



## SECURING THE WORLD LOCALLY: UNVEILING CHINA'S COUNTERTERRORISM POLICY

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### ABSTRAK

Terorisme merupakan salah satu isu strategis dan kritis dalam permasalahan keamanan global, khususnya pasca tragedi 9/11. Isu terorisme telah memunculkan beragam reaksi dari berbagai aktor, termasuk aktor negara dari seluruh dunia. Tulisan ini fokus pada penggambaran keunikan karakteristik kebijakan anti-terorisme oleh Tiongkok. Tulisan ini merupakan tulisan interpretatif dalam studi Hubungan Internasional yang berusaha memahami dan menggambarkan interpretasi Tiongkok terhadap permasalahan terorisme. Tulisan ini menggunakan data beserta analisis kualitatif. Untuk mendukung usaha memahami kebijakan terorisme Tiongkok, penulis menggunakan konsep Glokalisasi. Konsep Glokalisasi memberikan gambaran unik terkait interaksi antara konteks global dan lokal dalam kebijakan anti-terorisme Tiongkok. Dalam kerangka Glokalisasi, terorisme diinterpretasikan ulang sebagai gerakan separatisme, yang merupakan gagasan utama dalam perspektif Tiongkok terhadap isu keamanan dan kedaulatan. Tiongkok mentransformasikan isu terorisme global dan kekhawatiran yang menyertainya menjadi kebijakan anti-terorisme pada skala lokal, khususnya yang terfokus pada wilayah Xinjiang dan Tibet sebagai episentrum kebijakan anti-terorisannya. Lebih jauh lagi, Tiongkok juga menambahkan pendekatan sosial-ekonomi dalam konteks kebijakan anti-terorisannya. Hal ini membuat kebijakan anti-terorisme Tiongkok berbeda dengan kebijakan anti-terorisme negara barat. Pendekatan sosial-ekonomi ini termanifestasikan dalam kebijakan Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) yang digunakan Tiongkok sebagai dasar kebijakan luar negerinya untuk memproyeksikan visi kebijakan anti-terorisannya sekaligus membantu membangun legitimasi politik dalam skala internasional terhadap kebijakan anti-terorisme lokal yang diimplementasikan Tiongkok dalam wilayah kedaulatannya. Secara umum, tulisan ini memberikan pemahaman terhadap kebijakan anti-terorisme Tiongkok yang terdiri dari pemahaman tentang hakikat terorisme menurut Tiongkok yang kemudian melahirkan interpretasi khusus oleh Tiongkok terhadap terorisme yang pada akhirnya menghasilkan kebijakan lokal anti-terorisme, pengintegrasian persoalan sosial-ekonomi dalam kebijakan anti-terorisme, sekaligus kebijakan yang menjangkau aktor global di luar kedaulatan Tiongkok.

Kata Kunci: Tiongkok, terorisme, glokalisasi, keamanan, Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)

### ABSTRACT

Terrorism has become a critical worldwide security concern in the aftermath of the 9/11 tragedy, provoking varying reactions from various states. This research focuses on the distinguishing features of China's counterterrorism policy. The study methodically unravels China's multifaceted perspective on terrorism through interpretative research supported by qualitative analysis. The globalization lens sheds light on the dynamic interaction of China's local context within the larger global discourse. Within this context, terrorism within China's

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borders is recast as separatist, a notion intrinsically tied to China's entire understanding of the threat. China effectively turns global terrorist worries into a rationale for its region-focused counterterrorism efforts, which are localized in Xinjiang and Tibet. Furthermore, China's technique departs from Western paradigms by adding socioeconomic factors as crucial components, resulting in a complex and distinctively Chinese approach. In addition, China deliberately utilizes its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) projects to spread its counterterrorism narrative worldwide while simultaneously legitimizing its internal measures. The paper thoroughly explains China's counterterrorism policy through this analysis to highlight the roots of its unique interpretation, localized remedies, socioeconomic integration, and global outreach strategies.

Keywords: China, terrorism, glocalization, security, *Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)*

## BACKGROUND

Since terrorism has become a global issue, governments have been forced to create elaborate plans to combat the problem. Among these countries, China has distinguished itself as a key actor in counterterrorism by putting out its distinctive strategy to handle the problems posed by terrorism within its borders (An, 2019). This essay is aimed to analyze China's counterterrorism strategy to understand China's approach.

