

Hong Kong's nine |
have been criticize

According to Farah Mihar's research, Sri Lankans' growing distrust of Muslims is growing. Sri Lankans often use racial discrimination to express concerns about Muslims' economic dominance and high birth rates. Although some Muslim groups and their religious leaders

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still exists.

In addition, Sri Lanka's security agencies are not capable of taking timely action to prevent terrorist attacks planned by extremist organizations. According to the "Diplomatic Scholars" report, the security department of Sri Lanka received warnings of terrorist attacks ten days before the Easter bombings, but they did not follow up to prevent them. This also shows that the Sri Lankan government is not capable of early. Contain the development and actions of extremist organizations.

However, Sri Lankan Prime Minister Wickler Masingha said that he and all the officials of the current cabinet did not receive any news about the terrorist attacks. President Sirisena is responsible for taking over security information. "Diplomatic Scholars" analyzes that this implies a power conflict between the prime minister and the president. As the election approaches, the power struggle between the two will become more intense. And these events will become the weight of the votes.

Farah Mihar believes that when the civil war in Sri Lanka ended, many human rights workers believed that Sri Lanka could not have true peace without the realization of fairness and justice in society and the liquidation and responsibility of atrocities during the war. However, post-war Sri Lanka has always lacked a fair trial of the perpetrators, protection of minorities and genuine reconciliation among ethnic groups. This is a failure of the state machine and a place for Sri Lanka to reflect. Farah Mihar called for us to transcend the narrow nationalism and extremist thinking of all ethnic groups and religious groups to jointly build peace based on fairness and justice.

Are the poor more likely to become terrorists? In fact, it is common for highly educated "rich second generation" to become terrorists.

According to the Guardian, on Thursday, Sri Lankan police confirmed that one of Sri Lanka's most successful businessmen, Mohamed Yusuf Ibrahim, was detained after the attack because Ibrahim was Two bombers, the father of the NTJ core members. The identity of eight of the nine attackers is currently confirmed. The eight attackers are Sri Lankans who are well educated and come from middle-income or high-income families. One of the attackers was born in a wealthy tea merchant family. He studied aviation engineering at Kingston University in the UK and then went to Australia to study before returning to Sri Lanka to settle down.

In the general perception of many people, suicide attackers are often many uneducated people who are easily "brainwashed" by extremism and become their cannon fodder, or they need suicide attacks in exchange for family members because of poverty. Money protection. However, this is not the norm.

In fact, many terrorists come from well-educated middle- and high-income groups. There are endless examples of this type:

The attackers of the "9.11" incident did not have financial difficulties. Two-thirds of the attackers also had degrees and even hijackers who studied for doctoral degrees;

Al-Qaeda founder Bin Laden, the son of a construction tycoon, has a university degree, worked as an engineer, made a fortune in the oil and construction industry, and his family has close ties with the Saudi royal family;

is proficient in many languages;

Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh, who planned to kidnap and beheaded the Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl in 2002, also has a very good family. He studied at the London School of Economics and Political Science, studying applied mathematics, statistical theory, economics and social psychology. ;

In 2005, the attacker of the London suicide bomber Tanweer graduated from the University of Leeds and his father was a famous businessman;

The attacker in the "underwear bomb" incident planned by Al Qaeda in 2009 was the son of a Nigerian banker who studied at the University of London, and the father of his mastermind Anwar al-Awlaki was the cabinet minister of Yemen. He was working before joining Al Qaeda. George Washington University for a Ph.D.

In 2014, the ISIS terrorist "James John Mohammed Emwazi", who was responsible for the beheading American journalist James Foley, came from a wealthy family in West London who had a bachelor's degree in computer science;

In 2016, among the terrorist attacks in Dhaka, Bangladesh, which killed 20 civilians, seven attackers were born to wealthy families and young people with higher education;

ISIS leader Baghdadi was born into a family of religious scholars who received his JD from the Islamic University of Baghdad.

Many of ISIS's leadership are religious clergy, or former members of the Arab Baath Socialist Party, and many young people who have joined the ISIS from Egypt or Tunisia have a comfortable living background...



ISIS leader Baghdadi has been killed

There are many research surveys that have proved this, and it is not surprising that many well-educated people in middle-class families have become terrorists. According to the Washington Post, Robert Pape, a professor of political science at the University of Chicago, pointed out that after his extensive research on suicide terrorists, they found that they were "very normal" and the education level of the attackers was usually high. At the local average. In Palestine, RAND's think tank collected information on the suicide attackers in the Hamas online publication Shahid, which they found that only 13% of these suicide bombers are below the poverty line, well below the Palestinian average. Level 32%. Nearly 60% of suicide attackers have been educated in high school and above, which is only 15% of the Palestinian male population.

