

IDENTIFICATION OF SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND SECURITY-POLITICAL GROUNDS FOR TERRORISM

Useful Tool or Useless Effort?

IDENTIFIKACE SOCIÁLNÍCH, EKONOMICKÝCH A BEZPEČNOSTNĚ- POLITICKÝCH PŘÍČIN TERORISMU

Užitečný nástroj nebo zbytečné úsilí?

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Abstract

An integral part of the issue of terrorism is not only the consequences of committed terrorist acts that lead to subsequent security measures, but also the causes of terrorist activities, which determine the reasons why people are motivated to commit them. This paper focuses on the social, economic, and security policy factors that potentially generate future terrorist activities. The main goal is to analyse the opinions of 52 respondents from 31 countries, i.e., experts from military, police, and academic institutions. The method of analytical hierarchy was chosen for the respondents, who decided on the importance of individual factors. According to the respondents, the most important factor of the current national and violent international war is the security-political area. It is followed by social inequality (in the social area) and unemployment (in the economic area). The achieved results show a certain reflection of the evaluated factors regarding the competitiveness of individual countries, which can significantly affect not only the level of threat of terrorist activities in the country, but also their potential mobility.

Abstrakt

Nedílnou součástí problematiky terorismu jsou nejen důsledky spáchaných teroristických činů, které vedou k následným bezpečnostním opatřením, ale také příčiny teroristických aktivit, které zakládají důvody, proč jsou lidé motivováni k jejich vykonávání. Tento článek se zaměřuje na sociální, ekonomické a bezpečnostně-politické faktory, které

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potenciálně generují budoucí teroristické aktivity. Hlavním cílem je analýza názorů 52 respondentů z 31 zemí, a to odborníků z vojenských, policejních a akademických institucí. Pro respondenty, kteří posuzovali důležitost jednotlivých faktorů, byla zvolena metoda analytické hierarchie. Podle respondentů je pro současné občanské a násilné mezinárodní války nejdůležitějším faktorem bezpečnostně-politická oblast. Následuje sociální nerovnost (v sociální oblasti) a nezaměstnanost (v ekonomické oblasti). Dosažené výsledky jsou určitým odrazem hodnocených faktorů konkurenceschopnosti jednotlivých zemí, které mohou významně ovlivnit nejen míru ohrožení teroristickými aktivitami v zemi, ale i jejich potenciální mobilitu.

Keywords

Economic; factors; importance; security-political; social; terrorism.

Klíčová slova

Bezpečnostně-politické; ekonomické; faktory; sociální; terorismus; význam.

INTRODUCTION

International terrorism is currently one of the major security threats to both developing and economically developed countries. The numbers of terrorist attacks have a slightly declining trend worldwide,¹ but the risk of future terrorist activities is still high.²

Identifying and determining the significance of the economic, social, and political-religious causes of terrorism can be the first step in finding appropriate preventive measures to curb international terrorism. However, research in this area is marked by at least two fundamental methodological problems:

1) First, it is uncertain whether similar objective factors exist at all. Based on the results of the performed studies, a number of authors believe that these objective factors can be found.^{3,4,5,6} However, other authors believe that terrorism is such a complex phenomenon that it is not possible to determine its universal causes. These authors usually emphasize that, in addition to social causes, individual causes that are closely related to the mental state of a potential terrorist and their life story are associated with terrorist attacks. Although these individual factors can be studied from the perspective of psychology, these causes seem to be so subjective that setting appropriate preventive measures based on their identification is very difficult, even unrealistic. Terrorist attacks committed by mentally ill people are practically completely unpredictable.^{7,8}

2) The second fundamental methodological problem is the choice of appropriate metrics of social, economic, and security-political factors for determining the intensity of

¹ MILLER, Erin. Global Terrorism Overview: Terrorism in 2019. National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism [online]. 2020 [cit. 2020-11-09]. Available from:

<https://1url.cz/lKE1o>

² The Global Risks Report 2020. World Economic Forum [online]. 2020 [cit. 2020-11-09]. Available from:

<https://1url.cz/6KE1N>

³ KRIEGER, Tim and Daniel MEIERRIEKS. What causes terrorism? *Public Choice* [online]. 2011, 147(1-2), 3-27 [cit. 2020-04-28]. DOI: 10.1007/s11127-010-9601-1. ISSN 0048-5829. Available from:

<https://1url.cz/5KE1H>

⁴ LAI, Brian. "Draining the Swamp": An Empirical Examination of the Production of International Terrorism, 1968–1998. *Conflict Management and Peace Science* [online]. 2016, 24(4), 297-310 [cit. 2020-04-18]. DOI: 10.1080/07388940701643649. ISSN 0738-8942. Available from:

<https://1url.cz/6KE1g>

⁵ PIAZZA, James A. Incubators of Terror: Do Failed and Failing States Promote Transnational Terrorism? *International Studies Quarterly* [online]. 2008, 52(3), 469-488 [cit. 2020-04-18]. DOI: 10.1111/j.1468-2478.2008.00511.x. ISSN 00208833. Available from: <https://1url.cz/5KE1B>

⁶ LI, Quan and Drew SCHAUB. Economic Globalization and Transnational Terrorism. *Journal of Conflict Resolution* [online]. 2016, 48(2), 230-258 [cit. 2020-03-13]. DOI:

10.1177/0022002703262869. ISSN 0022-0027. Available from: <https://1url.cz/lKE1p>

⁷ KHOSHNOOD, Ardavan. The correlation between mental disorders and terrorism is weak. *BJPsych Bulletin* [online]. 2017, 41(1), 56-56 [cit. 2020-09-14]. DOI: 10.1192/pb.41.1.56. ISSN 2056-4694. Available from: <https://1url.cz/NKE1l>

⁸ WEATHERSTON, David and Jonathan MORAN. Terrorism and Mental Illness: Is there a Relationship? *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology* [online]. 2016, 47(6), 698-713 [cit. 2020-09-14]. DOI: 10.1177/0306624X03257244. ISSN 0306-624X. Available from: <https://1url.cz/qKE1F>

terrorism. Most quantitative studies, such as Butler,⁹ Newman¹⁰ or Piazza,¹¹ use indicators based on the number of terrorist attacks carried out in a given country, or the severity of these attacks, usually represented by the number of victims or persons injured in terrorist attacks in a given country. The frequently used Global Terrorism Index (GTI), based on the number of terrorist attacks and the number of victims, injuries, and property damage caused by such attacks, is also based on this principle.¹² However, this approach can be misleading, as the actual execution of a terrorist attack is only one part of terrorist activities. Terrorism also includes the logistical preparation of a terrorist attack, the recruitment and training of terrorists, communication with the media, etc.¹³ In addition, terrorist groups or independent terrorists may carry out their terrorist activities in a country other than their own for social and economic causes. This heterogeneity, which creates certain preconditions for the spread of terrorism, is not only the result of productivity and economic efficiency but also of a wide range of political, social, cultural, and educational factors, also related to the competitiveness of individual states. Therefore, quantifying the level of terrorism in a country solely on the basis of data on the frequency or intensity of terrorist attacks can be largely misleading.