According to 2017 statistics, 247 events classified as terrorism happened in China between 1970 and 2016. Furthermore, 79 terrorist occurrences were registered in the recent decade, notably from 2011 to 2016, with 33 comprising bombing incidents. This circumstance has forced the Chinese government to adopt strategic initiatives and develop counterterrorism strategies. Terrorism has increased significantly in recent decades, posing a severe threat to China's domestic stability and security. These episodes cover a broad spectrum of violent activities with sociopolitical repercussions. The Chinese government's reaction to these dangers in this setting calls for maturity and coordination (Cordesman, 2017). As a result, the Chinese government's strategic initiatives and policies have become a significant focus point in resolving this increasingly complicated scenario. The Chinese government's activities in countering terrorism have enormous consequences for international relations and internal security. Terrorism can cross boundaries, and

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China's attempts to combat it can impact other nations' perceptions and responses to China. As a result, the Chinese government must develop policies that not only combat terrorist concerns locally but also conform to international norms and foster global collaboration in confronting this problem.

China's stance on the fight against terrorism demonstrates its dedication to preserving its social stability, territorial integrity, and sense of security at home, particularly in the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region, where separatist activities and violent crimes have been expected, according to the Chinese government. The government has classified terrorism as a serious concern. China has adopted a complex plan to effectively tackle terrorism in response, combining security measures, socioeconomic development, and ideological efforts (Clarke, 2018).

Chinese anti-terrorism policy, in contrast to American anti-terrorism policy, emphasizes preventative and preemptive measures more. It increases information and surveillance capabilities, stringent border controls, deradicalization initiatives, and initiatives to foster social cohesion and economic growth in vulnerable areas are just a few examples of the tactics that make up this strategy. Another important distinction between China's and the United States' foreign policy is the degree of international collaboration. While the US has actively sought partnerships and alliances with other nations in the battle against terrorism, China has taken a more unilateral strategy, mainly concentrating on its internal initiatives (Potter, 2013).

The 9/11 terrorist attacks in the United States were a watershed moment in world history, forever transforming how nations see and respond to terrorism. This sad tragedy constituted a watershed moment for China, prompting a fundamental adjustment in addressing the domestic danger of terrorism, particularly in areas with considerable Muslim populations, such as the Uyghur minority in Xinjiang province.

Before 9/11, China's understanding of terrorism was mainly centered on internal separatist movements and ethnic disputes. While the Chinese government

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acknowledged the presence of extremist activity in Muslim-majority areas such as Xinjiang, it saw them as isolated instances more directly related to regional social issues. However, the 9/11 attacks significantly reevaluated China's terrorism threat scenario. The following US-led "war on terror" and worldwide attention on Islamist radicalism prompted China to rethink its domestic security plans. Recognizing the rising transnational character of terrorism and the propensity for extremist ideology to cross boundaries, China began to examine Uyghur separatist activities through the prism of global security.

As a result of China's emphasis on upholding its sovereignty and refraining from meddling in domestic issues, it has engaged with international organizations and other countries less, resulting in a more independent approach to counterterrorism. In connection with China's war against terrorism, human rights have also been discussed and criticized. According to some observers, China's anti-terrorism tactics in Xinjiang, including widespread monitoring and the incarceration of Uighur Muslims in reeducation centers, have sparked worries about possible human rights breaches (Potter, 2013). In comparison, the US has had its share of criticism but has consistently attempted to balance the need for security and the protection of civil liberties and individual rights.

Furthermore, China's counterterrorism policy goes beyond its borders through programs like the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). China aspires to strengthen regional security cooperation and encourage economic growth in nations vulnerable to terrorist activity as part of its larger foreign strategy. China seeks to address the root causes of terrorism and foster environments that limit its spread by funding infrastructure projects and offering financial assistance (Zan, 2016).

In conclusion, the analysis of China's counterterrorism strategy gives essential insights into the complexity of counterterrorism initiatives in the modern world. We may better understand the many approaches used to combat the worldwide danger

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of terrorism by analyzing the unique aspects of China's strategy and contrasting it with the policies of other governments, such as the United governments. It is vital to examine both the parallels and variations between these methods since each reflects different geopolitical factors, internal difficulties, and philosophical viewpoints on balancing security and human rights. This article intends to shed light on the potential consequences of various strategies as it digs further into China's unique strategy in its policy of war on terrorism compared with the United States. Therefore, the authors posed the research question, "How is China's understanding of terrorism, and how does this understanding impact its counterterrorism policy?"

