

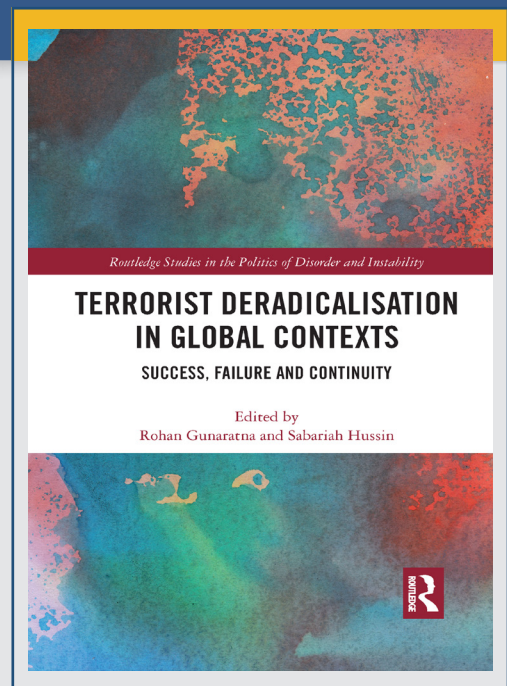
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الائتلاف العسكري الإسلامي لمكافحة الإرهاب  
ISLAMIC MILITARY COUNTER TERRORISM COALITION



**BOOK REVIEW**



# **TERRORIST DERADICALIZATION IN GLOBAL CONTEXT**

**SUCCESS, FAILURE AND CONTINUITY**

**ROHAN GUNARATNA AND SABARIAH HUSSIN**

(ROUTLEDGE STUDIES IN THE POLITICS OF DISORDER AND INSTABILITY)

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## Book Review

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Book Review

## TERRORIST DERADICALIZATION IN GLOBAL CONTEXT SUCCESS, FAILURE AND CONTINUITY

**Most** of the contemporary counterterrorism policies have been developed following the critical events of the twenty-first century, such as the 9/11 Attacks, the American war in Afghanistan and Iraq, the Arab Spring, Al-Qaeda, and ISIS. Global attention has been focused more on building effective practical capabilities in the short term, with no impact on the long term.

Since excessive force leads to suspicion, prejudice, resentment, anger, hate and hostility towards the state, it is necessary to develop the society-based resilience to face terrorism and violent extremism. As such, governments aspire to link countering violent extremism approaches to community-based engagement and rehabilitation of extremists and terrorists with counter-terrorism laws and monitoring powers to achieve peace and security.

## CONTENT AND SUGGESTION

TERRORIST DERADICALIZATION IN GLOBAL CONTEXT (SUCCESS, FAILURE AND CONTINUITY) (2021) provides experiences seminal to officials and practitioners in various programs to combat extremism and terrorism, through a selection of positive and negative lessons learned, and strategic plans tested in different countries, enhanced by an empirical basis and effective tools for the countries riddled with fundamentalism and extremism. Despite all the difficulties in combating terrorist extremism and rehabilitating terrorists, governments have begun to take a more comprehensive approach to violent extremism, considering previously marginalized communities and actors.

Most of the programs presented emphasize that imprisonment without a clear counterterrorism may increase extremism; amateur extremists find themselves again engulfed in the same cultures that once led them to extremism, and they are strongly influenced by professional extremists in prison. When anti-extremism efforts are poor, fundamentalism balloons more into reality.

Various field research studies are provided about counter-extremism efforts made by India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Nigeria, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Spain, Thailand, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Yemen. Although several international programs have demonstrated remarkable success rates, the fundamental question remains: Can this success be exported to liberal democracies in Europe, where societies display greater sensitivity and diversity to ethnic and religious minorities, and more restrictions on government intervention?

