
Understanding the Irregularities of Global Terrorism Incidents

Joy M. Mirasol

ORCID No. 0000-0001-7710-1940

dr_jmirasol@yahoo.com

Bukidnon State University

Christian J. Inovejas

ORCID No. 0000-0002-9774-7236

cjinovejas@yahoo.com

Bukidnon State University

Joan M. Recente

ORCID No. 0000-0001-6104-0610

joan_monteros@yahoo.com

Bukidnon State University

Abstract

This study seeks to explain underlying causes of the persistence of terrorism incidents worldwide. A dataset (1970-2013) from the Global Terrorism Database of the University of Maryland was used through new methodologies embedded in a fractal analysis. Fractal analysis enables one to discover essential differences between the most frequently occurring values and the least occurring values, in effect, describing the emergent ruggedness of the data. Such ruggedness is summarized in terms of a quantity called fractal dimension. The fractality of the terrorist incidents was determined for the decades 1970-1979, 1980-1989, 1990-1999, 2000-2009 and 2010-2013. When the datasets of countries with the most significant events were compared per decade, a pattern showed that the common cause for the occurrence of the terrorist incident can be attributed to the marginalization of people/groups and economic discrimination. Further analysis also showed that other causes are associated with the marginalization issues that may be a result of interweaving factors relating to or encompassing economic, political, religious, cultural/historical, and ideological causes. Also, terrorism incidents can be explained utilizing the concept of *détente* as an alternative to the concept of balance of power.

Keywords and phrases: Fractal analysis, *détente*, balance of power, terrorism, marginalization

Introduction

Terrorism is one of the major concerns for global peace and security. Its implications for global security have been a concern not only by the government but also of the citizens of each country. In many literatures, terrorism is defined as the premeditated use or threat to use violence with individuals or subnational groups to obtain a political or social objective through the intimidation of a large audience beyond that of the immediate victims (Enders

& Sandler, 2012; Hoffman, 2006; RAND, 2012). The empirical research on terrorism has profited from event databases that record key variables of terrorist incidents. Since the 1970s several databases exist that assist researchers to test different hypotheses on terrorism. The existing databases include the International Terrorism Attributes of Terrorist Events (ITERATE), RAND terrorist event database and Global Terrorism Database (GTD).

These databases have coded many variables (i.e., terrorism incidence) in each country worldwide and record either or both domestic and transnational terrorism incidents (La Free & Dugan, 2007). It is claimed that in the natural state, more countries with fewer conflicts have less incidence of terrorism.

The study of terrorism has been an active field of research in economics, political science, sociology, and related disciplines since the late 1960s (Sandler, 2014). The early conceptual approach focused on the definition of terrorism, the myriad causes of terrorism, the tactics of the terrorists, and the identity of the primary terrorist groups and movements (Crenshaw, 1981; Wilkinson, 1968). Sandler (2014) has identified five key areas of intense research interests that have much relevance to policy. These include the (1) knowledge of terrorist trends for forecasting and policy information, (2) analyses of the economic consequences of terrorism, (3) the study of counterterrorism effectiveness, (4) understanding the root causes of terrorism, and the (5) relationship of terrorism and liberal democracies to educate policymakers on the inherent risks of political regimes at home and in countries where these policymakers have vital interests.

Despite the availability of the global terrorism datasets bearing all the relevant variables, there are hidden dimensions of the data that need to be verified. No attempt has been made to determine the deviations of terrorism incidence from a natural state and on the characterization of the terrorism incidence in each country by decade.

Studies on the root causes of terrorism have been reported in many literatures that include economic discrimination, religious persecution, nationalist or separatist motives, religious fundamentalism, or political ideologies (Sandler, 2014). Several literatures have identified that lack of liberties (Krueger & Maleckova, 2003) and poverty (Wilkinson, 1986) are associated with terrorism. Because of these differing findings on the root causes of terrorism, there is a need to sort out the causes and drivers of terrorism.

This study explores the hidden dimensions of global terrorism in each decade using the Global Terrorism Database (GTD) of the University of Maryland and employing the Fractal Statistical Analysis. Specifically, the study aims to determine the deviation of terrorism incidences from the natural state. The study also characterizes the themes of the terrorism incidence in every decade from 1970s to 2013.

Objectives

The paper attempts to explain the incidence of terrorism worldwide using fractal analysis. It aims to uncover the patterns and themes of terrorism in every decade for the last 40 years. Specifically, the paper:

1. determines if the incidence of terrorism among countries have deviated from their fractal state;
2. explains the deviation or lack thereof; and
3. analyzes the local characteristics of fractal observations.

Conceptual Framework

The conflict is defined as a struggle or contest between people with opposing needs, ideas, beliefs, values, or goals. Conflict between and among individuals/groups are inevitable; however, the results of conflict are not predetermined. The conflict might escalate and lead to non-productive results, it can be beneficial to resolve issues, or it can result to use of force or violence. This conforms to the idea of Macduff (2004) that the escalation of conflict moves towards a destructive confrontation that can be a form of mobilization. Terrorism can be considered as a form of mobilization seen as a violent response on perceived conditions of grievance directed at domestic conditions.