The above-mentioned problems are a possible reason why opinions on the significance of individual factors of the origin of terrorism differ significantly between various authors of scientific studies and political representatives. After the suicide attack at the Bataclan club in Paris in November 2015, the French ambassador stated: “... *the reason for the attack is not the fact that the assassins are unemployed and have poor economic conditions... the problem is radical Islam*”, i.e., a religion. On the contrary, Steve Mariotti, founder of the Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship, disputes this claim. In his view, religion is often cited as the basic impetus in the European Union, whilst the economic foundations of terrorism are completely ignored. An analysis by the United Nations¹⁴ evaluated the motivating factors for terrorist activities in 500 former members of various extremist organizations in Africa. More than half of the respondents joined extremist movements because their religion was oppressed. Former fighters also declared low trust in government institutions, a high level of hatred toward security forces, the military, and politicians. Government policy was unacceptable to more than 70% of the

⁹ BUTLER, Taryn. What causes terrorism? *Journal of Undergraduate Research* [online]. 2015, 25(2) [cit. 2020-11-9]. Available from: <https://1url.cz/kKE1R>

¹⁰ NEWMAN, Edward. Exploring the “Root Causes” of Terrorism. *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism* [online]. 2017, 29(8), 749-772 [cit. 2020-11-09]. ISSN 1057-610X. Available from: <https://1url.cz/QKE1a>

¹¹ PIAZZA, James A. Rooted in Poverty? Terrorism, Poor Economic Development, and Social Cleavages. *Terrorism and Political Violence* [online]. 2006, 18(1), 159-177 [cit. 2020-03-13]. Available from: <https://1url.cz/8KE13>

¹² Global Terrorism Index (GTI) 2019. Civildaily [online]. 2020 [cit. 2020-09-14]. Available from: <https://1url.cz/qKE1V>

¹³ NACOS, Brigitte Lebens. *Terrorism and Counterterrorism*. 5. Routledge, 2016. ISBN 9781138190122.

¹⁴ Journey to Extremism in Africa: Drivers, incentives and the tipping point for recruitment. *Journey to Extremism in Africa* [online]. New York: United Nations Development Programme, 2017 [cit. 2020-04-28]. Available from: <https://1url.cz/GKE1k>

respondents. The results of the research of Asongu¹⁵ also confirms the fact that ineffective government policy has a major negative impact on the dynamics of terrorist activities. The distrust and inefficiency of the state administration, as well as its institutional failure, is proving to be one of the major accelerators of terrorism. Richardson¹⁶ points out several possible causes of terrorism. He ranks religion among the most important of them. Islamic countries are particularly vulnerable to terrorism. The same findings are published in a study by Kosárová and Ušiak,¹⁷ which identifies the Islamic community as very attractive to isolated individuals in connection with terrorist groups. These individuals are provided with a new identity (holy warriors), a new meaning (the fight for the right thing), and a new affiliation (part of a group). On the contrary, Tavares¹⁸ points out that the factor of religion is not significantly linked to the threat of terrorism.

Social Factors

According to some authors, social inequality is of considerable importance. The study by Ola¹⁹ shows that social inequality among citizens leads to the promotion and spread of terrorism in different countries of the world. High social inequality produces the isolation, poverty, and aggression that can occur in frequent violent conflicts and terrorism. However, as Ola points out, a major problem in studying the relationship between social inequality and terrorism is the fact that individual studies, research, and publications identify social inequality according to different aspects. To determine the influence of social conditions and inequalities on the issue of terrorism, other indices, factors, and determinants are selected, which are used for the analysis of the social sphere. The results of Goldstein's analysis²⁰ suggest that the social gap between the rich and the poor is growing, and this fact can have a significant impact on terrorism. This fact is also confirmed by the research of Lai.

¹⁵ ASONGU, Simplice. Fighting terrorism in Africa: evidence from bundling and unbundling institutions. *Empirical Economics* [online]. 2019, 56(3), 883-933 [cit. 2020-03-13]. Available from: <https://1url.cz/TKE1s>

¹⁶ RICHARDSON, Louise. The roots of terrorism. New York: Routledge, 2006. ISBN 978-0415954372.

¹⁷ KOSÁROVÁ, Dominika and Jaroslav UŠIAK. The Role of Identity in the Contemporary Global Terrorist Movement. *Politické vedy* [online]. 2017, 20(4), 113-133 [cit. 2020-03-13]. ISSN 1335-2741. Available from: <https://1url.cz/4KE1T>

¹⁸ TAVARES, José. The open society assesses its enemies: shocks, disasters and terrorist attacks. *Journal of Monetary Economics* [online]. 2004, 51(5), 1039-1070 [cit. 2020-04-20]. DOI: 10.1016/j.jmoneco.2004.04.009. ISSN 03043932. Available from: <https://1url.cz/EKE1j>

¹⁹ OLA, Temitope. Re-Thinking Poverty, Inequality and Their Relationship to Terrorism. *Journal of Sciences: Basic and Applied Research* [online]. 2018, 21(2), 264-292 [cit. 2020-03-12]. Available from: <https://1url.cz/AKE1d>

²⁰ GOLDSTEIN, Kevin. Unemployment, Inequality and Terrorism: Another Look at the Relationship between Economics and Terrorism. *Undergraduate Economic Review* [online]. 2005, 1(1), 23 [cit. 2020-03-13]. Available from: <https://1url.cz/GKE1h>

In their studies,^{21,22} Moghaddam and Schaefer pointed to social deprivation as an exemplary model of radicalization. Individuals who are socially frustrated are closest to radicalization. An example is Tunisia, which is one of the countries with the highest number of fighters along with the Islamic State. In 2015, approximately 700,000 job seekers were registered (out of a total population of approximately 11 million). 200,000 were university graduates applying for 79,000 low-skilled jobs. The same view is held by Richardson,²³ who analysed the terrorist attacks from previous years. The interaction between unemployment and university education positively correlated with the increase in the number of terrorist attacks. On the contrary, Krueger and Malečková²⁴ concluded that there was only a weak relationship between the level of education and terrorism.

