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### Muslim extremism from the perspective of western scholars (Article)

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#### Abstract

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Global media's highlights on Muslim extremism surge as security problems and turmoil accelerate. Events related to religion within and without the Muslim world are variously interpreted, sometimes positively but more often negatively, and many are misled as seeds of hatred, dissension and mistrust are sown. This occurs in both western and Muslim societies. With a focus on fundamentalism as a term often equated with extremism, this paper explores western views and interpretations of both fundamentalism and extremism with respect to their actual origins and development in the Christian west. The author analyses the evolution of this term in the Muslim world, whereby activists and so-called Islamists have mistakenly become labelled as fundamentalists; a term that denotes extremism, militancy and now terrorism. The author also criticises the occidental indulgence of extremism from an Islamic perspective and offers recommendations that might help readers better to understand the truer scenario and avoid error.

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