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***" Faces of terrorism and methods to study its psychosocial and organisational determinants "***

The theme of this dissertation is the analysis of the psychosocial and organisational determinants of the phenomenon of terrorism in relation to the activities of non-state actors operating in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East. The rationale for undertaking research in this area was based on identified research gaps in the domain of theoretical considerations (a number of mutually exclusive concepts were described), methodological considerations (a diverse, dispersed and non-unified research apparatus) as well as the critical opinions of some practitioners who perceive many of the counter-terrorism strategies designed and implemented since 2001 as counter-productive. The author's own experience over several years of participatory observation of political and psychosocial phenomena in high-risk states also became important motivations for the research undertaken on the above topic.

In this dissertation, both cognitive and utilitarian objectives were taken into account. The first set of objectives included a discussion about various definitional approaches, correlations between terrorism and related social phenomena, the causes of radicalisation, the main research instruments that are in use, as well as the identification of complementary theories that offer hope for a more precise definition of terrorism. The set of utilitarian objectives included the design of an experiment with the potential to determine the degree of individual radicalisation and the key moment of transformation from "words to actions". The author also designed an instrument to complement the proposed experiment, and sought to expose and demystify popular claims about terrorism. As a result he also suggested various future research directions. In the research environment thus defined, three hypotheses were

posed, which respectively addressed: the overabundance of concepts on terrorism (which hinders both the research processes and the practical use of the results derived from them), the deficit of synthesising studies, and the demonstration of the possibility and need for empirical research.

In the course of the research process, more than 1,000 different scholarly sources were analysed, supported by the author's participation in 45 conferences and workshops on terrorism and international security issues (including 37 events held outside of Poland). He also took part in a number of thematic training programmes (delivered by George Washington University, Queensland University, Asser Institute, Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance). With regard to specific aspects of the broadly defined issue of psychosocial determinants of terrorism, 19 individual scientific consultations were carried out with international researchers specialised in the subject area. The resulting concept of the empirical study designed - the "360-degree Experiment" - was also evaluated by prominent experts in the field of counter-terrorism and deradicalisation, namely Prof. Philip Zimbardo (Stanford University), Prof. em. Alex Schmid (International Centre for Counter-Terrorism, The Hague), Dr. Nina Käsehage (Rostock University) and Dr. Anna Korula (formerly UN).

As a result of the research carried out, two of the three proposed hypotheses were proved to be correct. In addition, theories outside the canon of security sciences with exploratory potential for the field of terrorism research were identified, and an author's definition of terrorism was proposed. The methodological correctness of the "360-degree Experiment" was also verified. Furthermore, an "Integrated Attributional Analysis" was designed – the first Polish radicalisation analysis tool that can be used in both theoretical research processes and for counter-terrorism practice. A number of myths about terrorism operating in the media, social and academic circles were also discussed and exposed, and a 102-point list of proposed further directions for the study of violent extremism was included.

In sum, the dissertation represents a synthesis of current knowledge on terrorism while offering new research and operational perspectives that can be used to enhance both internal and international security of the Republic of Poland.

Keywords: terrorism, violent extremism, radicalisation tools, national security, psychosocial determinants, cognitive security.