

Temple of Understanding



Won-Buddhism Perspective on Religious Extremism and Terrorism -The New Interfaith Organization-

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According to the statistic from Institute of Economic and Peace-Global Terrorism report, total number of people died due to terrorism has been rapidly increased since 2000. In 2014; number of people died due to terrorism was nearly 10 times as many terrorism deaths as people died in 2000. (Institute of Economic and Peace Global 2014) In addition to terrorism, the radicalization and extremism of religion have been impacted by the terrorism. The challenges we have faced since 9.11 terrors in 2001 shows that the problem we faced isn't similar as the issues in 1920s and 50s. Red Scare in 20s and Japanese internment camp were the two typical examples of paranoia and fear towards certain ideology or race, but the seriousness of the issues we faced, particularly justification of the terrorism by promoting the religious ideology stimulate the people who living in poverty especially in Middle East.

One of the victims of the terrorism in 21st century is the Muslim and the Hinduism which has been concentrated in Middle East, North Africa and Asia. 9.11 terror in 2001 killed about 3000 people and destroyed the World Trade Center in New York, but the impact that terror brought up to United States was bigger than the government thought because it intensify the trouble between United States and the terrorist groups in middle east also the stereotyping towards the Muslim brought the huge impact to the immigrants and the Muslims living in United States. More than anything else, Muslim have been directly impacted by the terror directly and had to get through the difficulties. By using the religious ideology, terrorist can justify and cover their radicalization, also at the same time they can expand their influences to other nations, and particularly the religion like Islam is concentrated in Middle East and the poor situation in Middle East stimulate people to join the radicalized terror groups because people in east Asia particularly the younger generation don't have any access to education and the ongoing civil war Syria blocks the communication from the international organization and crisis between Palestine and Israel intensify the political trouble among nations in middle east. Not only to the social consequences, terrorism also impact to the economic aspects, according to the Institute of Economic and Peace Global terrorism report in 2015 clearly states that the economic cost of terrorism increased by 61 per cent in 2014. The economic cost of terrorism reached its highest ever level in 2014 at US\$52.9 billion. This is a 61 per cent increase from the previous year. (Institute of Economic and Peace, 2015)

United Nation headquarter open the committee and invite the experts to mitigate the conflict in middle east and try to figure the solution but most likely the solution or resolution paper came out from the General Assembly and Security Council are very broad and general

solution about the issues One of the significant key point of this problem is the educations and the awareness of the new religion because one of the reason why people in middle east keep joining the terror groups is because some people believe terror as a Jihad which is holy war in Islamic culture and it keep adding the power into the terror groups, therefore it is very important for people to know and get education about the new religion and cooperate. People start to recognize the situation in Middle East and the foreign policy towards other countries in United States. Figure 1 show what people really care about the nations. Issues such as terrorism, foreign policy and immigration show the fear and paranoia about the terror.(Statista ,McCarthy 2014).

