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CAUSES OF RADICALIZED AND VIOLENT EXTREMIST BEHAVIOUR: "A SOCIETAL CHANGE THEORY."

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Abstract

This paper examined the causes of radicalized and violent extremist behaviour: a societal change theory. The study design is rich and in-depth, which allowing all forms of explanation and description to establish a deep understanding of the phenomenon. Data are collected from previous write-ups, research findings and accumulated reports on the factors leading up to radicalization and extremist behaviour. Qualitative method was used to reveal the different reasons and perspectives why persons become radicalized. It involves systematic collection of data mainly from previous research

findings which are organized, described and interpreted. Evidence is majorly from online sources, both newspapers and from online news reports, as well as by observation. The study reveals that there are various causes of Radicalization and Extremist behaviour. This ranges from lack of education, poverty, unemployment, ideology about race ethnicity and religion, nationalism as well as oppression and resource control issues which lead to conflict. The study also reveals that this behaviour has led to heightened psychological, physiological and financial stress for countries and for people as there is stigmatization as people feel every Muslim is a potential terrorist , especially after the September 11 terrorist attacks, because is well known that terrorist attacks are by Muslims who believe that killing of infidels' yields them some Heavenly rewards. It recommended that: Governments should be educating the people on the respect for human rights, and educating on the need to accept diversity in ethnicity, on religion, on race and on opinion. Governments should start to build skill acquisition institutions that incorporate the tenet of tolerance as there are as many opinions as there are people on the planet earth. Learning to live and accommodate one another which make for development is a necessity as there can be no meaningful development without tolerance. More studies should be conducted on this topic.

Keywords: Tolerance, Radicalization, Violence, Extremism, Behaviour.

Introduction

The issue of radicalization and extremist behaviour has become a scary and massive global phenomenon to world leaders and citizens alike. This has become an increasing problem worldwide, based on some religious, ethnic or economic grounds, political or social grounds. Not all radicals are terrorists, but all Terrorists are Radicals. The Arab nations of Afghanistan, Iraq, Yemen, Syria have not known peace for so long. The children roam the streets and are out of school or any formal education. Towns are ravaged hundreds of thousands are killed and fear and panic hovers all around, not to mention the men slaughtered, degrading quality of life ,empty streets with run-down towns and former buildings and edifices destroyed with no hope of rising again. In Nigeria, almost on a weekly basis Nigerians are surrounded with the almost constant threat to lives and property, People are very afraid to travel on Nigerian roads. In previous times it was fun and enlightening to move from the east to the west, from the north to the north-east by road but all that here there is gone as their almost constant threat of death looming. Most often on the news media and even from lucky witnesses there are slaughter sessions of village dwellers and dwelling, people axed to death in their sleep, villages and towns ravaged by Fulani Herdsmen attacks. The bombing attack by the Boko-haram terrorists is a huge and gaugantic problem that people all over the North-Eastern part on Nigeria have been grappling with. The whole nation been besieged by this unrelenting menace for the past ten years and running. The evolution from Boko-haram to Fulani herdsmen into armed banditry over time with the three groups placing the mental and physical health of Nigerians in dire straits. The average member of the society cannot run away from the effects and impact almost on a frequent basis, there is often some news about an armed group, a group of terrorists or some other association of people committing some form of condemnable act of violence, kidnapping, bombing or some other abominable acts in one part of the globe or another.

From the ISIS of the Arab region ,to Boko haram in parts of the Northeast of Nigeria extending to Mali and Niger Republic to the Taliban of Afganistan, the Huthi extremists in Yemen, the Al-shabab of Somalia ,the Isil of Iraq and Syria, the Province of Islamic State in Egypt the black widows of Chenchen Republic , the Fulani Militants of Nigeria to the armed groups in the South America and to the white supremacists of the United States. From early 21st century the number of people killed multiplied almost 9 times over five countries: Iraq, Nigeria, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Syria - accounted for 72 per cent of those killed in 2015 (UNDP 2016). The majority of killings from this violence do not happen in the West. Excluding September 11, 2001, only 0.5 per cent of all the killings have taken place in the Western countries in the last 15 years (IEP Index 2015). Of the 18,814 deaths caused by terrorists in 2017, more than half was via the action of these four groups: Islamic State, The Taliban, Al-Shabaag and Boko-Haram (Dudley 2018). The average person is not so tolerant of another when it comes to living together in peace but safety being a basic fundamental human right has to be in place for the society to be progressive and for continued development to continue taking place.

Another major effect of radicalization and extremism behaviour is the accumulation of IDPs (Internally displaced persons). These are the people fleeing conflict zones, atrocities, persecution and in search of a more stable place to stay. According to statistics, the actions of Boko Haram have displaced 1.2 million people within Nigeria and compelled over 200,000 Nigerians to flee to Cameroon, Chad and Niger. "Internal displacement is one of the greatest tragedies of our time and internally displaced persons (IDPs) are among the most vulnerable of the human family" (United Nations (UN) Office for the coordination of Humanitarian affairs (OCHA), 2004 p1). Staggering numbers are displaced .More than 3.3 million people are forced to move in the Northeast and Nigeria in general by the Boko-Haram menace (National Emergency Management Agency, 2015).