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

This research has an interpretive focus. It aims to understand how China's counterterrorism strategy varies from that of other nations, such as the United States, which also have counterterrorism policies. The main goal is to learn more about how China localizes the worldwide problem of terrorism inside its particular internal political environment. The research uses the idea of glocalization as a theoretical framework and analytical technique to get at this notion.

Glocalization is how international events issues, including counterterrorism tactics, are modified and placed inside local contexts. We want to investigate how domestic and international counterterrorism discourses impact China's anti-terrorist policies by using the notion of glocalization. In order to include the idea of glocalization in our research, we will look at how China's counterterrorism policies are influenced by external factors and modified to fit the nation's particular socio-political environment (Roudometof, 2018). We will examine the interactions between Chinese internal policies, cultural values, historical experiences, and international counterterrorism norms, practices, and frameworks. We may discover how local and global factors influence China's counterterrorism policy using glocalization as an analytical tool. We will examine how China manages the conflict between embracing

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international counterterrorism standards and upholding its distinct cultural and political character.

However, the idea of glocalization is not only exclusive for terrorism case only, it also can be applied in other cases, for example in the Indian context, the phenomena of glocalization is most visible in the world of Bollywood movies. Bollywood, India's burgeoning film industry, is more than just a source of pleasure; it is also a reflection of the country's cultural character. Bollywood films, in particular, are supposed to have a distinct "Indian touch." Because the entertainment business, like other aspects of modern culture, is frequently impacted by prevailing Western ideas, this particular combination of global and local features is crucial. However, these Western principles may not always connect with Indian society's vast and culturally rich fabric. As a result, Bollywood directors incorporate and tweak foreign influences to create storylines that are deeply anchored in the local environment. This adaption process guarantees that global material stays appealing and relevant to the Indian audience (Rao, 2010).

Examining China's approach to counter-terrorism policies reveals the same glocalization premise. Terrorism, being a worldwide concern, raises difficult cross-border challenges. However, China's response to this global event takes on a distinct personality that is strongly rooted in its own setting. The Chinese government has adjusted its counter-terrorism strategies to the unique risks and problems it encounters within its borders. As a result, China has not only absorbed global best practices, but has also merged them into a framework that is consistent with its national interests and cultural values. This strategy assures that China's counter-terrorism efforts are not only successful, but also popular among the local populace.

Indeed, glocalization is a comprehensive process that goes much beyond mere adaptation. It reflects the dynamic changes that occur inside a community and its administration. Glocalization within China's political culture is an illustrative

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illustration of this complicated process. In recent years, China's political environment has experienced considerable changes, affected by both internal and foreign causes. As China adopts a more significant position on the world scene, its approach to foreign concerns such as terrorism has evolved. This change is shown by China's approach to counter-terrorism policies. It is a reflection of how the Chinese government and society have reacted to changing conditions, rather than simply assimilation of global counter-terrorism tactics. The glocalization of China's counter-terrorism policy demonstrates the country's rising international independence. It now adopts a more circumspect and context-specific approach. This method entails scrutinizing international activities through the prism of China's distinct political culture, historical backdrop, and national interests (Cheng, 2017).

In essence, glocalization within China's counter-terrorism policy signifies a maturing of its participation with global challenges. It represents China's capacity to adapt while simultaneously asserting its own values and interests on the world scene. This trend toward a more autonomous posture in confronting global concerns such as terrorism underscores China's increasing role as a crucial player in influencing the future of international relations. It is a powerful illustration of how glocalization may be a reflection of a nation's evolving identity and a proactive reaction to the complexity of our linked world.

Glocalization makes the study of the complex interactions between local and global dynamics possible. This study focuses on glocalization to better understand how China contextualizes international counterterrorism efforts to fit its unique sociopolitical and cultural milieu. This method recognizes that each state has different features, making it necessary to customize counterterrorism strategies rather than applying them generally.