Economic Factors

Piazza²⁵ analysed fluctuations in consumer prices concerning terrorist activities. In this study, consumer price indices of energy, housing, and food were tested as possible predictors of national and international terrorism. Piazza noted a positive correlation between food price inflation and the level of terrorist activity, while no positive correlation was found for changes in energy and housing prices. Rising food prices indicate a search for a solution to this situation in the form of terrorist attacks, especially in non-democratic regimes in developing countries. Shahbaz²⁶ agrees with Piazza's results - inflation affects terrorist activity. A study by Goldstein,²⁰ which extensively analyses the economic factors associated with the risk of terrorism, points to unemployment as an important aspect that influences terrorist activity. Adelaja's research agrees with this conclusion.²⁷

On the contrary, Krieger, and Meierrieks²⁸ point out that poor economic conditions of an individual are of limited importance in terms of generating terrorism. They point out that distrust in government institutions is a more important factor. At the same time, they

²¹ MOGHADDAM, Fathali M. The Staircase to Terrorism: A Psychological Exploration. *American Psychologist* [online]. 2005, 60(2), 161-169 [cit. 2020-04-28]. DOI: 10.1037/0003-066X.60.2.161. ISSN 1935-990X. Available from: <https://1url.cz/gKE1U>

²² SCHAEFER, Isabel. Political Revolt and Youth Unemployment in Tunisia [online]. Cham: Springer International Publishing, 2018 [cit. 2020-04-28]. ISBN 978-3-319-65084-5

²³ RICHARDSON, Claire. Relative Deprivation Theory in Terrorism: A Study of Higher Education and Unemployment as Predictors of Terrorism. New York: New York University, 2011.

²⁴ KRUEGER, Alan B and Jitka MALEČKOVÁ. Education, Poverty and Terrorism: Is There a Causal Connection? *Journal of Economic Perspectives* [online]. 2003, 17(4), 119-144 [cit. 2020-03-12]. DOI: 10.1257/089533003772034925. ISSN 0895-3309. Available from: <https://1url.cz/4KE1f>

²⁵ PIAZZA, James. The Cost of Living and Terror: Does Consumer Price Volatility Fuel Terrorism? [online]. 2013, 79(4), 812-231 [cit. 2020-03-13]. Available from: <https://1url.cz/xKE1l>

²⁶ SHAHBAZ, Muhammad. Linkages between inflation, economic growth and terrorism in Pakistan. *Economic Modelling* [online]. 2013, 32(1), 496-506 [cit. 2020-03-13]. Available from: <https://1url.cz/uKE1g>

²⁷ ADELAJA, Adesoji O. and Eva Penar. Public Opinion on the Root Causes of Terrorism and Objectives of Terrorists: A Boko Haram Case Study. *Perspectives on Terrorism* [online] 2018, 12(3), 35-49 [cit. 201-04-18]. Available from: <https://1url.cz/hKE1S>

²⁸ KRIEGER, Tim and Daniel MEIERRIEKS. Income inequality, redistribution and domestic terrorism. *World Development* [online]. 2019, 116, 125-136 [cit. 2020-03-13]. DOI: 10.1016/j.worlddev.2018.12.008. ISSN 0305750X. Available from: <https://1url.cz/bKE10>

point out that the roots of terrorism are emerging in places that are densely populated, undemocratic, and politically unstable. Krueger and Malečková²⁴ share a similar view - citizens' financial incomes do not affect terrorist activities. The negative relationship between the financial income of the population and terrorism is discussed in other professional publications and research.^{11,29,30} Despite the above facts, some authors^{31,32,33} are convinced of the existence of a close link between the financial income of citizens and the number of terrorist attacks. A 2016 study by Enders et al.,³⁴ which analyses the relationship between terrorist attacks and the financial income of the population since 1970, confirms the existence of a negative correlation between the two variables.

Regarding the link between the rate of economic growth of the state and the rate of terrorist activity in the country, the existing evidence is ambiguous. Some authors state that there is a positive correlation between the two variables, while others did not find any statistically significant dependence between them.³⁵ Choi³⁶ points out that the level of economic growth is associated with a higher level of suicide attacks. A well-functioning market economy based on rapid but stable economic growth is therefore not necessarily the cure for the growing threat of terrorism. The annual report from the Institute for Economics and Peace states that there is no systematic link between the economic indicator of GDP (gross domestic product) and the development of terrorism.³⁵

²⁹ ABADIE, Alberto. Poverty, Political Freedom, and the Roots of Terrorism. *American Economic Review* [online]. 2006, 96(2), 50-56 [cit. 2020-03-13]. DOI: 10.1257/000282806777211847. ISSN 0002-8282. Available from: <https://1url.cz/MKE1v>

³⁰ LI, Quan. Does Democracy Promote or Reduce Transnational Terrorist Incidents? *Journal of Conflict Resolution* [online]. 2016, 49(2), 278-297 [cit. 2020-03-13]. DOI: 10.1177/0022002704272830. ISSN 0022-0027. Available from: <https://1url.cz/OKE1X>

³¹ PIAZZA, James A. Poverty, minority economic discrimination, and domestic terrorism. *Journal of Peace Research* [online]. 2011, 48(3), 339-353 [cit. 2020-03-13]. DOI: 10.1177/0022343310397404. ISSN 0022-3433. Available from: <https://1url.cz/iKE1O>

³² GASSEBNER, Martin and Simon LUECHINGER. Lock, stock, and barrel: a comprehensive assessment of the determinants of terror. *Public Choice* [online]. 2011, 149(3-4), 235-261 [cit. 2020-03-13]. DOI: 10.1007/s11127-011-9873-0. ISSN 0048-5829. Available from: <https://1url.cz/8KE15>

³³ LI, Quan and Drew SCHAUB. Economic Globalization and Transnational Terrorism. *Journal of Conflict Resolution* [online]. 2016, 48(2), 230-258 [cit. 2020-03-13]. DOI: 10.1177/0022002703262869. ISSN 0022-0027. Available from: <https://1url.cz/lKE1p>

³⁴ ENDERS, Walter, Gary A. HOOVER and Todd SANDLER. The Changing Nonlinear Relationship between Income and Terrorism. *Journal of Conflict Resolution* [online]. 2014, 60(2), 195-225 [cit. 2020-03-13]. DOI: 10.1177/0022002714535252. ISSN 0022-0027. Available from: <https://1url.cz/9KE19>

³⁵ MAXIMINO, Martin and Denise-Marie ORDWAY. The relationship between terrorism and economic growth: Research. *Journalist's Resource* [online]. 2015 [cit. 2020-03-13]. Available from: <https://1url.cz/iKE1P>

³⁶ CHOI, S.-W. Economic growth and terrorism: domestic, international, and suicide. *Oxford Economic Papers* [online]. 2014, 67(1), 157-181 [cit. 2020-03-13]. DOI: 10.1093/oep/gpu036. ISSN 0030-7653. Available from: <https://1url.cz/SKE1c>

Security-Political Factors

According to a number of authors, such as Campos and Gassebner,³⁷ Odehnal and Sedlačik,³⁸ Krueger and Laitin,³⁹ political instability is an important factor in the emergence of terrorism. In their analysis, Campos and Gassebner state that domestic political instability, national and international conflicts affect national and international terrorism. Krueger and Laitin identify political instability as a major cause of terrorism. Odehnal and Sedlačik point to the dominant position of political instability as a determinant of terrorist activity.