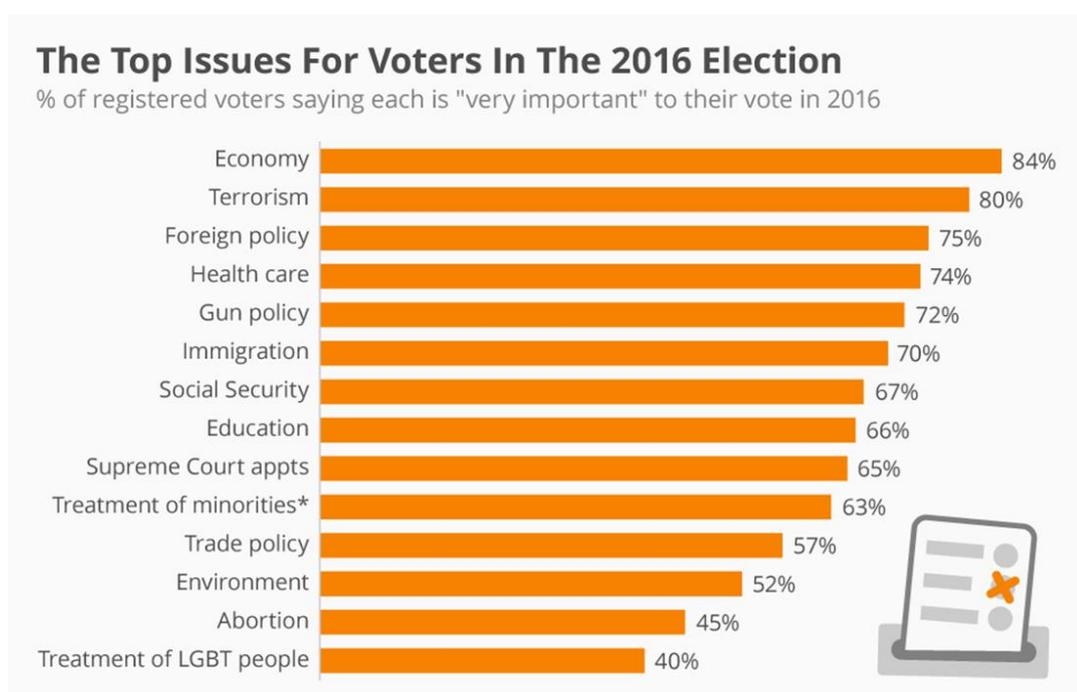


Figure 1: Top Issues for Voter in the 2016 Election by Statista, Niall McCarthy

In order to inform people about the religion, we need to figure out the core idea of the religion since most of the conflict is very well related with the religious ideology and moral obligation also can impact to peoples' belief. Particularly, Won-Buddhism founded in 1916 by Park Jungbin, also known as So Tae San(Buddhist Name) is one of the newest religion have been introduced in United States which founded in Korea. Unlike other religion, Won-Buddhism doesn't believe their own god but doctrine and religious dogma.(Naver) The core of the idea from The Scripture of Won-Buddhims are the idea of ONE. From the General introduction of the Won-Buddhism Scripture, the outline of the teaching include that " The fundamental principles of all the world's religions are also essentially one, nut as different

religions have long been established with different systems and expedients” , which means even if different religion have the different interpretation, the goal of the religion is to promote the common goal. Another factors of Won- Buddhism is recognizing the difference. Compare to traditional Buddhism, Won-Buddhism is the modernized and practical religion. Because the time period when Won-Buddhism was founded was the period of transition because Korean peninsula was colonized by the Japan and western civilization starts to change the way Korea works, therefore the founder of the Won-Buddhism Park Jungbin ,modernized the religion and establish the new practical version of the Buddhism.

Staggering Human Toll

Terrorist groups are deadlier than ever, killing 80 percent more people in 2014 than a year earlier

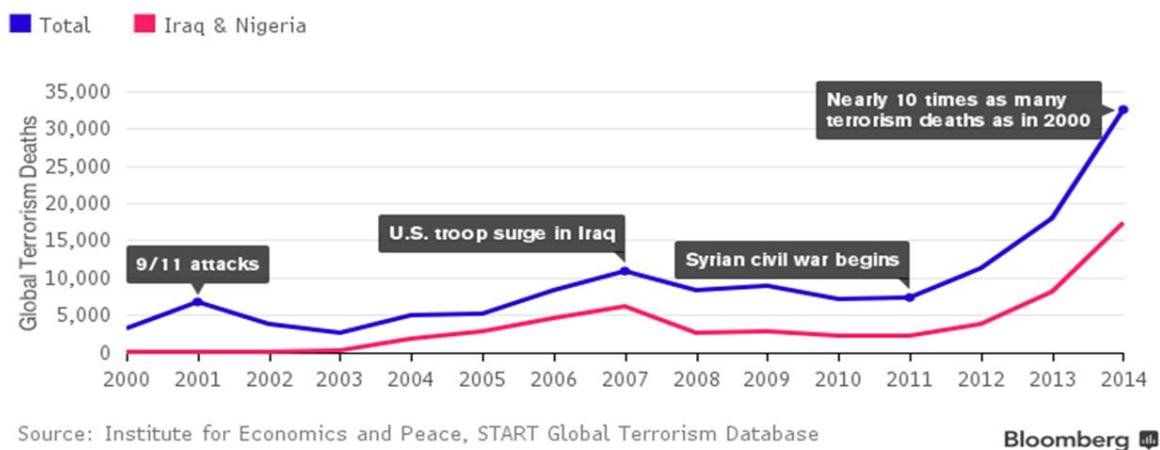


Figure2: Human toll due to terrorism

From the Won-Buddhism perspective, terrorism view as the group of people who are not able to get away from the hatred, greed, anger and delusion. Figure 2 shows that lack of understanding of different religion and the effect of hatred, greed, anger and delusion impact to terrorism and the number of death due to terrorism rapidly increasing since 2000.

The solution is to found a new interfaith International organization which specialized in Religion which will be called “United Nation Religion for Peace”. This project will going to be accomplished by the 2020 and purpose of the organization is to combine the religion related NGO and increase the effectiveness of the United Nation in relation to religion. Dr. Lee from the Won-Buddhism temple said that “Reason why cooperation among religious groups and United Nations” is because religious groups don’t want to involve with the political issues therefore United Nation Religion for Peace will going to work as a separate

organization which has its own General Assembly and the member but in order to cooperate with other international organization, UNRP will need a people who communicate with the organizations. The solution for this issues are the new term “ Diplomatic Congressman” which will work as a diplomat just like an ambassador from countries which will work for any UN relate work with United Nation Headquarter. Expectation from the United Nation Religion for Peace are very well related with the Sustainable development goal Agenda 2030 , particularly SDG Goal 16: Peace, justice and strong institution and Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institution at all levels. Religious groups will have more chance to discuss about the common religious relate issues and will come up with the clear solution.

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