

The Terror Crisis and Its Repercussions on Economic Development in Syria for the Period (2011-2020)

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ABSTRACT

The terrorism crisis is one of the most prominent crises that directly affected the Syrian economy in all its aspects, especially its reflection on economic development that was directly affected. This research dealt with the reflection of the phenomenon of terrorism on the economic sectors in Syria. The higher the country's rates on the scale of global terrorism, the more negatively affected the movement of the economic sectors in it. Research the implications of the terrorism crisis on economic development in Syria.

Keywords:- Terror crisis, economic development, Syria.

INTRODUCTION

It has become clear that the impact of the phenomenon of terrorism on many countries of the world is constantly escalating, and one of the main reasons for the economic and political decline of some Arab countries is the escalation of terrorist acts in them. Poverty and the high unemployment rate among a large segment of the population of the areas where the phenomenon of terrorism spread, as in Syria, which suffered from direct repercussions on the levels of economic development, represented by the loss of part of the material capital due to the destruction of infrastructure and losses in human capital. As a result of the killings, terrorism has affected all economic sectors such as the industrial, agricultural and tourism sectors, as the escalation of terrorist operations in a country impedes the movement of economic growth and development in that country. From here, the research begins to discuss the reflection of the terrorism crisis on economic development, considering that terrorism is one of the most important Factors affecting the movement of growth and development.

First : the importance of research

The importance of the research is evident in that it is an attempt to seek to provide a theoretical explanation about the relationship between the terrorism crisis and economic development in Syria.

Second: the research problem

The phenomenon of terrorism is one of the most important obstacles to development because it causes a negative reflection on the security reality that threatens the economic sector due to the material and human damage caused by this phenomenon in the Arab countries in general and Syria in particular, so the research problem can be identified by asking the question:

- What are the consequences of the terrorism crisis on economic development in Syria?

Third: The Research Hypothesis

The research stems from the premise that the terrorism crisis has economic repercussions on the development movement in Syria.

Fourth: Research Objectives

The research aims to achieve a number of goals, which can be documented in the following points:

1. Clarify the reality of economic development indicators in Syria.
2. Identify the most important repercussions of terrorism on development in Syria.
 - 1- Clarify the reality of economic development indicators in Syria.
 - 2- Identify the most important repercussions of terrorism on development in Syria.

Fifth: Research Methodology

The nature of the subject and the goals to be reached made us rely on the descriptive method and the case study method, so we will describe the reality of terrorism and economic development in Syria, while the case study method focused on studying the case of Syria to explain the relationship between the terrorism crisis and economic development in Syria.

The first topic: The theoretical framework of terrorism and the reality of terrorism in Syria:**First: the concept of terrorism**

There is no specific definition of the concept of the phenomenon of terrorism due to the multiplicity of its forms and the different motives from time to time, as forms of terrorism developed after it became a global phenomenon from which developed and developing countries

suffer. Terrorism is also one of the phenomena that arise in light of the interaction of psychological and social factors and certain political, economic and cultural conditions in one way or another that lead individuals to belong to terrorist movements, which leads to human and material losses that make members of society suffer from poverty, unemployment, displacement and the loss of their property and income.

Terrorism can be defined linguistically and idiomatically with regard to the concept of language, for the word terrorism is the source of the verb “awe” and “awe.” The linguistic complex decided that the word “terrorism” is modern in the Arabic language, and its basis is “rab” (ر), meaning “fear” and also means terrorism as the attempt of groups and individuals to impose ideas, positions or Doctrines by force because they consider themselves right on the grounds that no matter how high the percentage of the majority is, it is in their opinion over shadows(1) .

As for its concept, idiomatically, in fact, most criminal legislation did not agree on finding a unified and unanimous definition of this phenomenon. Every researcher or jurist, the importance of defining terrorism has reached such an extent that many countries have set up conferences and symposia to define its concept. The United Nations has defined it “that it aims to cause death, or if physically dangerous, to civilians or non-combatants with the aim of intimidating a population group or forcing the government to do so.” With regard to the definition of terrorism in the Syrian legislation, terrorism in the Syrian legislation considers that a terrorist act is every act that aims to create a state of panic among people, disrupt public security, or damage the infrastructure or basic of the state. It is committed by using weapons, munitions, explosives, inflammable materials, toxic or incendiary products, or epidemiological or bacteriological agents, whatever the type of these means, or by using any tool that leads to same purpose .