According to the Global Terrorism Index 2016 report:

> so many incidents are recorded in the recent times :Shooting at a nightclub in Istanbul on New Year's evening (January 2017); the truck attack on Christmas market in berlin, Germany (December 2016); killing of the Russian ambassador in Ankara, Turkey (December 2016); Al-Karak attack in Jordan (December 2016); the Ohio State University attack (November 2016); the bomb explosion at a night market in Davao City, Philippines claimed by ISIS (September 2016); the bombing of a Sunni mosque in Pakistan, claimed by the Taliban (September 2016); the New York and New Jersey pipe bomb and pressure cooker bombings (September 2016), the bombings in HuaHin, SuratThani and Trang (Thailand) by Islamic fanatics (August 2016); the truck massacre in Nice, France killing 89 people and wounding over 300 (July 2016); the attack on a train in Würzburg, Germany (July 2016) GTI (2016 Report).

Radicalization is when some people influence some others to take up an ideology, a strong unbreakable opinion ,an unyielding and uncompromising ,stance position on some issues be it ethnic, religious, political reasons , claiming superiority over some others who may not be so strongly opinionated or minded. Radicalization is the process of influencing people to imbibe and take up some radical stance on religious, political and social issues.

The massive loss of lives and property, the massive loss of means of livelihood and the economic losses from radical and extremist behaviour and the fear, panic, mental health disorders and psychological impact of these behaviours are on the rise and this pertinent issue has to be understood in order to be addressed as safety of lives and property is a fundamental basic need if humans are to thrive in life across countries. People are displaced, losing their sources of livelihood. Countries like Iraq, Syria, Afganistan, Niger, Nigeria have had massive human and material negative impacts from the terrorism surge. According to Global Terrorism Index /1EP report 2016, 2015 was also a challenging year for Bangladesh, as it recorded the most killings since the year 2000, close to 40 per cent of terrorist attacks in 2015 took place in Iraq, Nigeria and Afghanistan, Afghanistan alone from 2000 to 2015 experienced 22,730 deaths, Nigeria due to the activities of the Boko Haram and Fulani herdsmen, 17,097 deaths were recorded. The global economic impact of terrorism, reached US$89.6 billion in 2015. The economic and opportunity costs arising from terrorism have increased approximately eleven-fold during the last 15 years(Global Terrorism Index 2016) .This is apart from those handicapped and maimed, not to mention the collateral damage in form of mental health issues, separation, orphaned children and attendant poverty experienced by the inhabitants .According to Maslow's Hierarchy of needs(1943) theory of which physiologic needs of food, shelter ,water, are closely followed by safety needs. Without the basic lower needs being met, the upper needs of belonging, ego and self actualization needs cannot be attained. People aspire to have food, shelter and clothing before thinking of getting married or having fulfilment at the office or even before being a mentor as having being self-actualized or being fulfilled in life.

The unwarranted deaths of women men and children, the loss of lives and means loss of livelihood, the almost constant fear, panic, devastated societies and associated uncertainties and how it has resulted in a change in the change in internal workings of societies, how it got to this point, what factors led to this ugly and underserved state of affairs is the main points to be considered in this paper. Throughout history, the society has changed from primitive times to urbanization and industrialization, with its attendant unemployment, poor sanitation to the era of non-communicable diseases of overweight, strokes and cancer. The society presently is also changing to see more of extremism and radicalization with the proliferation of more armed and disgruntles groups for one reason or another. Over time, there has been historical transformation which included urbanism, overpopulation,, democratization, secularization, industrialization, and so on (Healy 1998). Modernization theory postulated that societies have no choice but had to grow through stages of development. Rostow's *Stages of Economic Development* (1960) used a plane runway to describe societies moving from the ground to a take-off period of industrial growth. Has the process of development and industrialization brought about more disgruntled and unfulfilled members of the society? Most of these armed groups have proliferated, a major reason being due to societal inequalities, oppression, lack of economic powers and different ideologies really. Prolific industrialization brought on prolific radicalization? The Theories of change which include the Evolutionary Theory, Cyclical Theory, Economic Theory/Mandalian, Conflict Theory, Functionalist theory and Technological Theory. Some of these theories will be looked into to find and make a connection as to the reasons behind and causing radicalization and violent extremist behaviour.

For the society to thrive there has to be an understanding of the issues on ground, what gave rise to these trends, what is feeding the trend and how it can be nipped in the bud should be looked into in order to make the necessary explanation, prediction and to solve this looming problem.

Aims and Objectives

The aims and objectives of this paper include:

i. To find out the impact of radicalization and extremist behaviour on the global peace and security on the economy of nations and future of nations.
ii. To find out the factors that led countries to move from stability to these destabilizing forces will be established, and the reasons for the increasing radicalization.
iii. To find out if the societal changes over time weather the social change theories has encouraged extremist behaviour and the possible drive on radicalization and extremist behaviour.
iv. To suggest ways to ameliorate this growing scary menace and also describe, predict what might happen in the future in order to control these behaviours.

Literature Review

Over the years, people in various parts of the world have become accustomed to acts of terror, destruction and dangerous ideas and belief systems which have brought fear, uncertainty, mental torture, paranoia and panic to individuals almost in every corner of the globe. These acts are largely due to change in belief system, attitudes and behaviours due to one reason or the other.

