



## BOOK REVIEW

### Terrorism in Bangladesh: The Process of Radicalization and Youth Vulnerabilities

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**Published by:** The University Press Limited (UPL);

R H Home Centre, Suite 224-239, Level 2, 74/B/1 Green Rd, Dhaka 1215, Bangladesh

ISBN: 978-9-84-506288-6

Pages in Book: 254

Year: 2023

700.00 BDT

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The book is based on the incidence of terrorism that takes on a politico-religious nature. The book attempts to understand which factors play significant roles in emerging violent singular identities and looks into brain-washing, politicising and proliferation of vulnerable youth along with extremism. The book is a deep thought provoking, well researched and written in an easy language for the academicians, law and enforcing agencies, and policy makers. Both the authors need to be appreciation for such a brilliant research work. The book is the first of its kind of an empirical study of terrorism based in Bangladesh focusing on the process of radicalization, ideology and youth vulnerabilities that lead to violence. Undertaking qualitative research methods, it has been written based on primarily data collected from terrorist suspects, their families, law enforcement officials and experts of various disciplines.

Total nine chapters were written by the authors. Professor Zia Rahman, PhD and AIG Monirul Islam, the other author of this book, are both well-known academics in Bangladesh. Authors have presented a comprehensive and an insightful analysis of the complex dynamics of terrorism in Bangladesh. The authors delve into the numerous factors that contribute to radicalization, the vulnerabilities of Bangladeshi youth, and the government's response to terrorism. Throughout the book, the authors provide case studies and examples of terrorist attacks in Bangladesh, analyzing their causes and impacts. Authors begin with a *Historical Background of Bangladesh*, tracing its

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DOI: 10.46333/ijtc/12/1/24

political and social landscape from the colonial era to the present day. The authors delve into the dynamics of terrorism, explaining the numerous factors that contribute to radicalization of the youth. They argue that radicalization is a complex and multi-dimensional process and phenomenon that involves social, economic, and political factors. The authors highlight the role of socio-economic disparities in radicalization, explaining how poverty and unemployment create a sense of disillusionment and frustration among the youth, making them vulnerable to extremist ideologies. The book examines the influence of religious fundamentalism in the youth radicalization process.

The authors argue that extremist groups in Bangladesh often use religion as a tool to recruit and mobilize youth. They highlight the importance of understanding the diverse interpretations of Islam in Bangladesh and how extremist groups manipulate these interpretations to promote their agenda. Another significant factor that contributes to radicalization, according to the authors, is political instability. Bangladesh has a long history of political turmoil, including military coups, civil unrest, and violent protests. The authors argue that this instability has created a sense of insecurity among the population, making them more susceptible to extremist ideologies. The authors also highlight the role of the internet and social media in the radicalization process. They argue that social media platforms have become a powerful tool for extremist groups to spread their message and recruit new members. The authors discuss the various tactics used by extremist groups on social media, such as creating online communities, producing propaganda videos, and using fake profiles to lure vulnerable unemployed youth towards terrorist activities.

Second (2) chapter covers "*A History of International Terrorism*". In this chapter terms and methods of targeting youth, many of the recent tactical means and methods of modern terrorism followed and between States in their armed conflicts are discussed. There exists an argument positing that approximately one hundred years in the past, the codes employed by terrorists for the purpose of selecting targets bore a striking resemblance to the codes utilised by professional military entities. These codes exhibited a notable adherence to the principle of distinguishing between individuals serving as soldiers or officials, and those who were classified as innocent civilians. From the mid-nineteenth century onwards, a notable shift occurred in the nature of warfare due to the advancements in industrialised weaponry. This shift enabled a tactical approach that specifically targeted the younger population. It is important to note that this approach was characterised by a higher level of indiscriminate and lethal methods employed to eliminate the enemy. The utilisation of industrialised and indiscriminate means and methods of warfare during the twentieth century imparted valuable lessons to individuals who would later become post-war revolutionary terrorists. These individuals also embraced unconventional weapons and forms of combat, particularly urban guerrilla warfare. In the current global landscape, the prevalence of indiscriminate weaponry has become a recurring and noteworthy characteristic.