Anti-extremism and rehabilitating extremists should not be a loop for opportunists looking for funding and material and political opportunities. Research studies show that any anti-terrorism efforts are closely related to how a given state defines and frames this phenomenon, and how it seeks to track down the relevant actions and

criminalization of perpetrators. Attempts to incite and control political ideology may become another coercive tool of the state, which justifies a deeper penetration into civil society, and highlights police domination and disavowal of key roles entrusted to protect people. It is important to remember that most counterterrorism efforts and actions are directed towards coercion and repression.

To better control rehabilitation efforts, the authors and editors propose the development of national programs led by a specialized rehabilitation body, mandated by the government, which diligently monitors prisons, correctional services, and reintegration. The rehabilitation authority should build partnerships with different government structures, the private sector, NGOs, and the educational professional community.

Counter-terrorism authorities can obtain the evidence-based guidance, required by states and other actors. Such an approach remains more realistic to introduce the necessary institutional and political attention. Of good note, such research may help decision-makers to stop the threatening tendency of states to prefer repressive measures to reform and rehabilitation of criminals.

## DESCRIPTION OF CHAPTERS

TERRORIST DERADICALIZATION IN GLOBAL CONTEXT (SUCCESS, FAILURE AND CONTINUITY) collects field research studies from different countries, developed by more than twenty researchers, and provides a better understanding of the challenges in implementing rehabilitation programs and the serious threat of violent extremists.

**Chapter One** (Introduction) shows the methodology adopted by the research studies compiled, and the general approach that the authors followed.

**Chapter Two** examines the community approach adopted in the United Kingdom, which is one of the main strengths of its programme. It investigates key areas of the UK anti-extremism efforts. The UK voluntarily adopts a programme targeting those in need of support before committing a crime, in



prison and after their release. The program meets the needs of those who need significant support, and pre-criminal intervention occurs with investment in early assessment programmes. The UK Prison Administration also promotes post-release follow-up, monitoring, and rehabilitation assistance.

**Chapter Three** discusses Palestinian armed groups, the key far-right Orthodox Jewish movements in the region, the impact of imprisonment on extremist people, and the importance of rehabilitation and integration into society.

**Chapter Four** discusses the substantial experience of India in countering homegrown terrorism, glaringly rampant in the northern province of Kashmir, where provincial and central governments experiment new initiatives to be part of the counterterrorism efforts, relying on rehabilitation efforts that take great care of local youth and foreign fighters before they are reintegrated into society.

**Chapter Five** brings to focus the reality of Kazakhstan. With the return of women and children from Iraq and Syria, the Kazakh authorities are seeking to understand how and why women have slipped into extremist religious groups and work out solutions to reintegrate women into society. It also discusses the current antiterrorism policies in the country through qualitative research and the use of data sources as plans and policies on preventing violent extremism and counterterrorism of Kazakhstan are disclosed.

**Chapter Six** explains the model developed and adopted by Malaysia to face the security risks that threaten the country, which may undermine peace and stability in society. Although acts of violence in Malaysia are still relatively few, there is a real need to develop a local strategy to combat extremism and terrorism that better meets the Malaysian reality. It also includes in-depth interviews with the Malaysian authorities, specialists, and ex-terrorists to discover solutions that can contribute to combating extremism.

**Chapter Seven** addresses the reality of Sri Lanka and the need to develop an appropriate program to confront and rehabilitate Buddhist extremists, by drawing on the peace-promoting beliefs and values of Buddhism. In addition, researchers point out there is a dire need for economic, political, and social reforms to address the causes of current conflicts and further prevent national reconciliation and discourage prospects for long-term peace and stability in Sri Lanka.

**Chapter Eight** investigates the reality of Yemeni and its anti-extremism efforts and disengagement from terrorism, given the deteriorating situation and the permanent instability of the security and political environment. Much focus is placed on building social resilience by engaging communities in coherent initiatives when countering violent extremism and countering terrorism.

**Chapter Nine** presents the Nigerian model; Boko Haram snowballed into reality to be a security

threat to the government, after it carried out an aggressive campaign based on extremist ideologies, attacking police stations and state institutions in different parts of northern Nigeria. It examines Operation Safe Corridor as an effective national counterterrorism strategy by reviewing the documents regulating Nigeria's efforts to counter violent extremism and terrorism.