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## METHODOLOGY

To dive deeply into China's anti-terrorism efforts, this study employs an interpretative research approach within the framework of international relations. The methodological technique of interpretive research was chosen because of its inherent ability to give a thorough knowledge of China's counterterrorism program. This method aims to untangle the numerous layers of China's counterterrorism attitude by taking into consideration the political, cultural, and historical environment in which these policies are created and implemented. It enables academics to go beyond the surface of China's policies and dive into the underlying causes, motives, explanations, and impacts (Lamont, 2015).

Our primary sources of information for this study will be the Internet and document-based or library-based research. It is possible to obtain official government documents, policy declarations, research papers, reports, and news sources online, a massive informational resource. We will perform a thorough analysis of these sources, concentrating on information that is specifically relevant to China's anti-terrorist strategy. To assess these sources, we shall use a methodical and rigorous methodology in our research. We will concentrate on data that is directly relevant to China's counter-terrorism policy, documenting and classifying it in order to make significant conclusions. This rigorous examination of primary and secondary sources will not only aid in gaining a full knowledge of China's counterterrorism activities, but will also contribute to a larger discussion of international relations and counterterrorism policies in an increasingly linked world.

The qualitative methodology will be used in this study, especially within the framework of a case study. Case studies are a well-established and extensively utilized inquiry design used in many academic areas, including social sciences. Researchers use the case study technique to conduct in-depth investigation of a single instance, which might include a program, event, activity, process, or one or more significant actors. We want to find recurring themes, patterns, meanings, and



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discourses that arise in response to China's counterterrorism actions using a qualitative methodology. This entails a thorough examination of the acquired data in order to determine the underlying ideologies, attitudes, and techniques that will serve as guiding principles in molding China's counterterrorism response. (Creswell & Creswell, 2018)

In the framework of a case study, qualitative research provides a good chance to obtain insights into the varied components of China's counterterrorism activities. We want to create a fuller and more nuanced understanding of the issues underlying China's approach to counterterrorism by going into the depths of these case studies. This analytical decision is consistent with the overarching goal of providing light on the varied dynamics of international relations and counterterrorism efforts in the context of a changing global environment.

It is critical to recognize this study approach's constraints. As an interpretive study, the conclusions are based on the researcher's interpretations and are thus arbitrary. Additionally, relying heavily on the internet and document-based sources might result in biases or restrictions on the availability of particular data kinds. Despite these drawbacks, the technique used in this study offers a solid foundation for examining and comprehending China's position in the fight against terrorism.

Overall, this study uses an interpretive research methodology, collects data from library-based research, and uses qualitative analysis as its primary analytical tool. Combining these approaches will help us understand China's counterterrorism strategy thoroughly and provide light on its fundamental goals, tactics, and ramifications.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **Brief History of Terrorism in China**

Terrorism has a long history in China, and many occurrences and movements have threatened its internal security. One such example is the separatist movement in

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Xinjiang, an autonomous province in northwest China with a sizable Muslim Uighur population. The early 20th century saw the emergence of hostilities between Uighur nationalists and the Chinese government, which is when terrorism in Xinjiang first began (Clarke, 2018). The extremist East Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM), which seeks Xinjiang's independence, became a danger in the 1990s. ETIM targeted the Chinese government and security employees with a series of violent acts, including bombs and killings (Xu et al., 2014)

Other parts of China, not only Xinjiang, have also had occurrences connected to terrorism. Attacks were sometimes blamed on separatist organizations in Tibet that sought to oppose Chinese control in the region. These episodes mainly consisted of protests when people set themselves on fire, with some violent acts against Tibetan people and Chinese officials (Kaiman, 2015)

To summarize, China has faced a complicated and growing history of terrorism, notably in Xinjiang and Tibet. To counteract the threat of terrorism, the government has implemented various security measures, socioeconomic development programs, and regional collaboration efforts. However, continued worries about human rights violations and the treatment of minorities illustrate the difficulties in effectively combating terrorism while preserving the rule of law and respect for human rights.

### **China's Understanding of Terrorism**

China has a distinct historical, political, and cultural framework that informs its knowledge of and definition of terrorism. In order to further political, ideological, or religious goals, the Chinese government defines terrorism as acts of violence, intimidation, or threats that generate social panic, undermine public security, and menace government departments (State Council of China, 2015). China views terrorism as dangerous to its social order, territorial integrity, and national security. The Chinese government emphasizes upholding social order and harmony in an

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ethnically diverse nation. It sees terrorism as a disruptive force threatening political stability, economic growth, and social cohesion.