Hobbes (1651) theorized that conflicts are a result of the selfish nature of humans. When left in the state of nature, people would be at war with all against all. To prevent its own annihilation they have to enter into an agreement with other humans (social contract)

to regulate these interests for the good of all. Hence, the authority to punish and retaliate is placed in a sovereign authority. Its main characteristic is the observance of the rule of law. In this paper, Hobbes' concept is extended by describing this sovereign state as the state of détente.

Figure 1 shows the concept of détente (White, 1981) where there are conflicting groups. In this figure, there are two conflicting groups (A and B) and the conflict may be caused by differences in ideology, beliefs, culture, mores, standards and collective interest represented by double-edged arrows known as triggers. Their relationship as represented by the horizontal arrow may be held in balance for as long as there are means of dialogue, accommodation and participation. When the means are not in place, the conflict or tension may result in marginalization. Marginalization further pushes aggrieved groups into a situation where violence may be a means of drawing attention and recognition. To prevent escalation of conflicts, the means for accommodation, dialogue and participation may prevent terrorist actions by either group. The threshold for violence may depend on the factor/s that causes it. These factors are identified as triggers. In other words, a trigger coupled with another trigger/s may cause terrorism to occur.

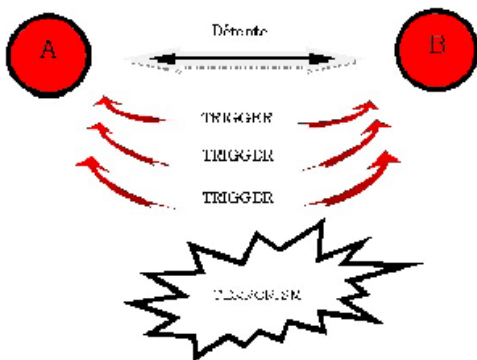


Figure 1. The concept of the occurrence of terrorism.

While Figure 1 explains how and when terrorism occurs, Figure 2 explains the root causes of terrorism. In exploring the causes of terrorism, the study utilizes Wilkinson's (1968)

root causes of terrorism as the framework for the study. The root causes are the following: (1) economic discrimination; (2) religious persecution; (3) nationalist/separatist motives; (4) religious fundamentalism; (5) political ideologies; and (6) terrorism by marginalized groups.

The economic discrimination is defined as long lasting inequality in economic well-being among individuals based on their color, gender, or ethnic ties. It can be also defined as differences in pay or wage rates for equally productive groups (Cain, 1984). Religious persecution according to Gunn (2002) is defined as the coercion against religion by its adversaries. This coercion leads to persecution into two directions, coercion that attacks or interferes with religion or coercion that enforces religious conformity. The nationalist/separatist motives involve an independent state or at least some degree of political autonomy (Waldmann, 2001). They emphasize their culture, which they view as threatened. As defined by Altermeyer and Hunsberger (1992), religious fundamentalism is a belief that there is one set of religious teachings that clearly contains the fundamental, basic, intrinsic, essential, inerrant truth about humanity and deity; while politically motivated terrorism, according to Wilkinson (1986), is defined as the systematic use of murder and destruction, and the threat of murder and destruction in order to terrorize individuals, groups, communities or governments into conceding to the terrorists' political demands. Lastly, terrorism by marginalized groups means being outside the mainstream of productive activity and/or social reproductive activity (Leonard, 1984).

These causes comprise the totality of terrorism incidents worldwide. In this study, a new dimension was added that seeks to establish the relation of these various causes to each other. Using fractal analysis, the study aims to uncover the dominant cause of terrorism incidents in respective decades from 1970 – 2013 using the GTD database. Figure 2 presents the model of the study describing the main causes of terrorism. Terrorism incidents

can be brought about by a specific cause or a combination of two or more causes.

Hobbes and the State of Nature

The concepts of *détente* (White, 1981) and Wilkinson (1968) describe the phenomenon of the occurrence of terrorism and its root causes. Thomas Hobbes (1620) traces the root of conflicts to the selfish nature of man. This egoism has a deleterious effect if one is to survive in society – it would be a war of all against all. To prevent total annihilation, one has to establish alliances/agreement with others. Along this process, they have to surrender some of their rights to establish a sovereign authority that regulates and tempers conflicting and competing interests. This sovereign creates a balance of power within society. What holds society together is through this mechanism where the egoism/selfishness of one is checked against that of the others. This mechanism and sovereignty are reflected in the rule of law. Hence, the movement from the state of nature to that of the social contract (marked by the rule of law) overcomes the difficulty of checking competing/conflicting interest. Modern societies follow the same formula. For as long as competing/conflicting states do not endanger the general welfare of society, it is deemed the ideal.