Radicalization according to McCauley and Moskalenk as enhanced preparedness to be confrontational with other groups, or a variation of ideology which makes for violence against other groups (McCauley and Moskalenko, 2008). Radicalization is when people have grown to have extremist ideologies and beliefs (Borum, 2011). Radicalization is when people engage and inculcate a belief system that encourages the use of violence for the purpose of social change and justifies the use of violent acts for political reasons (Maskaliunaite, 2015). World bodies have attempted to give varying definitions relating it to young people since they are the ones mostly engaged in it. The European Union 2017 report defines Radicalization as a process through which young people start to accept and support changes in society which are against the existing social order

Radicalization comes before extremism as it is the precursor of extreme behaviour. Radicalization of belief, feelings or behaviour, but radicalization of behaviour is the big issue. It means heightened usage of time, taking of risks and utilization of force and violence to support a cause (McCauley, 2008). People are first indoctrinated by the process of imbibing the change of beliefs before the extremism behaviour starts to manifest. Being radicalized does not automatically translate to extremist behaviours of use of intimidation and or violence. Klein and Kruglanski, (2013) defined extremist beliefs as deep-seated strong beliefs and the extremist behaviours are exhibition of characters that are not conventional. According to the UNDP, (2016) report, Radical behaviour is not a predicament, so long as it remains non-violent, especially if for political, economic or cultural grounds can actually aid in progress in these arenas, when violence is used to achieve goals, then it becomes violent extremism.

OECD countries experienced heightened deaths from 77 in 2014 to 577 in 2015, as the latter was also the worst year for the Taliban in Afghanistan (both terrorist deaths and battle field deaths) (IEP index, 2015).

Violent extremism is mostly seen as a behaviour exhibited by the Islamic fundamentalist movement or simply a religious grounds but a more incorporating definition by USAIDS defined violent extremism as "advocating, engaging in, preparing, or otherwise supporting ideologically motivated or justified violence to further social, economic or political objectives" as there are multifactorial reasons causing extremist ideas and behaviours (USAIDS, 2016) Schmid, (2013) defined radicalization as when persons or a group of persons that are precluded out rightly reject dialogue, mediation and reconciliation and political violence . Extremist behaviours means both political ideologies and to way people who imbibe these political ideals express grievances in ways that are deviated and threatening to basic societal norms ,values ,and without respect for human rights these political ideologies oppose the fundamental human values. When people become radicalized they resort to trampling on human rights and freedom to attain their goals (Neuman, 2010).

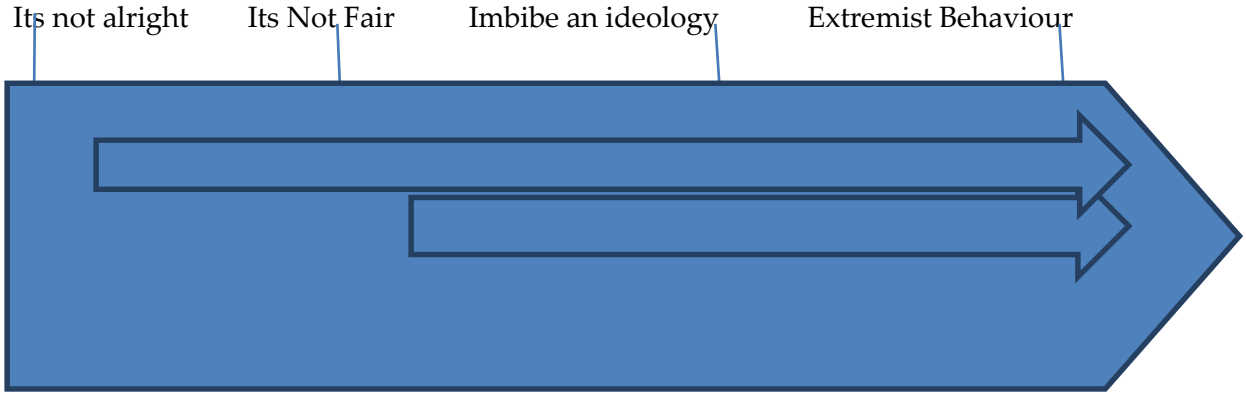


Diagram 1.1 showing the process growth before extremist behaviour is manifested.

Radicalization is a process, has a tipping point or catalyst, and upgrades to extremist violent manifestations. All Radicals are not Terrorists, But All Terrorists are Radicals

Causes of Radicalization and Extremist Behaviour

Several multifactorial issues have been found to lead up to radicalization and extremist behaviours. People and groups have so many unmet needs and aspirations ,yearnings, so many voices in the society wanting to be heard and expressed, so much intolerance of another set of people's way of life or belief system ,wanting to change the society ,be it through belief system or through violence and by all means possible. Reasons such as poverty, lack of political voice, grievances, victimization, and religious ideology are some of the reasons. According to centre for the Prevention of Radicalization Leading to Violence (CPRLV), violence can be categorized in 4 ways:

i. Left wing violence: Violence by anti-capitalist groups
ii. Right –wing violent acts: Violence committed by Neo-Nazi groups
iii. Religious motivated violence: Violence perpetuated by extremist Islamic fundamentalists

iv. Issue-based violence: Violence over issues like abortion or homosexuality. (CPRLV, 2018 in Bacalso and Moxon, 2018)

Regional and global politics:
The political power and how it is handled, changed and controlled has a huge impact on the rising up of radicals as political exclusion and lack of control can result to radicals being brewed. The change from the former ways of life of oppression of women and a lack of voice to freedom of expression and gender rights is provoking as well as dissolution of the Sunni-dominated Iraqi Armed Forces, causing loss of means of income and political exclusion in the new system of affairs resulted in frustration and grievances for thousands of former soldiers. Ultimately most became intelligence experts for ISIS (Thomson, 2015) .Since the downfall of Saddam Hussein of Libya, it gave rise to division of the country into sections and eventual rule by militants as the country's armoury was looted and fell into wrong hands.

