

BOOK REVIEW

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Title of Book: Terrorism Deradicalisation in Global Contexts: Success, Failure and Continuity

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Number of Papers: 221

Publication Details: (London and New York, Routledge, 2020)

Name of Reviewer: Munachi Nice Okereke

Introduction

The book focuses on the various deradicalisation programmes adopted by different countries across the world. Deradicalisation refers to the process of encouraging a person with extreme political, social and religious views to adopt more moderate positions on the issues. The book contains 15 different chapters dealing with the deradicalisation of extremists in different countries drawn from Africa, Asia, Europe and the Middle East. Various contributors highlighted the challenges encountered in the processes and useful lessons to be learnt from the country-specific case studies reviewed.

In Chapter 1, Rohan Gunaratna and S. Hussin provides a background to the book noting that counter terrorism policies have been shaped due to the occurrence of various pivotal events such as the 9/11 attacks, the US intervention on Afghanistan and Iraq, the Arab springs in 2011 and much more. The authors further observed that the use of force on these terrorists can breed suspicion and anger thus the need for the introduction of soft approach to preventing and countering violent extremism. The authors identified the various stages associated with effective rehabilitation programmes to include but not restricted to social, psychological, religious, educational, vocational, creative arts therapy and sports and motivational rehabilitation. Authors also drew attention was also drawn to the role of the cyberspace on these terrorist attacks and how the government should help and combat these terrorists and their online supporters. He also mentioned the need to rehabilitate not just the man (terrorist) but his family to avoid recidivism. Finally, the authors outlined four possible challenges the government needs to address to ensure a successful deradicalisation program; first innovative leadership, second, dedicated resources, third, infrastructure and fourth, legal frameworks.

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In Chapter 2, Ahmed Nazwan focuses on the United Kingdom's effort to rehabilitate extremists, the author stated that due to the complex and evolving nature of terrorism in the environment, there was a need to make a counter-terrorism effort in the country which brought about the four major components of deradicalisation program; the pre-criminal deradicalisation programme, the mandatory programme, the pre-prison program and the post-criminal space program. The author identified the main strengths of the system as the community-based approach being used while the main weakness is that they are founded on assumptions that radicalisation is mainly due to individuals being exploited by an extreme ideology but often ignoring the fact that it is also about how people see the world in specific contexts.

In the third chapter, Sagit Yehoshua relates to us the different radicalisation and deradicalisation in Israeli and Palestinian prisons. He says that the case is quite unique in Israeli prison in the sense that the government does not initiate any programmes of rehabilitation or deradicalisation to the Palestinian prisoners. He also highlights the various variables relevant to the Palestinian prisoner which includes acquiring education, exposure to the others, et al. Their major weakness was the lack of clear ideologies, there is no explicit leadership or rabbi that makes the decisions. In an interview with some of the prisoners, it was discovered that most of them had a rethink of their actions because of the harsh interrogations and incarcerations they were given in prisons. However, it is difficult for one to determine whether or not there was an actual deradicalisation process because some of them still believe in the ideologies and still feel the need to act upon it. The author suggests that the process of being brought out of their comfort zone and interviewed changes their perception and leads them to rehabilitation and self-development.

In Chapter 4, Tara Kartha focused on extremist violence that erupted in India in the 1980's following tension were created between the powers in New Delhi and Pakistan. Rehabilitation processes were however enacted whenever the opportunities presented itself. The first rehabilitation exercise in the state was said to be limited because it was for a short time. The militants were asked to surrender as soon as they got to India. The second surrender programme was broader because it allowed the surrender to an army or paramilitary unit anywhere in the state and it also offered long term rehabilitation including incentives and vocation courses to those who wanted it. The third surrender was also announced and it specifically targeted Kashmiris who had gone to Pakistan for training between 1989-2009. The returning militants were asked to stay in counselling centres for three months during which they would be interviewed and debriefed. They also complained about harassments and injustice which brought about new sets of societal problems. The author however argued that replacing the term, "surrender" with 're-integration' would go a long way to help the system. Programmes where the young militants would meet and compete and interact with each other were also made available.

The focus of Jamilya Nurkanova in Chapter 5 was the deradicalisation of women in Kazakhstan because women were steadily becoming members of the ISIS terrorist group and every year the number

increases. This caused the national authority to recognize the need to develop a variety of preventive and rehabilitation practices to bring the women back to the approved version of Islam. The further noted that the women in the centres are treated as humans and not criminals. Although it was argued by some experts that deradicalisation of women would be more successful if the rehabilitation centres rely on working with other members of the female djamaats. Other experts argued that in-group, deradicalisation is successful when an individual is influenced and inspired by the group leader. The author recognizes the non-inclusion of gender specifics or the language which the deradicalisation process would be taking place could lead to the failure of the deradicalisation process. The author identified the challenges encountered to include unstable funding from the government and reliance on over simplified approach to measuring the success of deradicalisation. The author concludes this chapter by saying that the deradicalisation of women isn't considered an impossible task but the state needs to implement a systematic financial assistance for this to happen.

