibly still have some form of bias despite attempts to minimise such bias.

Chapter 2: Literature Review

2.1 Theories Used

2.1.1 Theory of self-actualisation

Maslow's Hierarchy (in decreasing levels of priority in majority of situations, except when the nuances addressed in the hierarchy are present, as addressed below)	Largely includes
Physiological	Food, Water, Shelter and Warmth
Safety	Security, Stability and Freedom from fear
Belonging/Love	Friends, Family, Spouse and Lover
Self-esteem	Achievement, Mastery, Recognition and Respect
Self-actualisation	Pursuit of inner talent, Creativity and Fulfillment

Maslow's hierarchy of needs is a motivational theory which consists of a five-tiered model of human needs, as shown above, where more basic needs must be more or less met prior to higher needs. In addition, the order of needs is not rigid but instead may be flexible based on external circumstances or individual differences. Most behavior is also believed multi-motivated, that is, simultaneously determined by more than one basic need.

Maslow's hierarchy of needs "helps identify and address the needs", (Poston 2009) and has been used as an assessment tool, which has been used to explain certain types of actions or why people act in a certain way. This is similar to what this paper is trying to do where it is trying to explain the reasons for terrorism.

2.2 Definitions

2.2.1 Points of time to be examined

The analysis will be divided by the September 11 attacks, better known as the 9/11 attacks. According to academics such as Smith and Zeigler (2017), who carried out a study of how terrorism has changed before and after the 9/11 attacks, found that the characteristics of terrorism have been modifying and major global changes against and for terrorism have been occurring, providing the example of how Islamist militant terrorism has been able to endure crackdowns organized by the West and have been able to spread to various regions, showing that there is a need to examine the particular terrorist group at these two points of time.

2.3 Evaluation of academic consensus of reasons for terrorism

2.3.1.1 Scope of Research

The research journal by Club Madrid examines mainly terrorist organisations instead of individual terrorists, believing that greater analytical power in understanding terrorism can be better understood from them (Post 2005). The view by Post is substantiated by how violence is normalised as a collective identity in nationalist terrorist groups such as the Tamil Tigers, where hate sentiments were utilised to incite inter-ethnic rivalry within the community, allowing them to gain momentum. It can therefore be concluded that terrorist groups should be focussed upon.

A journal by Springer, What causes terrorism, explains that terrorist activity fluctuates based on the gains and losses which might be incurred. When the Taliban depleted their funds, they turn to kidnapping a Colombian man to reimburse themselves. Due to increased desperation with low funds and international pressure, they were forced to turn to radical activity to preserve their livelihood by obtaining international revenue. On the other hand, without a financial crisis, it decreased occurrences of kidnapping, which incentivised moderates to join such groups, which allowed for increased terrorist activity, where they had more manpower and resources which allowed them to better achieve their political objectives. Therefore, there is a need to account for the fluctuation of terrorist activity through examining structural incentives or limitations.

Differing motivations for terrorism, Defence and Peace Economics, examines terrorist activity with the belief that it is calculated from the opportunity cost of the specific action. is affected by both external and internal factors, where one-off action taken by the government or long-term action such as joint projects such as those by UN or INTERPOL involving the prevention of the exploitation of the internet to radicalise individuals which started up with increased globalisation and accessibility to online platforms, which would require terrorists to have to incur greater risks so as to be able to radicalise individuals to disincentivise them from terrorist activity. Evidently, in order to account for the change in objectives, global changes need to be considered.

2.3.1.2 Analysis

The reasons for terrorism are separated into multiple reasons throughout the different research journals including a multitude of reasons such as psychological reasons (Post 2005), political explanations (Crenshaw 2005) and economic factors (Gurr 2005). Reasons will be

compiled from all three journal articles to obtain overarching reasons present in the research journals.

Political reasons are emphasised upon by Krieger, Meierrieks and Crenshaw, where reasons, such as globalisation, type of governance, political activity from other countries and nationalism were discussed. Such political reasons are part of safety needs as the ability to enact political policies and to be able to lead safe lives are affected by consequences incurred or other aspects which are could be results of changes in policies and actions by other countries due to changes globally or regionally. Nationalism is also part of safety needs, as the underlying purpose is to support their perceived idea of what is best for the country but can also be considered love and self-esteem as it is the desire for the country to excel beyond that of other countries and to play a significant role in the global sphere.