Politics Intertwined with Religion: Both politics and religion play major role as they have been seen to intertwine in some regions. In Nigeria, the Boko-Haram issue had a political undertone, being how it was said to have started as well as a religious one (Ephraim, 2019). This has been a major player in the Middle –East region as the Islamic Hamas have an ultimate goal to get rid and clear out the Infidels from their holy land, but the non-believers claim the land is God-given to them, playing out as a vicious cycle of terror events (Juergensmeyer, 2001).

Inequalities such as Poverty and Lack of Education
When majority of the people are unable to feed and clothe properly, inadequate sanitary conditions, lack of basic amenities, whereas some others have excess and flaunt their wealth, with the society segregated as the rich and affluent stay on one part of the neighbourhoods, while the poor reside on the other part, there is over a long time bound to be discontentment, lack of tolerance and radicals may start to brew as they come together to discuss and deliberate on how the wealth is not equally shared. Oxfam International showed that 85 people own half of the wealth of all countries as almost half of the world's wealth is now owned by just one percent of the population, (Fuentes-Nieva, 2014), and then there is bound to be increased insecurity. In a globally connected world, where information is openly available on the web or through other media, the picture of a global inequality problem does influence violent contestation. Lack of resource control and lack of sufficient Share from the oil proceeds is a trigger for militancy in the Niger delta region; this has led to pipeline vandalizations, multiple kidnappings of the oil workers and other expatriates working for oil companies such as Shell. Chevron, Mobil etc. Initially the protests were non-violent, but later adopted some violent character as the protesting groups engaged in multiple acts of violence and confrontation with the military.

Lack of Employment and Uncertainty about Upward Movement
Nigeria is presently riddled with rising insecurity; this is no wonder considering the rate of unemployment, out-of school children, economic recession and rising rate of inflation over the years. The Boko-haram conflict was said to have arisen due to lack of care after the political powers that be failed to "settle these men "after their political ambition was attained by the then politicians .Most terrorism that happen does so in countries that have more unemployed people and thus less social stability. R*elative deprivation* is a major driver of violent extremism;

lack of jobs makes people to resort to use of threat and violence to terrorise people (Taspinar, 2009 in Bhatia & Ghanem, 2017). Some other scholars found no correlation (Blair et al 2013, Berman et al 2011). In fact some studies have found a positive relation between higher education and violent extremism. Studies found that most Middle East fighters have more education than those fighters in other countries. Review of studies showed that unemployment for educated persons is fuelling support for violent extremism in Middle East North-Africa (Bhatia & Ghanem ,2017). In the case of Niger delta militants in Nigeria, their main reason is due to lack of employment and an uncertain future, lack of basic amenities like good roads, hospitals and other infrastructure that makes life meaningful as the oil money is tapped away to develop other places. The Niger Delta region has suffered immense neglect and deprivation, poverty, untold hardship compounded by high rates of unemployment (Inokoba & Imbua, 2017). Many deaths and kidnappings have been recorded in the Niger Delta area due to action of militants Uncertainty and lack of education does a lot to fuel extremist behaviour.

Injustice and Mistreatment of Certain Groups:

When a group of people feel neglected, oppressed or cheated. They can tend to take up arms to fight their cause so they will be heard and that justice may reign. People do not take up guns because they are poor, but because they are angry and frustrated. According to studies by Perouse de Momtclos, (2014), many extremist group members are from comfortable, and even from rich homes. When people feel aggrieved, alienated or oppressed, they can form groups, radicalize the groups and take up arms to fight their cause. Ehen people perceive oppression, economic oppression in the midst of high levels of wealth and lack of punishment for corrupt people, violence does starts to brew (IEP, 2015).Being poor is not a direct reason for extremism according to some scholars (Berman, Eli, et al. ,2011). Mistreatment of people, for example many Chenchen bombings are by women, called 'Black Widows' due to the fact that they lost most of their menfolk, no husbands, no fathers ,no sons to the Russian oppression .The aggrieved may be responding in kind to those who inflict the harm on them or they want to attract attention or recognition. The PLO (Palestine Liberation Organization) have a cause to have an Arab state ,free from Isreali occupation, hence to them their cause and fight is a just cause .Treating the Palestinian Arabs as second class citizens and denying them of our common humanity is a recipe for radical Islam(Professor D.O Alabi, personal communication , April 10,2020)

Ideological /Belief Differences

Ideology plays a major role in radicalization and extremist behaviours. Over the years, it has been observed and assumed that religion (usually Islam) is mostly the problem. This is due to the proliferation of radicalization and violent behaviours seen across the globe from Yemen, to Afghanistan, to Iraq and Syria, to Palestine, Chechnya, and even to the Boko-Haram sect unleashing terror all over the place terror. The issue of Boko-haram in Nigeria has killed lots and lots of people, especially in the North-eastern part of Nigeria. The Boko-Haram Ideology includes the fact that western-style education is evil, as well as democracy, secular government, constitutionalism, and any laws made by man For Boko Haram, all these establishments are not for Islam but against Islam (Thurston, 2017). Ideology is an elaborate thing, it makes people change their thinking, change the way they view things and change their general outlook on life events, people and cultures. It is ingrained so much that nothing else matters. According to Drake, (1998) Ideology also makes terrorists absolve themselves of

any guilt even when they utilize violence, as they perceive it's the victims' fault and shift the blame to the victims (Flapan & Simha, 1987) .Three of the most visible extreme main ideologies are secular left-wing communism; right-wing-capitalism; and religious ideologies such as Islam, Christianity, or Judaism (Andrew, 1994)

