Collective Dynamics and Contagion of Hatred

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Abstract: Present day world has seen unprecedented growth of terrorism since 9/11. Societies disintegrated due to inevitable requitals. Exponentially collective sense of anger, frustration and despair carried on. With the help of social networking collective groups were formed in micro-level. Different events and situations also shaped their attitudes towards others.Human groups follow some intricate social psychology with regards to the attitude and perspective. In this regard, the consciousness of identity plays a central role. In course of time both the attitude and situation changes.Considering the interplay between collectives a general trend of collective action can be ascertained. If we analyse the general altitude of various collectives then we find they have unique characteristics. In the study an insight of this vicious cycle of incidents, forming of distrust and eventual emergence of collective hatred is outlined. Besides, how the shaping of hatred leading to violence has been studied by considering the Hate Contagion model. This study is also aimed to discuss about the convergence and spontaneous shifting of the ideology.
Keywords: Collective Dynamics, Contagion of Hearted, Terrorism, Emotion and Ideology.

I.   INTRODUCTION

Terrorism is commonly understood to refer to acts of violence that target civilians in the pursuit of ideological or political aims or creates fear[1].Research on terrorism and terrorism-related issues has increased dramatically in the wake of the 9/11 attacks. This is not surprising. The 9/11 attacks record the most destructive assaults in the history leading to bloodier conflicts as part of subsequent war on terror. Thus terrorism is the defining issue of international politics of 21st century[2].Societies fell apart due to the inevitable retaliations. Collective sense of anger, frustration and despair continued exponentially. Collective groups formed in micro-level through social networking. Through a process of events and situation their attitude towards others isformed. These are outcome of collective memories of victim hood or memories of shared hardships and trauma. But their basic mental making is basing on the culture and religious doctrine in which they are living. The attitude and perspective of human groups follow some intricate social psychology in which consciousness of identity plays a central role. Attitude changes along with situations, and we can see attitude of people are changing when rampant terror activities going on around the world. Once progressive and liberal people are getting polarized to their own identity. New kind of norms is emerging in the morality and ethics. Blind hatred towards others of out-group growing out of proportion. The social norm of "us vs. them" is taking shape. Progressive and enlightened people are becoming like monsters. People are forming and reforming on the basis of clouded hatred. But everything has got reasons. The attitudes so far formed are giving indication that people are suffering uncertainty and fear of unknown. People are turning back to their religious belief. Because that is only place where they would find the answer of all uncertainty and would provide them comfort. They are taking the guidance from their religious doctrines, and developing in-group or out-group bias as resultant effect of the interaction with each other. When collectives interact between each other, there are sets of emotions displayed from a fixed kind of universal mentality. In course of time these emotions are reinforced or diminished. Sometime specific emotion dominates and overshadows all other emotions[3].

In consideration with the interaction between collectives, a general trend of collective actions can be insured. An analysis of general attitude of various collectives elicits unique characteristics. They respond in a different way in different situations. The collectives display the characteristics of herd instinct. Their attitude and opinion sometime converge. In the chronology of world event sometime new kind of norms emerges. Also, sometime emotions become contagious and affects all kind of people. But then when everything settles then people go back to their individual feeling and new kind of general trends develops. If we see the actions various collective entities are taking during critical times, we can see that those are being taken according to situations and under specific compulsions. Some actions are taken by collectives are spontaneous and are inevitable. But those are having extremely negative effect on others. A pseudo situation is depicted in following chapter to explain it further. For example, as a reaction to a Islamic terror attack, governments definitely enhance their security to safeguard their citizens. And surveillance and profiling of potential terrorists are inherent actions

need to be done. As a consequence, the security elements may consider all Muslims as potential perpetrator. As a logical and efficient administrative step, it's the only and best way to take step to prevent terrorism. But as an outcome of that as the minority all Muslims become subject of scrutiny which gives a wrong sense to all the citizens. Some will approve and some will not, but Muslim community as a whole becomes victims of circumstances and a widespread sense of grievances grows. When these kind of grievances is growing, some other fallout is created which may put the western countries more suspicious and another endless cycle emerges. In the following chapter an insight of this vicious cycle of incidents, forming of distrust and eventual emergence of collective hatred is outlined.

