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Domestic Terrorism in the American Context

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Abstract

This paper will explore the extent to which elements that are considered as typical for right-wing ideology re-emerge in the globalization discourses of organizations. It discusses the various definitions of globalization and the potential of violence from both rightist and leftist movements against the same. The paper also discusses the monitoring of anti-government groups and the trends that indicate the potential of a resurgence or disappearance of rightist movements on the scale of the 1990s Patriot Movement.

Introduction

Leftist Movement against Globalization

Left-wing terrorists, according to the FBI, have a revolutionary socialist agenda and present themselves as protectors of the populace against the alienating effects of capitalism and the U.S. imperialism (NOASR, 2008). First, they dispute that multinational corporations have begun to be too influential and threaten the autonomy of minor nations. Secondly, anti-globalists assert that multinational companies take advantage of workers in poor nations by offering lower wages than those they would offer in their countries. Thirdly, they claim that multinational corporations devastate the environments of poorer, smaller nations. The left's idea views an individual as a self-sacrificing slave of a nation state and a state as the administrator of economy (Bar-On-Tamir, 2008).

Rightist Movements against Globalization

The principal characteristics of modern rightist movements are opposition to immigration and defense of a nation-state against the processes of globalization. Within this context, these movements define globalization as the process that enlarges social relations, in the widest possible sense, which is beyond the borders of the classical idea of a nation-state (Habermas, 2003). In probably most of the cases, globalization is referred to in an economic context pointing to the internationalization of financial transactions and business activities and to the creation of a global market including all the negative and positive consequences of trade liberalization and the free movement of capital and goods. Globalization is considered a universal conspiracy against Western culture, national identity, or white people. Such discourses frequently have anti-Semitic and racist implications (Bar-On-Tamir, 2008).

Rightist movements also define globalization within the political context and oppose the factual reality of the shifting of power from nation-states to supranational governmental institution, such as the World Trade Organization, the European Union, or The United Nations. Within the cultural level, rightists oppose the continuous dismantling of borders, whether as a byproduct of immigration or due to consciously promoted processes, such as the diffusion of languages, art, books, or cinema (NOASR, 2008).

Discussion: Potential for Violence from Rightist and Leftist Movements Against Globalization

It is worth noting that the fear and confusion experienced by thousands of people during protests reveal that it is possible for followers to persevere amid the retaliation from government forces on those who resist. Followers believe that the police initiate violence against those who threaten the powerful but not against those who break the law (Meyerson, 2004). This trend, which is the sharing of this point of view among followers, indicates that there could possibly be a resurgence of a rightist movement on the scale of the Patriot Movement.

Among rightists, protester violence works to illustrate the depth of their discontent. It demonstrates the fact that they reject the state's ideological policing of the country's political activity. In addition, it indicates that they recognize the fact that, unfortunately, some level of violent confrontation with the wealthy elite will be inevitable, if they are going to achieve their goals of a different world (Pendas, 2002).

On Fire, a short collection of sixteen accounts and analyses of the July 2001 demonstrations against the G8 summit in Genoa, Italy, demonstrates that activists will not recoil when faced with state terror, and that militant rage is a positive contribution to the movement against the global capital (NOASR, 2008). However, among the leftist movement against globalization, diversity of tactics has contributed to modernizing and strengthening protests and

demonstrations. They have also invented new tactics and technology, collectively and individually, radically changed the face of protest activity, and generated renewed life in the reality of demonstrations. The development and implementation of new tactics are direct results of the impact of new technology and the ability of organizers to use it to their best advantage (NOASR, 2008). For example, together with the development of information technologies and the Internet, the anarchist ideology and means of coordination and cooperation between activists have undergone significant developments too. Today, the Internet allows anarchist organizations to coordinate their activities, recruit new members, and share information without having any centralized controlling source, which allows avoiding bureaucracy and authoritarianism.

Left wing anti-globalization movements are unified primarily around a tactical commitment to big protests against organizations, such as the World Bank, and the use of participatory activist structures. In general, they aim, by force of numbers, to shut down targeted meetings and in the process paralyze free movement in a host city (Smith, 2011). In a short term, they carry an economic impact, a form of sabotage long endorsed by environmental activists. Idealism plays a large role with protesters becoming more and more knowledgeable about their subject and sophisticated in their methodology using travelling "road shows" and teach-ins to increase their effectiveness. The new protest phenomenon has been characterized by a broad range of interests, which have come together to conduct the demonstrations with minimal dissension (NOASR, 2008). Nonetheless, they too believe that protestor violence may be a necessary action in the process of shaping a social movement into the world revolution for the global human community. Some radical elements and extremists are taking advantage both of the absence of a controlling element and events themselves to indulge in violence, which is not the stated intent of demonstration participants. Violence has been noted to originate from non-

associated groups that seize on the anti-globalization theme as a convenient rationale to participate in demonstrations making it difficult to accurately forecast security need (NOASR, 2008).

As a matter of policy, sound intelligence arrangements are crucial to the successful implementation of precautionary measures, especially to avoid errors of over- or under-commitment of resources, and to preclude draconian responses or steps, which would promote violent reactions from protesters. Extremist fringe elements will seek any excuse to indulge in aggressive tactics or resort to destructive activities (NOASR, 2008). Clashes amongst demonstrators and between protesters and security personnel have become a standard feature of many conference demonstrations, and some anarchist groups are calling for more violent involvement.

Conclusion

Supporters of left-wing anti-globalism assert that the capitalist judgment underlying globalization only results in unbalanced power relations, both domestically and worldwide, and in the handling of every feature of life including education and culture as a commodity. On the other hand, the principal characteristics of modern rightist movements are opposition to immigration and defense of nation-states against the processes of globalization. However, when considering the potential for violence from either group, the trends within the demonstration processes among the leftist movements indicate that violence on the scale of the Patriots Movements is unlikely. However, among the rightists, violence is viewed as a necessary means to an end. Consequently, as a matter of policy, sound intelligence arrangements are crucial for the successful implementation of precautionary measures.

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