The Hobbesian society advocates a sovereignty wherein the rule of law is the paramount concern. The problem with this situation is the question of the impartiality of the sovereign in creating laws/policies. What assurance does one have that the policies do not discriminate one individual/group over another individual/group? In a situation where, the sovereign is run by individuals/groups, their interest may not be far behind. The panoply of powers that the sovereign has, in other words, may become an instrument for some individual/groups to advance their own selfish/collective interests. Hence, the balance of power can be distorted, and the *détente* can be broken. In this situation, individuals/groups may be deprived of participation and accommodation in the said processes. The extreme situation of marginalization and discrimination is reflected in terrorism. The use of terror is often justified to “correct” whatever perceived wrong, lack, or deficiency that they have.

Considering that society is created by an agreement of people (social contract), it is justified for people to change the society on the basis that it no longer follows the ideals that they set. The right to revolt, therefore, is inherent in people. Unfortunately, this may mean the use of violence to achieve its ends.

Hobbesian Theory and the Problem

In applying the Hobbesian theory, it is the intention of the researchers to find out when a society that is governed by the rule of law can deteriorate into a situation where there is none. In this case, the presence of terrorism activities is seen as an indication of the deterioration of the rule of law. In using fractal analysis, the researchers identified that most countries do have incidents of terrorism activities (fractal state). We have also identified that there are selected countries that have unusual incidents of terrorism activities (natural state) in every decade.

For purposes of this paper, the natural state can be characterized as having no rule of law. This is a state where selfish/collective interest

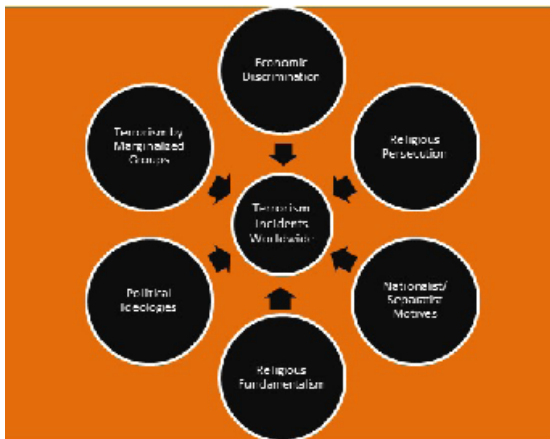


Figure 2. The model of the study describing the causes of terrorism.

prevails over the others. The fractal state can be described as having a rule of law as recognized and followed by individuals and groups. In the fractal state, people can relate, participate, dialogue and accommodate the interest of other groups. While in the natural state, groups and individuals do not have space for dialogue, participation and accommodation.

Methodology

Fractal Statistical Analysis (FSA) was used to explain if the incidences of terrorism

among countries have deviated from their natural state, i.e., from the absence of law and order. To do this, data from the 230 countries on global terrorism from 1970-2013 were taken from Global Terrorism Database (GTD) of the University of Maryland, United States of America was used. The data used did not include the dimension of the intensity of conflict but the data considered were on the incidence of terrorism based on the following: armed assault, assassination, bombing, facility/ infrastructure attack, hijacking, hostage taking (barricade incident and kidnapping),

