A Probe into the Measures of Deradicalization in Singapore

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Abstract

In today's increasingly serious environment of international terrorism, every country has suffered a lot and used various governance means to deal with it. However, it has too much reliance on power and force to strike, often neglecting to fundamentally find and eradicate the source of extremism. This paper sums up the advantages and disadvantages of Singapore's government's means of governance by summarizing and analyzing the means of "deradicalization" of Singapore's governance, with a view to proposing governance measures that are more in line with China.

Keywords

Anti-terrorism; Radicalization; Social Governance.

1. Introduction

International terrorism is a major threat to the world today. The international community has made unremitting efforts accordingly. From the perspective of means, there are three governance means: power governance based on military strikes, institutional cooperation based on the formation of anti-terrorism alliances and the promotion of anti-terrorism cooperation, and cultural construction based on the implementation of humanitarian relief and the fight for the right to speak in anti-terrorism. If we only focus on military attacks, do not pay attention to the governance of the spread of extremist ideas, and let them spread, it will cause great difficulties, that is, it will affect people's minds, it is difficult to fundamentally eliminate terrorism, and seriously threaten international and national security.

2. The Significance of Deradicalization

It is impossible to curb the spread of terrorism from the root by relying only on military strikes and material aspects. More and more people have noticed that "de extremism" is an indispensable part of the governance of terrorism, which is crucial to curb the transnational development of terrorism and the internal security and stability of countries.

First of all, "deradicalization" governance is an indispensable and important part of terrorism governance. It is generally believed that the existence of an organization is composed of material and ideology, so is the entity of terrorism. However, some studies have shown that the main inducement for the complete demise of terrorist organizations is the politicization of terrorist organizations and the change of governance policies, while the material level of combat has made little contribution to the complete demise of terrorist organizations. However, the current fight against terrorism often focuses on its material aspects, including the killing of important members of terrorist organizations, capital flow control, regional mobility of personnel, network monitoring, etc., while the research on the ideology of terrorism and targeted governance are not very obvious. Therefore, only the material aspect of terrorism can not eradicate terrorism, but also the corresponding governance of terrorist ideology. This recognition has been universally recognized by the international community. Therefore, "deradicalization" governance is an indispensable part of terrorism governance.

Secondly, "deradicalization" governance is the only way to curb the transnational development of terrorism. Today, the international community is a pluralistic society, which is composed of many countries, nationalities, customs and habits. Diversity is the biggest feature, and there are many differences. In addition, the United Nations proposed that we should "enhance the ability to identify public awareness", enhance the ability to identify and eliminate extreme ideas, and reduce their spread. This difference may turn into hostility, even violent confrontation under specific conditions. This situation is not uncommon in today's rampant international terrorism.

Finally, "de extremism" is an inevitable choice to maintain domestic security and stability. According to the interrogation of the criminals who launched terrorist attacks, these attackers have basically accepted the infiltration of extremist ideas, which is more serious in today's globalization, and spread around the world through the Internet and smart terminals. On the one hand, "deradicalization" governance helps a country's law enforcement agencies maintain domestic security and stability. At present, domestic conflicts are widespread in all countries, and the biggest destabilizing factor is often terrorist attacks, which are also what countries try to prevent. In this case, "deradicalization" is the optimal solution. On the other hand, "deradicalization" governance also helps the country resist the infiltration of extremist ideas, personnel and organizations abroad. Therefore, "deradicalization" governance can not only maintain domestic security and stability, but also make the greatest efforts to prevent the infiltration of extremist ideas abroad, which in the final analysis is conducive to national security.

3. National Conditions of Singapore

In Singapore, Muslim communities have lived together with other ethnic groups for a long time. In Singapore, there are many ethnic groups and different religious beliefs, which has led to ethnic frictions. These frictions have reduced the sense of security of ordinary people, and the domestic situation has become tense. Extremism is easy to find a breakthrough in such social contradictions, and then infiltrate the society. At the same time, the Muslim community began to have a crisis of "identity", which further deepened this contradiction. Especially since the "9.11" incident, Singapore has arrested 13 and 21 terrorists in 2001 and 2002. These two incidents made the Singapore government realize that terrorism and violent extremism have seriously threatened Singapore's national security. Under such circumstances, the Singapore government has implemented "the most advanced and successful religious education project".

The Singaporean government has invested heavily in the "religious education project". It has spared no effort to publicize the dangers of extremism to the public, regard it as a threat to the country, and enhance the ability of ordinary people to identify extremist ideas. The Singaporean government has also mobilized prisons, religious scholars, psychologists, families and other forces to help the educated in their economic and life aspects, so as to ensure the effectiveness of "deradicalization" governance.