Causes of the phenomenon of terrorism:

The phenomenon of terrorism is not the result of a single factor, but rather the result of several factors, including internal, external and environmental conditions, and the conditions of time and place. Social factors consider the political and economic conditions in the world, unemployment and cognitive contradiction, media excitement and terrible developments in communications and the wrong Western view of the Islamic world.()

Among the causes of terrorism and violence in general are economic, political, religious, social, media and psychological motives...etc. However, some of the most prominent reasons that must be studied in order to find a realistic and integrated diagnosis of the causes of the phenomenon of terrorism are:

- 1- Educational and cultural reasons: from which the deviation of the human path stems, and makes the individual vulnerable to intellectual deviation and a suitable climate for spreading intellectual poisons to achieve terrorist goals.()
- 2- Social reasons: the spread of social problems and family disintegration pushes the individual to deviation in behavior, extremism in opinions, and exaggeration in ideas, and even makes society a fertile ground for the growth of phenomena outside human nature, as well as the role of the media, an atmosphere of freedoms and humiliation, ridicule and humiliation of man, and education unreal)
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- 3- Economic reasons: whenever an individual's income meets his requirements and the requirements of his family, his satisfaction and social stability is stable, and on the contrary, if his income is little, he is turbulent and dissatisfied with his society. Countries fail to meet basic human needs, and societies disintegrate.
- 4- Psychological reasons: there are psychological destructive motives rooted in the individual, and the superego is inflated due to the continuous feeling of tingling of conscience, or frustration in achieving some goals or desires, or reaching the desired position.
- 5- Political reasons: the clarity and stability of the political approach, and working according to specific standards and frameworks, creates trust and conviction, and builds the rules of sensory and moral stability for the individual, and the ambiguity in the curriculum and planning at work undermines trust and creates a state of conflict between citizens and the political leadership, so groups rise and parties, and this is one of the faces of the spread of terrorism.
- 6-The effects of colonialism and dependency, unrealistic promises to peoples, assault and confiscation of private property, tyranny, historical strife, international conflict over areas of influence, and civil wars for the purpose of depleting material and human resources.
- 7- Racial discrimination, coups, revolutions and extremism: lead to the commission of terrorist acts, as a result of defects in the psychological, mental or emotional formation.

Second: The reality of terrorism in Syria:

The civil war in Syria, which erupted in 2011 as part of the movements of the Arab Spring revolutions, has created the appropriate environment for the entry of terrorist organizations into Syrian territory, such as the terrorist Islamic State organization and the terrorist organization Jabhat al-Nusra, which destroyed and abandoned large parts of the Syrian lands and infrastructure and which sowed terror in the country. The souls of the population of Syria, which led to the displacement and killing of thousands of Syrians, and the period between 2011 and 2016 was the most violent in the history of Syria, and by 2014, the terrorist Islamic State organization had

tightened its control over the Syrian city of Raqqa (), but in 2015 this organization had tightened its control On large parts of the oil resources in Syria, the eastern road networks, the dams that control their water resources, and the population centers linking Damascus and Aleppo, the practices and crimes of armed terrorist groups and their supporters have caused unprecedented suffering, which prompted civilians to flee from areas that were subjected to terrorist attacks. , to escape their brutal crimes, which included murder, kidnapping, committing acts of violence, destroying service institutions, including schools and hospitals, and preventing access to The humanitarian equipment and the deprivation of its civilians, and the looting of national wealth and public and private property, and by 2017, the number of victims as a result of terrorist operations in Syria decreased to 1,100 victims, compared to the year 2011 to 2014, when the number of victims reached 350 thousand victims between dead and wounded; Due to the tremendous efforts made by the Syrian forces with the support of volunteers from the rest of the Arab countries such as Iraq, Lebanon and the international coalition forces, large parts of the Syrian lands were recovered and painful strikes were directed against the terrorist groups inside the Syrian territories, which allowed the Syrian government to recover part of the lands it controlled Terrorist organizations after 2011.

The second topic: the reality of economic development in Syria:

Economic development is defined as the renewal and development of the economic and social structure in developing societies and the increase in production. Economic development is not limited to economic dimensions only, but is a complex process that includes society with its political and social dimensions. The Syrian economy witnessed remarkable progress in 2001 within the Syrian government's endeavor to The studied economic liberalization, which formed a beneficial path to achieve the goals of economic development in the country, and the following is an explanation of the most important .

Indicators of economic development in Syria:

1. Poverty levels: The results of poverty levels in Syria show that it decreased between 2001 and 2009, which reflects the state of improvement in the economic and human development of the Syrians. The poverty rate in Syria reached 15% during 2001, in contrast, the poverty rate in 2009 was 9%. , which reflects the development strategy followed during that period. After the year 2011 and with the control of terrorist groups over several areas in Syria, the poverty rate among the population increased. The poverty rate in 2015 reached 63%, since 2015, while in 2016, the rate of Poverty reached its peak at 89.4%, while it recorded a slight decrease in 2019 by 86%.