Economic reasons are identified as a reason for terrorism throughout all three journal articles the reasons were divided into poverty, increase in inequality and governmental action in terms of economic concessions or clamping down upon the terrorists as well as indirectly through institutional order. A clear indicator of the first two reasons as stated by Curr is low wages of people, which is part of physiological needs as it inhibits the ability of terrorists to afford necessities and survive. In addition, economic activity, specifically governmental action is part of safety needs, where institutional order, such as crime resolution departments affect the ability of people to forgo having to pay such costs individually, yet at the same time allow them to be protected.

Religious and cultural reasons are identified to be important reasons for terrorism as well., specifically cultural erosion as the reason for terrorist activity and the desire of gaining respect and recognition, particularly for their actions. Such reasons are part of self-esteem and self-actualisation needs, where cultural erosion affects their ability to practise their own culture with the increased possibility of opposition from the rest of society, which stems from

societal unacceptance where it is seen as irrelevant. This desire to regain respect and recognition indirectly contributes to their ability to practise their religion, where there might be ramifications such as isolation if it is practised while it is not accepted by the rest of society.

Psychological reasons are also identified by to contribute to terrorism, including reasons such as strong leadership and martyrdom. Strong leadership can be under safety, esteem and actualisation needs, based on the promises and achievements the particular leader makes. For example, Osama as a leader who effectively achieved ideological goals suggests that the objective of terrorists who support him desire such an outcome, where he actively criticises the west and contended with mainstream interpretations of the Quran, believing that killing civilians was justified. Martyrdom often involves terrorists believing that their death is to serve a greater purpose and that they would therefore receive eternal fulfilment. The belief that this was the best and only way to best develop themselves therefore shows that it is part of self-actualisation needs.

2.3.1.3 Method of Analysis used by the research journals

The factors which contributes to terrorism were mainly identified by Club Madrid through the stated intention in the where it states "employs terrorism as a temporarily expedient means of pressurizing a government". The emphasis of the idea of stated intention where such statements were used to justify the reasons for terrorism provided shows the importance in which to consider the intention both set by the terrorist groups and their intention as concluded by secondary sources such as other research journals and possible online sources such as news articles.

Krieger and Meierrieks states "terrorists are rational, so the average terrorist behaves more or less as a homo economicus". The outcome of the actions undertaken by the terrorists

is also highlighted where they are argued to be rational beings and that their actions almost always have some form of an objective they are trying to obtain. What is important to note is that outcomes are affected by the actions undertaken by the terrorist organisations, and that the actions are therefore able to reflect the outcome and indirectly their purpose as well.

There is a huge emphasis upon the need to look at the outcomes where it addresses economic gains and losses that terrorists are likely to experience and upon that formulate the reasons for terrorism in the third research journal As a result, it can therefore be concluded that it is key to take the outcomes and match it to the stated objectives to best formulate an accurate set of reasons for terrorism for such terrorist groups.

Within the three articles examined, the outcomes of the actions taken by terrorists is perceived to be a necessary indicator of the intentions of the terrorists throughout. Although they are less emphasised, the stated intention and the actions taken by terrorist organisations are important indicators used as well.

2.4 Conclusion to literature review

Within the articles, there is a general trend that the reasons for terrorism are divided into psychological, religious and cultural, social and psychological and economic reasons, where 3 things need to be considered to take into account the objectives terrorists have, the stated intention, the action that they undertook and the ultimate result that it ended up with so as to determine which they are considered to be part of and whether Maslow's hierarchy is representative of these reasons through analysing specific instances and reasons which are part of the overarching reasons for terrorism.

Chapter 3: Methodology

This research paper shall analyse 2 articles before 9/11 and 2 articles after 9/11 for each terrorist group. However, some terrorist groups do not survive for the entire duration of such a timeline. Therefore, in such cases, the initial terrorist groups as well as the most prominent group which splintered off from it shall be examined. 3 terrorist groups will be examined, 2 from Asia and 1 from Middle East, so that the reasons for terrorism will be representative. The specific terrorist groups will be selected based on their prominence, which can be seen through quotes of ministers and officials or statistics.

The stated intention, action and outcome will be examined in the terrorist groups selected in both time periods, both before and after 9/11, so that their objectives can be better represented.

Chapter 4: Discussion, Interpretation and Analysis

4.1 Terrorist groups in Asia

4.1.1 Naxalites/ Communist Party of India (Maoist)

4.1.1.1 Background Information

The Naxalites are left-wing extremists who were nearly wiped out during the 1970s, leaving the group broken into smaller factions which then aligned to form the Communist Party of India (Maoist) in 2004. The group challenges state power with violence to support its stated goal of helping the low wage individuals.