Al-Qaeda and some groups in America for example use ideology to force a change on the states. The Islamic fundamentalist ideology is a strong driving force for extremism in most of the Arab world. Countries like Yemen, Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria are filled with acts of extremism which may have started by the fragility of the states, but are fuelled by ideologies leading up to extremist behaviours. These extreme acts are acts of defiance to the leaders imbibing secularism and allowing tolerance of other ideologies. The rise of the Muslim Brotherhood is an example, due to the Egyptian leaders imbibing and tolerating secularism .Being poor or uneducated is not a reason for with being terrorists (Krueger and Maleckova, 2003). Osama bin laden was actually the son of a Saudi billionaire, the heavy artillery weapons, AK 47s and armoured tanks used by Boko-Haram, Al Qaeda and ISIS groups are actually very expensive as war itself is an expensive venture. Thus something else apart from socioeconomic background and lack of education is the reason behind and driving terrorism.

> Contrary to the assumption that most individuals motivated to commit extremist acts come from economically disadvantaged background, and have little education, research revealed that most individuals across ideologies in the research database possess some kind of college education(far right 45%, far left 75%, Islamists 59%, with 30% of the far right extremists having a military background, 11% of those in far left and 10% of Islamic cases. Thus these people are not poor, uneducated as previously thought (Jenson, 2017)

Far right groups abound in America (Ku Klux Klan) ,Europe(National action) as well as in Germany(Neo-Nazis) .The issue of immigrants taking over jobs in the western world has been another source of ideology that has enhance far-right activities in several European countries. Recently, Germany took in millions of migrants, thereby bringing about protests and demonstrations, some of which have not been very peaceful. They have radicalized to believe that these migrants will make them jobless and hence get to the point of burning some migrant shelters. This is also the scenario in Sweden where the migrants often had their apartments stoned and the migrants endured verbal abuse. German far-right group had 12 members arrested in early 2020 for plotting large-scale attacks on Muslims, similar to that of New-Zealand, the interior ministry spokesman stated that it is shocking to know that the cells have become radicalized just within a short period of time (Al Jazeera News). The above is both an issue of ideology as well as Nationalist causes.

Nationalist Causes: When there is a threat of occupation by foreigners to a nation, there could result to uproars, demonstrations and outright violence .the indigent people have a feeling of being dispossessed of jobs, opportunities and are afraid of having equal rights assigned to the foreigners which causes in them a sense of insecurity. The recent immigration of people into Germany, Sweden, South Africa has led to demonstrations and outright use of violent means like stoning the immigrants' residential areas, burning of immigrant settlements and other extreme far-right activities leading to fear and torment in the minds of the immigrants. The Jews were killed in Germany many years ago, about 6 million Jews lost their lives. This

Nazism gave rise to the WW11 which claimed millions of lives. Extreme right-wing nationalist reactions to the wave of refugees and migrants in Europe and the United States are also inspired by a rejection of diversity. Religious extremists usually most often detest and are averse to religious pluralism, hence, they perceive diversity (which should be an integral component of globalization) is a threat to them and to their existence (UNPD, 2016 Report).

Weak States and Failing Security: When a country cannot provide basic amenities, security, jobs and sense of belonging for the citizens, the state is gradually becoming weak . The capacity of a nation to be stable depends on its ability to provide basic needs, law and order, peace and security for its citizens. This creates an avenue in which allows non-state actors take up state functions, by means of non-violent and violent means (The World Development Report, 2011). Poor law enforcement, disregard for authority, rampant impunity for offenders or corrupt people can lead to radicalism ideas and extremism. Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya,Yemen, Mali, Syria, Somalia, and the Central African Republic are examples of countries where weak state capacity and a deteriorating security has provided an avenue for non-state groups hitherto come to the aid of communities providing them with amenities and security (Byman,2015).Nigeria in this sense is unable to provide the much required security, peace, amenities, equal rights and stability to its citizenry and it can be seen to be approaching if not a Failed state already with the rise in Fulani terrorist attacks, multiple kidnappings armed banditry compounded with the rising impunity and lack of political will by the leaders. Several sections of the country are complaining of being marginalized, if and when pushed to the wall, anything can happen.

Psychological Means: The western world, via their hip-hop culture in music, films have come to make crime seem glamorous. These ways of life which is alien to the African people's norms, values, ethics and upbringing thus become glamorized, adored and emulated. The western films like *The Godfather, Boys in the Hood, Set it off* and other crime-filled films portray freedom of expression to the extent that people can say or do what they want without limits as it is viewed as Westernization, without bearing in mind the ills it brings. According to Kennedy 1986, the globalization movement, embedded in American corporations, communication technologies, and its military superpower status led by America, is a dominant factor adversely affecting Third World countries. As Kennedy asserted, 'The United States, the West, still penetrates the Middle East. We do so commercially, we do so culturally and we do so psychologically. Middle Eastern terrorism is a response to a great many of these factors" (Kennedy, 1986).

