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## Humanism and Terrorism: An Epistemic Overview

**Dr. Iniobong Daniel Umotong**

Lecturer, Department of Philosophy,  
Akwa Ibom State University, Nigeria

### **Abstract:**

*Giving the dynamics of human societies, the current waves of violence, terror and other anti-social activities in various climes of the world, irrespective of social status, suffix or prefix attached; developed, developing, and underdeveloped, none is exempted from experiencing the touch of terror. To tackle these problems and associated effects there is the need to reassess, analyze and evaluate the role of logic, language and human understanding. Understanding this depends heavily on the knowledge of the words and the perspectives of the parties involved in the interpretation and application of these concepts as a result of the bond between humans and nature upon which these activities revolve. It is obvious that the concept of terror has come to be one of those threat to the very nature of good living, as such a cause for concern in many social and academic discourse. This informs and formed the foundation for this work. The work is intended to expose the misconception in understanding of these terms from the perspective of all concern on order to proffer solutions. This will move our societies forward, away from the distractions and destructions that follows in order to enhance development. It is the submission of this work that the trigger of terror is the misunderstanding of the word from different perspectives of participant in the act. While the terrorist themselves see their activities as a self-defense in the mist of oppression and injustice from an oppressed position the those bearing the brunt of their activities see them as the real oppressors and deserving of no pity*

**Keywords:** Terrorism, humanism, epistemic, development, understanding

### **1. Introduction**

Contemporary societies are judged; developed, developing, advanced, backward, peaceful, just, unjust and such endless appellations from the perspective of human activities that interacts with the natural phenomenon on scales experienced by man.

Understanding the dynamics of societies today depends heavily on the bond between humans and nature upon which the society rest. This again is dependent on a lot of variables. It is obvious in contemporary society that the concept of terror has come to be one of those threat to the very nature of good living, as such a cause for concern in many social and academic discourse. Like most other concepts of great concern to humanity; terror, corruption, injustice etc. feature prominently in the list of social ills that affects negatively the peace and progress in societies. Generally, the standard of living of people of such societies are greatly influenced by these interactions

From every account of the creation of the universe, either religious, scientific or sociological; human beings form the base at which other creatures finds its expressions. It is humans that links its existence to God, establishes the existence of God, and also explains the purpose of creation, upturn and misappropriate nature, at times dangerously to its disadvantage and in other times to its advantage. By these human beings become the pivotal point in nature. The same human in the quest to recreate nature engages in activities inimical to its existence, one of these negatives of human creation is terror. Since terror is one of the negative creation of humans and it is a necessary evil in every society as most terrorist will see themselves as freedom fighters just as Moses in the bible story (Genesis 5: 1, Genesis 12:29-31) while on the other divide the state instrument of terror will see itself as an attempt to maintain peace in the face of threat to constituted authority as was the case of Nigerian government invasion of Oddi, an Ijaw town in Bayelsa State on January 20, 1999 by the Federal terrorist in uniform popularly referred to in Nigeria as the Oddi massacre and another in Zaki Ibiam community in Benue State on October 20, 2001 by army troops. To the Jews in Egypt; Moses was a freedom fighter while to the Egyptians he was a terrorist. To the Ijaws in Nigeria; Ken Saro Wiwa was a freedom fighter an environmentalist proponent but to the Federal Government of Nigeria he was a terrorist and was treated as such.

Right from antiquity, it behooves on us the onus to understand the operation of these two concepts – humanism and terrorism, which, to some extents are the two sides of the same coin. Every quest to unravel the hidden knowledge in a given puzzle is placed under epistemology – the critical inquiry into what counts as knowledge. Not merely knowledge for knowledge's sake but knowledge that is authentic, truth and morally beneficial to humanity as a whole not just a beneficial knowledge to a few or a group. These are the core issues in humanism or humanizing epistemology. In order to eliminate this hydra-headed monster dreaded by all, abhorred by the societies, yet prevalent in diverse forms in every society, one needs to unravel its origin, growth and possibly the sustaining factor in order to deal a blow at its extinction or at least control and suppress its spread and effect on the society.