An equally important factor is the search for connections and links between the content of the terms crime and terrorism. There are considerable similarities between crime and terrorism, including the forms of their implementation, the influence of the social system and the organization itself.^{40,41}

Another possible predictor of terrorism is corruption. A study by Boussig and Ghdamsi⁴² reveals a long-term correlation between these two variables. The study analysed 123 states between the years 2003 and 2014. However, Simpson⁴³ arrived at completely different results, analysing 106 states between 1990 and 2010. According to his results, there is no statistically significant relationship between corruption and terrorism.

In our opinion, for the above-mentioned methodological problems and different conclusions of the performed studies, it is not possible to use the existing knowledge to create a reliable model that would allow the design of preventive measures. Therefore, the goal of this study is not to search for the relationship between terrorism and the above-mentioned objective economic, social, and security policy indicators. The goal of this research is to identify a set of causes of terrorism based on an analysis of the subjective views of security experts.

³⁷ CAMPOS, Nauro and Martin GASSEBNER. International Terrorism, Domestic Political Instability, and the Escalation Effect. *Economics & Politics* [online]. 2013, 25(1), 27-47 [cit. 2020-03-14]. DOI: 10.1111/ecpo.12002. ISSN 09541985. Available from: <https://1url.cz/PKE1n>

³⁸ ODEHNAL, Jakub and Marek SEDLAČIK. Political stability as a determinant of terrorist attacks in developed and developing countries: An empirical multivariate classification analysis [online]. 2018 [cit. 2020-03-14]. DOI: 10.1063/1.5043742. Available from: <https://1url.cz/1KE16>

³⁹ KRUEGER, Alan B. and David LAITIN. Kto Kogo? A Cross-Country Study of the Origins and Targets of Terrorism. KEEFER, Philip a Norman LOAYZA, ed. *Terrorism, Economic Development, and Political Openness* [online]. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008, s. 148-173 [cit. 2020-03-14]. DOI: 10.1017/CBO9780511754388.006. ISBN 9780511754388. Available from: <https://1url.cz/FKE18>

⁴⁰ MULLINS, Sam. Parallels between Crime and Terrorism: A Social Psychological Perspective. *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism* [online]. 2009, 32(9), 811-830 [cit. 2020-03-13]. DOI: 10.1080/10576100903109776. ISSN 1057-610X. Available from: <https://1url.cz/OK1x>

⁴¹ PROKIĆ, Ana. The Link between Organized Crime and Terrorism. *Series: Law and Politics* [online]. 2017, 085-094 [cit. 2020-03-13]. DOI: 10.22190/FULP1701085P. ISSN 2406-1786. Available from: <https://1url.cz/TKE1A>

⁴² BOUSSIGA, Nahil and Malek GH DAMSI. The Corruption-Terrorism Nexus: A Panel Data Approach. *International Journal of Economics and Finance* [online]. 2016, 8(11) [cit. 2020-03-13]. DOI: 10.5539/ijef.v8n11p111. ISSN 1916-9728. Available from: <https://1url.cz/6KE1m>

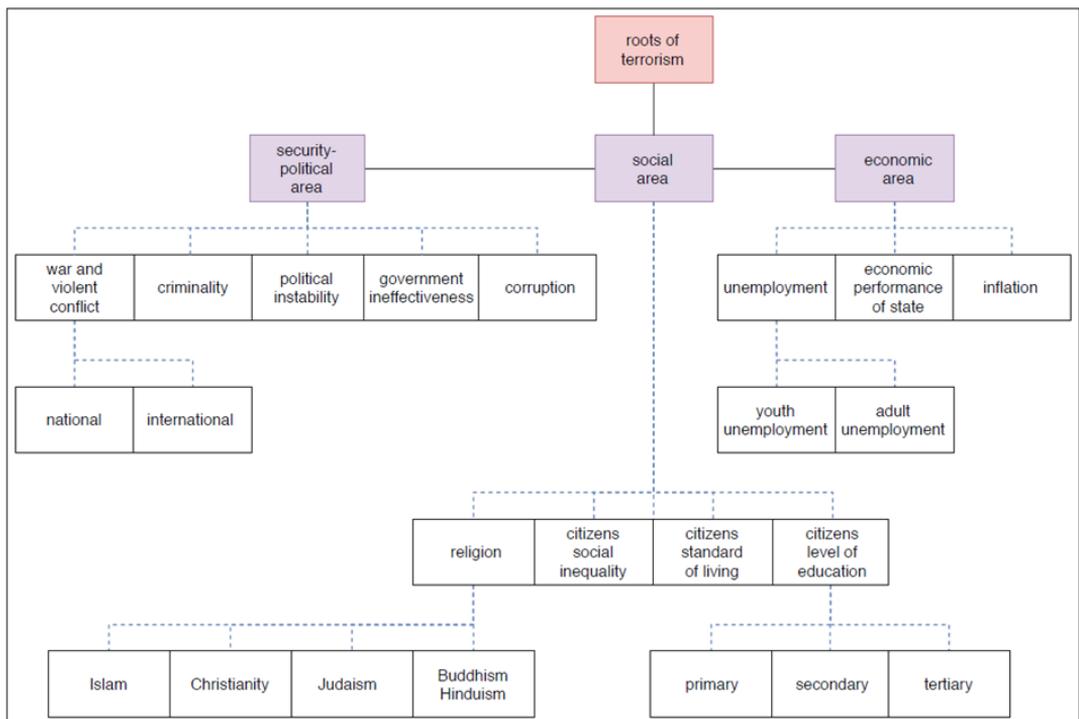
⁴³ SIMPSON, Matthew. Terrorism and Corruption. *International Journal of Sociology* [online]. 2014, 44(2), 87-104 [cit. 2020-03-13]. DOI: 10.2753/IJS0020-7659440204. ISSN 0020-7659. Available from: <https://1url.cz/ZKE17>

METHODS

The initial method of literary analysis was supplemented by the method of quantitative analysis in the form of an expert questionnaire survey. Experts from the academic military and security environment took part in the research itself. The collection of information was anonymous and created the necessary variety of expert answers to allow greater objectification of data.

Based on the above search of the literature, a list of possible causes of terrorism in the social, economic, and security-political areas was created. The hierarchical model is shown in Fig. 1. A questionnaire was created for the hierarchical model for a pairwise comparison of the significance of individual factors.

Figure 1: The hierarchical model



Source: authors

Based on the hierarchical model, the questionnaire was processed in the 1KA web interface.⁴⁴ The respondents were invited to assess the significance of individual factors in terms of their importance as possible causes of terrorism on a set rating scale. Within the pairwise comparison, the significance of all factors was evaluated separately for each

⁴⁴ 1KA [online]. Ljubljana: Centre for Social Informatics, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana [cit. 2020-09-14]. Available from: <https://1url.cz/zKEJt>

defined area (i.e., social, economic, security-political area) and the significance of individual variants of some factors (see Fig. 1). Within each individual comparison, the respondents were asked to assess the importance of the compared factors by marking appropriate numerical values on a set scale from 1 to 9. The individual numerical values on the rating scale from 1 to 9 were assigned the following verbal evaluation in accordance with Saaty's recommendation: Chyba! Záložka není definována.