In terms of terrorist strategy, the description of modern terrorism's development as a form of revolutionary violence is both informative and persuasive. One such wave occurred in the late 19th/early 20th century; another, beginning with the end of World War I and the idea of self-determination in politics, occurred in the decades that followed. The Algerian Civil War and the Vietnam War are two examples of how violence transformed the Aaland Islands arbitration of 1921 into a legal right after World War II. Terrorist waves are characterised by similar strategies

and tactics as those used by competing states in times of war; this is because, historically speaking, demobilised soldiers have always returned home after a conflict fully prepared to employ force. Terrorist groups can collapse according to the wave theory when they are no longer able to inspire others to continue violently resisting authority, redressing one or more grievances, or protesting a lack of political concessions through violent means.

Academic discourse like this gives a taste of the kinds of conversations and controversies that arise when people try to classify or better understand the world around them. However, this University Module Series does not provide an opinion on whether or not non-State actors' motivations are at play. You may want to dig deeper into these questions as you teach this module or others in the University Module Series. Extremist violence has spread throughout the world in recent years. As a result, it is a cause for concern for the public, and in order to comprehend the ideas, ideologies, and regional histories of violence—all of which are expertly detailed chronologically in this book—one must first go through them.

Chapter three (3) covers the “*A History of Terrorism in Bangladesh*”. The present chapter elucidates the historical occurrences of terrorism in Bangladesh, which have been perpetrated by diverse organisations. Historically, it has been observed that various terrorist organisations, including ISIL, have asserted their presence within the country under consideration. However, the Bangladeshi government maintains the perspective that these organisations functioned through local affiliates, prior to being effectively countered by security forces. The authors highlight the country's struggles with political instability, economic disparities, and religious fundamentalism. They argue that these factors have created a fertile ground for the emergence of extremist ideologies and violent acts. In 1989, a network of 30 separate Islamist factions arose in Bangladesh and grew throughout the ensuing years. The majority of Islamist organisations in Bangladesh seek to establish an Islamic state or to have Bangladesh governed in accordance with Sharia law. This group acted against independence of Bangladesh and also their previous generation created East Pakistan. For the state man leadership from the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu, the Bangladesh got independence in the year 1971. Islamist groups have conducted operations against the ruling party and corruptions in the country though they are religious businessmen. Islamic groups engage in terrorism due to geo-political and geo-economic reasons and benefits. During the period 2013-2014, as I was serving as the Vice Chancellor of the Presidency University, Bangladesh, personally, I observed the extreme nature and extent of the criminal minded of these terrorist groups and some of the educated faculties were also involved in the process. Still, some of them are now working in that university and one of the faculties returned to (BUET) who joined there from taking leave in civil engineering dept. The authors have done an excellent job in analysing of terrorism theories, the process of violent radicalization, and the spread of extremist ideologies in presenting the facts, which are covered in this chapter.

Chapter Four (4) contains the “*Theories of Terrorism*”. In this chapter although there has been discussion and philosophical models and research on terrorism across the social and behavioral sciences in the past few decades, until recently most of this work has originated from political science, psychology, or economics. This chapter primarily concentrates on concepts and theories to help readers comprehend how these ideas are assimilated by the political power groups for their own political ends by the authors magnificently. Therefore, authors emphasis in this book was on criminological conceptual frameworks and empirical studies that involve terrorism and

comebacks to it is inimitable. They include a notable group of researchers that offer their idiosyncratic visions into criminological viewpoints on terrorism. The contributors focus on criminological perspectives that have rarely, if ever, been beforehand applied to the study of terrorism. This includes a variety of perspectives from rational choice to social incompetence, from straining to regular activities theory. This chapter was advanced empathetic of terrorism by taking advantage of criminological helps, and at the same time was assisted as a valuable update to the criminologists and their students already working in this area. It would also be an obliging impression to those criminologists and their students who would like to be more engaged in this significant arena of research work. Theories of terrorism were explained and the main theories of terrorism that addressed matters of becoming a terrorist, being a terrorist, and leaving terrorism. As a reader, we can learn in a considerate manner the most talented clarifications of terrorism that has been advanced till now. The content was delivered with a scholarly depth by the authors, however still accessible by diversified nature of readers. The book offers clarifications from eminent academics for the three phases of radicalization, covering emerging topics such as women's involvement in terrorism, fear of terrorism, the code of the terrorist, and suicide terrorism.

