

## **The Myth about Terrorist: Historical Materialism as A Response to Realist Approach**

By

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### **Abstract**

*Since 9/11 bombing of New York and Washington, the term 'terrorism' has feature more prominently in the headlines of media, and in the discourse of political and security forces in the western world to malign certain states, insurgency groups and organisations as 'terrorists'. This politics of naming and labelling is unconnected with the mainstream theoretical agenda of realism that tend to defend and justify the monopoly of the state in legitimate use of force and regard 'terrorists' as non-state actors only. Realist theorists have been critiqued for ignoring terrorism used by the state against its own citizens, and failure to provide a class analysis of terrorism. This paper therefore uses Karl Marx's Historical Materialism (HM) to fill the gap Realism left uncovered with a view to providing a balance view on terrorism and terrorist. Through HM, a class analysis of terrorism was espoused. The paper argues that government and the ruling class in the society use state terrorism to suppress dissent and induce fear on the population (citizens) while oppressive lumpen class vis-à-vis a membership of certain group(s) or organisation(s) use individual terrorism to achieve political objectives, express grievances and lash out at societal injustice. It further argues that 'terrorist' is not a fixed label and its peculiarities is not limited to the oppressed class rather institutions such as state is a 'terrorist' by using terrorism against its own citizen and opposition. The paper concludes that the labelling of real or imagine groups as 'terrorist' is inappropriate and should be discouraged, as this will harden the stance of the labelled/stigmatised group to reject truce and build arms. It is envisioned that unconditional diplomatic relations and implementation of policy actions such as equitable distribution of wealth is needed in integrating large layers of the lumpen class into working class with a view to stemming the tide of terrorism in the international system.*