Terrorism is frequently linked in the Chinese context to separatist movements, radicalism, and religious fundamentalism. The authorities have named the East Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM) and people motivated by jihadist ideas as major terrorist activity offenders (Clarke, 2018). The Chinese government assigns violent crimes to Uighur separatists who want to leave China in Xinjiang, where separatism is emphasized.

### **Glocalization of China's Counterterrorism Policy**

China started to combat the escalating threat of terrorism in the 1990s, mainly concentrating on separatist movements in Xinjiang and Tibet. These areas occasionally saw violent crimes and other occurrences linked to organizations that favored independence or autonomy. The Chinese government implemented several security measures and information-collecting initiatives to combat these separatist activities. Its objectives were to stop terrorist acts and dissolve extremist networks. To locate and detain those suspected of being connected to extremist groups or implicated in terrorist actions, law enforcement authorities were deployed (Pokalova, 2013.)

China's anti-terrorism strategy developed from a nuanced understanding of terrorism that first saw it as a result of separatist movements in places like Xinjiang and Tibet. The Chinese government saw the emergence of extremist activity in these regions as a danger to territorial integrity and national unity rather than just as an expression of international terrorism. This ambiguous perspective impacted the early phases of China's counterterrorism operations as it attempted to combat the more general global terrorist scenario and the unique regional factors igniting separatist movements. This perspective, however, is a manifestation of how the government of

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China perceived terrorism threat, incorporating the threat into the domestic context and aligning the threat with separatism problems, which existed even before the global war on terrorism led by the US.

China struggled with ethnic and religious tensions in Xinjiang and Tibet, which it saw as possible catalysts for separatist movements rather than merely terrorist attacks. The government saw these areas as vulnerable to outside forces attempting to erode Chinese sovereignty. As a result, the early stages of China's counterterrorism policy were intimately related to dealing with separatism and putting an end to ethnic and religious instability in Xinjiang and Tibet. This complex understanding led to the introduction of specific policies in these areas, such as heightened security, monitoring, and restrictions on religious rituals, all of which were intended to counteract separatist efforts labeled as counterterrorism. Not only that, for the Chinese government, the global war on terrorism is locally adapted to China's new concept of combating terrorism. The concept is "People's War" or renmin zhanz- heng 人民战争 . This concept is the symbolism of the Chinese government's effort to incorporate and involve citizens of China in counterterrorism policy. In practice, the government creates a partnership with local elites and party cadres, especially in focused areas such as Xinjiang and Tibet (Xie & Liu, 2019)

China's Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region has adopted particular counterterrorism and counter-extremism policies over time. These actions, which have come under intense international attention, represent the Chinese government's strategy for addressing regional security issues. Creating "reeducation" or "vocational training" institutes was one of the critical policies implemented. Not only the creation of reeducation camps, but the government of China also claimed to improve the region's infrastructure, such as power stations, power lines, etc., to boost economic development. These facilities were created to offer education and skill development

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to those who were thought to be involved in terrorist activity or to have extremist beliefs (Raza, 2019).

From the perspective of the government of China, these facilities work on social needs and harmony, provide people with marketable skills, and reduce unemployment (CGTN, 2018). However, international organizations and human rights activists have expressed significant worries about the circumstances and care given to patients at these facilities. Another step adopted in Xinjiang was the strengthening of security and monitoring technology. Further, the government of China is also involved in setting up a sizable network of security cameras, facial recognition software, and other cutting-edge technology (Leibold, 2019). The objectives were to preserve social stability, detect possible security risks, and improve the government's monitoring capabilities. The government of China intends to monitor the behavior of its citizens, especially in Xinjiang, Tibet, and even China as a whole. However, these actions have sparked worries over privacy rights violations and the targeting of certain racial and religious minorities.