Role of Internet in Radicalization and Extremist Behaviours

Technological advancement has its benefits and disadvantages just like any other invention. It enhances exchange of ideas and easy communication Young adults spend hours on-line researching almost on a daily basis having easy availability of violent extremist content on-line. Young adults may subscribe to radical beliefs gotten via on-line platforms and, forums and discussion. Many youngster in the west spend lots of hours on the internet daily to the detriment of normal physical interaction, communication and family time of which the youths looking for a sense of purpose or a way of expressing themselves are lured online into these ideas and ideologies to relieve the oppressed, hence many move from the United Kingdom, France, Germany and from all over to the Arab states to fight, joining the Taliban, ISIS,Al-Qaeda etc. Notorious preacher Anwar al-Awlaki of Al-qaeda initiated the electronic Jihad'

website for Jihad news, literature termed 'WWW jihad' (Rudner, 2016). Research has shown that internet has played a key role in violent extremism. ISIS has since inception utilized the social media for its purposes (Lafree & Crenshaw, 2017).

The causes of radicalization and extremist behaviours are indeed hydra-headed. According to Kimhi & Even, (2010) suicide terror among the Palestinians can be attributed to a myriad of reasons like religious motives of Jihad and martyrdom, nationalist reasons of liberation and freedom for the Palestinians, revenge for so many acts of oppression as well as personal lack of fulfilment in life. Radicalization process can be by individuals secondary to past victimization or radicalization in groups who have a consensus of bitterness. Many studies have shown that many of the people engaged in extreme behaviours are actually well educated and well to do. Many of them perceive political exclusion, victimization and oppression, the need to be heard as well as inclusive development and infrastructure as exemplified by the Niger Delta militant groups. The Boko-Haram camp is well funded, they are well sponsored, having some reasonable level of comfort and carry more sophisticated weapons than the Nigerian Army. Someone whose ideology is to forcefully Islamize the world and in the process prepared to behead, maim and kill innocent people does not have any place in the civilized world(Professor D.O. Alabi, April 10 ,2020 personal communication). Thus ideology plays a major role as the strong and unwavering belief system of a reward in Al-Jannah with its untold comfort is a way in which these people are brain-washed into becoming radicalized to the point of extremist behaviour. Similarly in the West, the ideology of the Ku Klux Klan of America, the Nationals in the United Kingdom, the Neo-Nazis in Germany are mainly as a result of an ideology of being more superior to other groups and not majorly due to economic reasons.

What Groups or Kinds of People Become Radicalized?

While some people may be poor, feel isolated, deprived, unheard, they do not become radicalized or exhibit extremist behaviours. Some others are of a different faith, but will not claim supremacy over others that may be different, or be a particular race but do not despise or laud it over persons of another race. There are many unemployed and oppressed people the world over that do not form groups or gangs and carry arms. Thus, there must be some innate reasons and understanding behind the fact that those that are in the same "deprivation" shoe tend to use violence and instil fear on others. Radicalization as defined by Trip, (2019) is when people develop extremist beliefs, emotions and behaviours, which makes them to have profound convictions that are averse to the basic elemental values of society ,the laws of democracy and the basic human rights, claiming supremacy of a certain group be it racial, religious, economic , political or ,social.

The reason for various radicalization and extremist behaviour is to impose a societal change, but some do not deem it compulsory to force this societal change on others who may not want it. The extremist beliefs include deep-seated convictions and the extremist behaviours are exhibits that deviate from the norm (Klein and Kruglanski, 2013). But why do some people want to deviate while some are comfortable with the status quo?

What are the basic psychological mechanisms that make people more vulnerable to believing and having a radicalized ideology? What are the basic psychological mechanisms that prevent people from believing in a radicalized ideology?

Wiktorowicz,(2005) introduced "cognitive opening" in which a person facing discrimination, oppression is trying to find a purpose in life and suddenly gets introduced to and accepts a new way of thinking and becomes radicalized .Moghadam, (2005) talks about perception of unfairness and injustice, the individual thinks and assumes they have less advantages and opportunity compared to others even though most terrorists are not uneducated .The violent and non-violent exhibits are channelled towards the western people and the western system ,the perceived injustice thus makes the individuals disconnected from the mainstream society and hence breeding violent attitudes.

Uncertainty-identity theory (Hogg and Adelmar, 2013) postulates that when people are uncertain, confused and require an identity which they so lack, then faced with an option as they get influenced by a group facing similar challenges, they most likely become radicalized. .Individuals utilize the group to give themselves an identity and sense of purpose (Tajfel and Turner, 1979).Therefore, by having similar values, way of thinking and beliefs, groups provide people identity and reduce uncertainty regarding who they are, how to behave, and what to think, and who others are and how they might behave, think. These groups show the individual how to behave and react to out-group members, thus strengthening an otherwise *weak, confused and uncertain person,* hence increasing their self-worth .So lack of self-worth can result to radicalization and probable extremism in which the person is glad to have a group to be affiliated with.

Ellis, (1994) proposes that rigid and very strict demands are the bedrock of emotional distress. These rigidity is due to irrational beliefs and results to excessively high standards from self, from people, and the world , inability to meet up with the demands causes anxiety, anger ,retribution, depression and violent behaviour (Ellis 1994 in Dryden 2007). High demandingness is another attribute that can cause radicalization as some persons demand some form of ideal society. In Ellis's (2003) analysis of the September 11 World trade Centre bombing, terrorists could hold the following absolutistic demands: (1) they absolutely had to punish America (self-demands); (2) Americans must absolutely not oppose their standpoint (other demands); and (3) the world should be fair and just (world-demands) Ellis 2003 in Trip et al 2019). Lack of tolerance for an un-ideal world is a characteristic of extremist persons. Either others follow their path or violence and death should follow. Abnormal emotions cause deep-seated psychological suffering and discomfort (intense, long lasting anxiety/depression/anger/guilt/shame/hurt), this is the tipping point when they are most vulnerable to radicalization and extremist behaviours (Lüders et al., 2016 in Trip et al 2019).

