

WHERE CLASSICAL WISDOM MEETS INTELLIGENT LEARNING

16. War and Terrorism

BVES-151: Environmental Studies

Unit 4: Disaster Management: Natural and Man-Made Hazards

Topic: War and Terrorism

☐ What Are War and Terrorism?

War and **terrorism** are man-made disasters caused by **intentional human conflict**. Unlike natural disasters, these events are planned or provoked, and they often lead to **large-scale destruction**, fear, and long-term instability in affected regions.

- War is an armed conflict between nations or groups within a country.
- Terrorism involves deliberate acts of violence meant to create fear for political, religious, or ideological goals.

☐ Types of War and Terrorism

Type of Disaster Description

Conventional War Armed conflict using guns, tanks, and missiles between countries or political

groups.

Example: India-Pakistan Kargil War (1999)

Civil War Internal conflict within a country between different groups.

Example: Syrian Civil War

Terrorist Attack

Sudden violent acts like bombings, shootings, or hijackings by extremist

groups.

Example: 26/11 Mumbai Attacks (2008)

Cyberterrorism Use of digital attacks on national infrastructure (banks, power grids, data

systems)

Biological or Chemical Terrorism Use of harmful pathogens or toxic chemicals to harm people or environments.

Impact of War and Terrorism

Area Affected Impact

Human Life Massive loss of life, injuries, disabilities, trauma.

Health Spread of diseases due to lack of hygiene, overcrowding, poor medical care.

Environment Destruction of land, air and water pollution, loss of biodiversity.

Economy Collapse of industries, infrastructure, food supply.

Society Fear, displacement, refugee crises, loss of education and healthcare.

□ Consequences for the Environment

- Air Pollution from explosives and burning.
- Water Contamination due to chemicals and damaged sewage systems.
- Soil Degradation from bombs and toxic waste.

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- Loss of Wildlife and Forests due to destruction of habitats.
- Radiation Exposure in case of nuclear weapons (e.g., Hiroshima & Nagasaki).

□ India and Terrorism: Major Incidents

Event Year Description

26/11 Mumbai Attacks 2008 Coordinated shooting and bombing by terrorists; over 170 killed.
 Pulwama Attack 2019 Suicide bombing killed 40 CRPF jawans; triggered military response.
 Parliament Attack 2001 Terrorists stormed Indian Parliament; major national security breach.

□ Disaster Management: Response to War & Terrorism

□ Prevention

- Strengthening national security, intelligence, and surveillance.
- International cooperation to fight terrorism.
- Public awareness and education on emergency procedures.

☐ Emergency Response

- Rapid deployment of armed forces, medical aid, and rescue teams.
- Evacuation of affected areas.
- Handling bomb threats, hostage situations, and public panic.

□ Recovery

- Rehabilitation of victims and war-affected regions.
- Psychological counseling for trauma and PTSD.
- Rebuilding infrastructure, schools, and hospitals.
- Peacebuilding efforts and conflict resolution.

☐ Important Terms to Know

Term Meaning

PTSD (Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder) Mental health condition caused by exposure to violence or trauma.
 Refugee A person forced to flee their country due to war or persecution.
 Ceasefire An agreement to stop fighting temporarily or permanently.
 Radicalization Process by which individuals adopt extremist beliefs.

Quick Self-Check Questions

- 1. What is the difference between war and terrorism?
- 2. Mention two effects of war on the environment.
- 3. What happened during the 26/11 Mumbai attacks?
- 4. List one health and one economic impact of war.
- 5. What are some ways to prevent terrorism?

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☐ Summary: War and Terrorism

- War and terrorism are deliberate acts of violence causing loss of life, fear, and destruction.
- Their effects extend beyond humans to **economies**, **ecosystems**, **and infrastructure**.
- **Preparedness, strong governance, and international cooperation** are vital to prevent and respond to such man-made disasters.
- Peace, education, and dialogue are key to long-term solutions.

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