The contributions of Mohd Norzikri Kamaruddin, Noor Nirwandy Mat Noordin and Abd Rasid Abd Rahman as contained in Chapter 6 adds to the existing literature on Malaysia's approach to deradicalisation and its effects on terrorism. The author considers Malaysian government's deradicalisation programme for terrorists as successful. A research was carried out to confirm this purpose in which interviews with senior policy makers, counter terrorism specialists and those involved in the process of deradicalisation was conducted. All participants agreed that Malaysia practiced a good form of deradicalisation and they also mentioned the importance of law enforcements in preventing former militants from recidivism. They also agreed that adequate funding was needed for the effective deradicalisation process in order to be able to provide good after-care programmes that will deter individuals from getting into recidivism. They identified some strengths of the system as using a soft approach in winning the hearts and minds of detainees, the involvement of one's family in the process, use of former militant detainees as role models. In addition, they identified the gaps in the process to include the absence of specific place for terrorist detainees, limited counsellors, no structured trainings for them and paucity of funds. Some of the solutions they proffered were the cooperation between agencies and the roles of family and community as a possible improvement strategy.

In Chapter 7, Amresh Gunasingham focused on the violent extremist Buddhists in Sri Lanka. The author notes that religious actors in Sri Lanka are important in countering violent extremism due to their positions of authority and credibility as well as ties to the community. In Sri Lanka, the Sinhalese are about 74% which is the majority while the Muslim community comprises 10%, yet the Sinhalese live in fear of being outnumbered. Also Amresh Gunasingham points out that Sri Lanka has witnessed three major episodic violence following the end of colonial rule which are the JVP (Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna) movement, the LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam) and the Bodu Bala Sena. Muslims were presented as the terrorist group and thus are a threat to the Sinhalese. The Buddhists had religious as well as economic justification for the violence they incited. A Ministry for National Integration was

established for the reconciliation action plan which had the following features; integration friendly school program, integration friendly media program and district reconciliation committees. They faced challenges like lack of rule of law, Buddhist shrines being set up in Muslim dominated areas. The author recommended education reforms and utility of religious leadership as policy reform strategies.

In Chapter 8, Syed Huzaifah Bin Othman Alkaff began by stating how terrorist attacks started escalated in Yemen. It was said that militancy and jihadism in Yemen grew out of Saleh governments policies in their attempts to stay in power. The author emphasises the need for the adoption of the CVE (Countering Violent Extremism) and PVE (Preventing Violent Extremism) programme which are divided into two; the prison based and non-prison-based programmes. Emphasis was also placed on the continuous use of ideological aspect of deradicalisation despite the fact that its effectiveness is yet to be seen. The major challenge of the programme identified is that terrorists keep restructuring their strategies and winning the hearts of many while subtly influencing a radical version of Islam and insinuating political violence on them.

C. Nna-Emeka Okereke and Chinyere Ibeh examines Nigeria's Operation Safe Corridor as a counter-terrorism implementation strategy in Chapter 9. The authors identified the main objective of operation safe corridor as facilitating the easy access and passage of terrorists to security forces for proper deradicalisation. The programme is a 16-week programme divided into three phases; reception & documentation phase, deradicalisation & rehabilitation phase and the reintegration phase. The programme has recorded a number of achievements such as ensuring that the ex-terrorists are familiar are compliant with the objectives of Op SC, provision of drug therapists for the programme, socio-psychological and spiritual transformation, arranging for the ex-militants to link up with their families among others. The authors noted that despite aforementioned achievements, the operation Safe Corridor programme still encounters challenges such as the lack of a robust framework, members of the community still perceive the ex-combatants as killers and the refusal of vulnerable states to accept the ex-combatants as part of the reintegration process. There have however been few cases of recidivism amongst ex combatants discharged from the Op SC programme.

The thrust of Chapter 10 as captured by Any Rufaedah, Fajar Erikha and Nida Tsaura Sjariatif focuses on Indonesia's experience in terms of re-educating terrorists. Indonesia has a body that specialises in handling terrorism issues known as Badan Nasional Penanggulangan Terorisme (BNPT). They set up a deradicalisation centre for convicts who are willing to participate in deradicalisation activities. There however exists other Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) that conduct their own deradicalisation programme in several prisons where topics concerning the state and religion are discussed. Two studies were conducted based on deradicalisation and their results were grouped into the categories of justice, application of Islamic laws in Indonesia, Kafir & Takfir and tolerance of others. In conclusion, the entrepreneurship module received a positive response from detainees. There was also provision of

counselling room for those in need. The use of audio-visual media which contained oral messages were seen to have a positive impact on the detainees though the briefness of the meetings were seen as part of the challenges of the programme.

In Chapter 11, Ruetaip Tungkasamitra Chansrakaco examines Thailand's offender rehabilitation programme and qualifies it as a vital aspect of the country's criminal justice targeted at reducing recidivism. Its processes include prisoners' orientation, prisoners' classification, prisoners' rehabilitation, pre-release, probation & reintegration respectively. The treatment system for prisoners in Thailand was divided into four stages; submission, treatment, pre-release and post-release. Based on the offender's classification, the programme was further divided into two levels; basic programmes which are conducted in key areas of rehabilitation such as education, skills, work, religion and morality and the specific rehabilitation programmes which are based on knowledge, skills and attitudes approach. The nation's efforts to rehabilitate ex-terrorist is for the purpose of reducing recidivism through both institutional and community approaches to rehabilitation. The Thai Government also recognized the importance of inclusiveness involving cooperation of the larger society in supporting the rehabilitation programmes.