Radicalization, said that although poverty can be an incentive, it is a common misconception that poverty is seen as the main driver of political violence. Terrorism is a form of political violence with multiple motives. Some people may be attracted to the social safety net promised by the organization's leaders, but more people are driven by ideology. Moreover, it is not surprising that female terrorists appear. "At the international level, we still regard female violent crimes as less common behaviors, but for joining terrorist organizations, women and men show the same interest and motivation. ""

UN peacekeeper Nasr al-Hassan has interviewed 250 terrorists and their relatives and friends. Her summary is as follows: "No one of them is in poor education, poor and embarrassed, simple-minded or depressed. In addition to fleeing, many People are middle class and have jobs. Two of the terrorists I interviewed were the sons of millionaires."

For this phenomenon, the more systematic study is the paper published in 2003 by Princeton University economists Alan B. Krueger and Jitka Malečková, Education, Poverty and Terrorism: Is there a causal relationship? 》. Their research on hate crimes in the United States and German white supremacists shows that there is no correlation between violence against minorities and economic conditions.

In their investigation of Hezbollah fighters in the 1980s and 1990s, these Hezbollah fighters may be more affluent and educated than the general Shiites in Lebanon at the time. During their analysis of the Israeli and West Bank Palestinian terrorist attacks between 1987 and 2002, suicide bombers had a poverty rate of half that of the general population (15% vs. 30%), and their education was much higher than Average.

And their study of Israeli terrorists active in the 1970s and 1980s found that they were richer and better educated than their peers. Finally, Krueger and his collaborators collected data on a series of major terrorist attacks from 1997 to 2001 and found that there is no correlation between poor economic performance and terrorism: "Terror from the poorest or richest countries. There is no difference in the number of molecules." This means that poor countries do not produce more terrorists.

In 2007, Krueger also studied 311 terrorists from foreign countries captured by the United States in Iraq and concluded that "a country with a higher per capita GDP is actually more likely to involve its citizens in the rebellion.", Krueger He also wrote, "Most terrorists are not desperate about reality. They are not because they can't live. On the contrary, they are those who are willing to die for their own cause."

Liberal arts students like to make revolutions, engineering students have more right-wing terrorists?

In the Guardian, an article titled "Why shouldn't we be surprised by the wealthy back of the Sri Lankan bomber?" According to the article, since the 1970s, the relatively wealthy and highly educated young men and women of Germany, Japan, Italy and the United States began to engage in radical left-wing activities, and why they were involved in terrorist activities were raised. Similar to the ultra-left organization, Italy has "red brigade", Germany has "red army", Japan has "red army", Peru has "glorious road", and the PKK, etc., we will find that most of their founders From the non-administration category of humanities and social sciences. The suicide bombing as a tactic spread in the 1980s and 1990s, when the issue of suicide terrorist attacks by highly educated people was even more confusing.

York Times Magazine entitled "The Terrorists in Academic Engineering," sociologists

Diego Gambetta and Steffen Hertog counted more than 404 terrorists. They found that among the terrorists arrested, they learned The proportion of engineering students in the project is obviously too high, and this phenomenon is not limited to Muslims and Middle Easterners.

They found that 20% of the terrorists in their sample had an engineering degree, while in their own country, engineers accounted for 3.5% of the working-age population. Among the terrorists with higher education than high school, 44% are trained in engineering, and only 18% of those with higher education degrees in their own countries are in engineering. Among them, 69% of terrorists from the Arab world have studied universities, and the overall university enrollment rate of the Arab world population is about 11%.

Therefore, they believe that the way these terrorists think can be mixed with conservatism and engineering habits. Because science and engineering like to respond to some ambiguous questions with some clear answers, engineering training and their own conservatism complement each other. In addition, because many engineers in the Middle East can't find a job, they may prefer to use violent right-wing beliefs to face professional frustration.

However, William A. Wulf, dean of the National Academy of Engineering, sneered at this statement. He thought that Diego Gambetta and Steffen Hertog had chosen too few samples and had little credibility. Moreover, such an investigation also distort the image of an engineer, "a person with a brain that does not know how to work," he said. "It is a bad engineer in itself."

Bruce Hoffman also wrote an objection to this view at the National Interest, which he believes has always been a personal choice, perhaps because of frustration, religious piety, or a desire for social change, which is in line with the profession of one's choice. It doesn't matter. He believes that in today's era of globalization, just as terrorist expert Walter Laqueur believes, to be a terrorist, they are best educated and technically capable of not causing intelligence. The attack was launched under the concern. Since engineering is usually the most prestigious profession in developing countries, most well-educated terrorists come from this profession. In addition, many terrorists have to go to the Middle East for training or combat, and the costs are beyond the reach of the average family, so their family's social class is often relatively high.

Why is the "rich second generation" with high education becoming a terrorist?

What kind of revelation does this give to terrorism?

Alan B. Krueger's research on terrorists seems to portray a portrait of a highly educated, middle- and high-income group of terrorists. Bruce Hoffman said that if we conclude that the terrorist movement is entirely supported by highly educated people, this is also wrong.