This is the first book in the advances in criminological theory series to discourse the issue of terrorism and highlights the usage of theory to unswerving research development in the future. The panache and gratified attention of the book brand it suitable as a supplemental as textbook besides reference book in the undergraduate and graduate courses on terrorism and political violences. The inclusion of existing empirical literature and guidance for future research efforts stretches the research work appeal for graduate students and academics in the disciplines of criminology/criminal justice, political science, sociology, and interdisciplinary terrorism studies as well as guideline for the law and order enforcing agencies and policy makers to curb the terrorism from the country.

The Chapter Five (5) covers "*A Process of Violent Radicalization*". In this chapter, the authors endeavour to elucidate the global recognition garnered by extremist acts and the phenomenon of radicalization among researchers since the year 2001. The objective of this chapter is to provide a comprehensive overview of radicalization and extremist behaviours, while also presenting a novel approach to conceptualising radicalization that has been effectively elucidated. Radicalization is a multifaceted process characterised by the gradual development and adoption of extremist beliefs, emotions, and behaviours. Extremist beliefs can be characterised as deeply entrenched convictions that stand in direct opposition to the core values of a given society, the principles of democracy, and the universally recognised human rights. These beliefs typically promote the notion of one particular group's superiority over others. Extremist emotions and behaviours encompass a wide range of expressions, which can manifest in both non-violent forms of pressure and coercion, as well as actions that deviate from societal norms and demonstrate disregard for fundamental values such as life, freedom, and human rights. The present discourse aims to provide a comprehensive exploration of the psychological mechanisms underlying the process of radicalization. By delving into the existing body of research in this domain, we seek to offer a comprehensive understanding of the various factors and dynamics at play. A comprehensive and systematic analysis was undertaken to develop a rational, sensitive, and

behavioural conceptualization of radicalization. This involved integrating various concepts, as well as leveraging existing knowledge and expertise in the field. The development of effective prevention and intervention programmes, as well as the implementation of good practises, necessitates a comprehensive and lucid conceptualization of the phenomenon under examination. This particular process has exhibited a notable proliferation in recent years, thereby emphasising the significance of a thorough understanding in addressing its complexities. The concluding section of this study pertains to the guidance provided for prevention and intervention programmes, specifically focusing on the rational emotive and behavioural approach as well as European policies.

*"Proliferation of the Extremist Ideology"* was described in chapter Six (6). The consequences of the study exposed that there is a shortage of discoveries for pleasing to the eye to the readers considerate about Internet and expressions of violent extremism. There is thus a gap in knowledge that could deliverable evidence-based strategy for preventing and countering the phenomenon. This state of affairs may partly reproduce the lag between the chase of academic research and the succeeding publication. It surely does reproduce faintness in much of the cases till now. In turn, this thought highlights the standing of talking further research into these matters. However, it also pointed that the standing of the essential principles and values of the (ICCPR), the Rabat Plan and the wisdom of the Rapporteurs. It may take time until researchers get more credible and comprehensive, even if not definitive, research that can complement these international instruments and inform policy development, rules and practices. But from the state side it was needed that empty-handed in approaching the difficulty of freedom of expression and online incitement to violent extremism.

Bangladesh has seen an increase in religious radicalization that has led to acts of terrorism in recent years. Unusually for Muslim-majority nations, the country was formed on the principles of religious tolerance and cultural diversity. But those who participate in the process of religion as a business they are trying to motivate young generation in wrong way irrespective of gender. The writers note that in recent years, transnational extremism has plagued Bangladesh, eating away at the social fabric of the country. One of Bangladesh's primary concerns in recent years has been the rise of violent extremism as a result of Islamist radicalization. Most of the perpetrators in the July 2016 Holey Artisan Bakery incident were foreign-born Bangladeshis, revealing the pervasiveness of violent extremism in Bangladesh and the extent to which extremists have penetrated the country's social fabric. In addition, young people in Bangladesh have committed acts of terrorism at random.