In Xinjiang, the authorities have put rigorous controls and guidelines on religious practices. These actions included tighter controls over religious instruction, limitations on religious dress, and enhanced inspection of religious activities. The administration underlined the need to promote moderate Islam and combat extremist influences. However, detractors contend that these actions violate religious liberties and unfairly target the Uighur Muslim community. As part of the government's plan to address underlying complaints, socioeconomic development efforts have also received attention in Xinjiang. The government has supported investment and development initiatives to improve the region's infrastructure, provide employment possibilities, and stimulate economic growth. These programs reduce poverty, enhance living circumstances, and give those vulnerable to extreme

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ideas more options. However, there are worries that these initiatives can also result in religious oppression and traditional cultural traditions eroding (Leibold, 2019)

Earlier in developing its counterterrorism strategy, The Chinese government saw the value of addressing terrorism's root causes through cultural integration and harmony. In order to establish a feeling of national identity and togetherness, efforts were undertaken to encourage social cohesiveness and cultural understanding among varied cultures. For instance, the government started efforts and programs to stimulate inter-ethnic communication, enable cultural exchanges, and promote cultural fusion in areas where separatist groups were active. The Chinese government aimed to promote a sense of togetherness and national identity among the many ethnic groups. Chinese language and culture promotion initiatives were developed to combat terrorism. This strategy is part of China's Confucianism approach. In this context, China's governing power has shifted or expanded to include the idea of harmony in counterterrorism policy (An, 2019).

In the context of terrorism as a significant global issue, China's counterterrorism strategy saw considerable changes from 2001 to 2004 due to its alignment with international counterterrorism activities. Following the 9/11 attacks, the Chinese government supported UN Security Council resolutions on counterterrorism and pledged cooperation with the international community in the fight against terrorism. China aggressively participated in international collaboration, enhancing its systems for exchanging intelligence with other nations and participating in joint operations and training initiatives. This cooperative strategy strengthens counterterrorism capabilities and promotes information sharing about terrorist operations, funding sources, and recruiting networks (Long, 2016).

During this time, China also strongly emphasized a holistic strategy that tackled both the security aspect and the root causes of terrorism. After realizing the need to address socioeconomic complaints, the government established programs to

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advance economic growth, lessen poverty, and enhance living circumstances in areas vulnerable to extremist ideas. China wanted to establish alternative routes and possibilities that would discourage people from embracing extreme ideas by addressing these core issues.

The distinctive feature of China's counterterrorism strategy is its all-encompassing approach, which incorporates social and economic factors and security measures. China understood the significance of tackling the socioeconomic causes that led to the formation and spread of terrorism, in contrast to the US counterterrorism strategy in the early 2000s, which predominantly depended on military force and intervention. In areas prone to separatist activity, the Chinese government developed programs to reduce poverty, build infrastructure, and create jobs. China aimed to address the underlying causes of extremism and create a setting that was less favorable to the spread of terrorism by resolving economic inequities and offering socioeconomic chances (Purbrick, 2017)

Additionally, China included its counterterrorism measures in regional plans. The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), composed of China and its neighbors, has developed into a forum for interregional counterterrorism cooperation. China worked with regional allies to exchange intelligence, hold joint drills, and improve coordination in terrorist activities through the SCO and other fora. China actively contributed to regional security and tried to develop a coordinated response to combat terrorism due to its recognition of the international character of the terrorist threat (Wallace, 2014).

As a manifestation of the government of China in SCO, China plays a vital role in the Regional Counterterrorism Structure (RCTS), which is a permanent body in the structure of SCO. Therefore, RCTS intends to coordinate the counterterrorism policy and efforts SCO members make. RCTS has become the government preference in combating terrorism, especially involving trans-border threats (Wallace, 2014).

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However, China's government refuses to use its military power outside its sovereignty, especially in counterterrorism efforts, since it is an "intervention" to other countries' sovereignty. Hence, China's role in RCTS and SCO as general in counterterrorism focuses on its domestic terrorism threat, especially in Xinjiang and Tibet (Wallace, 2014).

China made tremendous progress in addressing the terrorist issue in 2015 when it approved its first comprehensive counterterrorism law. The Act gave the nation a legal foundation and enforcement tools for thwarting, repressing, and combating terrorist operations. This anti-terrorism law gave terrorism a broad definition and included a variety of actions, such as inciting terrorism, recruiting terrorists, and so on. The Act strongly emphasized the necessity of a coordinated and comprehensive counterterrorism strategy. The channels it built for intelligence sharing and coordination included law enforcement, intelligence, and military organizations. By enabling the interchange of information and resources, this cooperation aims to increase the efficacy and efficiency of counterterrorism operations. The domestic security environment, law enforcement activities, and the preservation of public safety were significantly impacted by China's 2015 counterterrorism laws. However, there is a concern that this law would further violate human rights in China (Zhou, 2016).

