

BOOK REVIEW

Brenda J Lutz and James M Lutz, 2017. *Globalization and the Economic Consequences of Terrorism*, Palgrave Macmillan, USA, 210 pages, ISBN 978-1-137-50394-7

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A combination of factors, ranging from the particular features of globalization, the increasing dissemination of tradecraft, the evolution of the global jihad, the cultural and religious conflicts of the Middle East and the availability of new means to maintain the cohesion of militant movements, has seen terror related attacks increasingly become the new normal of the current international relations architecture and of the societies that make up its base. Indeed, militant movements have proven highly adept at exploiting both the bonuses and maluses of globalization, both for their tactics and for their long-term strategic vision. Thus, the opening of new trade links and the existence of porous borders can favour the global smuggling of militant ideologues and fighters, while the evolution and expansion of communication technology ensure that splinters and offshoots of original groups have increased chances of survival. Moreover, such movements have consistently profited from the disruptions caused by globalization, seeking to mobilise political issues in militant directions. For this reason, in the context of an increasingly hostile environment for the current liberal world order, the work by Brenda J. Lutz and James M. Lutz can be considered both particularly timely and relevant.

The first chapter of the book sets the main focus points, namely, globalization, terrorism and economy. It must also be mentioned here that regarding the modern iterations of terrorism, the authors consider Rapoport's four waves theory as being overall useful for establishing a typology (p. 7). The authors point to the importance globalization and the reactions it has caused both on the right and the left, which portray themselves as defenders of their respective communities against this process, whilst also taking into account the relation

between globalization, ethnicity and conflict (p. 9-10). In such a complex context, terrorist movements have a comparatively simple outlook with respect to waging economic warfare: direct attacks on economic targets or indirect effects such as a reduction of trade flows or diverting tourism from the target country. Thus, if terrorist groups are successful in their attempts to wage economic warfare then the resources of the government will be reduced, which, in turn, will mean less funding for security and social policies. All of this will increase the chances of dissatisfaction with the government and provide opportunities for dissident groups (p. 15).

The second chapter describes the methodology of the authors, which relies on a variety of data sources, making use of indices for economic, social and political levels of globalization, as well as an index combining the three. All of these individual globalization indices enable testing different aspects of the integration process and their effects (p. 35). In exploring data on terrorism, the two authors have arguably taken a right decision in using individual region for, as they themselves point out, this provides "a partial control for cultural similarities and shared experiences that could have influenced either the level of globalization or the level of terrorism" (p. 36). Thus, five regions are part of the analysis, which include Latin America (chapter 3), the Middle East and North Africa (chapter 4), Asia and Oceania (chapter 5), sub-Saharan Africa (chapter 6), and Western Europe (chapter 7). The analyses focus on the two main hypotheses, namely, that the greater the globalization levels the more likely are they to generate disruptions which could lead to higher levels of terrorism and that higher levels of terrorism will in turn lead to the reduction or slower increases in areas of economic activity such as foreign investment and tourist visits (p. 41).

The results of these analyses vary widely across the regions involved in the research. Thus, one has the case of Latin America, where the predicted relationships between terrorism and globalization were found to be considerably weaker or even absent. Moreover, the regions which had already experienced the earliest and most intense forms of globalization already since the 1970s, such as Western Europe and North America, are found to offer the weakest support for the hypothesis. This may be compared to the cases of the Middle East and sub-Saharan Africa, where the hypothesis is supported the most, albeit in an essentially inconsistent manner. For instance, it was not the political or the economic globalization, but the social globalization which contributed to the emergence of terrorism in Middle East (p. 69). Moreover, the effects of terrorism in Africa were rightly connected to the distinct environment such local

movements operate in, with other methods for forcing government change – such as revolutions or insurgencies – arguably being more effective.

Perhaps most importantly, no single variable is found to be more important than others, with the results for the effects of globalization on the terrorism variables usually being the same (p. 163). The authors are certainly correct to point to the ambiguity and the varied nature found in the relationship between globalization and terrorism as a whole, with some regions supporting the main hypothesis and others contradicting it. Moreover, the theme of globalization related disruption is clearly presented, with individuals and organisations that were affected in this manner often resorting to violent responses. The book takes all these factors into account, whilst maintaining an eye on the need for more involved and more detailed future research projects. Thus, regarding the effects of terror attacks on foreign investment and on tourism, the authors rightly admit that a far more refined analysis of terrorist incidents and the casualties they cause will be needed to test its possible connections to negative effects. At the same time, the book could have profited from a deeper focus in its analysis, even if this would have meant looking at fewer regions in detail. As the authors repeatedly show, globalization and the economic effects of terrorism represent a complex problem whereby attempts at providing an answer often lead to yet more questions. Ultimately, such is the case of the book itself, an altogether unsurprising fact given the unprecedented nature of the social and economic transformations that globalization has brought about in the previous decades.

The transformation processes currently underway are vast as they are profound, at least in some respects, an impact only matched by the seemingly limitless potential of terrorist movements to adapt to the challenges of their environment and continue to survive or even thrive. Thus, especially in the context of an increasing impact and presence of terrorist movements throughout the world, the work makes an important step in the recent literature trying to make sense of the effects of terrorist attacks on economic activity.

