Redefining Terrorism: An Offshoot of Military Strategy

Muhammad Ali Baig* and Syed Sabir Muhammad**

Abstract

Various terrorist outfits or Actors Other Than States (AOTSs) are not only functionally similar in their motivation/objectives but are also driven by strategy which includes the means, ends or tactical and operational manoeuvring. This makes terrorism an extension of military strategy. The article views terrorism through a prism of military tactics and strategy in the historical backdrop of various forms of warfare. Drawing upon comparative analysis of the striking similarities in leading strategies and tactics between military forces of nation states, it argues that AOTSs make a conscious and significant use of military strategy in the pursuit of terrorist objectives.

Keywords: Terrorism, Military Strategy, Warfare, Tactics, Actors Other Than States.

@2020 by the Islamabad Policy Research Institute.

 $IPRI \ Journal \blacksquare \ XX (1): 44-71.$

https://doi.org/10.31945/iprij.200103

^{*} The author is a scholar at the National Defence University, Islamabad, Pakistan. He has an MPhil in International Relations and Master's degrees in International Relations, Political Science, English (Linguistics and Literature), and History. He also writes for *The Nation, Daily Times, Pakistan Observer* and *Pakistan Today*. He can be contacted at: mmab11@gmail.com.

^{**} The author is a doctoral candidate at the Department of International Relations, University of Peshawar, Pakistan; and a graduate of National Defence University and Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, Pakistan. He can be contacted at: sabir.muhammad95@yahoo.com.