As China's ambitious international development project, known as the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), is getting more attention from the government of China, the project also incorporates counterterrorism as part of its mission, either directly or indirectly. China's official counterterrorism policy within the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) underlines the country's commitment to safeguarding security and stability along the initiative's enormous economic corridors. The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), an ambitious infrastructure and connectivity initiative, intends to increase trade, economic, and cultural linkages throughout Asia, Europe, Africa, and beyond.



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Recognizing the potential threats of terrorism and extremism to the BRI's success and longevity, China has incorporated counterterrorism measures into its overall plan and policy (Tao, 2016).

China emphasizes international cooperation and collaboration as part of its counterterrorism policy in the BRI. The Chinese government actively seeks partnerships and information sharing with participating countries to address common security challenges. This includes intelligence sharing, joint exercises, capacity building, and establishing regional cooperation mechanisms. An example of this policy is China's partnership with countries such as Turkey, Saudi Arabia, and most Middle Eastern countries. China, along with these nations and countries, has agreed that terrorism is a problem and threat, not only to security but also to economic development. By promoting collaboration among countries along the BRI routes, China aims to enhance collective efforts in combating terrorism and preventing the cross-border movement of extremist elements (Tao, 2016).

Within the Belt and Road Initiative, China's counterterrorism strategy stresses the importance of socioeconomic growth and poverty alleviation. The Chinese government understands the need to eliminate socioeconomic imbalances and encourage inclusive growth in combating terrorism's core causes. As a result, China has included development projects and initiatives within the BRI, such as infrastructure development, job creation, and poverty alleviation programs. China hopes to build stability, social harmony, and resilience against extremism and terrorism by strengthening socioeconomic circumstances in partner nations.

The Belt and Road Initiative has become the government of China's instrument to promote its views and perceptions on terrorism and how to combat it. Therefore, the perceptions of terrorism by the Chinese government, which is a local and domestic problem, will become more globally accepted. It will support China's counterterrorism policy within its sovereignty.

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## CONCLUSION

Based on the study and research that we have conducted on the glocalization of China's counterterrorism policy, we can infer several points, such as China's understanding of terrorism is inseparable from the Chinese government's separatism problems. In most case of China's policy and action to combat terrorism, the China government use the same policy to turn down the separatism movement, especially in Xinjiang and Tibet.

Although China supported the global war on terrorism was led by the US and Western countries, China's approach to terrorism is unique compared to those of the US and Western countries. As we mentioned before, China not only combines and reinterprets terrorism as separatism, but China also has a more inward approach to terrorism rather than an outward approach. This means China's primary focus on its counterterrorism policy is in a domestic setting, unlike the US and Western countries' policies, which more outward as they perceive terrorism as an external threat factor or simply a source of terrorism is from outside of their countries.

Other factors that make China's policy on combating terrorism include social and economic factors such as poverty alleviation and cultural integration. However, there is concern and criticism about China's counterterrorism policy that some of its policies violate human rights. Recently, China aligned its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) project to its counterterrorism strategy. The project aims to strengthen connectivity, trade, investment, and cultural ties across Asia, Europe, Africa, and beyond. China believes the global terrorism threat is rooted in social and economic factors; therefore, policy such as poverty alleviation, investment, and so on is essential to combat terrorism. However, this approach faced criticism that China's using its BRI project to decrease international pressure on human rights abuse in Xinjiang and Tibet. Based on this perspective, it once again suggests China's inward

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approach to terrorism. China's main aim is to combat terrorism within its own country, maintain domestic order, and protect its integration and sovereignty.

This research has several suggestions to consider in the context of counterterrorism policy or the academic field. China needs to consider opening clear information about Xinjiang and Tibet to the world so that suspicions about human rights abuse by the government of China will decrease. International social, economic, and cultural exchange should be done in the Xinjiang and Tibet area so people and countries worldwide will understand China's policy in the areas better.

On the academic side, the research agenda in the future should be focused on human rights development in China, especially in the case of Xinjiang and Tibet. Not only that, but future research could also focus further on China's relations with Muslim countries and its impact on China's counterterrorism policy.

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