On the other hand, Humanism as a philosophical concept has been an age long area of interest for philosophers whose focus centered on human activities as interactions with nature in order to understand, preserve, conserve, manipulate and utilize what nature has made available. Professor Udo Etuk in his book 'The New Humanism' separated the focus of ancient notion of the concept with the contemporary and a much more meaningful application of the concept thus; 'the new humanism sifts man from being the center and measure of all things, from being his own God; from denying and repudiating the existence of other life forms and cosmos, to a new conception where man's dignity derives from being created in the image of the Almighty God; where existence and meaning in this life can only be found in relation to a faith in life hereafter, and where the concept of the brotherhood of man makes sense only in the acceptance of the corollary concept of the fatherhood of God'

He further maintains that the dignity of man is conferred on man by the one who created man in his own image and that to discount this fact is in fact, to devalue man. In other words, humanism is empty if separated from God. Humans as the creature of God cannot afford to stand alone, independent of the creator therefore; the ancient humanism that centers and concentrates in the understanding of humans as the only source of true knowledge is seen to be faulty and cannot provide the needed understanding. Following this position, the true knowledge comes from God the creator of the universe. Just like any manufactured product cannot properly serve its purpose if operated contrary to the prescribed manufacturers manual. So, it is in Human societies, trying to operate independently of the creator's manual- the faith base instructions. This then accounts for the myriad malfunctioning of our societies one of the symptoms of the malfunctioned societies is the prevalence of terror in a greater magnitude and the frequency at which this terror activities occurs.

## 2. History of Terrorism

Terror is a derivative of the Latin word *Terrere* which is translated in English to mean 'to make tremble, cause fear and weaken morale', something or someone which causes such fear (Chambers 21<sup>st</sup> Century Dictionary P. 1459). Terror is as old as antiquity, when viewed from the perspective of its being an organized and coordinated activities aimed at creating fear in order to send a message across. Terrorism is popularly defined as the unofficial use of violence and intimidation in the pursuit of political aims. The United State Code of Federal Regulations sees terrorism as the unlawful use of force and violence against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof, in furtherance of political or social objectives. (Jide Osuntokun, The Nation Newspaper June 11, 2015) The murder of man by man is as old as the human race, but the type witnessed in Nigeria of recent is a new dimension alien to our culture but not alien to human cultures. Terrorism as used in the modern sense was born during the French Revolution whose bloodiest phase was known as 'The Terror' (Ladeen 2002: 1). During the middle of the nineteenth century and its revolutionary trend in social scientific events, it was a common practice or strategy to the mass murder of innocent civilians for political objectives. Those who adopt this method or strategy can be described as frustrated political pundits whose civilized strategies have been expended without achieving the required result of total control.

It is impossible to definitely ascertain when the term terrorism was first used or who the first terrorist was. As it is said in the gospel of John that the followers of Jesus Christ were first called Christians at Antioch (John 4:3). The first set of terrorists may not have had their name at a point but when the word terrorism emerged, the phenomenon that can be placed under its description were referred to as such. What is today called terrorism can be traced to about two thousand years ago if not as far back as the creation of man. Today terrorism has become a profession; it would not be surprising if it were studied as a discipline in school in the near future just like South Africa has introduced the study of Witchcraft into its educational curriculum; a practice hitherto regarded in disdain by many Africans.

The history of violence certainly, in its current form came into prominence since 1914. Events of this era marked it as the most terrifying period in human history even more terrifying than the proceeding centuries. However, it is of interest that there was a similar age of violence and terror more than four millennium ago. (that was in Noah's days). The bible describes it thus; 'the earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence' (Genesis 6: 11) this bible account of the source of terror was principally the powerful hybrid offspring of daughters of men and disobedient spirits sons of God who materialized on earth. These offsprings were called 'Nephilim' meaning 'fellers'- mighty ones who terrorized mankind. They triggered an era of violence comparable to what we see in our societies today.

Terrorist activities of the twenty first century are greatly motivated by economic interest but purportedly placed under Religion and Politics. As it is generally observed, the phenomenon of terrorism is 'a challenge to be managed not solved since humans must always have differences in opinion on how best things should be done and in order to get one subdued, force or violence is applied. Some scholars erroneously equated the emergence of a large-scale terrorism with the birth of Al-Qaeda. But history reveals that countries like Columbia and Northern Ireland have lived through history with terror, terrorism has been their known way of venting grievances, despite the fact that Al-Qaeda is likely to wedge a global insurgency, citizens of Northern Ireland may not be so preoccupied with the thought of Al-Qaeda's next target than with the Irish Republican Army (IRA) attack.