4. Singapore's Deradicalization Measures

After the "9.11" incident, as Singapore took a pro Western stance, the national terrorist forces made Singapore one of the key targets of attack. In response to the terrorist threat, Singapore has taken a series of de extremist measures in the ideological field, coordinated with the implementation of the overall anti-terrorism strategy, and effectively curbed the spread and spread of religious extremism. The main experience and practices are as follows:

4.1. Focus on the Unique Role of Religious Leaders

The Internal Security Bureau of the Ministry of the Interior of Singapore (hereinafter referred to as the Internal Security Bureau), which is specifically responsible for counter-terrorism,

guides religious leaders to cite religious classics to refute religious extremist ideas, and uses its prestige among Muslims to carry out propaganda in mosques and religious schools to guide Muslims to resist extremist ideas. At the same time, the Internal Security Bureau also pays attention to providing assistance to religious leaders, regularly informing religious leaders of the situation of terrorist activities, providing arguments to refute extreme ideas, and training psychological counseling and communication skills. At the same time, the Singaporean government strongly supports religious organizations in promoting moderation and Islamic teachings. So far, they have published a large number of books and continue to play a positive role. For example, the book "The Mild Islamic Doctrine of Muslims in Singapore", which was published, used the Koran, "Hadith", religious history and academic achievements to refute several current extremist trends of thought, and enhanced the Muslim people's awareness and ability to prevent the trend of extreme terrorism. In addition, the Singapore government also entrusted the Islamic Council to strengthen the supervision of scripture schools, regulate and supervise the scripture content with moderate doctrines, and eliminate the emergence of terrorist extremism.

4.2. Focus on the Ideological Education of Terrorist Criminals in Religious Ways

The Singaporean government has actively used religious organizations to set up a "Religious Rehabilitation Group" (RRG) to assist the Internal Security Agency in educating terrorist criminals in custody. The "Religious Education Group" consists of three departments: the first is the Secretariat, which is responsible for daily operation and is composed of six Muslim volunteers; The second is the Information Committee, which is composed of an imam from the Islamic Council, an official of the religious court and three other independent imams, and is responsible for analyzing the ideology of terrorists and conducting theoretical research; The third is the Education Advisory Committee, with 20 instructors serving as education advisers to assist in ideological education of terrorist criminals. The members of this group are religious teachers and scholars in the Muslim community of Singapore who have the necessary certificates and authority. Through dialogue, heart to heart talk, lectures, consultation and other activities with the detainees, qualified religious teachers and scholars debate with them, so that the detainees can have a more correct, positive and comprehensive understanding of Islam, so that they can have a basic understanding of right and wrong, and abandon the wrong ideas they accepted in the past, Collapse their extreme understanding of Islam and establish a correct understanding of the teachings of Islam. There are no clear restrictions on the composition of these religious teachers and scholars. There are no restrictions on the composition of religious teachers and scholars of all ages, men and women. However, they must have a deep knowledge of Islam and thorough research. Many of them are graduates of famous Islamic universities in Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Malaysia. These activities are not only targeted at detainees, but also often include their families and friends. The advantage of doing so is to strengthen the cognitive environment of detainees and prevent them from believing in wrong ideas again.

The consultation plan of the religious rehabilitation group focuses on four specific stages of work for detained extremists. The first stage includes: religious teachers and scholars, through dialogues, heart to heart talks, lectures, consultations and other activities with the detainees, have a preliminary understanding of the detainees' thoughts, experiences, misconceptions of the Islamic concept, etc., and explore the deep causes of the detainees' crimes. The second stage is mainly for religious teachers and scholars to debate, refute and correct the extremist views of the detainees, which is the most challenging stage. However, once this stage is passed, the work in the subsequent stages will come naturally. In the third stage, religious teachers and scholars, relying on their profound Islamic accomplishments, influenced the detainees to accept

the correct understanding of Islam and reject extremism. In the fourth stage, religious teachers and scholars explained the Koran to the detainees, and taught them in practice about their social responsibilities and the laws and moral norms they should abide by, so that they could live a normal life in a secular society.

In particular, the group has included helping families of terrorist criminals in its educational work. After the arrest of terrorist criminals, it is often difficult to maintain the family livelihood. The children's education may be affected. When they grow up, their children may resent the government and society, and then embark on the path of terror. In view of this, the Internal Security Bureau provides assistance to such families through the education team to help them tide over difficulties. This move not only helped to influence terrorist criminals, but also won praise and affirmation from Muslim groups.

4.3. Focus on Cultivating and Enhancing Muslim People's Sense of Identity with the Country

In order to enhance the awareness of national identity, the Singapore government launched the "Singapore Muslim Identity" project on the basis of consulting with religious organizations such as the Islamic Council. The goal is to create a unique and confident identity and image of "Singapore Muslim" under the premise of abiding by and respecting Islamic teachings, so that they can closely integrate into Singapore's multi-ethnic society. At the same time, the Singaporean government should be prudent and sensitive in handling terrorist cases to avoid hurting the feelings and self-esteem of Muslims. Before disclosing the case to the media, the Internal Security Bureau held a briefing in advance to inform religious leaders and legal religious organizations of the case, show evidence, and answer questions to show respect for Muslim groups.