2. Indicator of political and security stability: Syria's strategic location, which constitutes an

important region in the Middle East, has always been exposed to instability in all its dimensions such as demonstrations, sit-ins, political assassinations, economic sanctions, and economic crises; And all of this was due to its internal contradictions, and the external struggle against it by the regional and superpowers in light of the presence of the military institution since its independence in 1943 as a major factor that worked to bring about all these coups, as it was the first military coup in the Middle East after World War II in Syria in March 1949 (), and this coup was a prelude to a series of coups, and we also conclude that one of the most important causes of political instability in Syria was due to a main influence, which is the continuous military coups. The presence of this indicator was evidence of the lack of systemic stability in Syria. Syria's rank is the safest and ranked 88 of the safest countries out of 162 countries in the world, but it has changed after being exposed to terrorist attacks in the year 2011, according to the classification of the Security Risk Index for the year 2020, that Syria is one of the most security dangerous countries around the world.

3. Economic exposure index: It shows the economic exposure rates in Syria in 2008 amounted to 68.5%, while during the year 2012 it amounted to 18.2, and in 2014 the percentage of commercial exposure was 14.8, while the exposure rate in 2015 amounted to about 10.5%, which indicates a contraction The values of exports and imports of the Syrian state and the isolation of the Syrian economy from international trade.

4. Infrastructure quality index: Infrastructure is one of the determinants of sustainable competitiveness, as it affects the effectiveness of the production processes of the economy because advanced infrastructure connects the markets of different countries, increases economic growth, reduces poverty, and is a factor for attracting foreign direct investment and a catalyst for establishing Projects that support the national economy. The Infrastructure Quality Index indicates that Syria ranked 92nd out of 142 countries for 2011. In 2018, the conflict in Syria caused extensive damage to a third of housing, half of medical and educational facilities, and the collapse of economic systems.

The third topic: the repercussions of the terrorism crisis on economic development in Syria:

1-The economic repercussions of terrorism:

The cumulative losses in the gross domestic product amounted to about \$226 billion since the outbreak of the war on terrorism in Syria, which is equivalent to four times the gross domestic product that Syria achieved in 2010. As for the agricultural sector, it declined significantly during the years of war in Syria, as its decline had the effect of Negatively on the course of the economic development process, since 2012 (), the level of the agricultural sector has clearly declined due to the spread of the danger of terrorist operations that led to a decline in agricultural crop production

and a decline in cultivated areas. The agricultural system consisted of seeds and fertilizers, and the irrigation system was exposed to severe damage from bombing and bombings, which led to its destruction and consequently a large percentage of crops were destroyed, as well as the death of large numbers of livestock.

As for the industrial sector, according to the statistics of 2011, that is, before Syria was exposed to the terrorist attacks, it contained 8 huge institutions with more than 100 industrial factories and vital companies. Engineering industries had 13 companies, chemical 13 companies, textile 27 companies, cement 9 companies, sugar 10 companies, food and 25 companies, and tobacco. 8 factories (), and these institutions, due to their exposure to terrorist attacks, lost about one trillion, 756 billion and 150 million Syrian pounds from 2011 to 2013. Syria and textiles with a loss of about 4.9 billion Syrian pounds, and sugar by about 877 million Syrian pounds, as the loss of those institutions exceeded 11.6 billion Syrian pounds. , In 2017, it fell to less than 1.4 billion the previous year, and the same was true for the textile industries, as terrorist operations affected the productivity level of industrial enterprises due to their direct exposure. t to be destroyed by terrorist groups.

Service sector losses: The service sectors include transportation, roads, bridges, water, sewage, and the electricity sector. Losses in these sectors are estimated at about \$9 billion.

The losses of the tourism sector: The revenues of the tourism sector also declined by about 14 million dollars in 2017 from about 8.21 billion dollars in 2010, which represented about 13.7% of the GDP at the time, and the absence of foreign investments that were a source of hard currencies as well, which amounted to Between 2005 and 2011, more than 8 billion dollars, and exports, which amounted to about 8.8 billion dollars in 2010, to decline in 2015 to 651 million dollars. The contractions in public revenues in all their joints and the cessation of production in many sectors led to the general budget incurring deficits. High fiscal deficit to reach the highest rate of fiscal deficit, which is 57% in the 2015 budget.

Oil sector losses: Since the beginning of the war, about 14 oil companies have left the Syrian territories, which were producing about 100,000 barrels per day, along with 7 million cubic meters of natural gas, which led to direct financial losses rising to 27 billion dollars in 2016.