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh called the Naxalites the biggest internal security challenge ever faced by India. More than 740 people died in Naxalites-involved violence in 2006 and about twice as many were killed in the territorial dispute over Kashmir, causing this terrorist group to be prominent within Asia.

4.1.1.2 Naxalites

4.1.1.2.1 Intention of the Naxalites

Jawaid (1978) states that their main objective, which was reportedly only possible through revolution, was to resolve their financial problems. The word "only" suggests that other methods have been exhausted and that they have been unsuccessful in achieving their objective. Their objective is part of physiological needs due to the direness of their situation where they are willing to threaten their safety to obtain economic change, it is therefore very likely that their livelihood is actively being threatened and that they are attempting to preserve their survival. However, the presence of the phrase "according to them" points out a need to look at the course of action they undertook to determine their true objective as it suggests that it could merely be a claim to gain support or to appear favorable towards the people.

4.1.1.2.2 Actions taken by Naxalites

It is argued that the greatest success of the Naxalites is the land grab movement, which was the main demand made by the poor peasantry. "Poor" is used to describe the peasants, to further show their vulnerability within their community, suggesting that their needs are likely to be more primitive in nature, in the form of physiological and safety needs. "Land" which is the objective behind the movements is part of physiological needs, where it often is required to carry out economic activity such as production or agriculture, which translates into

purchasing power to buy necessities and sustain themselves. This is further emphasized where it is highlighted to be the greatest form of progress that the Naxalites stood for, given that they have prioritized movements which focus upon economic objectives which directly affects financial capability of the people, proving that they are trying to satisfy preliminary needs.

4.1.1.2.3   Outcomes of the actions taken by the Naxalites

This research paper states that the economic based movement by the Naxalites achieved the greatest outcomes out of the different movements. This reflects the division of focus in terms of their movements, where they heavily focused upon achieving economic objectives. This proves that the claim of focusing upon economic objectives is not merely to gain the support of the peasants, but is the central objective of the terrorist groups. This economic policies are meant to help the peasants survive and lead lives by allowing them to be afford important products to protect their welfare. It can therefore be concluded that the main objective of Naxalites are physiological and safety needs.

4.1.1.3 Communist party of India (Maoist)

4.1.1.3.1   Intentions of the Communist Party of India (Maoist)

According to Jane's World Insurgency and Terrorism (2008), their objecives are to replace current governments with communist governments through strategies in the Maoist model of war. Their criticism of the current governments being "repressive" portrays the desire of them to achieve their personal freedom, in terms of their ability to practice their religion as well as fulfill their fullest potential, which is part of self-actualization needs. "Communist" and "Maoist" reveals that there is some form of ideological conflict, where they are trying to get recognition and support for communism. Given that they believe that

they embody communism and the way this is done is through being valued by others, this is part of esteem needs. In addition, the fight for this ideology can also be considered actualization needs, where this is what they believe is the best course of action to achieve the best for the country and themselves.

4.1.1.3.2   Actions of the Communist Party of India (Maoist)

People who have been killed include mostly security forces, including a commander. "Forces" shows that the people which were killed threatened the safety of the terrorist group, and that the act of killing them are likely to reduce their opponent's resources to better protect themselves. The act to ensure their own safety by preventing actions from being taken against them shows that the act of killing them is to satisfy safety needs. It can also be considered an self-actualization need, where "security" personnel being killed would destabilise the country and better allow them to establish their ideology and differing style of governance when they have achieved greater amounts of support from the people after it is portrayed to be comparatively better than the status quo.

4.1.1.3.3   Outcomes of actions of the Communist Party of India (Maoist)

The outcomes are inapplicable in this instance as no clear achievement by this particular terrorist group have been highlighted.

4.1.2   Taliban

4.1.2.1 Background Information

The Taliban is an Islamic fundamentalist group that ruled Afghanistan from 1996 until 2001, after which a U.S.-led invasion toppled the regime. The Taliban regrouped across

the border in Pakistan, leading an insurgency against the Western-backed government in Kabul. The Taliban movement has proved to be a formidable fighting force in Afghanistan and a major threat to its government, having consistently threatened to destabilize Pakistan despite major military offensives against them.