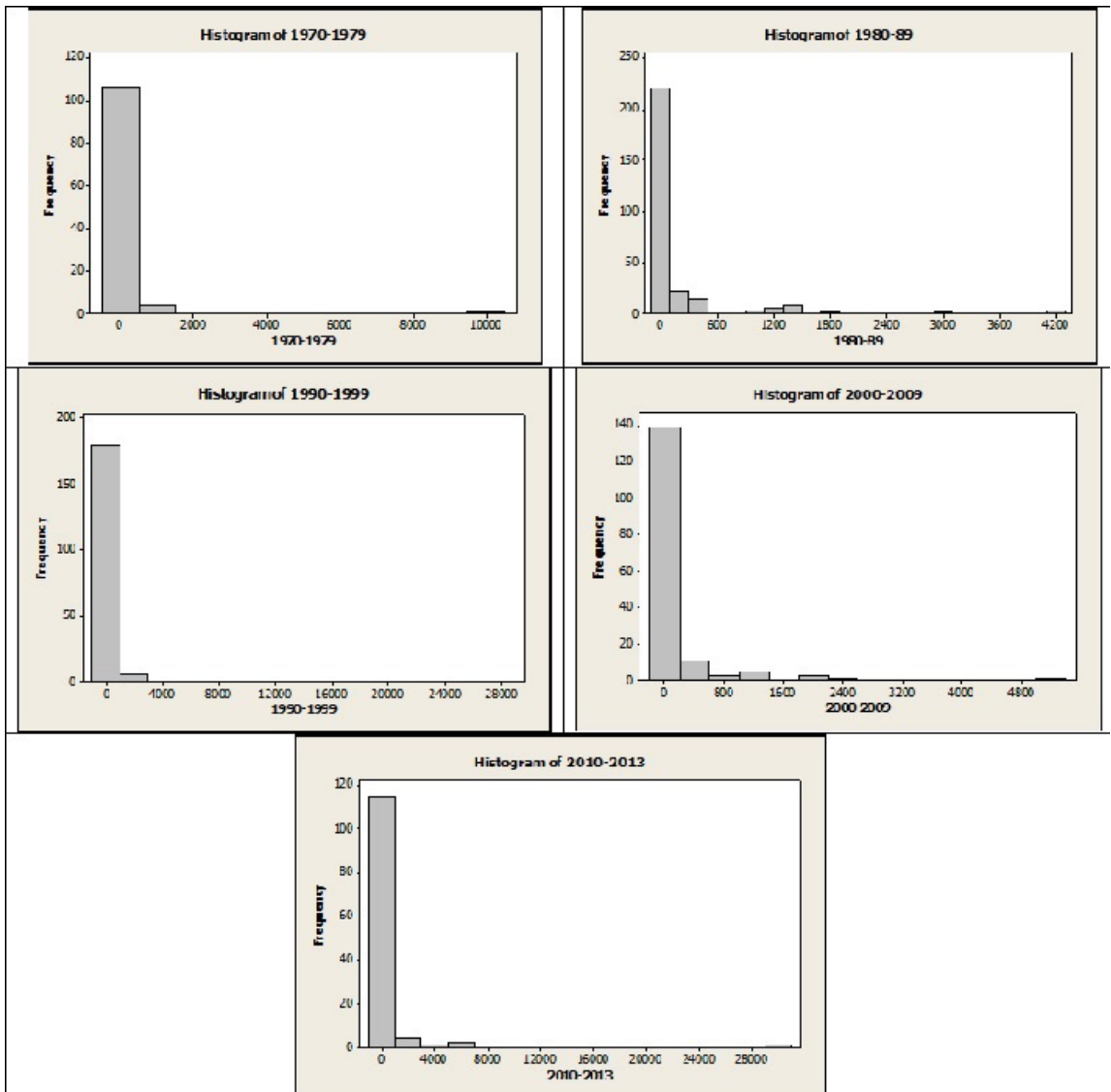


Figure 3. Histograms of number of incidence of global terrorism for each decade.

and unarmed assault. Histograms on the incidences of terrorism of the 230 countries and its exponential function of the data were used to test their fractality.

The data were then grouped by decade (1970-1979, 1980-1989, 1990-1999, 2000-2009) except for the last remaining years (2010-2013). Countries with a large number of terrorism incidences were identified and indicated with \blacksquare if the specific root cause of terrorism is present and \square otherwise. The fractal dimensions were then computed based on the groupings and were used to determine the root causes of terrorism and the themes for each decade.

Results and Discussions

This paper provides a fractal pattern of terrorism incidents worldwide. Figure 3 presents the histograms' number of incidence of global terrorism per decade. Using the GTD dataset and subjecting it to fractal analysis,

the distribution of data showed it to be fractal. The histograms further showed that countries lumped in the spike are in the fractal state while the remaining countries are part of the natural state. Countries that are part of fractal state are characterized to value the rule of law while countries belonging to the natural state have serious issues to the rule of law. (Either people do not have any sense of rule of law, or the rule of law is being challenged by individuals or group).

Patterns of Terrorism Incidents Worldwide

Table 1 presents the summary of the number of countries with the incidence of terrorism for each decade. In the first decade (1970-1979), about fifty percent of the countries have an incidence of terrorism while the succeeding decades have more than half of the countries considered. The increasing trend shows that occurrences of terrorism proliferate among countries at a given time.

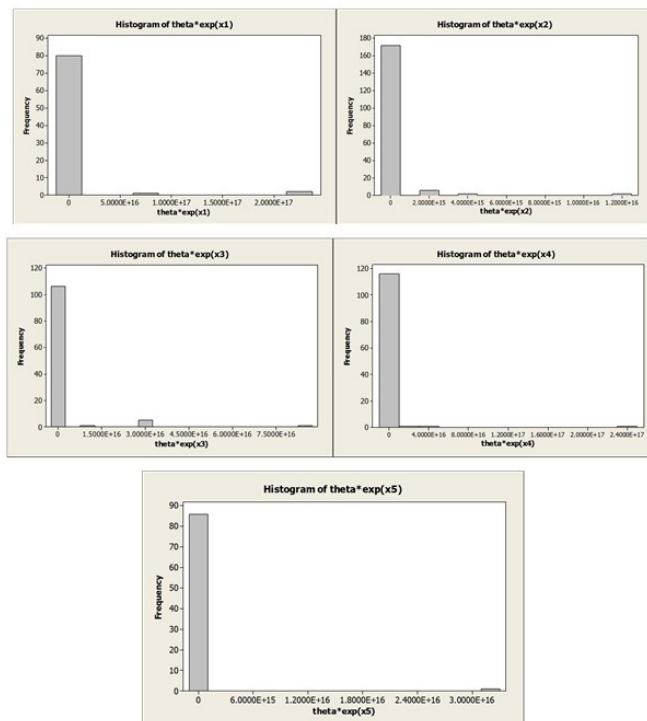


Figure 4. Histogram of the exponential function on number of incidence of global terrorism for each decade.