**Chapter Ten** analyzes field interviews with (72) convicted terrorists 2015-2017 in Indonesian prisons. The detainees were provided with reading and teaching materials aimed at educating them on Islam, patriotism, psychology, and entrepreneurship. The interviews covered topics, such as the views that motivated the convicts to commit terrorist acts, jihad, Islam, and aspirations for the implementation of Islamic law in Indonesia.

**Chapter Eleven** discusses the rehabilitation policies adopted in Thailand, with a special attention to the programs adopted by the state in prisons for perpetrators of security crimes and rebel groups in the southern border provinces. It highlights the government efforts to achieve the social reintegration of criminals who have been rehabilitated after release to find qualitative job opportunities to improve their performance and build an effective method for their care and commitment.

**Chapter Twelve** discusses the anti-extremism model adopted for the detainees in Malaysia; it assumes that extremism among the Malaysian militants includes a pre-extremism stage, exposure to extremist ideologies, assimilation of extremist ideologies, representing extremist ideology, rebellion, a post-investigation stage, and rehabilitation or an anti-extremism stage for convicted perpetrators.

**Chapter Thirteen** sheds light on recent developments in the initiatives to combat extremism and terrorism adopted by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations: Malaysia, Indonesia, and Singapore, with a special attention to the Philippines, drawing lessons from these existing programs.

**Chapter Fourteen** reviews cases of mass violence in the USA and how the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) and investigators mitigate the risk of the threat, using a risk management and assessment strategy, in alliance with agencies to study the behavior of a person suffering from mental illness or a mental health crisis.

**Chapter Fifteen** provides a brief overview of terrorist rehabilitation programs in Spain: relevant

contexts and challenges. Spain has implemented rehabilitation initiatives to disengage and reintegrate former members of ETA, an ethno-nationalist terrorist organization that has conducted a massive campaign of bombings, assassinations, and kidnappings over more than forty years. Spain benefited from this counterterrorism experience.

Since it is impossible to list all the experiences mentioned in the fifteen chapters, we will highlight the British model, the Malaysian model, the American model in Los Angeles, the Spanish model.

## UK AND REHABILITATION

The Book outlines the experience of efforts to prevent extremism and combat fundamentalism in the UK, and the difficulties these efforts face in a liberal democracy of Europe; utilitarian states, such as the UK seek returns on investment and look for methods to enforce strict standards.

Until 2017, the terrorist threat in the UK was multifaceted and snowballing at an unprecedented speed. In 2021, the UK sustained seven terrorist attacks, and the number of terrorism-related arrests were at apex (304 arrests). Since ISIS ballooned into reality, about 850 Britons have joined ISIS: 106 of them have returned, while many have been placed under surveillance in Turkey. There are about 1,000 prisoners who are believed to be at risk of being drawn into extremism and terrorism.

Given the labyrinthine nature of terrorist threats, it requires comprehensive and concerted efforts to counter terrorism in the UK. It stands to reason that with the failure of military and security solutions, refuting and laying bare the ideology of extremist threats, and addressing the causes of individual extremism are key requirements in confronting terrorist threats. When countering terrorism, the security authorities do not hesitate to arrest those who are considered a real threat, while relentlessly firing on all cylinder to confront non-violent extremist beliefs and ideologies.

## FIGHTING NONVIOLENT EXTREMISM

when such extremism is diagnosed, referrals to special programs are made by frontline employees from the public sector, including local authorities, health care institutions, child-care providers, schools and higher education institutions, the prison sector, and the police. To ensure the effectiveness of staff in the agencies, the Ministry of Interior has developed training sessions to raise extremism-related awareness. This training is designed to help staff realize their responsibilities in identifying who



is at risk of recruitment by extremists or terrorist organizations.