1 - "equal importance"

3 - "moderate importance of one over another"

5 - "essential or strong importance"

7 - "very strong importance"

9 - "extreme importance"

2,4,6,8 - intermediate values between the two adjacent judgments

A pairwise comparison matrix for each area was calculated as the arithmetic mean of the values given by the respondents for each pairwise comparison. The weights of the individual factors were then calculated approximatively by normalizing the line geometric means of the pairwise comparison matrix, as described by Saaty.

Subsequently, we addressed local military academies, the Ministry of the Interior, and the Ministry of Defence in 31 countries based on their previous cooperation with the University of Defence with a request to fill in the created questionnaire from terrorism experts who work at the institution. We received answer from a total of 108 potential respondents, who were sent a link to the questionnaire via email. The questionnaire was filled out by 52 people from 31 countries (see Tab. 1).

Table 1: Number of respondents by country

COUNTRY AND INSTITUTION	NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS
AUSTRIA (<i>Ministry of Defence</i>)	1
BELGIUM (<i>University of Liège</i>)	1
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA (<i>Ministry of Interior</i>)	1
BULGARIA (<i>National Military University, Ministry of Defence</i>)	4
CANADA (<i>Royal Military College Saint-Jean</i>)	1
CROATIA (<i>Croatian Defence Academy</i>)	1
CYPRUS (<i>Ministry of Defence</i>)	1
ESTONIA (<i>Estonian National Defence College, Ministry of Interior</i>)	2
FINLAND (<i>Ministry of Interior</i>)	1
FRANCE (<i>Saint-Cyr Military Academy</i>)	1
GERMANY (<i>The Military Academy of Armed Forces</i>)	1
GREECE (<i>Hellenic Army Academy</i>)	2
HUNGARY (<i>National University of Public Service</i>)	1
CHINA (<i>Republic of China Military Academy</i>)	1
IRELAND (<i>The Military College</i>)	1
ITALY (<i>Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Interior</i>)	2
LATVIA (<i>Ministry of Interior</i>)	1
LITHUANIA (<i>Ministry of Defence</i>)	1
NETHERLANDS (<i>Defence Academy</i>)	2
NORTH MACEDONIA (<i>Ministry of Interior</i>)	1
POLAND (<i>Ministry of Interior, National Defence University of Warsaw</i>)	6
PORTUGAL (<i>Military Academy</i>)	2
ROMANIA (<i>Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Defence</i>)	4
RUSSIA (<i>Military University of the Ministry of Defense</i>)	1
SLOVAKIA (<i>Ministry of Interior, Armed Forces Academy</i>)	5
SLOVENIA (<i>University of Maribor</i>)	1
SPAIN (<i>General Military Academy</i>)	2
SWEDEN (<i>Swedish Defence University</i>)	1
UNITED KINGDOM (<i>Royal Military Academy Sandhurst</i>)	1
USA (<i>United States Military Academy West Point</i>)	5

Source: authors

In addition to the questionnaire survey, an analysis of expert studies was carried out. This dealt with the significance of individual factors as possible predictors of the level of terrorist activity in the country. The studies were searched based on keywords in the SCOPUS, Web of Science, and Google Scholar databases. For individual studies, it was monitored whether or not the study showed a significant correlation between a given factor and terrorist activity. Table 3 then summarizes the conclusions of professional publications, articles, and studies from individual authors related to individual factors.

Some selected indexes related to the assessed factors were used in the discussion. The Global Terrorism Index (GTI), published annually by the Institute for Economics and Peace, was used to assess the level of terrorist activity. Countries with a GTI higher than 6 were selected for comparison. This expresses “*high or very high impact of terrorism*”.¹² Data from the Conflict Barometer database from the Heidelberg Institute for International Conflict Research was used to evaluate national and international war and violent conflicts.⁷³ The Inequality-adjusted Human Development Index (IHDI) published by the UN was used in the evaluation of the social inequality factor in individual countries (the lower the score, the higher the social inequality in the country).⁴⁵ The unemployment factor is expressed as a percentage of the unemployment rate in each country from the World Bank Data database.⁴⁶ The values of all indices and data were published in 2019 (more up-to-date values were not publicly available at the time the article was prepared).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of the average values of the normalized weights of individual factors (order of significance) are shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Significance of factors influencing the level of terrorist activities in the country according to the respondent’s opinions

Factor	Weights	Normalized weights for alternatives
1) SECURITY-POLITICAL AREA		
1) war and violent conflict	0.386	
1) national	0.508	1
2) international	0.492	0.969
2) corruption	0.159	
3) criminality	0.157	
4) government inefficiency	0.155	
5) political instability	0.130	
2) SOCIAL AREA		
1) social inequality	0.324	
2) religion	0.283	0.283
1. Islam	0.469	1

⁴⁵ Inequality-adjusted HDI (IHDI). United Nations Development Programme - Human Development Reports [online]. 2019 [cit. 2020-11-11]. Available from: <https://1url.cz/fKEJX>

⁴⁶ Unemployment, total (% of total labor force) (modeled ILO estimate). The World Bank [online]. 2019 [cit. 2020-11-11]. Available from: <https://1url.cz/iKEJO>

2. Christianity	0.195	0.416
3. Judaism	0.179	0.382
4. Buddhism/Hinduism	0.158	0.337
3) level of education	0.228	1
1) university	0.374	0.936
2) primary	0.350	0.735
3) secondary	0.275	
4) standard of life	0.164	
3) ECONOMIC AREA		
1) unemployment	0.620	1
1) unemployment of youth	0.601	0.664
2) unemployment of adults	0.399	
2) state economic efficiency	0.235	
3) inflation	0.144	

Note: The individual factors are listed in descending order within the individual areas according to the calculated weight.