In Nigeria, the history of terrorism is believed to be a post -civil war product. This can be faulted by anthropologist and scholars of antique Nigeria. These scholars traced the history of terrorism in Nigeria as far back as the various communal wars among kingdoms of ancient communities. They maintain that communal clashes and expansionist quest by kingdoms against weaker territories was the genesis of terrorism. as was the practice in ancient Nigeria therefore terrorism was not introduced into Nigeria after the civil war but have been an inherent tendency in the traditional societies.

Global history of terrorism can also be traced to the ancient Roman Empire, in the early years of Roman occupation of the first century Middle East, the terrorist activities then were spearheaded by the Sacari and the Zealots.

The Zealots with their dagger targeted the Romans whom they believe came to desecrate their land' (Burgess 2004: 2). Adherent of other religions also resorted to methods that may be termed terrorism today. The group known as 'Assassins' was an eleventh century offshoot of a Shia Muslim Sect known as the Ismaili. Like the Zealots, the Assassins also used daggers to slay their victims who were mostly politicians and clerics. A number of the casualties were those who refused to adapt the purified version of Islam they were forcibly spreading. Often the assassins' operations were carried out at religious sites on holy days. This was intended to publicize their cause and incite others to it while generating fear on the psyche of the observers. Like many religiously inspired terrorists today, the assassins also viewed their death in the course of such operations as a sacrifice and a guaranteed ticket to paradise.

In India, there was also a group of terrorists known as the *Thugees*. The *Thugees* literally strangulates their victims. They sacrificed mostly travelers to their Hindu goddess of terror and destruction. These group of terrorists were very notorious between the seventeenth and nineteenth centuries. It is believed that, the *Thugees* could be responsible for as many as one million murders (Falk 2003: 55). They were perhaps the last example of religiously inspired terrorist group until the phenomenon emerged in a little over twenty years ago. Before the nineteenth century it was only on religious grounds that terror wars were fought, but the French Revolution changed all that. New terror wars are now fought for any minor or major grievances and subject matter under the sun. Cult groups on campuses are terrorists, their grievances may be as flimsy as a struggle for a girl friend or failure in examination. On the street, terror is unleashed on the people on flimsy excuse that a member of another cult group has refused to acknowledge the presence of an imaginary senior cultist, this is the level of degeneration of terrorist activities in contemporary societies.

With the success of the Zionist terrorist group in wresting power and gaining independence for Israel from the Palestine, more and more terrorist group emerged. The Zionist terrorism against the British in Palestine, the Palestinian terrorist against Israel, Jordan, Lebanon and the west, these contributed to the wide spread acceptance of the legitimacy of a Palestinian state. The terrorist campaign of the African National Congress (ANC) of South Africa which contributed to the granting of one man one vote to all races in South Africa

It is worth noting that it is not in all cases that terrorist do achieve a positive desire. In some cases, terrorist usually made things worse for their announced cause which may be different from the real cause for instance, from the Che Guevara in Bolivia in the 1960s to the high record level of murder in Turkey in the 1970s and 1980s the terrorist generally provoked massive repression rather than the advanced of their political objectives (Ladeen 2002:3). A typical example of the terrorist negative attraction was the Uruguayan Tupamaros. Ashort-lived terrorist group that completely ruined a prosperous South American country in the 1960s. The only achievement of their terrorist campaign was the destruction of freedom in a country that had been noted for its unbroken democratic tradition for many decades in the whole of Latin American. It was the first Latin American welfare state. The Tupamaros campaign resulted in the emergence of a right-wing military dictatorship, in destroying the democratic system, they also destroyed their own movement and its vision. By the 1970, the Tupamaros and their followers were reduced to bitter protest groups in exile against the crimes of a repressive regime that would not have come into existence if not for their actions.