After the referral, the concerned authorities assess the individual based on three factors: ideology, ill intention, and ability to cause harm. Then, the concerned authorities develop an appropriate support plans that meet the specific needs of individuals. This can include any combination of different options, such as guidance and counselling to increase knowledge of religious matters, refute extremist ideology, streamline anger management, and encourage robust engagement in good physical and sports activities. There are support programs for affected families through case-remedial activities.

### PRISON PROGRAMS

The UK prison system has a lot of experience in dealing with terrorists, gained from the Provisional Irish Republican Army. The authorities noted that ideological terrorism greatly increased the risk of radicalization among the prison population. After leaving the prison, the management of those convicted of terrorism will be according to other proactive measures. For less dangerous offenders, the protocol of management is like the protocol of common offenders. The authorities monitor them regularly and constantly. They require special permits to work and reside in specific places, and they are prohibited from traveling abroad, or committing any offenses. As for notorious terrorists, their measures are more severe. The

National Probation Service, as the lead agency in managing these criminals, imposes severe restrictions on them in such a manner that you can be sure of their steadfastness on moderation, and that they do not return to terrorism.

### STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES

The main strength of the various programs used in the UK is their community-based approach. Although there are fifty-five organizations combating extremism and promoting rehabilitation, the nature of most of the perpetrators and the dynamics of the programs remain shrouded in secrecy. These programmes, particularly PREVENT, are accused of legitimizing racial profiling and Islamophobia, as well as instrumentalized to ban and suppress dissent towards the country's foreign and domestic policies. Critics pointed out that some policies really affected the freedom of association for some groups, and enabled racial, ideological, cultural, and religious profiling.

### REHABILITATION OF EXTREMISTS IN MALAYSIA

Malaysia adopts a comprehensive strategy to combat extremism and terrorism using soft and hard methods to rehabilitate the perpetrators, with an interest in eliminating terrorist organizations and defeating extremist ideology of all manifestations. Addressing the ideological roots of terrorism is one of the most effective and successful strategies for confronting extremism and terrorism.

The Malaysian anti-extremism model is inspired by the experience of extremist militants in the country. The Malaysian experience is divided into five sections. First, a brief historical review is provided along with the context in which the model was developed. Second, the surveys of the theoretical explanation for extremism in Malaysia are discussed. Third, a model of extremism based on the experience of extremist militants is explained in depth. Fourth, the main elements that have contributed to extremism in Malaysia are outlined. Fifth, the success of the rehabilitation program in Malaysia is discussed.

**COGNITIVE EXTREMISM:** Cognitive extremism is the process of radicalization in which a person uses a logical explanation to justify and accept violence, as a reaction to local and global discourses and events. It often manifests itself in verbal expressions, daily conversations, and social media posts, in which the extremist expresses himself using fundamentalist vocabulary and terminology. Observing suspects' behavior on social media is one of the best methods to detect changes in their ideas and behavioral patterns.

**EMOTIONAL EXTREMISM:** Emotional extremism is the process of radicalization in which a person uses emotional justifications to legitimize the acceptance and acquiescence of violence. This is manifested by using specific words that refer to feelings of humiliation, anger, and revenge. The person with this condition often uses emotional words and shows a tendency to violence even though they may not participate in it.

**RELIGIOUS EXTREMISM:** Religious extremism is the process of radicalization in which a person uses faith and religious justification to accept and acquiesce violence. The person who goes through this condition often uses religious scriptures, belief, or the statements of some scholars to legitimize his struggle and violence towards others.

**ACTUAL VIOLENT EXTREMISM:** It is the last stage of extremism, and it is intended to commit violent acts or a destructive terrorist act.

In the Malaysian context, most Malaysian fighters suffer from at least three types of extremism: cognitive extremism, emotional extremism, and religious extremism.

They defend fundamentalist ideas cognitively, and the feelings of humiliation, frustration, injustice; anger drive them emotionally towards specific things in their lives, and they believe religiously that they need to take specific courses of action to change reality.

