

Question 7: The Global Salafi-jihadist movement: What is there to know?

An often repeated refrain by policymakers and commentators is that the global Salafi-Jihadi movement poses an existential threat to Western, liberal democracies. This perception grew exponentially after Al-Qaeda's 9-11 attacks and the spite of cell-based attacks in Europe in the last few years. Yet, confusion persists on what this 'movement' consists of, what it wants, how it has emerged and whether it really poses an existential threat to Western liberal democracies. This lecture tackles some of these issues.

Discussion questions

1. Is Salafism a 'terrorist' religious ideology?
2. What international events have contributed to the rise of the global Salafi-Jihadist movement?
3. The global Salafi-Jihadist movement is at war with the West. Discuss

Essential readings

- Sageman, Marc. 2008. "The Rise of Leaderless Jihad." In *Leaderless Jihad. Terror Networks in the Twenty-First Century*, 125–46. University of Pennsylvania Press.
- Turner, John. 2015. "Strategic Differences: Al Qaeda's Split with the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham." *Small Wars & Insurgencies* 26 (2): 208–25.

Further readings

- Bérubé, Maxime, and Benoit Dupont. 2019. "Mujahideen Mobilization: Examining the Evolution of the Global Jihadist Movement's Communicative Action Repertoire." *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism* 42 (1–2): 5–24.
- Combes, M. L. deRaimes. 2018. "'Who's Not Afraid of ISIS?'" *Critical Studies on Security* 6 (1): 50–65.
- Farrall, Leah. 2011. "How Al Qaeda Works: What the Organization's Subsidiaries Say about Its Strength." *Foreign Affairs* 90 (2): 128–38.
- Karagiannis, Emmanuel. 2014. "Defining and Understanding the Jihadi-Salafi Movement." *Asian Security* 10 (2): 188–98.
- Schillinger, Thomas. 2016. "Group Dynamics and Religious Terrorism." *Journal of Applied Security Research* 11 (3): 334–48.
- Stenersen, Anne. 2018. "Jihadism after the 'Caliphate': Towards a New Typology." *British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*, November, 1–20.
- Turner, John. 2010. "From Cottage Industry to International Organisation: The Evolution of Salafi-Jihadism and the Emergence of the Al Qaeda Ideology." *Terrorism and Political Violence* 22 (4): 541–58.
- Vidino, Lorenzo, Raffaello Pantucci, and Evan Kohlmann. 2010. "Bringing Global Jihad to the Horn of Africa: Al Shabaab, Western Fighters, and the Sacralization of the Somali Conflict." *African Security* 3 (4): 216–38.
- Wiktorowicz, Quintan. 2006. "Anatomy of the Salafi Movement." *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism* 29 (3): 207–39.

Non-peer reviewed resources

- Choucair, Chafic. 2017. "The 'Ulema' of the Jihadi Movement- Discourse, Role and Future." Istanbul: Al Sharq Forum. <https://research.sharqforum.org/2018/12/07/the-ulema-of-the-jihadi-movement-discourse-role-and-future>.
- Clarke, Colin. 2018. "The Future of the Global Jihadist Movement after the Collapse of the Caliphate." ICCT, December 11, 2018. <https://icct.nl/publication/the-future-of-the-global-jihadist-movement-after-the-collapse-of-the-caliphate/>.
- International Crisis Group (ICG). 2016. "Exploiting Disorder: Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State." Brussels: ICG.
- Hassan, Hassan. 2015. "Sunni Jihad Is Going Local." *The Atlantic*, February 15, 2015. <https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2019/02/sunni-jihad-turns-away-transnational-terrorism/582745/>.
- Jones, Seth G., Vallee, Charles, Newlee, Danika, Harrington, Nicholas, Sharb, Clayton, and Byrne, Hannah. 2018. "The Evolution of the Salafi-Jihadist Threat: Current and Future Challenges from the Islamic State, Al-Qaeda, and Other Groups." Washington: Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). <https://www.csis.org/analysis/evolution-salafi-jihadist-threat>.
- Rabiol, Robert "Viewpoint: Salafism," *South Florida PBS*, 3 November 2014. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kdsLPtRUhIQ>.
- Zimmerman, Katherine. 2018. "Terrorism, Tactics, and Transformation: The West and vs the Salafi-Jihadi Movement." Washington: American Enterprise Institute. <https://www.aei.org/publication/terrorism-tactics-and-transformation-the-west-vs-the-salafi-jihadi-movement>.