In the spate of this negative attraction to its cause, other terrorist groups also fall prey to condemnation because of their approach – applying terror to achieve a worthy cause. In the 1970s and 1980s the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and its numerous allies such as; The German Baader – Meinhof Gang, the Italian Red Brigade, the Irish Republican Army (IRA) and several groups in Europe, the Symbionese Liberation Army and the Weathermen in the United States, the Shining Path, Tupamaros, Montenegro's, FARC and others in Latin America – these groups suffered defeat after defeat despite significant support they received from the soviet union and its satellites (Awake; January 1987 :5). The countries where these terrorist groups operated and targeted resisted the terrorist and fought them to a standstill. Most of the countries, in fighting terrorism, cage their citizens who have to lose their freedom and liberty for national interest. Measures like these excessive security consciousness aided in the defeat of the Palestinian in the Lebanese war of the 1982 where they were driven into temporary exile in Tunisia.

The contemporary target of terrorism has always been the west especially the American interest. The Americans have been the prime target of modern-day terrorism. In May 1961 an American commercial aircraft was hijacked in Puerto Rico. The plane was forced to land in Cuba and was granted asylum. Seven years later the United States ambassador to Guatemala was assassinated in Guatemala. The wave raged on, most of the Arab terrorist group justify their actions by pointing to the plight of the Palestinian refugees who lost their homeland. Palestine, when Israel was formed in 1948 (Awake; January 1987:8)

The 1979 hostage crisis in Iran set a new terrorist standard. The United States diplomats were held by the Khomeini regime between November 1979 and January 20, 1981. In the mid-1980s, Iran terrorists kidnapped American military and intelligence officers killing some while releasing others (Ladeen 2002:10).

In 1981 American military installations were bombed in Germany, also in the spate of terrorist bombing of the eighties were, the Discotheque in West Berlin in October 1986. Marine Barracks in Beirut, Lebanon in October 1983, an Air Force Base in Torrejon Lebanon in April 1984, also a Service Mens Bar in Barcelona was bombed in December 1987, a passenger bus outside Athens – Greece in April 1987, in Italy, a USO Club in Nepal was bombed in April 1988 and in Saudi Arabia, a military compound in Riyadh went up in flames in 1995 followed by the Khobar towers, Military Housing Facility in June 1996. (Ladeen 2002: 5).

American Diplomatic Missions witnessed the most frequent assault from the terrorists. From the Iranian hostage crisis through the Beirut bombing of American Embassy by an Iranian suicide bomber killing in its wake sixty-three people including the CIA director for Middle East; Robert Ames with over a hundred others wounded, to the bombing of the United States Embassy in Lima, Peru in 1990, the spate of terrorist activities in the nineties were breath staking. Among

the other numerous terrorist incidences of the nineties was the United States Information Service (USIS) Library bombing in Manila, Philippines in January 1991. In Karachi, Pakistan, gunmen killed American diplomats in March 1995, this was shortly followed by the Moscow event – The American Embassy in Moscow was hit by rocket propelled grenade in September 1995. In February 1996 it took a new dimension. There was a simultaneous attack on United States Embassies in Nairobi, Kenya and Dar El Salaam, Tanzania. The Kenya and Tanzanian bombings were advanced level of terrorism before the grand event of September 11, 2001.

History of global terrorist activities shows that subsided after the fall of the Soviet Union. The fall of the Soviet Union significantly weakened the terrorist network until the emergence of the Al-Qaeda network. With the wealth of its leader – Osama bin Ladden – the Al-Qaeda as an organization was able to acquire the much-needed intelligence report. They used less expensive method in the terrorist operations. The old method of bombs and sophisticated lethal weapons were replaced with advanced intelligence like the use of passenger plane by suicide squad yet the result was still devastating even more devastating than the old methods of suicide bombing and bomb planting in strategy places. This does not mean that suicide bombing is extinct in the terrorist mode of operation nor does it portray that the death of Osama bin – Ladden has exterminated the terrorist threat to world peace. Even in countries hitherto peaceful the spread of modern terrorism has taken a new dimension in third world countries, for instance, the herdsmen invasion of communities and Boko Haram declaration of conquered territories in Nigeria is the latest phase of terrorist activities