To learn what factors contributed to the breakdown of communal harmony in Bengali society, which is based on secular values. The writers conducted research to identify the national and international players and local factors contributing to the radical upheaval of a subset of today's young. To better understand the factors that contribute to radicalization among local adolescents and how they view it, a survey was undertaken. According to the results, the radicalization process has developed over time. Peers of radicals have helped spread radicalization, encouraging their participation in war and benefiting from the expansion of their worldwide network throughout time. The network of Jihadists taught them tactical disposition, command and control structure, and cell structure. The Jihadist movement as a whole poses a threat to the



safety of any given community. This research on radicalization reveals a generational trail of Jihadist ideology that made its way to Bangladesh.

One of the book's strengths is its focus on the vulnerabilities of Bangladeshi youth and how they are exploited by terrorist groups. The authors argue that young people are particularly susceptible to radicalization due to their lack of social, economic, and political opportunities. They also examine the numerous factors that contribute to youth radicalization, such as peer pressure, identity crises, and a sense of disenfranchisement.

The book provides case studies and examples of how terrorist groups in Bangladesh exploit these vulnerabilities. For example, the authors discuss how terrorist groups use financial incentives to lure youth into their ranks, promising them a sense of belonging and purpose. The authors also highlight how terrorist groups manipulate the grievances of minority communities, such as the Rohingya Muslims, to recruit new members. Throughout the book, the authors provide case studies and examples of terrorist attacks in Bangladesh, analyzing their causes and impacts. For example, they discuss the Holey Artisan Bakery attack in Dhaka, which was conducted by a group of young men who had been radicalized online. The authors analyze the numerous factors that led to the attack, such as the sense of alienation felt by the perpetrators and the role of social media in their radicalization.

The authors also discussed the government of Bangladesh's response under the able leadership of Honourable Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina to end terrorism and also zero tolerance against terrorism, including its efforts to counter violent extremism and address the root causes of radicalization. Authors argued that while the government has made some progress in tackling terrorism, there are still significant challenges that need to be addressed. For example, they highlight the need for greater investment in education and employment opportunities for the youth, as well as the importance of promoting a more inclusive and tolerant society.

Overall, the book is a valuable contribution to the literature on terrorism and extremism in South Asia. The authors provide an insightful analysis of the complex dynamics of terrorism in Bangladesh, highlighting the importance of addressing the root causes of radicalization and the vulnerabilities of young people. The book was focused on the vulnerabilities of Bangladeshi youth to be lured by international and home grown terrorist organisations, join terrorist and how they are exploited by terrorist groups. The authors argue that young people are particularly susceptible to radicalization due to their lack of social, economic, and political opportunities. They also examined the numerous factors that contribute to youth radicalization, such as peer pressure, identity crises, and a sense of disenfranchisement. One of the book's strengths is its balanced approach to the issue of terrorism. While the authors acknowledge the role of religious fundamentalism and political instability in radicalization, they also highlighted the importance of understanding the socio-economic factors that contribute to the problem. This approach is essential, as it provides a more holistic understanding of the issue and helps to avoid simplistic and reductionist explanations for terrorism. Authors acknowledge the influence of global terrorist networks on local extremist groups. Authors also briefly mention the issue of gender in relation to terrorism. Given the importance of gender in shaping social, economic, and political structures in Bangladesh, this is a significant point which they put emphasize.

The book is also well-researched and provides a treasure of information on the history, political, economy, anthropology, sociology, legal and society of Bangladesh. The authors draw on a wide range of sources, including academic studies, news, features, and interviews with experts and practitioners in the field. Economic Governance Reform Operation (EGRO) by the Bangladesh Government is a laudable venture for the domestic economic progress. This assisted to deliver a comprehensive and wonderful analysis of the issue, and makes the book a valuable resource for scholars, policymakers, and practitioners.