Theories

Society as we know it now has not been the same, over time, the society has been constantly evolving, moving from one phase of development to another; things are not static, in nature and even in the community and the world at large. The world as we know it has become a global village, something that was unheard of in ancient periods or times. Man can wake up in Russia today and be in America the next day, from where he would fly to Africa the day after. Marriages today encounter more divorces than fifty years back when divorce was very rare. The issue of Gays was an abomination decades ago, but now they publicly get wedded and even have Gay associations and parties, fighting for their rights without guilt and shame. Abortion is legalized by many countries, something that was formerly and outright shameful

thing to do. Technological advancement has moved at terrific speed from man venturing into space, the use of landlines to android and smart phones, not forgetting the use of Robots in Japan and some advanced countries to act as hotel receptionists or in hospitals to perform surgeries on humans. The pace is impressive though outright scary. The issue of radicalization was not rampant before the 19thcentury, but now hardly a day passes without mention of some armed groups attacking and causing mayhem and deaths in some parts of the globe, be it in the Arab nation or Africa or somewhere in the Western world. Persons have come to be less tolerant, want to interfere and laud a way of thinking over some others and claim superiority of thought, thus look for ways to vent their anger and frustration, thus heightening the rate of violence and consequent insecurity. Many scholars have indeed over the years tried to understand and explain social change, its causes, types and possibly postulating and predicting how these changes will affect the future of man. They have proposed over the years theories of social change.

Theories of Social Evolution:

This has to do with the changes and development of societies. This is an off-shoot of Charles Darwin's theory of biological evolution (1859) that just as organisms changes over time, so do societies (Darwin 1959 in Richerson & Boyd 2000). Comte de Saint –Simon(1760-1825) is known as the father of sociology, played a crucial role in nineteen century development, coining the word *Industrialization*, believed that from the fifteenth century in Europe, medievalism started to give way to a new era of industrialization and science and technology (Stanford ,2018) . (Herbert, (1890) is the proponent of this evolutionary theory in sociology; Herbert Spencer and Auguste Comte proposed that this evolution or social change in societies is a sequential progression of organic societies leading up to increasing levels of advancement. Evolutionary change in sociology is attributed to Herbert Spencer .He proposed that Society is bound to change, change being unavoidably a natural process. The change takes time, slowly but is for the greater good of society. The change is non-reversible as societies pass through periods of development.

Criticism of this evolutionary theory is that Mark Spencer's theory is too optimistic as with the passage of decades despite advances in development, people are more stressed, less content with their lives, less happier, and that social change brings more problems not more progress.

Technological advancement now enables persons with a grudge, undertake an armed struggle, acts of extremism and are able to wipe out whole territories with armoured tanks and bombs ,utilize aeroplanes to wipe out high rise buildings like in the twin towers and even likely to detonate nuclear bombs if care is not taken . Technological advancement which brought about use of social media and internet has enables radicalization. According to Jenson (2017),due to increases online activity ,extremists are acting alone more frequently and becoming radicalized more quickly than they did in the past, emphasizing that people in recent years become radicalized at a faster pace 16 months in the 2000s to 9 months in 2014.

While on the other hand, these are sudden changes in how a society is, both in structure and nature. Revolution means a change or how something revolves. Over time there have happened so many changes in terms of culture, politics, and technology. Social revolution is the re-organization of the industrial, economic life of the country and the entire structure of

society. A combination of economic, political, social and external factors is responsible for the onset of social revolutions (Tiruneh 2014). Karl Marx (1818-1883) and Frederick Engels (1836-1887) are the proponents of the Marxian theory of class conflict , proposes that assumes that economic factors are the main ingredient causing and facilitating and enabling social change .

The evaluation of Causes of radicalization and Extremist Behaviours will be predicated on the Marx Theory of Class conflict in which the capitalist attempts to control the masses leads to inequalities in the division of resources .This rising inequality between the bourgeois who own the majority of the wealth and means who are the minority on one side, and the proletariat who are the poor or working class who are the majority. Marx believed that as the working class and poor were subjected to worsening conditions, a collective consciousness arises which exposes the inequality and thus leads to a revolt. That when these forces come against each other, there is structural inequality, competition, revolution which tends to result to war which is the ultimate equalizer. Marxism is a social, political and economic philosophy named after Karl Marx, which turns capitalism to eventual communism inevitably (Chappelow 2019).

Marxism is made up of Marxist class conflict and Marxian Economics, which postulates that social change rests on the fact that everything that has to do with change is associated with class struggle, that social change comes about by means of struggle between the two classes, that change will only occur as a victory of the exploited class (Communist Manifesto 1848) . That an exploited and oppressed class of people will ultimately give rise to a process of class struggles and attendant revolution. The proletariat would overthrow the bourgeoisie and take over the forces of production (natural resources wealth), which is the source of power.

Most of the radicalization and extremist behaviours in several parts of the world is associated with stories of history of oppression, poor economic powers and a disadvantaged class of people resorting to violent acts to make their struggles come alive. This is the scenario in Palestine, Niger Delta region.

