

Jihad, Extremism & Terrorism: What it Really Means to be a Muslim?

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The Major Aspects of Islam

- i. The Rational and educational dimension:**
 - Studying the observable world and pondering on revelation to develop unshakeable faith in God and the correct worldview;
- ii. The Spiritual devotion:**
 - total submission to God;
- iii. The Socio-economic dimension:**
 - being merciful, compassionate, and caring to others,
- iv. The Ethico-legal dimension:**
 - being responsible & committed to establish the good and remove the evil (الأمر بالمعروف والنهي عن المنكر);
- v. The Material dimension:**
 - Adopting healthy lifestyles;
 - Prohibiting all the harmful items and acts
- vi. Leadership dimension:**
 - Taking passion of Khalifah and working to fulfill the will of God on earth (establishing the good and removal of the evil),
 - Adopting the right policies for social development and building a civilization that protects, cares and maintains the good for humanity at large- *Rahmatan Lilalamin* - رحمة للعالمين)

Meaning and Modes of Jihad

Modes of Jihad

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graph TD; A[Modes of Jihad] --> B[Jihad al-Nafs<br/>(Stragglng against the self)]; A --> C[Jihad al-Batil<br/>(Stragglng against the evil)]; B --> D[Against your evil soul<br/>(النفس الأمارة)]; B --> E[Controlling your anger]; C --> F[To establishing the truth]; C --> G[To removing the evil]; F --> H[By self and property<br/>(بالنفس والمال)]; G --> I[By self and property<br/>(بالنفس والمال)];
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Jihad al-Nafs (Stragglng against the self)

Against your evil soul
(النفس الأمارة)

Controlling your anger

Jihad al-Batil (Stragglng against the evil)

To establishing the truth

By self and property
(بالنفس والمال)

To removing the evil

By self and property
(بالنفس والمال)

The Various Aspects of Jihad

- **Dedication of life and every act to God**
(قل إن صلاتي ونسكي ومحياي ومماتي لله رب العالمين)
- **Establishing the truth and removal of the evil**
(فلتكن منكم أمة يدعون إلى الخير، يأمرون بالمعروف ويمهون عن المنكر)
- **Commitment to the instructions of God**
(النفس الأمارة، النفس اللوامة، النفس المطمئنة)
- **Controlling your anger** (الشديد من ملك نفسه عند الغضب)
- **Achieving human wellbeing and well fare to human community**

Extremism and Terrorism

- **Extremism** (غُلُو): the state of being extreme in everything, action, view or thought.
- Radicalisation
- The term ‘extremism’ is primarily used in a religious or political contexts, but it can be attached to everything that is extreme position (extreme right or extreme left).
- Some Arabic terms for extremism: تَعَصُّب, تَطَرُّف, غُلُو, غُلُوَاء, مُغَالَاة
- **Terrorism** (إِرْهَاب):

a) **Positive:** terrorizing the enemy

- [وَأَعِدُّوا لَهُمْ مَا اسْتَطَعْتُمْ مِنْ قُوَّةٍ وَمِنْ رِبَاطِ الْخَيْلِ تُرْهِبُونَ بِهِ عَدُوَّ اللَّهِ وَعَدُوَّكُمْ وَآخَرِينَ مِنْ دُونِهِمْ لَا تَعْلَمُونَهُمُ اللَّهُ يَعْلَمُهُمْ] (60) [الأنفال]

b) **Negative:** terrorizing the peaceful people (أطعمهم من جوع وآمنهم من خوف)

- Violent extremism
- Double standard / misusing of extremism and terrorism (unethical use)

The Root Causes of Extremism & Terrorism

- Terrorism is usually a result of extremism, or in other words, extremism leads to terrorism.
- a) **External factors**
 - Provocation
 - marginalization, inequality, discrimination, limited access to quality and relevant education; the denial of rights; and socio-economic factors.
- b) **Internal factors**
 - Lack of knowledge
 - poverty
 - socio-economic deprivation
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Analytical view on Causes of Terrorism

- There are some basic primary causes for radicalism:
 1. Individual factors;
 2. Social factors;
 3. Political factors;
 4. Ideological and religious factors;
 5. Role of social media.

Individual factors

- Individual factors, which include grievances and emotions such as:
 1. anger and frustration;
 2. grievance and a strong sense of injustice;
 3. feelings of humiliation;
 4. rigid thinking;
 5. tendency to misinterpret situations;
 6. personal vulnerabilities;
 7. counter-cultural elements.

Social factors

- Social factors include
 1. social exclusion;
 2. marginalization and discrimination (real or perceived);
 3. limited social mobility;
 4. limited education or employment;
 5. an element of displacement;
 6. criminality;
 7. lack of social cohesion and self-exclusion.

Political factors

- Political factors include
- Reaction against foreign policy and military intervention.
- Conflicts are filtered through this core narrative: Bosnia; Chechnya; Iraq; Syria; Somalia and Palestine, etc.
- These conflicts and events can become a focal point for mobilization.
- The ban on the Muslim veil; the cartoon crises and other contentious issues are all evidence that the West is at war with Muslim communities.
- There is a strong sense of alienation and injustice which is reinforced by Islamophobia, xenophobia and discrimination.

Ideological/religious factors

- Ideological/religious factors include
- a sacred historical mission and belief in apocalyptic prophecy;
- a salafi-jihadi interpretation of Islam;
- a violent jihadi mission;
- a sense that Islam is under siege and a desire to protect ummah under assault. These beliefs also include the view that Western society embodies immoral secularism.

The End

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

Thank you for your attention