Table 1. Summary of Incidence of Global Terrorism for Each Decade

Decade	Number of Countries with Incidence of Terrorism
1970-1979	110
1980-1989	141
1990-1999	185
2000-2010	160
2010-2013	123

Table 2 also shows that terrorism incidents vary in every decade. The 1980-1989 showed the most number of terrorist incidents while 1970-1979 showed the least number of incidents. However, the period of most concern is 2010-2013, wherein in a span of 4 years, the number of incidents is almost the same in 1980-1989.

Table 2. Summary of Incidence of Terrorism for Each Decade.

Decade	Number of Incidence
1970-1979	9,837
1980-1989	31,168
1990-1999	28,781
2000-2009	24,985
2010-2013	30,316
TOTAL	125,087

Initial histograms of the data on the incidence of terrorism for each decade are presented in Figure 4 as the data are tested for fractality. It shows rough exponential distributions of the original data. Based on the fundamental principle of fractals (Padua, 2015), if the data behave like an exponential distribution, then the exponential function of the data is fractal. The histogram of the exponential function is shown in Figure 4.

The computation of fractal dimension on the incidence of terrorism in countries in every decade follows by defining the fractal variable $(x/\theta=e^{\lambda y})$. This variable can be interpreted as the negative impact on processes (disruption to socio-economic-political-cultural processes) of a specific country. This is shown in Table 3. This can then be embedded as the basis of analysis in

the negative impact in a 2-dimensional space, where space explains why the negative impact is as large as observed (e.g., which among the root causes of terrorism can explain the themes in every decade).

Table 3. Fractal Dimension of Incidences of Terrorism for Each Decade

Decade	Mean of the number of Incidence of Terrorism	Fractal Dimension
1970-1979	177	1.0056
1980-1989	221	1.0045
1990-1999	309	1.0032
2000-2009	156	1.0020
2010-2013	493	1.0056

Themes of Terrorism Incident Worldwide

Table 4 shows that terrorism incidents vary in every decade. The 1980-1989 decade showed the most number of terrorist incidents while 1970-1979 showed the least number of events.

Table 4. Summary of the Incidence of Terrorism for Each Decade

Decade	Number of Incidence
1970-1979	9,837
1980-1989	31,168
1990-1999	28,781
2000-2009	24,985
2010-2013	30,316
TOTAL	125,087

On the Root Causes of Terrorism

The description of cause of terrorism incidents for every decade is anchored on the six root causes as identified by Wilkinson (1968). The root causes include (1) economic discrimination; (2) religious persecution; (3) nationalist/separatist motives; (4) religious fundamentalism; (5) political ideologies; and (6) terrorism by marginalized groups. Looking at the histograms in Figure 1, countries considered for local characterization are

selected and used for analyzing the themes and patterns. The basis for identifying the causes of terrorism incidents in each country are the historical and actual events.

First Decade (1970-1979)

Table 5 presents the countries with more than 500 incidences of terrorism during the first decade. Terrorist incidents during this decade are mainly driven by marginalized groups/individuals. This is followed by economic deprivation, nationalist/separatist motives, and religious persecution. Terrorism by religious fundamentalism is not a factor.

Table 5. Causes of Terrorism Incidents from 1970 to 1979

Database: 1970-1979 (500 ABOVE)	Number of Incidence of Terrorism	1	2	3	4	5	6
Northern Ireland	1483	■	■	■			■
United States	1348	■	■	■	■	■	■
Italy	1022	■					■
Spain	901			■		■	■

Note: The number 1, 2, 3 4, 5 and 6 were the six causes of terrorism factors: Economic Discrimination, Religious Persecution, Nationalist/Separatist Motives, Religious Fundamentalism, Political Ideologies, and Terrorism by Marginalized Groups. ■ Indicates the occurrence of root cause/s in the identified country.

Terrorist incidents in this decade mostly occurred in Europe and the United States. In the case of Northern Ireland, a highly organized Irish Republican Army aimed for a separate state from Great Britain. The separatist has deep religious and historical roots. What was evident is the marginalization of the Roman Catholics in the political and economic processes in the said country. The United States during this decade was torn by a growing dissatisfaction due to its engagement in the Vietnam War and the Cold War with USSR. Italian and Spanish incidents have something in common, the existence of ETA revolutionary movement.