In Nigeria, the widening income gap between the rich and the poor has made more people fall into abject poverty, hence an increase in crime wave. Being projected as the poverty capital of the world (Mailafia 2019), with the north being the poorest region, No wonder the north is bedevilled with more insecurity issues. According to Karl Marx, there is a class struggle, resulting in rise up of the proletariats against the bourgeois such that there has been attendant rising insecurity, kidnappings. No wonder the senators and those in the political class find it difficult to move on the roads or go to sleep in their family houses in their hometowns. Fear of the bourgeois is the order of the day in the present Nigeria.

Method

This study is a qualitative method. This study design is rich and in-depth, allowing all forms of explanation, description to establish a deep understanding of the phenomenon. Data is collected from previous write-ups, research findings and accumulated reports on the factors leading up to radicalization and extremist behaviour. Qualitative method has been used to reveal the different reasons and perspectives why persons become radicalized. It involves systematic collection of data mainly from previous research findings which are organized,

described and interpreted. Evidence is majorly from online sources, both newspapers and from online news reports, as well as by observation.

This research method gives an in-depth study of the behaviour being studied. Giving a richer, broader and extensive explanation of the causes of this phenomenon. It gives credible results as it allows an array of the reasons why and how-comes people are being radicalized .It looks into the study of other researchers by making up the causative factors from what evidence has been gathered over the years. It shows a consistent and dependable volume of what makes people behave this way and any of the reasons can be verified if another researcher takes up this topic

Relevance in Nigerian Context

Nigeria has over ten years been bedevilled with the Boko-Haram conflict which has continued to ravage villages and communities mostly in the northern part of Nigeria, leading up to heightened insecurities, transforming into various forms, be it Fulani herdsmen issue and armed banditry all across the nation. The Nigerian state is presently riddled with insecurity, especially from the Boko Haram terrorists who have caused millions to be displaced, communities ravaged, means of livelihood terminated. Millions in IDP camps and millions of out-of-school children are roaming the streets .The United nations 2018 report showed that 13 million school age children that are out of school, being the highest in the world (VOA 2018) These situations created by this terrorism has caused a cycle of insecurity all over the nation. The emotional torment of the inhabitants is enormous. People have been relocating out of the country in droves (Kazeem 2018). The economic impact of war is huge. The lack of attractiveness for foreign investors is huge .The huge amount spent per year amounting to 670 million dollars per year is more than the yearly Army budget, and it is riddled with corruption as people are enriched by it (Transparency International 2018).

The international image of Nigeria is terrible as it is labelled as one of the most dangerous places to live and work .Terrorism is the cause of the rising insecurity, caused by religious fanaticism especially in the Islam dominated states and it is fuelled by poverty, unemployment, illiteracy (Umana 2019). Anarchy is brewing all around as people have seen that impunity reigns supreme and thus if the causes can be identified on time before it ruins the nation, the future can be better for these communities, the children and for the over-all safety of lives and property and to attract foreign investors and make for a better image for the beloved country.

Conclusion

The various causes of Radicalization and Extremist behaviour are numerous and interwoven. This ranges from poverty and unemployment, to ideology about race ethnicity and religion, nationalism as well as oppression and resource control issues. The Karl Marx proposed that Social change is brought about by unequal rights , oppression and economic factors which leads to conflict .Most research has revealed that most extremists are not uneducated ,unemployed or poor as previously thought; Ideology seems the main reason behind this behaviours especially Islamic fundamentalism which is rapidly proliferating across the globe. This behaviour has led to heightened psychological, physiological and financial stress for countries and for people as there is the presence of stigmatization as people feel every Muslim is a potential terrorist, especially after the September 11 terrorist attacks, mainly because many

well known terrorist attacks are by Muslims who believe that killing of 'Infidels' yields them some 'Heavenly reward'. From the point of this study, ideology, mainly religious seems to be the main reason for radicalization and extremist behaviours among the many other reasons. Other causes of this behaviour abound but ideology is extremely difficult to break. More studies are needed in the near future to confirm this report to find out if ideology is truly a major reason.

Recommendations

Certain recommendations are put forward after viewing and looking at the various causes of radicalization and extremist behaviours.

i. They should be brought up to learn skills and crafts that earn them money as well as occupy them time-wise. The northern Nigerian Al-majiri children froe example should be given exposure to classes on watch repairing, shoe making, tailoring ,car washing, hair barbing, electronic repairs and the like. After all the Chinese that make some of these items for worldwide export do not understand reading or writing in English language.
ii. Enhancing the fight against corruption should be a very important landmark. More importantly for nations like Nigeria with its huge population, so the resources will go round. If this is not done ,too many poor people in the midst of a few rich people is bound to breed conflict and insecurity according to the Marxism theory where the proletariats rise against the Bourgeois ,carrying arms is a way to have an uprising.
iii. Educating the people on the respect for human rights, educating on the need to accept diversity in ethnicity, on religion, on race and on opinion. Governments should start to build institutions that incorporate the tenet of tolerance as there are as many opinions as there are people on the planet earth. Learning to live and accommodate one another which make for development as there can be no meaningful development without tolerance.
iv. Faith based organizations have an enormous role to play when it comes to radicalization and extremist behaviours. The Ku-Klux Klan are Christians and their religious leaders should teach and instil the need for tolerance and acceptance of other races and ethnic groups.

Limitation

This study was carried out at a time of Corona virus pandemic and so the lockdown made it impossible to get an array of sources of data, be it via sufficient library books, interviews or focus group discussions. It had limited sources of information which is not as wide as should have been.

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