## COMBATING EXTREMISM IN THE UNITED STATES

To combat violent extremism, the USA focused on a community-based approach to addressing local influencers, allowing local officials to establish relationships within their communities through police and community outreach. Federal governments seek to be a resource, facilitator, and regulator by strengthening community partnerships.

### LOS ANGELES MODEL

The Los Angeles Model for Countering Violent Extremism was launched in 2008. The program initially aimed to develop collaborative strategies between government and civil society to counter violent extremism. This has brought into life the birth of various initiatives led by the keen community, especially non-governmental organizations, and specialized academic institutions.

Before Los Angeles had a model for countering violent extremism, the state suffered a series of attacks in the 1980s and 1990s. At the time, the Los Angeles Police Department imposed strict measures to declare war on gangs and made massive arrests to end the problem. However, this strategy led to the loss of the society-based trust in police institutions, which prompted the institution to develop strategies that involve civil society, in a more feasible manner to combat violent extremism, and gradually restore the society-based trust. The Los Angeles Police Department continued to arrest key leaders, recruiters, and violent individuals. To reduce the problem of gang violence, it also drew on the experiences of ex-offenders and advocated for individual development initiatives, with support for their employment and reintegration into society. This model remains to be commendable for its effectiveness and feasibility, as it faced challenges from the complex situations related to combating violent extremism over the past two decades, and developed on various fronts, and over time turned to investing in the social field. It successfully redefined its concepts and frameworks; it was able to change many affected individuals by convincing them to reject violence, which prevented the spread of violent extremism.

### SPANISH APPROACH

Spanish rehabilitation programs were set up in prisons. It has paid great attention to the beliefs, thoughts and behaviors of prisoners who were convicted of terrorism or classified as extremists in prisons. The Spanish Constitution stipulates that prison policies and prison security measures must



be geared towards the re-education and social reintegration of convicts. This explains the goal of the Spanish prison system in rehabilitating prisoners. In addition, the legal framework of Spanish prisons indicates that measures to combat extremism and reintegrate prisoners consist of different sets of activities that continuously monitor progress. Equally important, for a prisoner to be eligible to participate in a rehabilitation program, his or her willingness to participate in the program must be expressed. This means that rehabilitation within the prison is not obligatory; rather, it is voluntary. The inmates are responsible for following it up.

### ETA EXTREMISM

Between the 1960s and the 2000s, the biggest threat to Spain's internal security was the separatist ethno-nationalist ETA. In this era, ETA committed at least 829 assassinations, mostly targeting members of the security forces, politicians, businessmen, and civilians. When most of the ETA leaders were arrested and sentenced to prison, the authorities began to develop policies to get ETA inmates to withdraw from the movement and accept the principles of terrorism before releasing them.

Much of Spain's current counter-extremism policies draw on its experience with ETA members. ETA inmates previously had a high recidivism rate. Many of them would return to violence after being pardoned and released. There was no specific program to combat them except the policy of separating them between prisons, and the policy of dispersal is still used in Spain.

### THREAT MANAGEMENT AND REHABILITATION

Rehabilitation is an essential element in counterterrorism, with the participation of civil society in all its activities. If community-based participation is a tool to prevent exclusion and extremism, rehabilitation is an opportunity to disengage terrorists and insurgents from violent acts and eradication ideas. By addressing extremist ideologies and misunderstood convictions, and instilling appropriate defense methods among detainees and suspects, we can prevent terrorist groups from tampering with them. Combined with operational capabilities aimed at eliminating, or capturing, and dismantling terrorists, these responses provide a comprehensive approach to countering extremism and terrorism.