4.1.2.2 Taliban pre 9/11 attacks

4.1.2.2.1 Intention

In a paper about the foreign policy of the Taliban, their objective is stated to be to obtain revenue from international sources. "Revenue" is a basic financial component of businesses or financial activity, and the need to obtain it suggests that such financial activity are lacking and that economic opportunities are not present. The need to turn towards "international sources" shows the inability to tap upon regional resources due to structural limitations. Both are part of physiological and safety needs where the lack of financial ability due to such limitations prevents one from affording necessities.

4.1.2.2.2 Action

An article by the Independent lists a series of kidnappings, including one which involved Â£2m ransom which freed a Scot from Colombia kidnap. These kidnappings are unlikely to be with the purpose of sending across an ideological message, where a wide range of people were kidnapped, including an Afghan woman who was executed which should not be the case if they were trying to send a message across regarding the West. "Ransom" and "freed" depicts a process in which the financial benefit instead of an ideological one, where if they wanted to send across a strong message over achieving financial benefits, they are likely to have executed the Scottish instead of handing I over for the promised ransom and only

killing those whose ransoms were not paid. These funds are used to sustain the terrorist group and ensure their survival and to better enable them to protect themselves against their opponents, showing that these actions are based off of primitive needs instead of those of higher tiers due to the neglect of the message they are sending across in exchange for sustaining the movement.

4.1.2.2.3   Outcome

No clear ideological outcome was achieved and the main thing they achieved are financially sustaining the movement as a whole, which suggests that the movement's focus at that point of time was physiological and safety needs, where it focused upon ensuring its own survival by obtaining finances for the movement to allow for the purchasing of necessities and better equip them against their opponents.

4.1.2.3 Taliban post 9/11 attacks

4.1.2.3.1   Intention

The Daily Outlook states that the objective of the Taliban is to show the government unable of providing security to the public. "Show[ing]" instead of simply depriving the government's ability to protect its people by suppressing the terrorist groups suggests that it is not simply to achieve safety needs. The presentation of the government's inability is likely a way in which they are trying to gain recognition and respect for their ideology which embodies their beliefs to satisfy their esteem needs by portraying their ideology to be able to provide comparatively better conditions than the government can.

4.1.2.3.2   Action

The Daily Outlook remarks that it was surprising that the Taliban have not broken ties with Al Qaeda despite disincentives not to do so. such as a crushing military campaign. "Crushing" shows the extent of damage that the campaign has done upon the Taliban as a result of the affiliation with Al Qaeda, which threatens their safety and prevents them from being free from fear. With the Taliban remaining in alliance with Al Qaeda, they actively forgo their more primitive needs and it seems as though it is no longer a concern at the forefront of the terrorist group. Instead, it is more likely that ideological advances are their main considerations, where the reason they have not diverged from Al Qaeda is likely due to similarities in the journey to achieve their fullest potential, showing that self-actualization needs focusing on developing oneself through their ideology is more of a focus.

4.1.2.3.3   Outcome

The kidnapping cases have become more focused upon certain groups of people, where they kidnapped "15 government employees in the west". The act of kidnapping people from the West, especially governmental employees who are supposedly important individuals within the society and therefore better protected, is likely to send a message about the weakness of the West and at the same time garner support for their ideology so that it is better supported and able to develop significantly which would better allow them to practice, when more areas of worship are established with greater support from the people for example.

4.2   Terrorist groups in Middle East
4.2.1   Al Qaeda
4.2.1.1 Background Information

Since 1988, al-Qaeda has played a role in many terrorist attacks, and is most known for being responsible for the multiple attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001. The 9/11 terror attacks—the deadliest ever on American soil—left nearly 3,000 people dead. Since 2013, the Pentagon, the National Counterterrorism Center, and the U.S. House Intelligence Committee have all reiterated that al-Qaeda remains a critical terrorist threat despite the attacks seemingly being a thing of the past.

4.2.1.2 Al-Qaeda pre 9/11 attacks

4.2.1.2.1   Intention of Al-Qaeda

Adraoui (1993) states that that Al Qaeda sought the establishment of a single unified political sovereignty. The juxtaposition of the idea of "Muslim brotherhood" against the idea of British occupying them further cements this idea by suggesting that the uprising is due to an ideological difference which might inhibit the ability to practice the religion and develop oneself in the religious aspect, showing that it is to satisfy self-actualization needs. However, the idea of establishing a political structure is part of safety needs, where depending on the policies imposed by the government, the extent to which the people are able to lead safe lives are affected. The use of "Sovereignty" cements this idea, where it refers to the authority and the ability to self-govern and to be able to establish policies to best serve one's preliminary needs such as economic needs, evidently showing that the needs which necessitate satisfaction are preliminary needs.