II. HATE CONTAGION MODEL

A pseudo situation is depicted below to show how distrust, hatred and other collective emotion emerges between communities. We can consider a model of four group of people, Collectivities or race, let's call them W, X, Y and Z. We shall try to analyse these four Collectivities. The depicted races W, X, Y and Z having internal subgroups as W (A, B, C, D); X (E, F, G, H); Y (I, J, K, L) and Z (M, N, O, P). The sub group are having persons which are portrayed by symbolic numbers as follows:

Table 1: *Hate Contagion of Collective Groups*

Nation	W				X				Y				Z			
Collectives	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P
People (Symbolic)	1	5	9	13	17	21	25	29	33	37	41	45	49	53	57	61
	2	6	10	14	18	22	26	30	34	38	42	46	50	54	58	62
	3	7	11	15	19	23	27	31	35	39	43	47	51	55	59	63
	4	8	12	16	20	24	28	32	36	40	44	48	52	56	60	64

The nations W and X are two geographic entities having different kind of political and religious systems. Y is a race similar to W and Z similar to X. W and X are having long outstanding conflict originated from religious belief but the problem came to a settlement through a process of economic interdependence and other social integrations. But their sub groups are having kind of prejudice and cold relation to each other. However due to some difference of opinion W and X embarked on a dispute. But Y always stood by the side of W. A as dominating subgroup of W, without consent of B, C and D conducted air campaign against E of X where E(17) died as a legitimate military target but at the same time F(21) also died as collateral damage. F as strongly integrated community F(22) could not accept the death of F(21), while G(25) despite not much aligned with E community had his business which was his only livelihood, destroyed because of the conflict. As bystander H(29) was shocked to see the event. However as retaliation E(18) and F(22) conducted a terror attack on A and A(1) died but unfortunately as bystander B(5) also died. As a result, B as a community despite having some soft corner towards X got aligned with A. The persons of B community B(6), B(7) and B(8) all made allegiance to A. As revenge A conducted another air campaign against E. And I community of Y gave morale support to A. This time E(18) and E(19) died as legitimate target. But at the same time F(23) and G(26) died and H(29) lost his daughter H(29d). H(29) and his son H(29s) take vow for revenge. As a consequence of terror incident W beef up their security and develop strong policy towards X. As resident of W nation H of X is integrated in the society of C, especially with C(9). Due to strong security policy H came under extraordinary scrutiny, H(29) as part of it became victim of circumstances and lose his job and got jailed. H(30) as socially close to H(29) became apprehensive about their position in W nation and suffer from suspicion towards A and B. But H(30) having close tie and friendly relation with C(10). Because of mutual victim hood the communities of E and F utilised religious motivation an created a sense of collective hatred and convinced H(29) to conduct an attack onto C community. H(29) somehow got connected to G(26s) and G(27s) and conducted terror attack on C. Where along with C(11), D(13) and I(35) became victim. I community being dominant subgroup of Y made a coalition with W and retaliated on E, F and G. This is a situation of fully formed collective hatred of X towards W. But Was a race although having collective prejudice, did not develop collective hatred towards X. But due to the terror attack an inland search operation conducted by W and identified that H(29) was the mastermind and arrested him again. When the involvement of H(29) is revealed, H(30) being closely associated with him came under suspicion. And C (10) broke the social tie from H(30). And the hatred transmitted to the children when son of D (14), D (14s) abused son of H(30), H(30s) in which H(31s) and P(6ls) came to help and injured D(14s). Situation went worse and social disharmony and mutual hatred settled in. H(30) and H (31) starts growing hatred towards W nation. And because of sense of strong religious affiliation P (62) get close to H (30) and H(31). P(62) in the process get radicalise and migrate to X nation. P (62) gets a contact M (49) in Z nation. M (49) with strong religiosity convinced M(50) to be a warrior of religion. So, he in turn becomes a

recruiter for X in Z nation. Being a dynamic motivator, he could create sense of victimization and convinced M (51) to migrate to X nation and fight for glory and go to heaven because this sacrifice is needed for the religion. M (51) made a connection to his relative P (63). The W nation intelligence could find out the terror link and ongoing radicalisation process and put H(31) and P(63) under surveillance and at the same time formulate a general security perspective and keep H and P under watch list as a whole. But meanwhile E(19) and F(24) conducted another terror attack in Y nation where I(34) and J(37) get killed, K(41) lost his children and O(57) get killed. K of Y being strongly conservative and socially united community, K(41), K(42), K(43) and K(44) starts forming strong collective hatred towards X and prejudice and suspicion to Z nation. Z nation although geographically far away from the conflict zone of W and X, historically related to X on religious dimension but also economically connected to W. Y nation convince W to conduct another air campaign on X. In that G(28) and H(32) get killed and X nation face unprecedented destructions. M, N and O community watch it in media and grow a sense of shock and disgust. J(38) and L(45) being citizens of Y nation watch it on media and get same way emotional like Z nation communities. N(53) and O(58) being holding strong empathy for people of X become extremely frustrated by seeing the destruction and also seeing the discriminatory situation of P in W and migrated to X to fight against W and Y coalition alongside the people of X. After seeing this activities W and Y tighten their immigration system towards Z. P(64) is extremely progressive and open minded. But the internal security policy of W compelled P(64) to believe that he is being victimized and discriminated for something he is not at all responsible. P(64) try to migrate to Y, but due to new immigration policy he cannot migrate. When prejudice and suspicion towards him became untenable, he become desperate and conducts a violent attack on innocent D(15) and L(46) and kill them. As a result L(45) changed his attitude towards X and Z. Through mutual understanding the L(47) and L(48) also become followers of him. A full blown mutual collective hatred forms and an endless cycle of violence escalate. This model can be expanded further to offspring of peoples mentioned above. This is how the shaping of hatred leading to violence is taking place every day.