Losses of the commercial sector: The trade sector has faced great obstacles since the beginning of the war until now, the most prominent of which is the prevention of dealing with Syrian businessmen and the prevention of money transfer to Syria. The high exchange rate had a negative impact on the commercial sector, which topped the list of losses suffered by the business sector in Syria during The years of the war and the terrorist groups directed it, the value of its losses amounting to nearly 750 billion liras.

More than 80% of the Syrian population lives in a state of extreme poverty, with unemployment rates estimated at 58% and the loss of nearly 3 million jobs, and the GDP decreased by 15% during the years 2011 and 2014, and the inflation rate reached 51% annually during the years 2011. and 2014 (), and the value of the Syrian pound has depreciated by 80% since the beginning of the terrorist attacks on Syria, and by the end of 2019, cumulative losses were recorded in the Syrian GDP, equivalent to 420.9 billion dollars. Total economic losses by the end of 2019 were estimated at \$530.1 billion, which is equivalent to 967% of the 2010 GDP at constant prices.

2- Consequences and human losses:

The war in Syria contributed to the entry of terrorist groups into Syrian territory known as the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, which left behind terrorist attacks in Syria that led to heavy human losses and the displacement of millions of Syrians since it began in 2011. The number of victims reached between 2011 and the year 2014 more than 400 thousand people and the number of wounded increased to nearly 840 thousand wounded (), during the years 2019 and 2020, the total number of victims as a result of the war against terrorism reached 1008 victims, between 290 of the Syrian security forces and 518 of civilian victims (), Table (11) shows the number of terrorist operations and the number of victims as a result of those operations.

Table (1)

Preparation of terrorist operations in Syria and victims of terrorism and the wounded for the period (2011-2020)

Number of	Number of victims	Number of terrorist operations	Year
215	163	49	2011
1927	867	179	2012
2237	1558	278	2013
1980	3301	328	2014
2830	2761	384	2015
2732	2303	334	2016
1801	1931	172	2017
725	662	136	2018
406	531	103	2019

Source:Source: Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP), Global Peace Index (2003-2019)
10049

We note from Table (1) that the years between 2011 and 2017 were the heaviest on Syria in terms of the number of terrorist attacks, as terrorist operations amounted to 49 operations during 2011, which resulted in the killing of 163 victims and 215 wounded as a result of a number of explosions, most notably the explosion of a car bomb in The capital, Damascus, which led to the killing of approximately 44 Syrians and the wounding of 166, while the number of terrorist operations in 2012 rose to 179, including suicide attacks and car bombs, which affected several cities in Syria, including suicide attacks and explosions that took place in Damascus, Idlib, Aleppo and the city of Kafr Susa, which resulted in the killing of at least 876 victims and wounding of more than 1927, and the number of victims in 2013 reached about 1558 victims as a result of terrorist operations, which numbered 278 operations, which resulted in the injury of about 2237 people; While the intensity of terrorist attacks in the country escalated during 2014, 2015 and 2016, reaching 328 in 2014 and 2015, 485 terrorist attacks, the most violent, with 3916 victims and 2978 wounded (); They were divided between car bomb attacks, killings, and suicide attacks that affected several cities, including Damascus, Qamishli and Homs. In 2016, the situation was not different from its predecessor, as the number of terrorist operations reached 384, resulting in the deaths of 2,761 and 2,830 wounded in different cities in the country, including Qamishli bombings, which killed 44 Syrians and wounded 172 others, and in Tartous, terrorist operations killed 184 people, and the terrorist bombing that took place near the shrine of SayyidaZainab, which resulted in the killing of more than 84 people and wounding 178, and the massacre that affected Workers of a cement factory east of the capital, Damascus, in which 175 workers were killed by the terrorist organization, while in 2017, the intensity of terrorist attacks decreased to 172, resulting in the killing of 1931 and the wounding of 1801; Most of them were carried out by car bombs that targeted defenseless Syrians in Damascus and Aleppo, while the pace of terrorist acts decreased relatively after 2019 to reach 103 terrorist operations, resulting in the killing of 531 and the wounding of at least 406 Syrians.

Conclusions:

- 1.The economic repercussions of the terrorism crisis are very costly and dangerous, as they are repercussions that extend to all aspects of the economy, as they negatively affect the economic sectors.
- 2.Most of the economic sectors in Syria were affected after it was exposed to the terrorist crisis in 2011.
- 3.The high number of victims in Syria after 2011, which negatively affected the movement of economic development.

Recommendations:

1. Improving the economic situation by eliminating unemployment and providing job opportunities. As for the political situation, work should be done to resolve international political disputes and crises.
2. Eliminating the phenomenon of terrorism and removing its effects from all economic sectors in Egypt by providing security for all its economic sectors.
3. Working to combat terrorism and confront its economic effects by reducing unemployment rates, misdistribution of national income and political confrontation by supporting democratic rule in addition to the security confrontation.

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