

Terrorism

Sociology



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Terrorism: Border Security Following 9/11, the US increased border security measures at primary ports of entry. Describe the strengths and issues related to current border security measures. Recommend alternative strategies to minimize these issues. Border security measures are a group of measures that are implemented by a country in order to monitor and regulate the movement of people, animal or goods across the country's borders. The Department of Homeland Security has been created after the 9/11 attacks in order to regulate the flow of people and goods across the border in order to prevent any sort of illegal activity. It works in close coordination with the US Customs and Border Protection Division. Several activities are present in the border control measures including:- Regulating the flow of immigrants Movement of citizens and people from other countries across the borders Collect excise duties, tolls and taxes Ensure that there is no spread of human, plant or animal disease from across the borders Prevent the smuggling of goods, movement of banned substances, endangered species or hazardous substances (GAO 2011) Border security measures have their own advantages and limitations. One of the first strengths of the border security measures is that it is the country's first line of defense. If meaningful immigration reforms are to be imposed, borders measures are utmost required and often they play an important role in stopping terrorism, control of entry of illegal drugs and hazardous substances into a country (GAO 2011). It is one of the most important measures that are required to defend a nation against terrorism. When a nation's borders are weak, they can serve as an entry for terrorists and illegal immigrants. Once the terrorists enter a particular nation, they can mix with the locals and escape from being caught (Fischer 2010). However, border security measures also have certain

limitations. Terrorists and illegal immigrants can easily evade border security measures as they can find illegal routes into a particular nation. Even if the border measures are stricter, the terrorist may choose more dangerous ways of attacking a nation and this may be catastrophic. Another problem is that border security measures may not be an effective way of controlling the entry of terrorists in a particular nation. For example, even if a person has a criminal record in another nation, the same may lack detection when entering at the US-Mexico border. The terrorist may also not carry any weaponry and may use the material locally available to build a weapon. Border measures is also a wastage of resources as most often the money spend on border patrol forces is very high and difficult to sustain (Fischer 2010). Many people in the US feel that the border security measures currently present are not only inefficient but also very difficult to sustain at the public cost. Hence an array of measures is being suggested as alternatives. Firstly, a fortress should be built in areas needed in order to ensure that at places such as the US-Mexico border, people cannot enter. It is estimated that the cost of building such a wall would be less than the amount spend on patrolling and much more effective also. The second alternative is to understand the border threats that exist in a dynamic and decentralized manner. For example, when there are chances that people may come in search of jobs to the US, immediately the police monitoring should increase. Lastly, unmanned monitoring should be used at the borders to ensure that any kind of illegal activity is monitored (Fischer 2010). 2. The Washington Post (21DEC11): **“ Federal law enforcement authorities are rapidly expanding a military-style unmanned aerial reconnaissance operation along the U. S.-Mexico border....”* Is this a better alternative to “ boots on the

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ground"? Support your response. http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/more-predator-drones-fly-us-mexico-border/2011/12/01/gIQAANSZz8O_story.html Drones pose as an alternative to manual monitoring across the US-Mexico border. They seem as an important tool as the surveillance can be improved, infrared cameras can be used to monitor for entry which is much more accurate than visual monitoring, and thirdly computational methods can be used to determine movement. Often having a drone goes undetected and hence, people who feel that they have crossed the border undetected may in fact not be unseen. The cost of having such drones requires a huge investment, but the running costs of having manual monitoring may be very high, and in the long-run drones may be a cheaper option. Drones are also much faster, and probably the task of 10 patrolmen can be done by 1 drone. To have a drone patrolling the border is definitely a boost as it can obtain very accurate patrolling of the border. Drones can also patrol in the night time, when manual forces may find it difficult to monitor or the environment may not be safe. However, there may be certain limitations in using the drones. Firstly, their investment costs are very high, and it may be difficult to sustain. Secondly, even though they may monitor the entry of people, they cannot do anything to prevent people from entering, and in such a circumstance they would require manual support. Hence, the process of monitoring the border should have both drones with manual support to ensure better control of the flow of people and goods across. Manual support whenever required can be immediately provided. Besides drones are also useful to monitor areas of the border that have been fenced (Lavandera 2010 & Booth 2011). References Booth, W. (2011). More Predator drones fly U. S.-Mexico border. Retrieved on April 7, 2012, from <https://assignbuster.com/terrorism-essay-samples-12/>

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