In fact, the top leaders and middle-level commanders of terrorist organizations are indeed composed of highly educated or economically rich people, but the majority of soldiers under the organization are not highly educated. The larger the scale of this terrorist organization, the more diverse its socio-economic and educational background. The large-scale Al Qaeda and ISIS have attracted a large number of marginalized people with diverse backgrounds. Many marginalized people in the Middle East and South Asia and

ideology of Islamic radicals.

According to CNN, such large organizations engaged in large-scale terrorist activities must have recruited tens of thousands of soldiers from the ranks of the poor. This is also why the Taliban is one of the world's largest drug trafficking groups because they have to pay these soldiers every month. But this does not apply to middle-class terrorists because their motives are different. Pure terrorist groups are made up of true believers. They are usually volunteers and have no wages. Therefore, many of them naturally come from families with higher social status and have higher education.



Sri Lanka's bombed church, pictured from Diplomatic Scholars

However, this also proves that poverty, lack of development and economic stagnation are not the root causes of terrorism. We have eliminated poverty, improved living standards and education, and created more job opportunities. We have only eliminated the potential lower-level soldiers of terrorist organizations and cannot completely solve the problem of terrorism.

This seems difficult to understand, why is life comfortable, highly educated, and involved in extremism, killing so many people? This is because we are caught in a misunderstanding that compares general criminal activities with terrorist activities. According to Krueger's combing, the meaning of terrorism has changed over time, and there has been controversy with the change of the legitimate government. There is no single and generally accepted definition of the term. However, we may wish to summarize that terrorism is a group of premeditated, politically motivated violence against non-combat targets designed to influence audiences. Therefore, in fact, the most striking feature of terrorist activities is that it is a political activity.

According to the Huffington Post, becoming an Islamic militant is already a new fashion for the rich children of Bangladesh. The report pointed out that in the fast-growing economies, people's political ambitions are growing rapidly, but the society itself lacks the opportunities and channels to fulfill these requirements, which indirectly leads to the participation of the people in extremist organizations. Especially those educated young people who have high political ambitions but lack political opportunities, they lack a sense of belonging to the existing society and life, and thus are easily tempted by radicalism.

Alexander Lee published an article in "World Politics" entitled "Who will become a terrorist?" The paper, he believes that terrorist activities are first of all a kind of political participation, and academic research on political behavior shows that the degree of political participation is closely related to social economic status. The higher the social status, the greater the possibility of political participation. Moreover, the authors found that

activities than those involved in political violence. By comparing the data in the archives of violent and non-violent political activists involved in the anti-colonial movement in Bangladesh (1906-39), he came to the conclusion that although the educational level and social status of Bangladeshi terrorists is much higher than that of nationals. The average level, but compared with non-violent social activists, their education level and affluence are relatively low.

What kind of enlightenment does this bring to the problem of radical terrorism? According to an article in the Economist titled "Our misunderstanding of the bombings," poverty alleviation may not reduce the probability of terrorism, but it can reduce its efficiency. Obama once believed that poverty is the best breeding ground for terrorism and conflict. Similar words such as Thomas Piketty, author of "The Capital of the 21st Century," also said.

In fact, poverty may be the cause of street crime, but terrorism is a complex political activity, and educated people are more likely to be politicized. Terrorist organizations are also willing to recruit skilled, well-educated people to perform their tasks. Efraim Benmelech, Claude Berrebi and Esteban F. Klor of the Hebrew University showed in an article that when economic conditions are bad, the skills of ordinary terrorists will rise. They believe that high unemployment rates enable Palestinian terrorist organizations to recruit more mature terrorists with higher education. Therefore, a better economic employment situation may also reduce the average quality of the talents that terrorist organizations can recruit, thereby weakening the effectiveness of terrorist attacks, but not eliminating the root causes.

The Economist article argues that research on the ethnic issues of terrorists suggests that countries that give their citizens less political rights tend to generate more terrorists. Therefore, politics, not the economy, may be a more effective weapon in the fight against terrorism.

In this regard, Tim Fernholz agrees with this in an article in Quartz. Politics, not the economy, is the revelation we can get in counter-terrorism. It is wrong for Piketty to blame terrorism for inequality. However, Tim Fernholz still agrees with Piketty's arguments. Piketty pointed out that the high degree of inequality in the Middle East is usually caused by the semi-authoritarian regime supported by the West.

Inequality is a very real factor in these corrupt countries, but they also combat political participation in citizens. Because Piketty's research also found that terrorism is often more closely linked to political processes that are not functioning properly (such as dictatorships or areas of political collapse) rather than poverty. It is also important that the terrorist activities in the Middle East are closely linked to Western diplomatic and economic policies, as this not only maintains economic inequalities within these Middle Eastern countries, but also leads to the politics that drive the radicalization of ideology. Disorder.

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Ayijiang (Shangqiu City, Henan Province)

The analysis makes sense, and it is unfair to suffer from poverty.