Second Decade (1980-1989)

Table 5 presents the countries with more than 100 incidences of terrorism during the second decade. Table 5 shows that terrorism incidents during this decade are mainly caused by the marginalization of people followed by economic deprivation and nationalist motives, religious persecution, and religious fundamentalism. In this situation, the prevalence of political ideologies was evident in most countries, while marginalization of groups was observed in most countries. Economic discrimination was also evident. The decade 1980-1989 showed a spread of terrorist incidents not just in Europe and the USA but also include incidents in the Middle East and South America. What drove these incidents were the growing incidents of transnational terrorism. Nationalist/separatist groups are getting support material and political support from other countries. Another factor that aggravated this incident was the growing economic discrimination due to a deteriorating world economic situation in the 1980s.

The exploding incidents of terrorism in many countries during this decade showed how terrorism can easily spread from one country to another. It also showed how economic condition and marginalization can easily cause incidents of terroristic activities.

Table 5. Causes of Terrorist Incidents from 1980-1989

Database: 1980-89 (100 ABOVE)	No. of Incidence of Terrorism	1	2	3	4	5	6
Peru	4223	■		■		■	■
El Salvador	4123			■			■
Colombia	2951	■		■		■	■
Chile	1744	■					■
Guatemala	1483	■					■
Nicaragua	1481	■					■
Spain	1343	■					■
Sri Lanka	1317	■	■	■			■
Lebanon	1250	■	■			■	■
India	1232		■			■	■

Northern Ireland	1153	■	■	■	■	■	■
South Africa	1011	■	■	■	■	■	■
Philippines	918	■	■	■	■	■	■
France	467	■	■	■	■	■	■
Israel	454	■	■	■	■	■	■
United States	411	■	■	■	■	■	■
Corsica	390	■	■	■	■	■	■
Turkey	341	■	■	■	■	■	■
West Bank and Gaza Strip	315	■	■	■	■	■	■
Argentina	302	■	■	■	■	■	■
Italy	299	■	■	■	■	■	■
Greece	283	■	■	■	■	■	■
West Germany (FRG)	259	■	■	■	■	■	■
Iran	250	■	■	■	■	■	■
Honduras	195	■	■	■	■	■	■
Pakistan	195	■	■	■	■	■	■
Bolivia	190	■	■	■	■	■	■
Great Britain	166	■	■	■	■	■	■
Mozambique	129	■	■	■	■	■	■
Puerto Rico	106	■	■	■	■	■	■
Syria	102	■	■	■	■	■	■

Note: The number 1, 2, 3 4, 5 and 6 were the six causes of terrorism factors: Economic Discrimination, Religious Persecution, Nationalist/Separatist Motives, Religious Fundamentalism, Political Ideologies, and Terrorism by Marginalized Groups. ■ Indicates the occurrence of root cause/s in the identified country.

Third Decade (1990-1999)

In the third decade, there are six countries identified with more than 1000 incidence of terrorism. Table 7 showed that terrorism incidents during this decade are mainly caused by the marginalization of people followed by economic deprivation and nationalist motives, religious persecution and religious fundamentalism.

Table 7. Causes of Terrorism Incidents from 1990-1999

Database: 1990-1999 (1000 ABOVE)	No. of Incidence of Terrorism	1	2	3	4	5	6
----------------------------------	-------------------------------	---	---	---	---	---	---

Colombia	2834	■	■	■	■	■	■
India	1791	■	■	■	■	■	■
Peru	1781	■	■	■	■	■	■
Turkey	1666	■	■	■	■	■	■
Pakistan	1602	■	■	■	■	■	■
Algeria	1390	■	■	■	■	■	■

Note: The number 1, 2, 3 4, 5 and 6 were the six causes of terrorism factors: Economic Discrimination, Religious Persecution, Nationalist/Separatist Motives, Religious Fundamentalism, Political Ideologies, and Terrorism by Marginalized Groups. ■ Indicates the occurrence of root cause/s in the identified country.

Fourth Decade (2000-2009)

Table 8 showed that terrorism incidents during this decade are mainly caused by the marginalization of people and economic discrimination. These were followed by political ideologies and religious fundamentalism. Religious persecution and nationalist/separatist motives came last.

Table 8. Causes of Terrorist Incidents from 2000-2009

2000-2009 (1000 ABOVE)	Number of Incidence of Terrorism	1	2	3	4	5	6
Iraq	5163	■	■	■	■	■	■
India	2555	■	■	■	■	■	■
Pakistan	1975	■	■	■	■	■	■
Afghanistan	1948	■	■	■	■	■	■
Thailand	1228	■	■	■	■	■	■
Algeria	1120	■	■	■	■	■	■
Philippines	1022	■	■	■	■	■	■
Colombia	1017	■	■	■	■	■	■

Note: The number 1, 2, 3 4, 5 and 6 were the six causes of terrorism factors: Economic Discrimination, Religious Persecution, Nationalist/Separatist Motives, Religious Fundamentalism, Political Ideologies, and Terrorism by Marginalized Groups. ■ Indicates the occurrence of root cause/s in the identified country.

The 9/11 bombing of the World Trade Center became the defining moment for this decade. It also marked the entry of America in

the fight against terrorism after the incident. The consequent war in Iraq further aggravated the terrorist incidents. Intensified conflicts between rivals India and Pakistan also contributed to the rise in incidents in the respective country.