In Chapter 12, Ahmed El-Muhammady interrogates the dynamics of radicalisation using the experience of militants' extremists in Malaysia. The chapter is also written based on the author's experiences in analysing the evidences and interviewing ex-militants detained in the country. The author conceptualised radicalisation as "the process of adopting extremist ideology and translating it into violent actions or committing the acts of terrorism as defined by the Malaysian laws". He insists that radicalisation shouldn't be viewed as a one-dimensional concept but as a complex and overlapping process between cognitive process, emotion belief system and action. For him, conceiving radicalisation as a monolithic concept is seriously misleading. He stresses the need to identify and distinguish the difference between ideological offences and criminal offences and insists that concerted efforts be made to treat both differently. In the case of the ideological offence, he posits that the individual is yet to commit the crime, though he might have thoughts or behaviours that are extreme. For instance, when an individual is in possession of a book that condones extremism. The Malaysian rehabilitation programme is not a 'fit-for-all' programme and thus is considered one of the most successful programmes in the world with a 93% success rate.

Remy Mahzam focuses on deradicalisation efforts in Philippines in Chapter 13 and notes that it is the only southeast Asian country ranked among the top 10 impacted by terrorism in the 2018 Global Terrorism Index. He posits that the issue of violent extremism in Southeast Asia has to be addressed from a holistic approach by identifying and examining the root causes of the conflict and what makes terrorism thrive in those regions. The author posits that it is important the Government of Philippines anti-terrorism policy examines and benefits from the existing Preventing/Countering Violent

Extremism (P-CVE) initiatives adopted by other neighbouring countries like Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore. In addition, he recommends that while considering its own counter-terrorism policy, the Government of Philippines should strike a balance between these 3 approaches; preventive, reactive and corrective. The author also advised that terrorist ideologies online should be tackled through counter-terrorism, empowering religious experts and promoting digital literacy and public awareness campaigns.

In Chapter 14, Sabariah Hussin and Syed Huzaifah Bin Othman Alkaff focuses on the LA model of CVE as that which developed strong partnership and community trust built through robust engagements at grass root level. The model also profits from strong support from local, state and federal law enforcement and government agencies in the in the region. Their framework for CVE was built as a prevention, intervention and interaction in moderating different risks factors while meeting the community needs to achieve social harmony & cohesion. Individuals that are believed to be committing a crime are then referred to the RENEW programme. PATHE(Providing Alternatives to Hinder Extremism) evolved from the RENEW(Recognizing Extremist Network Early Warnings) programme though it isn't a criminal prosecution programme but rather a programme devised to provide alternatives to individuals who may have shown extremist behaviours.

In Chapter 15, the Iftekharul Bashir and Alberto Ballesteros de Santos addresses the deradicalisation programmes taking place in the prisons in Spain which addresses the ideologies and behaviours of inmates convicted for terrorism and those who have shown extremist behaviours. The programme is completely voluntary and as such the prisoner must express his willingness to join the Spanish deradicalisation programme aimed at disintegrating the prisoner from the organisation and building a mainstream behaviour that actually counters the ideas that led them to terrorism in the past. The prison deradicalisation programme has 3 components; psychological, religious and educational which are carried out respectively. The author identified the challenge confronting the programme as low voluntary enrolment and the fact that not all prisons in Spain has a deradicalisation programme. The author recommended that Spain should consider diversifying its modes of deradicalisation by introducing sports, creative arts and continued education for the inmates.

Conclusion

The book, *Terrorist deradicalisation in global contexts; success, failure and continuity*, is a thought-provoking literature that addresses deradicalisation and rehabilitation programmes for terrorists. It gives an in-depth study of what deradicalisation is and why it should be incorporated in all prisons and correctional facilities around the world. The various authors tend to point out challenges and recommend possible solutions to the various deradicalisation programmes mentioned in the book which can be a starting point for other countries seeking to start their own deradicalisation policy. They can

learn from the mistakes and successes of others. The book further provides readers with different views and theories of deradicalisation as given by different authors based on their experiences and research.

In addition, the book's peculiar uniqueness lies in the currency and widespread case studies showing various deradicalisation programmes and processes across the world, their mode of operation, strengths and weakness and also recommendations gotten from series of research conducted on that subject. It is therefore a must read for all scholars, policy makers and every individual in general especially those studying the intricacies of terrorism.

In terms of weakness, while the book sought to present a global perspective to deradicalisation, the bulk of its case studies were drawn from Asia. With the exception of the focus on Nigeria, the efforts of various African countries such as Algeria, Kenya and Sudan among others were largely ignored. In addition, only the Spanish programme was examined in Europe. Yet, the authors failed to establish guidelines from the respective cases studies that could help ascertain whether a terrorist has truly changed on the long run even after the series of programmes