4.2.1.2.2   Actions by Al-Qaeda

The objectives of Al-Qaeda is restoring the caliphate through violent means. "Violent" suggests that the measures utilized are drastic and bring about significant economic and security ramifications, yet it is a course of action that Al-Qaeda is willing to take so as to achieve a separate objective, in this case one which is probably ideological, showing that the

needs they are trying to satisfy is unlikely to be safety or physiological needs given that they forwent it when they utilized risky and costly measures. The restoration of the caliphate supports this idea, where it involves serving under a spiritual leader, which would better enable one to develop themselves in the religious aspect, with the focus being place upon practising the shared religion. It can also satisfy some safety needs as well, where people believe that these spiritual leaders better understand their problems and would be in a better economic situation where one would be better protected.

4.2.1.2.3   Outcomes of the actions of Al-Qaeda

Al Qaeda has reportedly divided the Muslim community, seemingly going against the ideological objectives establishing a Caliphate and establishing a unified the Muslim, and that the campaigning of their ideological objectives of establishing a Caliphate is a farce in order to gain the support of the people, given that the outcomes of the supposed actions which they undertook did not achieve their stated purpose, instead going against it, suggesting that their course of action is not to satisfy self-actualization needs, but that the establishment of the Caliphate is to have a government which forms policies to best protect them and ensure economic prosperity so that necessities are affordable, better fulfilling safety and physiological needs.

4.2.1.3 Al-Qaeda post 9/11 attacks
4.2.1.3.1   Intentions of Al-Qaeda

Al Qaeda post 9/11 states that their objective is to remove US military presence and replace non-religious governments. "Military presence" affects their safety needs, wherein an armed force within the area could threaten their survival and their safety, causing them to be far more vulnerable with greater geographical proximity to their enemies. However, the

specification of "US" before the phrase about military suggests that this is more of self-actualization needs, where once achieved, it would display the strength of the terrorist organization, providing a greater incentive for the people to join, which would further develop the terrorist group and help develop its people to their fullest potential. In addition, the desire to replace "secular" states evidently shows that their objectives are affiliated to ideological and religious reasons, where they want to replace it with what they believe is necessary to achieve fulfillment, it can therefore be seen that their objective is to fulfil their self-actualization rather than primitive needs.

4.2.1.3.2   Actions of Al-Qaeda

Al-Qaeda's has repeatedly committed terrorism spectaculars to electrify the Muslim world(Shaffer 2006). The target audience of their actions are identified to be the Muslims, and to arouse their emotions and to gain some form of support. This shows that they are trying to satisfy their self-actualization needs, where the main objective is not to just get support, but to get support from this particular group of people, suggesting that their terrorist activity is not merely for purposes of survival or ensuring their own safety, where they neglect other groups of individuals who could better allow them to do so, but that there is a larger ideological purpose.

4.2.1.3.3   Outcomes brought about by Al-Qaeda

They have repeatedly called for attacks on the Western world and remains a constant threat to them. This being their main achievement from their terrorist activity means that it is very likely that their main objective is to protect their religion and fight for it to better develop themselves and fulfill their self-actualization need, where they specifically target "Western" regions, which they believe are at odds with their interpretation of the Quran. With

its main practical achievements being in the religious aspect, it can be concluded that their main objective is ideological based, which is very much linked to the development of one's identity otherwise known as the need to self-actualize.

Chapter 5: Conclusion

The objectives of terrorist groups pre-9/11 were examined through the Naxalites as well as Taliban and Al Qaeda pre 9/11 and have been found to consist of mainly primitive needs such as safety needs and physiological needs, where their forefront objectives are to either economic to fund and sustain their movements or security based to ensure their survival against any opposition they are facing.

The objectives of terrorist groups post 9/11 were consolidated through looking at the Communist Party of India (Maoist), Taliban and Al Qaeda post 9/11, which found that although survival of the terrorist group remains a concern within the group, it takes a backseat as compared to ideological or self-actualisation needs, where they are willing to undertake high risk and damaging activity so as to establish a religious government or to allow themselves to better fulfil their potential within life.

Seeing that terrorism remains a complex issue, it is no wonder that there are some divergences from this, where Al Qaeda fought for ideological advancements and self-actualisation needs pre 9/11 and Taliban embark on courses of action to obtain funds for their movements. However, overall, there has been a transition in core objectives of terrorist organisations, from primitive needs to ideological needs.

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