Discussion

Student’s Name

Institutional Affiliation

Discussion

**Article Review**

**Nuclear Terrorism: Did We Beat the Odds or Change Them?**

The assigned article delves into nuclear terrorism, a threat that has, in the recent past, threatened the very existence of mankind on the planet. Modern terrorism can be traced back to the start of the 21st century. At the time, the techniques used were not nuclear; however, there has been growing fear that nuclear terrorism could be catastrophic and thereby needs to be prevented by all means possible. The thing about nuclear terrorism is that it can be controlled with relative ease, unlike other natural catastrophes that affect the world today. Such a mission can be accomplished by coming up with an agenda of actionable and feasible actions. By addressing these issues, the author draws the attention of policymakers and other law enforcement bodies that would ensure that nuclear terrorism does not happen in any place in the world.

The fear of nuclear terrorism has been growing due to how terrorist organizations are shaped today. Terrorist organizations have, in the 21st century, become very powerful (Allison, 2018). Such power has grown due to their ability to annex certain regions and by money that is donated by sympathizers across the world. At the start of the century, one could not imagine that terrorist groups such as ISIS and Boko Haram could have as much power and influence as they do today. A group such as ISIS has managed to annex cities and place regions under their country after overthrowing the local governments in Syria. As these terrorist groups continue to grow, there is an emerging fear that they could access nuclear weapons one day. The fear is evident because it has been reported that some already have access to biological weapons.

With the amount of money and influence they possess, nuclear weapons could be in their reach if appropriate measures are not taken to prevent this from happening. The author states that there is a need for feasible solutions and strategies to be developed in order to avoid such a scenario from happening. Nuclear terrorism could be very devastating and have negative impacts on the lives of millions across the world. These solutions are not supposed to only protect the West from terrorists, but also secure the interest of the country abroad while at the same time promoting global peace. The goal here should be to reduce the risk of access to nuclear weapons by terrorist organizations to close to zero. I think such a plan is essential since any access to these weapons would destabilize the world as we know it.

The article also assesses some of the initiatives that have been put in place since the start of the 21st century to address the issue. The United States had, for a long time, not observed terrorism to be a threat to its interests within the country and abroad. However, the 9/11 attacks on American soil was the main event that pushed the country into the war against terrorism. In a 2004 report titled the Nuclear Threat Initiative, global attention was drawn to the need to control nuclear weapons from being accessed by terrorist groups or rogue nations. Rogue nations are observed to be a threat because they can quickly sell such weapons to terrorist groups, leading to chaos. In 2004, the risk of nuclear terrorism was not present. As a result, very few measures were in place at the time to prevent such instances where terrorist groups could get hold of nuclear weapons.

According to the author, a lot of pace was gathering in 2005 to ensure that measures were in place to prevent nuclear terrorism from taking place. I think the input of people like Warren Buffet helped increase awareness for the need for the development of strategies that would hinder possession of these weapons by terrorist organizations from happening. The author suggests that Buffet stated that nuclear terrorism was the biggest threat to the world. His assertions were not taken lightly and partly contributed to the United States' need to be involved abroad to try and quell the various forms of uprisings that were being created by terrorist groups. The invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq by the United States were part of the strategies that were put in place to help diminish these terror groups' growth.

I think the United States' actions to invade these countries were warranted despite the much criticism these actions have received across the world. The negative criticism towards the United States' missions in Afghanistan and Iraq only looks at the negative conseque withouStates' missionsing into the benefits that this created. I think the invasions helped tame the growth of terrorist groups in the Middle East. My assertion is based on the fact that these groups had orchestrated the worst or the most deadly terrorist attack in the form of the 9/11 attacks in 2001 (Allison, 2018). Since then, attacks that have happened have not caused as much damage and loss of life compared to the 9/11 attacks. It offers an indication that the threat of nuclear terrorism has been reduced by weakening terrorist organizations. If these groupings had been allowed to grow, they could be a significant threat to many nations' sovereignty in the world today.

I think the article is an essential piece in helping secure nations and their sovereignty. For a long time, combating terrorism has been left to significant countries such as the United States. However, the part of curbing terrorism and ensuing that nuclear terrorism does not happen should be the role of each state across the globe. My assertion is based on the fact that terrorism affects all countries, and thereby its effects are not peculiar to the West alone. Pursuing such a goal would require collaborated efforts that are aimed at quelling terrorism and terrorist activities. Doing this would help secure millions of people's future and contribute to global peace that has been affected by terrorism since the start of the 21st century.

I also think the article is an essential piece since it calls for improved nuclear deals with countries that possess the ability to produce atomic weapons. Various American governments have, in the past, sought to address the growing threat of nuclear weapons. If this threat is addressed, it will reduce the ability or chances of terrorist organizations access to these weapons. Several examples of past administrations can be commended for their efforts in quelling this threat. The first example is the Obama Administration. Obama was critical in creating a nuclear deal with Iran. President Trump has also been crucial in achieving this goal. Recently, his foreign policy has aimed at bridging the differences with North Korea. The move aims to address any nuclear weapons that the country could be developing that could threaten global security.

Reference

Allison, G. (2018, May 15). Nuclear Terrorism: Did We Beat the Odds or Change Them?

Retrieved from <https://cco.ndu.edu/News/Article/1507316/nuclear-terrorism-did-we-beat-the-odds-or-change-them/>