Last Four Years (2010-2013)

Table 9 showed that economic discrimination and marginalization are the two main factors that drive terrorist incidents. While political ideologies and religious persecution played important factors as well. Nationalist/separatist motives continue to persist. Religious persecutions also play a role in more than half of the identified countries.

Table 9. Causes of Terrorist Incident from 2010-2013

Database: 2010-2013 (1000 ABOVE)	No. of Incidence of Terrorism	1	2	3	4	5	6
Iraq	6776	■					
Pakistan	5585		■				
Afghanistan	3872						■
India	2605	■	■				
Philippines	1253		■	■			
Thailand	1197			■	■		
Nigeria	1195				■	■	

Note: The number 1, 2, 3 4, 5 and 6 were the six causes of terrorism factors: Economic Discrimination, Religious Persecution, Nationalist/Separatist Motives, Religious Fundamentalism, Political Ideologies, and Terrorism by Marginalized Groups. ■ Indicates the occurrence of root cause/s in the identified country.

As the decades progress, there is a growing pattern showing the increasing incidence caused by economic discrimination and religious fundamentalism. However, it can be observed that in most of the countries that have a high occurrence of terrorist activities, marginalization is often present.

The dominant factor that is apparent across the decades is the marginalization of people. The economic condition, religious persecution,

nationalist/separatist motives, and even political ideologies may cause people to terrorize or do violent acts; most often these people are also marginalized. It is the considered opinion of this paper that to have a lasting solution to terrorist incidents countries may address the marginalization issues and concerns.

An example of this successful attempt at reducing the terrorist incident can be found in Northern Ireland. In the 1970s, Northern Ireland has the most incident of terrorism but in the decade of 2000-2013, Northern Ireland was no longer in the list of countries with most incidents of terrorism. In the similar period, Britain granted Northern Ireland peace agreement that included autonomy wherein the IRA was given authority to be part of its processes.

Marginalization as a Main Trigger of Terrorism

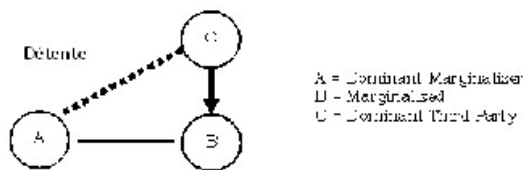
The deviation of the identified countries from the fractal state (characterized by adherence to the rule of law/participation) to the natural state (characterized as having no rule of law or having a serious challenge to the rule of law) have marginalization issues. The dataset for the four decades of terrorist incidents showed the prevalence of marginalization of people as the common factor. The primary consideration is the economic marginalization. When a central government becomes biased in its economic policies, the impact of this marginalization/discrimination can be immediate. This can be because of the multiplier effect of economic policy/processes on people. Out of desperation, any ideology that can destroy or change such policy may resort even to the extent of using terrorist activities. When discrimination or marginalization is widespread, the tendency for terrorist violence becomes even higher. The datasets from four decades showed this tendency.

A similar study by Piazza (2012) emphasizes minority discrimination, another form of marginalization. It showed that “socioeconomic discrimination is significant and highly substantive predictor of terrorism.”

Cases of *Détente*

The concept of *détente* can be used in explaining marginalization issues through the different situations given below.

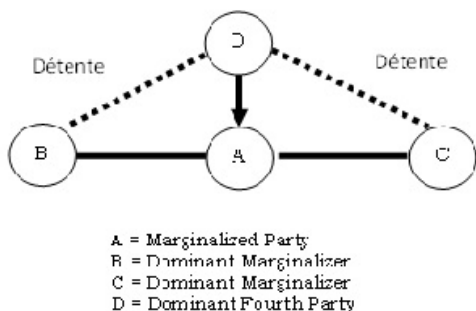
Case 1



In this situation A marginalizes B. In marginalizing B, A may use force, intimidation or sanctions. To retaliate, B may also use force, intimidations to get even or to correct the situation. To prevent further the escalation of violence, C may support B to create a *détente*. The danger of this situation would be the escalation of conflict to include C. Taking sides in a conflict situation may not always create the desired *détente*. Even with a *détente* in place, the factors/causes of terrorist violence, in this case, marginalization may persist and may continue to feed incidences of terrorism.

Case 1 may also be explained that when marginalization occurs (be it economic, social, cultural, religious), the dominant marginalizer creates an advantage at the expense of the marginalized.

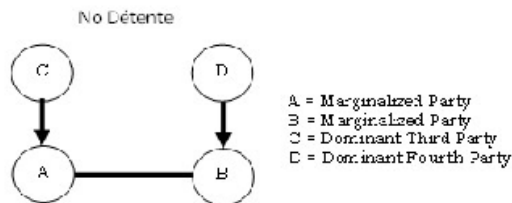
Case 2



In this case, A is dominated by B and C. A may decide to fight B and C. To create a *détente*, D may choose to support A, thus creating two *détentes*. These two *détentes* depend largely as to what advantage/disadvantage B and C may have when A is supported by D. The support

of D on A can also be a means where D can check on the interests of B and C. On the other hand, D can extend its influence on C, D and A. One possible disadvantage would be that A may make use of the support of D in further fighting/inflicting violence on B or C.

