

TITLE:

What is the State's Relationship with Terrorism? Reevaluating Agency in Terrorism

ABSTRACT:

What is the relationship between the state and groups labeled "terrorist"? And why do states sponsor some of these groups and not others? "Terrorism" is widely accepted to be a non-state activity. Yet, empirical evidence shows that states not only engage in this type of activity, labeled as "state terrorism," but they also sponsor "terrorist" groups. Using Pakistan as a point of departure, this paper analyzes both the conventional and critical perspectives on the concept of terrorism and the role of the state in engaging in it. After reviewing a wide range of those literatures, this paper argues that securitization theory provides the most useful framework for explicating the seemingly paradoxical relationships between the state and groups labeled "terrorist."