III. DISCUSSION

Convergence and Spontaneous Shifting of Ideology

The perception of western civilization towards Islamic world is shaped by the unimaginable atrocities conducted by Taliban in early days and Al-Qaeda in the later days. In course of time the occurrence of terrorist acts on innocent civilians in the west and even on other Muslims compelled the world community to believe that Islam is inherently an extreme ideology. As a response to uncontrollable and unpredictable terror incidents, the western countries tighten their security system. Consequently, activities of terrorists are controlled to some extent but other innocent Muslim population came under suspicion and ill-treatment. So despite being liberal Muslims they become aggrieved of being unjustly discriminated. In course of time and owing to other internal factors the grievances of those Muslims turned into hatred and a sense "this land is not ours" emerged. As such tension starts to build up and Muslim and local host community embark on perpetual tension. As by-product Muslim in general start feeling discriminated, stereotyped and marginalized. So, home grown radicalization starts. On the other hand, to retaliate on ISIS safe home as sponsors of these home grown perpetrators, the western countries formed coalition and bombed those safe homes. Justice is delivered and lot of ISIS members dies. But at same time civilians are killed as collateral damage in great numbers. Those include children, women and old peoples. People lost everything due to the air attack by coalition forces. Whole world become shocked to see those emerging humanitarian catastrophes. The people who were affected seek for revenge and become violent Jihadist even suicide bombers. The Muslim world watch those horror with deepest anger and disgust and watch how the western nations discriminating and stereotyping fellow Muslims. Moderate and educated Muslims watch how the western policies are insulting and abusing Islam. A self-inflicted victim hood is created amongst them. Their compassionate attitude turns into collective form of hatred towards west. Some of them start mentally supporting the extremist ideology. Some of the moderate and liberal Muslims become hopeless and helpless finding that despite their liberal position they are also considered and treated like extremist. Their dismay and agony turn into a deadly desire to join armed jihad and become "Shaheed" in the way of Islam. The terrorist organizations are intentionally conducting heinous terrorist act whose horrors are unprecedented. These planned chronologies of attacks are conducted with evil aims of putting the liberal Muslims in such a situation that they face a complete destruction of their image. So that they have no place to go and get rejected by all their societies.

IV. CONCLUSION

The root of terrorism lies in the midst of human livelihood, belief and in the social system. In this era of globalization all the countries of the world are part of an almost single economic community. The world is an interdependent planet with vibrant socio-economic platform. More opportunities are created everyday along with extraordinary technological advancement. More and more people are active on various social media platforms such as blogs, Facebook and Twitter, which specifically relate to their immediate surroundings[4].

Residents use social media to share neighborhood information, exchange tools or make informal care possible. This locally orientated use of social media may influence the dynamics of neighbourhoods[5]. Social media can function as a catalyst for (new) social interaction between residents, both online and offline, which may result in an increase of locally, rooted social relationships[6]. Mainstream world populace are taking the benefit of this advancement but an extremely huge number could not cope with the advancement and they are left out of any benefit. As such a very good number of human populations holding negative worldview. Terrorist acts and response are becoming part of an endless cycle. Many Muslim observe their religious duties and live their lives without any intent of opposing fundamental extremist attitude. In the contemporary world some of the critics opine that since mainstream Muslims are not acting against fundamentalist extremism therefor radical ideology is surviving and prospering. Islam as a religion is very appealing to adherents. During the early days of evolution of Islam early Muslim suffered lot of hardship and persecution from opposing societies. In early days Islamic world faced lot of wars and many important leaders died of Wars. Those experience of hardship and struggles are stored as collective memories in the form of religious verses or other holy text. Whenever Muslims read those verses or text then they form kind of worldview. These worldviews differ person to person and community to community. For example, there are Quranic verses which are full with narrative of distress, despair and struggle; those verses will create different impression to different people. A Muslim from war ravaged Syria or Iraq would interpret a Quranic verse one way but someone living in USA will make a totally different meaning. From some of the Quranic verses people of Syria or Iraq will find justification of their revenge even by killing other civilian but others will interpret differently. Islamic religious tradition is a very inward looking and intensive. So any one who is improperly following Quranic verses literally and observe the daily routines of prayers and other rituals accordingly, likely to be habituated in fundamentalist outlook. This may create the sense of intolerant attitude to others, although intolerant Muslims are very small in number.

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