In the security-political area, respondents identified the presence of a conflict in the country as the most important predictor of terrorism ($w = 0.386$, see Tab. 2). In its 2020 annual report,⁴⁷ the Institute for Economics & Peace (an international organization) states that armed and violent conflict is a major driver of terrorist activity. Several professional studies agree with this conclusion (Tab. 3). Respondents gave significantly lower importance to other security-political factors. We can also say that the degree of the significance of these factors is very similar in value (Tab. 2). Although the respondents attributed less significance to these factors compared to the war conflict factor, the analysed expert studies agree on the existence of a strong link between these factors and terrorist activities (Tab. 3). In his study, Tahir⁴⁸ concluded that low levels of corruption ($w = 0.159$, see Tab. 2) have a negative impact on terrorism in Muslim and non-Muslim countries. Asongu et al.¹⁵ analysed the government inefficiency factor ($w = 0.155$, see Tab. 2) in relation to terrorism in 53 African countries and found a positive correlation between the two variables. Lai⁴ states that civil war or instability associated with an unfavourable political situation ($w = 0.130$, see Tab. 2) in the country produces greater terrorist activity. All of the analysed publications that dealt with the relationship between terrorist activity and crime in the country ($w = 0.157$, see Tab. 2) found a significant

⁴⁷ Institute for Economics & Peace. *Global Peace Index 2020: Measuring Peace in a Complex World*. 2020 [cit. 2020-11-11]. Available from: <https://1url.cz/YKEJM>

⁴⁸ TAHIR, Muhammad. Terrorism and its Determinants: Panel Data Evidence from 94 Countries. *Applied Research in Quality of Life* [online]. [cit. 2020-04-18]. DOI: 10.1007/s11482-018-9660-x. ISSN 1871-2584. Available from: <https://1url.cz/PKEJz>

correlation between these variables. Stanojoska⁴⁹ explains this link on the basis of documented cases where organized criminal groups gradually become terrorist organizations.

From the respondents' point of view, the most important factor in the social field was social inequality in the country ($w = 0.324$, see Tab. 2). This corresponds with the conclusions of most of the analysed studies listed in Table 2. Although, e.g., Abadie²⁹ does not agree with these conclusions and, according to his publication, social inequality is not a statistically significant factor in comparison with other factors.

Respondents considered the influence of religion to be the second most important factor ($w = 0.283$, see Tab. 2). However, we cannot unequivocally say that the second factor corresponds with the conclusions in the analysed studies in terms of importance (Table 3). Several of these studies have concluded that religion has a strong relationship to the level of terrorist activity in the country. On the contrary, there are studies that have achieved opposite conclusions. A number of studies (such as one by Lewis⁵⁰), point to the religious nature of the most important terrorist organizations. On the contrary, Pearce⁵¹ rejects the claim that Islam is the cause of terrorist activities and also rejects the fact that Muslims are necessarily more violent than other religious groups. Similarly, Kruger and Malečková²⁴ believe that religion is not one of the most significant causes of terrorism. The third most important factor from the point of view of the respondents was the level of education of citizens ($w = 0.228$, see Tab. 2). Although according to the respondents this is the penultimate factor in terms of importance, the conclusions of the analysed studies are again ambiguous (Tab. 3). Drakos and Gofas⁵² state that the influence of any level of education does not significantly indicate a link to terrorism. On the other hand, Tavares¹⁸ published a study in which he identified a link between higher rates of illiteracy of adult men and terrorist activity. Different conclusions are identified by significant differences in the methodological approaches that were used to measure the level of education.

Respondents identified the living standards of citizens as the least significant factor ($w = 0.164$, see Tab. 2). This result corresponds with the conclusions of the studies analysed in Table 3. Piazza⁵ states that the standard of living of citizens is not significantly linked to the potential generation of terrorist activities. However, despite this claim he adds that, in the case of a low standard of living for citizens, when accompanied by other related aspects (e.g., government inefficient economic policy), this factor can lead to terrorist acts.

⁴⁹ STANOJOSKA, Angelina. The Connection between Terrorism and Organized Crime: Narcoterrorism and the Other Hybrids. *Combating Terrorism - International Standards and Legislation*. Serbia, 2011, pp. 8. Available from: <https://1url.cz/9KEJr>

⁵⁰ LEWIS, Bernard. The Roots of Muslim Rage. *The Atlantic* [online]. 1990 [cit. 2020-11-11]. Available from: <https://1url.cz/WKEJu>

⁵¹ PEARCE, Susanna. Religious Rage: A Quantitative Analysis of the Intensity of Religious Conflicts. *Terrorism and Political Violence* [online]. 2005, 17(3), 333-352 [cit. 2020-11-11]. ISSN 0954-6553. Available from: <https://1url.cz/LKEJ1>

⁵² DRAKOS, Konstantinos and Andreas GOFAS. In Search of the Average Transnational Terrorist Attack Venue. *Defence and Peace Economics* [online]. 2006, 17(2), 73-93 [cit. 2020-04-18]. DOI: 10.1080/10242690500445387. ISSN 1024-2694. Available from: <https://1url.cz/qKEJJ>

In the economic field, respondents identified unemployment as the most significant cause regarding the generation of terrorist activities ($w = 0.620$, see Tab. 2). These findings are supported by the studies presented in Table 2. Specifically, Goldstein²⁰ states that a 1% increase in adult unemployment in a given country will increase the risk of terrorism by 0.02%. Bagchi⁵³ concluded that juvenile unemployment in the Middle East and North Africa has a significant impact on domestic terrorist activities. In their study, Stojarová and Stojar⁵⁴ state that unemployment combined with illiteracy of citizens is the trigger for successful indoctrination and that these people can be expected to be successfully radicalized. Respondents gave significantly lower importance to other economic factors in comparison with the unemployment factor. The respondents considered the influence of the economic performance of the state to be the second most important factor ($w = 0.235$, see Table 2). In this case, the analysed professional publications do not agree. For example, Blomberg et al.⁵⁵ state that the time of economic recession is associated with increased vulnerability to terrorist attacks. On the other hand, studies by Feldmann and Perälä⁵⁶ on the relationship between economics and terrorism in Latin America and by Piazza⁵⁷ regarding the Middle East argue that the state's economic performance does not play a dominant role in finding the causes of terrorist attacks. The respondents identified inflation as the least significant factor ($w = 0.144$, see Tab. 2). However, this opinion is contradicted, e.g., by the study by Piazza,²⁵ which argues that inflation causes economic difficulties. This creates social-economic instability, which is associated with distrust in government policy and increases the risk of terrorism in the given country.

Table 3 summarizes the conclusions of professional publications, articles, and studies from individual authors related to individual factors.

⁵³ BAGCHI, Aniruddha and Jomon A. PAUL. Youth unemployment and terrorism in the MENAP (Middle East, North Africa, Afghanistan, and Pakistan) region. *Socio-Economic Planning Sciences* [online]. 2018, 64, 9-20 [cit. 2020-11-12]. ISSN 00380121. Available from: <https://1url.cz/AKEJe>

⁵⁴ STOJAROVÁ, Věra and Richard STOJAR. Balkan Regional Development: Moderate or Radical Islam for the Balkans. *Journal of Balkan and Near Eastern Studies* [online]. 2018, 21(4), 387-402 [cit. 2021-02-24]. ISSN 1944-8953. Available from: <https://1url.cz/PKEJQ>

⁵⁵ BLOMBERG, S.Brock, Gregory D. HESS and Akila WEERAPANA. Economic conditions and terrorism. *European Journal of Political Economy* [online]. 2004, 20(2), 463-478 [cit. 2020-11-12]. ISSN 01762680. Available from: <https://1url.cz/GKEJW>