In Nigeria the history of terrorism can be traced as far back as to the ancient antiquity of the communal clashes between kingdoms in their expansionist adventure, from where it moved to the era of the conquest of the imperialist as a means of subduing the indigenous inhabitant of territories conquered by the British invaders, it has also been noticed even after independence that terrorism never end with the extinction of political imperialism it lingers even before, during and after the independence manifesting in a greater dimension after the civil war where weapons of greater magnitude were freely used even after the wars and during the military indigenous rules. Nigerians witnessed various degrees of both state terrorism and individual / group or communal terrorist activities as it stretches till this day manifesting in various organized terrorist groups like the world forth deadliest terrorist group - the Fulani Herdsmen of Nigeria, killing scores of people on daily bases. The Benue state incidence of January 2018 is the most recent and the goriest of all sight of terrorist operation in Nigeria killing over seventy-three innocent farmers in Benue state on the New Year eve.

### 3. The Humanist Philosophy

Humanism is a system of education and mode of inquiry that originated in northern Italy during the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries and later spread through continental Europe and England. The term Humanism is interchangeably applied to various Western beliefs, methods and philosophies that places much emphasis on human. The term humanism is a derivative from the Italian word *umaniti* with *humanidad* as its Spanish version, and *Humanitas* as its English version which translates as the development of human virtue in all its manifestations to the fullest extent. It implies not only such qualities as are associated with the modern word humanity which connote understanding, benevolence, compassion, mercy among other connotations, but it also extends to such assertive characteristics as fortitude, judgement, prudence, eloquence, and even love of honor. Therefore, the possession of *humanitas* could not be merely a sedentary and isolated philosopher or man of letters but was of necessity a participant in active life that impart positively on the society.

In most cases the gold of such expected human manifestation is seen expressed in a balanced virtue in politics and other human social endeavors. Humanism generally calls for the comprehensive reform of culture, which is the transfiguration of what humanists termed the passive and ignorant society of the dark ages into a new order that would reflect and encourage the grandest human potentialities. Humanism seeks to project *humanitas* from the individual into the state at large, it seeks the general good of man. The classical thought on humanities was basically expressed in ethical terms devoid of the ancient quest to explain nature in isolation. In humanism was and embedded an eloquence that moved leaders and fellow citizens toward a course of action that benefits humanity. The humanist cultivated rhetoric, as the medium through which all other virtues could be communicated and fulfilled. To this end, humanism can rightly be seen as the movement that had as its central focus the ideal of *humanitas* the narrower definition of the Italian term *umaniti* notwithstanding all the writers who cultivated *humanitas* and all their direct descendants may be correctly termed humanist. The term humanism can be applied in a broad and extensive varieties but our concentration here shall be its reference to the human centered study.

Its central focus is the human person and the interactions within and around him. In other words, humanism sought to elevate humanity above nature and natural phenomenon, it sees human beings as the pivotal point of creation Humanist philosophy is regarded as one of the classical studies whose origin is traced to antiquity but as a systematic study it is traced to 13<sup>th</sup> century Italian concerns on human centered study. The term humanism was coined by theologian Friedrich Neithammer at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century to refer to a system of education based on the study of classical literature. In modern times, humanist movements are typically non-religious movement aligned with secularism, and today humanism typically refers to a nontheistic life centered on human agency and looking to science rather than revelation from supernatural source to understand the world. In the days of Gellius the term *humanitas* was commonly used synonymously to represent philanthropism, kindness or benevolence towards fellow human beings.

### 4. Humanist Response to Terrorism

Since terror is an act of inhumanity perpetrated by humans themselves and not the killing of man by wild beast like Lions, Buffalos, snake bites, mosquito bites, diseases attack, natural disasters like hurricane or earthquake and such other fearful and dreaded terminators of life. It therefore poses a responsibility on man to find solutions to this self-