The last chapter nine of this book titled "*Implications For The Future*" emphasized a number of significant difficulties, including governmental favoritism, inadequate educational systems, diaspora impact, etc. The fact that terrorism and its tactics are impacting young people and making them vulnerable is one of the major risks to the nation and needs to be acknowledged in a right direction. Thus, the chapter outlined why youngsters are their intended audience, as well as how young people are gradually led away from societal norms and into such radical and heinous behaviors. Authors suggested some actions that should be taken for future generation.

Overall, the book is a great resource for understanding in-depth the term "terrorism," and everyone should read it and prepare themselves self-awareness to protect the country from religious vulnerability, extremism, false propaganda and back biting and blame game. Here some intellectual do not want that the less aged mid-level intellectual can grow for which they did a heinous crime by creating false allegations who should be brought under the law and enforcing agencies. Authors both share a passion for the study of criminology and have contributed to the field from different perspectives. Professor Zia has an extensive understanding of transnational crime and has undertaken numerous studies on it. Professor Zia is also the founding chairperson of the criminology department in the University of Dhaka. On the other side, Mr. Monirul Islam has been leading operations to resolve numerous national security issues as the head of counterterrorism and transnational crime since 2016. Because of this, it is without a doubt true that their book on terrorism in Bangladesh may provide an accurate view of the radicalization of terrorism in our nation.

From the writer's perspective, the young people will also learn what makes them vulnerable to such radical terrorist organisations and how they should avoid being brain-washed. The book is the result of a reliable empirical investigation into terrorism in Bangladesh. The authors concentrated on the negative aspects and historical ideas that frequently result in bloodshed. This book's sole aim is to identify the causes of young people's vulnerabilities and raise their awareness so that no one experiences what Nibrass did. Family must take care of their own sons and daughters very cautiously, and then schools and colleges need to get rid of such type of heinous radicalism in Bangladesh and spread the message of - respect for all religions, affection and peace. For all inclusive sustainable economic development to take place nations need rule of law, investment in human capital, physical capital, technological innovation and change which is possible only if radical terrorist organisations are eliminated from the society.

Authors tried to inform readers on the spread of terrorist networks and ideology in worldwide including Bangladesh. Because of the issues and the selected topic and the reader's ability to quickly see their importance as he proceeds through the book's chronology, the plan of the contents of this book is unconditionally remarkable. Also, the book chapters are all thoroughly researched that includes accounts of numerous events and how they contribute to an increase in

violence on a global scale. As such it will be easier for readers to understand how such socio-political, legal, or religious issues can contribute meaningfully to the rise of regional and global extremism. Power structure in the hands of Taliban's in Afghanistan is spoiling case of freedom of expression, human right and women torture in a barbaric way, Some Academicians coming from abroad and joined in universities may involve in the process of terrorism which need to be identified by the law and enforcing agencies. Bangladesh needs to check terrorism at any cost and radicalisation should be not accepted with enforcement of "Zero Tolerance Policy" for a happy, peaceful and a prosperous society and wellbeing of the humanity. Aforesaid policy of the present government lead by Prime minister Sheikh Hasina is also good for the neighboring country India. A database for the youth who are job aspirants based on qualification, expertise may be created at the local areas and from that database only deserving candidate may get a job then it will be nice. Another alternative is to get entrepreneurial education for which Honorable prime minister of Bangladesh is saying for more than a decade. After passing out banks should grant with collateral free lending and giving policy advocacy in lieu of nominal charges to do the sustainable small business. A separate model of societal banking may be established in Bangladesh (Ali, 2022).

In conclusion, the book entitled "Terrorism in Bangladesh: The Process of Radicalization and Youth Vulnerabilities" authored by Prof. Zia Rahman and Mr. Monirul Islam is a valuable and insightful analysis of the complex dynamics of terrorism in Bangladesh. The book is an essential resource for anyone, including politicians, academics, students, and youth, interested in understanding the complex and evolving nature of terrorism in the Bangladesh region. Authors deserve special thanks and congratulations for authoring such a well-researched backed by theory and facts an informed book, on this topic of *terrorism in Bangladesh and the process of youth radicalization*.