⁵⁶ FELDMANN, Andreas E. and Maiju PERÄLÄ. Reassessing the Causes of Nongovernmental Terrorism in Latin America. *Latin American Politics and Society* [online]. 2004, 46(2), 101-132 [cit. 2020-11-12]. ISSN 1531-426X. Available from: <https://1url.cz/HKEJi>

⁵⁷ PIAZZA, James A. Draining the Swamp: Democracy Promotion, State Failure, and Terrorism in 19 Middle Eastern Countries. *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism* [online]. 2007, 30(6), 521-539 [cit. 2020-11-12]. ISSN 1057-610X. Available from: <https://1url.cz/KKEJw>

Table 3: Results of the analysis of the search for causes of terrorism

Factor	Confirmation of the significance of the causes of terrorism	Failure to confirm the significance of the causes of terrorism
1) SECURITY-POLITICAL AREA		
1) national/international war and violent conflict	58 59 37 4 30 5 52	
2) corruption	42 60 61 48	43
3) criminality	40 41 49	
4) government inefficiency	62 15 63 59 64 65	43
5) political instability	5 37 38 39 4 66 30 48	
2) SOCIAL AREA		

⁵⁸ PLAMPER, Thomas and Eric NEUMAYER. The friend of my enemy is my enemy: International alliances and international terrorism. *European Journal of Political Research* [online]. 2010, 49(1), 75-96 [cit. 2020-04-18]. DOI: 10.1111/j.1475-6765.2009.01885.x. ISSN 03044130. Available from: <https://1url.cz/jKEJo>

⁵⁹ BRAITHWAITE, Alex and QUAN LI. Transnational Terrorism Hot Spots: Identification and Impact Evaluation. *Conflict Management and Peace Science* [online]. 2016, 24(4), 281-296 [cit. 2020-04-18]. DOI: 10.1080/07388940701643623. ISSN 0738-8942. Available from: <https://1url.cz/8KEJN>

⁶⁰ AGANG, Sunday B. Globalization and Terrorism: Corruption as a Case to Ponder. *Pyrex Journal of Law and Conflict Resolution (PJLCR)* [online]. 2016, 2(1), 1-9 [cit. 2020-04-18]. Available from: <https://1url.cz/SKEJ2>

⁶¹ CHENOWETH, Erica. The Inadvertent Effects of Democracy on Terrorist Group Emergence. BCSIA Discussion Paper 2006-06 [online]. 2006 [cit. 2020-04-18]. Available from: <https://1url.cz/SKEJq>

⁶² FREYTAG, Andreas, Jens J. KRUGER and Daniel MEIERRIEKS. The Origins of Terrorism: Cross-Country Estimates on Socio-Economic Determinants of Terrorism. Economics of Security Working Paper 27. German Institute for Economic Research, 2010. ISSN 1868-0488

⁶³ LI, Quan and Drew SCHAUB. Economic Globalization and Transnational Terrorism. *Journal of Conflict Resolution* [online]. 2016, 48(2), 230-258 [cit. 2020-09-17]. ISSN 0022-0027. Available from: <https://1url.cz/zKEJk>

⁶⁴ BURGOON, Brian. On Welfare and Terror. *Journal of Conflict Resolution* [online]. 2016, 50(2), 176-203 [cit. 2020-09-18]. ISSN 0022-0027. Available from: <https://1url.cz/NKEJT>

⁶⁵ KOCH, Michael T. and Skyler CRANMER. Testing the "Dick Cheney" Hypothesis: Do Governments of the Left Attract More Terrorism than Governments of the Right? *Conflict Management and Peace Science* [online]. 2016, 24(4), 311-326 [cit. 2020-09-18]. ISSN 0738-8942. Available from: <https://1url.cz/MKEJj>

⁶⁶ PIAZZA, James A. Do Democracy and Free Markets Protect Us From Terrorism? *International Politics* [online]. 2008, 45(1), 72-91 [cit. 2020-09-17]. ISSN 1384-5748. Available from: <https://1url.cz/FKEJd>

1) social inequality	19 59 39 67 68 18	29 37
2) religion	11 69 70 50 17	29 67 24 39 18
3) education level	71 67 62 18	52 24
4) standard of life	4 30	29 37 72 24 65 11
3) ECONOMIC AREA		
1) unemployment	20 27 23 18 54	11
2) state economic efficiency	35 36 55	37 39 11 56 57
3) inflation	25 26	

The performed analysis of professional publications related to the discussed topic (Tab. 3) was mostly in accordance with the results of the questionnaire in Tab. 2. Based on the obtained results, an assessment of the following factors can be recommended as possible predictors of terrorism:

- a) war and violent conflict (national and international);
- b) social inequality;
- c) unemployment.

The significance of the above factors as predictors of terrorist activity in a country coincides with the results of the questionnaire survey with the conclusions of the analysed studies.

The Conflict Barometer can be used to assess war and violent conflicts, including their intensity in a given state.⁷³ This database analyses all conflicts worldwide in terms of their duration, the conflict, the parties, and their intensity, including the year-on-year

⁶⁷ BRAVO, Ana Bela Santos and Carlos Manuel Mendes DIAS. An Empirical Analysis of Terrorism: Deprivation, Islamism and Geopolitical Factors. *Defence and Peace Economics* [online]. 2006, 17(4), 329-341 [cit. 2020-09-18]. ISSN 1024-2694. Available from: <https://1url.cz/tKEJ4>

⁶⁸ AZAM, Jean-Paul and Alexandra DELACROIX. Aid and the Delegated Fight against Terrorism. *Review of Development Economics* [online]. 2006, 10(2), 330-344 [cit. 2020-09-18]. ISSN 1363-6669. Available from: <https://1url.cz/2KEJD>

⁶⁹ FOX, Jonathan. The Rise of Religious Nationalism and Conflict: Ethnic Conflict and Revolutionary Wars, 1945-2001. *Journal of Peace Research* [online]. 2016, 41(6), 715-731 [cit. 2020-11-11]. ISSN 0022-3433. Available from: <https://1url.cz/aKEJh>

⁷⁰ KRAMER, Martin. Sacrifice and fratricide in Shiite Lebanon. *Terrorism and Political Violence* [online]. 1991, 3(3), 30-47 [cit. 2020-11-11]. ISSN 0954-6553. Available from: <https://1url.cz/YKEJC>

⁷¹ AZAM, Jean-Paul and Véronique THELEN. The roles of foreign aid and education in the war on terror. *Public Choice* [online]. 2008, 135(3-4), 375-397 [cit. 2020-09-18]. ISSN 0048-5829. Available from: <https://1url.cz/6KEJZ>

⁷² DREHER, Axel and Justina A. V. FISCHER. Government Decentralization as a Disincentive for Transnational Terror? An Empirical Analysis. *International Economic Review* [online]. 2010, 51(4), 981-1002 [cit. 2020-09-18]. ISSN 00206598. Available from: <https://1url.cz/iKEJU>

⁷³ Conflict Barometer. *Heidelberg Institute for International Conflict Research* [online]. Heidelberg, 2020 [cit. 2020-11-13]. Available from: <https://1url.cz/zKEJI>

increase/decrease in intensity. There is also the possibility of using the Global Peace Index,⁷⁴ on which, for example, the Institute for Economics & Peace and their annual reports on war and violent conflicts are based. This index is generated for each state on the basis of 23 indicators that analyse conflict situations from several aspects (length of the conflict, the intensity of the conflict, number of people killed during the conflict, number of refugees from the conflict area, etc.).