inflicted pain. The solutions to terrorism are given in different times based on the motivating factor to such terrorist operations. Some terrorists are engaged in the act to force through their religious beliefs for example the Boko Haram in Nigeria who engage in terrorist activities because they claim Sharia should be the state laws, that western religion and education is corrupting the minds of the youth thus taking them away from the ways of Islam therefore, to drive down their demand for sharia as a state wide law, there must kill the perceived infidels. Other terrorist groups do so to gain political and economic relevance and favor example of such is the Niger Delta militants that were engaged in kidnapping of expatriates and blowing up oil pipe lines. These were done with a view to press home their demand for inclusion in the munificence of the oil companies and the accruing economic advantages to the Federal Government which they believe should be theirs primarily before others. Other form of terrorism stem from the mental state of the key actors, the psyche of a person may be negatively affected that he takes pleasure in killing others, this may be a direct result of indoctrination and blind followership. In all these, the method to contain them differs and the solution comes first from the ability of those concerned to clearly identify reasons and the arrow heads of such operation in order to map out strategies of contending them. Niger Delta militants were given amnesty as a way to contain them, Boko Haram prisoners in recent times were exchanged with some of their hostage and some of their leaders released, beside the payment of huge ransom. Above all, the military offensive to these problems is not ruled out nor taken as secondary to any other method of tackling it.

In Nigeria in an attempt to contain terrorism, government established a special body to advise it on such issues named 'the Presidential Advisory Committee on Terrorism'. Seeing the enormity of the problem, as being insufficient to allow only one agency to handle the hydra headed monster called terrorism. The government further resolved to tackle the issue through empowerment of the National Security Adviser (NSA) to the President to decisively handle issues of terrorism wherever it occurs – this was followed up with the proscription of organizations believed by to have links with known terrorist and those whose activities are judged (rightly or wrongly) by government to constitute terrorism. Beside the appointment of special adviser on terrorism by the president of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and the empowerment of the National Security Adviser to the president to deal decisively with real (Boko Haram, Herdsmen) or imaginary (IPOB, MEND, MOSSOP etc.) terrorist groups, Nigerian government has taken a step further in international collaboration towards curbing the menace of terrorism in the country. There is an existing pact to this end with the United States of America, the Nations of Israel and Britain especially concerning the threat posed by Boko Haram terrorist organization in the North Eastern Nigeria.

The establishment of over four hundred Almajiri Schools in the North by the former Nigerian president; Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan was also a strategy aimed at curbing the activities of terrorist through qualitative education that will help them refocus on something more meaningful than barbaric religious doctrines. This was aimed at reducing the vulnerability of the illiterate and ill-informed population to the bait of the terrorist jihadist. By this act of, education becomes a veritable instrument to tackle the ever-swelling ranks of the terrorist.

All these measures were not in any way a replacement of intelligent gathering and military engagement with terrorist groups once they are identified and labeled so., such was the case with military operation python dance in the east and the crocodile smile in the South ever-swelling aimed at stamping out perceived terrorist groups in these regions. The loud silence of the Federal Government of Nigeria in prosecuting leaders of Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association despite their claim and justification for their attack on farmers in the middle belt of the country yet none of them have been prosecuted nor the association proscribed. By world rating, the association is being rated the fourth most dreaded terrorist organization in the world. Herdsmen who are mostly members of the Miyetti Allah Association have over the years consistently terrorize farmers of the middle belt of Benue and Taraba state, scores of the farmers have been killed. In January 2018 over seventy-three of the farmers in Benue states were killed in an attempt to terrorize the government of the state to abolish the anti-open grazing law, till date the carnage is yet to abate as there are reported cases of attack every now and then.

## 5. Issues in Humanism

Since humanism seeks to make man the pivotal pot of every universal enterprise. Then understanding man becomes inevitable in the quest to unravel the secret of the humanist school of thought. Martin Heidegger, a German philosopher sees the proper study of man as the starting point in the quest to know natural occurrences. For him the concern of man characterizes our ceaseless interactions with everything in nature. It is humans that terrorizes others, this too is a product of a lot of factors, these factors also are the comfort or discomfort of man, therefore understanding *Dasein* (man) provides the solid foundation to tackle terrorism as it is with other social ills.

All factors leading to terrorist activities ranging from Religion, Politics, Economic interest, Ego, Psychic disorder etc. are all human centered. None can be tackled perfectly and effectively without humans playing the all-important role of gathering information, concerning its cause and engaging in analysis of such information with a view to giving an acceptable position. To this end terrorism and humanism are the opposite sides of the same coin – the social issues.

