Terrorism and Morality

* Terrorism can be of four different types. These are: (1) predatory, (b) retaliatory,   
  (c) political and (d) moralistic. Predatory terrorist activities include rob, steal, violent or dishonest acquisition of something. Retaliatory terrorism is revenge on someone and some harmful action. Political terrorism can do violent activities for killing upholders of the opposite political views. And moralistic terrorism can also be violent and harmful actions in the name morality, e.g., in the name of religious moral activities some terrorist actions can be done.
* It is usually held that all types of terrorism are always wrong and immoral. But some practitioners of terrorism strongly deny that they are terrorists and they claim that terrorism is wrong doing. But they do terrorism and they argue that they are freedom fighters which is moral.
* Some moral philosophers argue that some types of terrorism are morally justifiable, e.g., revolutionary terrorism. Because of such different views about terrorism, it is difficult to come to an one general view about terrorism and whether it is moral.
* But an adequate description of terrorism of any type will include five elements of terrorism. These are:   
  (1) Socioeconomic or historical and cultural roots cause the terrorist incidences.   
  (2) There will be immediate, intermediate or long-range or ultimate goals in terrorism.  
  (3) Forms or methods of coercion and force which are used in terrorism, determine   
   different types or forms of terrorism.   
  (4) Terrorism is also supported or sponsored by organizations, institutes or political   
   systems. Such cases end up as international terrorism and state terrorism.   
  (5) Terrorism occurs in social, political, economic or military circumstances both in time  
   of peace and in wartime.
* A good definition of terrorism is that terrorism is any organized set of acts of violence designed to create an atmosphere of despair or fear, to shake the faith of ordinary citizens in their government and it representatives, to destroy the structure of authority which normally stands for security, or to reinforce and perpetuate a governmental regime whose popular support is shaky.
* It is also the case that terrorism is a policy of seemingly senseless, irrational, and arbitrary murder, assassination, sabotage, subversion, robbery and other forms of violence, all committed with dedicated indifference to existing legal and moral codes or with claims to special exemption from conventional social norms.
* What is really bad is that in terrorism innocent persons are also victimized.
* On the whole we can have a ‘common core meaning’ of terrorism; this ‘core meaning’ includes the notion that terrorists acts are acts of coercion or of force aiming at monetary gain, revenge, a political end moral end.
* The causes and goals of terrorism also differ with the different types of terrorism; the methods of terrorism also vary depending on these and other factors.