A number of indicators can be used to assess social inequality in the country. Especially in the analysed studies, the most commonly used was the Gini Coefficient⁷⁵ (e.g., Enders,³⁴ Krieger and Meierrieke,²⁸ Goldstein²⁰). This coefficient is a numerical characteristic of diversification. It is used mainly to express the distribution of wealth in society and also indicates the level of structural competitiveness of capabilities, which can manifest itself in the field of support for terrorism. At the same time, it is a frequently used index of income or income inequality in society. However, this coefficient only takes financial aspects into account. Nevertheless, the Human Development Index⁷⁶ can also be used, which considers the differences in the financial aspects of citizens as well as the differences in citizens' education, health, and life expectancy. However, this index is often criticized. For example, the study by Wolff et al.⁷⁷ states that the index is not calculated statistically correctly. Based on this statistical error, up to 34 % of countries are incorrectly classified in the assessment of social inequality. Another indicator may be the Social Progress Index,⁷⁸ which measures the degree of provision of social needs of citizens in a given state. This index includes 54 indicators regarding basic human needs, well-being, and opportunities for social progress.

Within the evaluation of the economic factor of unemployment, the indicator of the unemployment rate in a country (percentage of total unemployment, unemployment of men/women, unemployment of juveniles, etc.) is most often used. Goldstein²⁰ applied unemployment data from the International Labour Office database to his study. Richardson²³ also worked with the data on the development of unemployment in individual countries from The World Bank international database. Other important data on the unemployment rate are provided by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) database. At the same time, it should be noted that individual databases do not draw unemployment data from identical sources. Based on this fact, it is possible to come across different figures on unemployment in the above-mentioned databases.

⁷⁴ Institute for Economics & Peace. *Global Peace Index 2020: Measuring Peace in a Complex World*. 2020 [cit. 2020-11-11]. Available from: <https://www.economicsandpeace.org/reports/>

⁷⁵ Gini Index. *The World Bank* [online]. 2018 [cit. 2020-11-14]. Available from: <https://1url.cz/fKEJg>

⁷⁶ Human Development Index (HDI). *United Nations Development Programme* [online]. 2018 [cit. 2020-11-14]. Available from: <https://1url.cz/DKEJS>

⁷⁷ WOLFF, Hendrik, CHONG, Howard and AUFFHAMMER, Maximilian. Human Development Index: Are Developing Countries Misclassified? Annual Meeting, July 26-28, 2009. Milwaukee, Wisconsin 49763, Agricultural and Applied Economics Association. Available from: <https://1url.cz/KKEJ0>

⁷⁸ Social Progress Index. *Social Progress Imperative* [online]. 2020 [cit. 2020-04-21]. Available from: <https://1url.cz/EKEJv>

Table 4 shows the values of selected indices (related to the 3 possible predictors of terrorism) that have been identified in this article in countries with a high level of terrorist activity.

Table 4: Evaluation of selected factors in countries with a high level of terrorist activity (Global Terrorism Index value in 2019 higher than 6)

country	Global Terrorism Index	national and international violent and political conflicts (number of all conflicts with overall intensity)	social inequality (IHD index)	unemployment (rate in %)
Afghanistan	9.592	4 conflicts (overall intensity: 14)	0.356	11.2
Iraq	8.682	4 (13)	0.541	12.8
Nigeria	8.314	7 (24)	0.348	8.1
Syria	7.778	8 (27)	0.415	8.4
Somalia	7.645	5 (15)		11.4
Yemen	7.581	5 (19)	0.321	12.9
Pakistan	7.541	8 (20)	0.384	4.5
India	7.353	22 (54)	0.475	5.4
DR Congo	7.178	9 (31)	0.335	4.2
Philippines	7.099	5 (14)	0.587	2.2
Mali	7.049	5 (16)	0.289	7.2
Burkina Faso	6.755	3 (10)	0.316	6.3
Cameroon	6.627	2 (9)	0.348	3.4
Egypt	6.419	5 (19)	0.497	10.8
Mozambique	6.400	2 (7)	0.316	3.2
Libya	6.250	3 (14)		18.6
Central African Republic	6.241	2 (7)	0.232	3.7
Turkey	6.110	4 (13)	0.683	13.5
Columbia	6.100	11 (27)	0.595	9.7

Sri Lanka	6.065	2 (6)	0.673	4.2
arithmetic mean	7.139	6 (18)	0.428	8.1

Note 1: GTI values from 6 to 8 indicate a high impact of terrorism. GTI values higher than 8 indicate a very high impact of terrorism.

Note 2: IHDI value below 0.550 indicates very high inequality in the distribution of social needs across the population. IHDI value between 0.550-0.699 indicates high inequality in the distribution of social needs across the population. IHDI value between 0.700-0.799 indicates low inequality in the distribution of social needs across the population. IHDI value at 0.800 indicates very low inequality in the distribution of social needs across the population.

Table 5 shows the arithmetic averages of selected indices that are related to the 3 possible predictors of terrorism. In this article, these are identified for the 29 countries in the world with a zero rate of terrorist activity.

Table 5: Evaluation of selected factors in countries with zero terrorist activity (the value of Global Terrorism Index in 2019 equals 0)

country	Global Terrorism Index	national and international war, violent and political conflicts (number of all conflicts with overall intensity)	social inequality (IHDI index)	unemployment (rate in %)
arithmetic mean of 29 countries	0.000	1 (2)	0.583	6.2

From the findings analysed in the tables, we can state that countries with zero terrorist activity have, on average, a smaller number and lower intensity of national and international violent conflicts [1 (2) < 6 (18)]. Similarly, lower social inequalities can be identified in these countries (0.583 > 0.428) and, last but not least, these countries have lower unemployment rates (6.2 < 8.1).

CONCLUSION

Based on our results, national and international war and violent conflicts (from the security-political area) proved to be the most important predictor of terrorist activity according to experts, followed by social inequality (in the social area) and unemployment (in the economic area). The achieved results suggest that the monitoring and evaluation of individual socio-economic criteria can be an important predictor for influencing the security policy of states regarding the elimination of possible causes of terrorism. It is necessary to highlight the fact that our results are based only on subjective opinions of selected respondents. Moreover, only measurable economic, social, and security-political variables were used in this study. However, there are many possible causes of terrorism that are hard to measure, such as personal revenge or the psychological disorder of a potential terrorist. These individual factors were not evaluated, which is another significant limitation of the study.