## 6. Early Proponents of Humanism

The central concern of humanism is the happiness and general welfare of man while he sojourns on earth. The refocusing of human quest for knowledge from natural phenomenon to man in the Greek history of philosophy is traced to Protagoras and the Sophist.

### 6.1. Protagoras

He was the first notable humanist in the history of western philosophy, he was a native of Abdera, a city on the western coast of what is today Turkey, where he was born about 500 B.C. Protagoras was not a native of Athens although there are records that he visited Athens twice. (Etuk. 1999: 19) it is on record that on one of his visits to Athens he had a dialogue with Socrates which forms part of the published work attributed to him. The central theme in Protagoras teaching as was prevalent with other sophist was the engagement in rhetoric. Virtue which was the predominant focus of early philosophers was secondary to the teachings of the sophist, their over reliance on sound argument not minding the truth value of such sound arguments gave them a negative notoriety among scholars of that era. To them relativity was the standard as everyone is free to judge from his perspective what constitute virtue.

### 6.2. Socrates

The popular Socratic dictum 'man know thyself' made him an outstanding humanist in the history of ancient Greek philosophy, though this dictum is controversial as many scholars attributed its origin to be an inscription in the Egyptian temple where Socrates has visited in his course of learning. It has so far gained currency as a concept made popular by Socrates and in this wise, we shall use it to portray his humanist tendency as one of the earliest humanists. Socrates is probably the most widely known name in western philosophy, his fame does not come from his copious writings as there is no record of such writings. Most of the knowledge of Socrates came from dialogues written by Plato who was deeply influenced by him. Plato developed his ideas in such a way that it is impossible to see exactly where Socrates thought ends and that of his begins. Nevertheless, certain key ideas and a particular approach and method are attributable to Socrates though they are presented in Plato's style.

Socrates was an Athenian. He lived in Athens when the city was at the height of its glory under the rule of Pericles. He was taught the cosmological philosophy of the time and engaged in many public debates chiefly with the Sophist who were purveyors of practical wisdom.

### 6.3. Aristotle

This was one of the greatest philosophers of all times. Though he lived over two and a half thousand years ago his thought is still valid and indeed an integral part of western philosophy and culture. His humanist percept took his philosophy to the recognition of the man as an embodiment of soul and body – the spiritual and the material being. Aristotle born in Stagira in Northern Greece founded a system of logic which was the basis of logical studies until the nineteenth century. He regarded logic as a kind of general tool for the study and acquisition of knowledge of all kinds and his writings on the subject are known as the *Organon* which is translated to mean instrument or tool. He was one of the scholars whose philosophy refocused the general outlook of philosophical enterprise from the cosmos to human.

## 7. Conclusion and Recommendations

The war against terrorism requires more than anything else the strong will of the political class to handle terrorist with the much-needed iron fist not with instrument of nepotism nor with kids gloves or religious biases. For the war to end in victory for the people, youths should be kept on their meaningful toes contributing positively to the economy thorough meaningful employment. This can only be achieved if government provide enabling environment through infrastructure and adequate security.

Infrastructure such as sustained power supply, good means of transportation in all spheres; air, land and water, education and health care should be given priority in the state policy scheme. This I believe, will tame the miss application of the youthful energy on terrorism and its other associated social ills such as kidnapping and arm robbery.

Our school curriculum should be made to focus more on the reality of our peculiar environment aimed at solving our peculiar problems not as it is today as was handed down from our colonial masters whose focus was different from our contemporary environment. The colonial masters were preparing educated people for their clerical and administrative work beside the raw farmers. Now our problem and focus of education should be reordered in order to make graduate form our institutions self-sustaining and problem solvers in the face of daunting economic challenges. Intelligent gathering and indeed government security apparatus should be rejuvenated in order to be more effective in detecting crime at the incubation stage before it is committed.

Amnesty should not be indiscriminately granted to criminals in order not to be an endorsement of the wrong method of airing their grievances.

Above all, to tame terrorism, global political actors must come to terms with the humanist manufacturer's manual of the purpose and destiny of man as provided for in the world's religious instruction manual of the purpose of human creation.

And until the full realization of these basic human ingredient the terrorist tendencies in human will from time to time be activated to deactivate it permanently this tendency proper understanding is required not merely understanding the actors but also the situation and purpose of life.

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