4.4. Focus on the Use of the Internet and Other Emerging Media to Launch Publicity and Education Offensive

The Singaporean government supports legitimate religious organizations to set up websites, strengthen online publicity, and encourage the dean to speak on the Internet by opening blogs and other ways to fight against extremist ideas with orthodox and moderate teachings. The Islamic Council has established a number of websites to publish information on religious activities, refute extremist ideas and provide religious research resources. Some influential religious leaders set up personal blogs to interpret the correct position of Islam on issues such as "holy war" and terrorism. At the same time, the Singaporean government attaches importance to improving the rational thinking ability of young Muslims, helping them build their ideological defense, strengthening the education of young believers, guiding religious leaders to communicate and dialogue with young people, mastering their ideological trends and correcting their misconceptions in a timely manner. In addition, Singapore also attaches importance to the role of traditional means such as television and newspapers, and actively promotes Singapore's anti-terrorism process and the government's efforts to maintain social stability and unity through such carriers.

4.5. Focus on Maintaining a Harmonious Social Environment of Race and Religion

In order to strengthen the understanding and trust of the whole society in Islam, Singapore has strengthened publicity and education especially for non Muslim groups. The government holds special conferences irregularly to inform non Muslim groups of the progress of counter-terrorism work, stating that extremists are only a small number of Muslims, so as to dispel non Muslim people's doubts and uneasiness about Islam, and prohibit the media from "demonizing" Islamic teachings. The Singaporean government has set up the "Community and Religion Mutual Trust Circle" organization, hoping to establish a trust relationship between religious

and community leaders through the "Community and Religion Mutual Trust Circle" organization. Once the trust relationship between ethnic groups and different religions is strengthened, benign exchanges and interactions will follow, which can greatly promote understanding between ethnic groups and different religions and be more inclusive of each other, This will enable the Singapore government to better address religious and clan issues. Singapore's national composition is mainly composed of four ethnic groups, namely, Chinese, Malaysians, Indians and other ethnic groups. The four ethnic groups can also discuss various problems among ethnic groups through the "Community and Religion Mutual Trust Circle" organization, which provides a good platform for the four ethnic groups. The Singaporean government has not only established a "community and religion mutual trust circle" organization, but also implemented the "community solidarity plan" and the "national education plan" that started in 2012 in order to further promote the "community and religion mutual trust circle" plan. The core concepts of the "community solidarity plan" include: the four major ethnic groups promote mutual trust and solve problems through the "community and religion mutual trust circle" organization, which only promote the relationship between ethnic groups in a narrow sense, It provides a platform mechanism, but it cannot be used only for this purpose. It should go beyond this concept, that is, the adults in the ethnic group should be regarded as a larger organization - the community. Community unity means the unity of adults as a whole. This spirit of unity should go beyond the ethnic group, form a broader and more universal value, and show it in daily real life. In addition, the "National Education Plan" and the "Community Solidarity Plan" still aim at promoting harmonious relations among ethnic groups. The difference is that the "National Education Plan" is mainly aimed at school-age children, and it is easier to instill this concept in children's stage, especially the universal values acceptable to all ethnic groups.

The Islamic Council has established a religious harmony center to display Islamic history and culture through cultural relics exhibitions and other forms, and to provide a platform for communication and dialogue among religions. In view of the serious ethnic violence incidents in Singapore's history, the Singaporean government attaches great importance to ethnic policies. For example, the formulation of relevant laws to promote racial integration, the publication of the White Paper on Common Values, the establishment of a subcommittee on ethnic harmony, the stipulation that July 21 is the Day of Racial Harmony, the stipulation that important festivals of all ethnic groups are national legal holidays, and the stipulation that all ethnic groups in government buildings must live together in proportion play an important role in the harmonious integration of the new society, laying a good foundation for squeezing the space for the infiltration and dissemination of extremist ideas and preventing terrorist extremism.

5. Evaluation of Singapore's Deradicalization Measures

Due to Singapore's pro Western stance, the national terrorist forces have targeted Singapore as one of the key targets. In addition, Singapore is affected by its own political, economic and cultural factors, which makes Singapore's extreme problems and root causes both international and local. In order to deal with the terrorist threat posed by the problem of extremism, Singapore has taken a series of measures in the ideological field to eliminate extremism, and carried out this practice in line with its own national conditions. Singapore's practice of eliminating extremism is characterized by the strong guidance of the state and the strong participation of the society. The state is in the highest position in the practice of eliminating extremism, and advocates the participation and promotion of Muslim authorities, scholars and the general public, Cooperating with the implementation of the overall anti-terrorism strategy,

it effectively curbed the spread and spread of religious extremism, and provided many useful ideas for de extremism.

Whether Singapore's practice of "de extremism" can be replicated needs careful consideration. As mentioned earlier, the problem of extremism in Singapore and its underlying causes are both international and local. Therefore, the measures to "de extremism" should first consider the specific national conditions, social conditions, culture and other factors of the country. All should proceed from reality and take into account the impact of policies on groups; The second is the identification of extremists, that is, the question of what standard to reach, so as to prevent the expansion of attacks on related groups; The other is how to evaluate Singapore's de extremist measures. For example, the number of terrorist attacks, the number of extremists captured, the sense of social security and other indicators are the key to the evaluation. Without a scientific evaluation, it is impossible to judge whether these measures are successful.

Acknowledgments

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