Case 3



When A and B are in a conflict situation, with C supporting A and D supporting B, the possibility of establishing *détente* is hard to achieve. When C and D have nothing to lose, with their respective support, they may allow the conflict/violence to persist. In other words, they find that they have more to gain in this conflict situation. It shows that self-interest or group-interest may produce a calloused sense of morality where their interests are the paramount consideration.

In the three cases presented, the conceptualization of *détente* makes it possible for us to surmise that individuals and groups create conflict and violence to advance its own agenda or interest. With their interest at hand, terrorism may be done as marginalizer or as the marginalized. This dynamics would also show that the regulation of these interests, the presence of a dominant third or fourth party may create *détente* and further de-escalate whatever terrorist violence there is.

On one hand, when individuals or groups realize that the use of violence does not create any advantage on their part, they might not take the path of violence. Hence, societies may ensure that there are alternatives advancing one's interest other than the use of violence. On the other hand, when individuals or groups see the advantage in using violence, they may pursue it at the expense of others. Thus, the use of *détente* can be a way of checking the selfish interests of individuals or groups.

Conclusion

The hidden dimension in the occurrence of terrorist incidence worldwide is the marginalization of people/groups that may be a result of interweaving factors relating to or encompassing economic, political, religious, cultural/historical, and ideological causes. Addressing marginalization may lessen but does not totally eliminate the occurrence of terrorist incidents. For at the very heart of the marginalization issues are the selfish interests of individuals and groups as marginalizer or as marginalized. Allowing space for meaningful participation, accommodation, dialogue and consensus may be a way out of the vicious cycle of terrorism and violence but removing human distrust, greed and pride are still the paramount challenge for everyone concerned. Also, the use of détente to check the selfish interests of individuals and groups may mitigate the intensity and frequency of terrorist incidents, but it offers no assurance that terrorism will not occur.

Implications

The study showed the possibility of using fractal statistics as a starting point of discovering or uncovering hidden dimensions of a certain social phenomena. Studies in other disciplines may find this tool helpful. The study further showed the possibility of using détente as an alternative theory in explaining the occurrence of terrorism as marginalization phenomenon. Terrorism incidents can be traced to marginalization issues. Countries that experienced terrorism may look into how their processes may have led some groups/individuals being/feeling marginalized. By allowing these groups to participate in the socio-political, economic and cultural processes, marginalization issues may be addressed, and hopefully, incidents of terrorism may recede.

References

Altermeyer, B. & Hunsberger, B. (1992).

- Authoritarian, religious fundamentalism, quest, and prejudice. *The International Journal for the Psychology of Religion*, 2 (2).
- Cain, G. (1984). The economics of discrimination. *Focus*, 7 (2). Institute for Research on Poverty, University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA.
- Crenshaw, M. (1981). The causes of terrorism. *Comparative Politics*, 13 (4), 379-399.
- Enders, W., & T. Sandler. (2012). *The political economy of terrorism*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Gassebner, M., & Lucchinger, S. (2011). Lock, stock, and barrel: A comprehensive assessment of the determinants of terror. *Public Choice*. 149 (3-4). 1459-1510.
- Gunn, J.T. (2002). *The complexity of religion in determining refugee status*. Emory University, USA.
- Hobbes, T. (1651). *Leviathan*. C.B. Macpherson, (Ed).
- Hoffman, B. (2006). *Inside terrorism*. Revised ed. New York: Columbia University Press.
- Krueger, A. & Maleckova, J. (2003). Education, poverty, and terrorism: Is there a casual connection? *J Econ Perspect*, 17(4), 119-144.
- LaFree, G., & L. Dugan. (2007). Introducing the global terrorism database. *Terrorism and Political Violence*, 19 (2), 181-204.
- Leonard, P. (1984). *Personality and ideology: Towards a materialist understanding of the individual*. London: Macmillan.
- Macduff, I., 2004. Terrorism and conflict resolution: Working paper 18/04. Center for Strategic Studies. Victoria University of Wellington.
- RAND. (2012). RAND database of worldwide terrorism incidents. Retrieved from <http://www.rand.org/nsrd/projects/terrorism-incidents.html>
- Sandler, T. (2014). The analytical study of terrorism: Taking stock. *J Peace Res*. 51 (2), 257-271.
- Waldmann, P. (2001). *Terrorismus: Provokation der macht*. Munchen: Gerling Akademie Verlag.
- Wilkinson, P. (1986). *Terrorism and the liberal state*. Revised edition. London: Frank Cass.
- White, B., (1981). The concept of détente. *Rev. Int. Stud*, 7, 165-171.