Recently, terrorists have renewed their means by developing advanced electronic capabilities and involving whole families in the activities. The involvement of the families of ISIS and its fighters

returning from the conflict zones had many negative effects. Counter-extremism efforts need to restore attention to entire families, not just notorious men. Such programs seek to understand extremist or exclusive interpretations of religious scriptures to address how to convince families who are convinced that anyone outside ISIS is a sinful enemy. The authors and editors mention several methods of rehabilitation, including:

1. **SOCIAL REHABILITATION:** Family and community members have an important impact on the reintegration of the extremist into his society.
2. **MENTAL REHABILITATION:** Detainees work with a psychiatrist to rebuild their ability to function in society and achieve self-efficacy, which leads to a positive behavioral shift.
3. **RELIGIOUS REHABILITATION:** To prevent violence being justified by using religious ideologies, some clerics deliberately or unintentionally spread these misconceptions.
4. **EDUCATIONAL REHABILITATION:** It provides detainees with opportunities to acquire specialized or cognitive qualifications to be economically and financially independent.
5. **VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION:** It allows detainees to acquire new employment skills upon release.
6. **TECHNICAL REHABILITATION:** It provides detainees with therapy based on creative arts, including the use of artistic themes for therapeutic interventions that have the effect of changing the individual and helping to reintegrate him into society.
7. **SPORTS REHABILITATION:** Sports and recreation are used to direct the detainees' energy to physical sporting activities to give more psychological comfort and improve their confidence in their abilities.

Social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter and Telegram have enabled cross-border terrorist movements to recruit online supporters and sympathizers and prepare them for extremism and terrorism. Al-Qaeda and ISIS affiliate groups have continuously built their cyber capabilities to spread propaganda and recruit followers. If anti-extremism and counterterrorism efforts are to be successful, they must consider the terrorists' mastery of cyberspace, which indicates the need for constant vigilance.

Unless governments work with big corporations to regulate cyberspace and create a counterculture of hate and extremism online, terrorism will remain

a major security challenge. The main challenge lies in restricting terrorist propaganda from reaching the public. Countries should consider creating digital rehabilitation teams, which may include security analysts, information technicians, and experts in the anti-extremist content industry.

## GENERAL LESSONS

Despite the defeat of ISIS, the ISIS ability to resurrect remains, and the continuous attacks in Syria and Iraq show its determination and flexibility to survive. The ISIS provinces from West Africa to Central Asia continue to be engaged in belligerency. Other groups inspired by ISIS are becoming more active in South and Southeast Asia. For example, between 2017 and mid-2019, groups and individuals affiliated with ISIS carried out terrorist attacks in more than twenty countries. While attention is turning to ISIS, Al-Qaeda alongside its affiliate groups continue terrorist campaigns in North Africa, Yemen, and Somalia.

ISIS has attracted more than 40,000 foreign fighters, from more than 80 countries, either by joining its groups or living under the banner of the caliphate. Although most of them came from the neighboring Arab countries, while thousands came from other places, including about five thousand from the European Union. What is to be done about these volunteers who have turned their backs on their countries, their communities, and their families to join a terrorist group? Should they be exiled forever? Can they be brought back without endangering the communities they left behind? Can they be reintegrated into their societies?

The fifteen chapters have attempted to list the programs developed to combat terrorism of all manifestations, and political solutions are concerned with possibilities towards foreign fighters, including the possibility of stripping them of their nationalities, leaving them in the desert, handing them over to the Iraqi or Syrian authorities for trial, prosecuting them before special international courts, or bringing them back to their homelands for prosecution. If it is not possible to imprison them due to insufficient evidence, can they remain under the surveillance of the security services?

In general, families are an important component of efforts to combat extremism and rehabilitate those who planned or participated in violence. This remains relatively in the case of ISIS terrorist fighters and their families. The wives of jihadi fighters may have been taken or lured to Syria in fantasies of romance and adventure by their husbands, and instead treated as merchandise and carried as slave girls. Coming home is like escaping from hell. It is worth noting the role

of the female jihadists; some of them served in ISIS's religious units; they may be guilty of serious crimes.

In the European context, the continuous immigration and the influx of refugees provoked violent reactions, which exacerbated Islamophobia and xenophobia. Some critics argue that spending public resources on those who have shown their hate for Western society is a waste of money at best; at worst, it will increase social unrest. Returnees will face discrimination and suspicion and will need protection from reprisals.

It should be noted that European countries have many programs to prevent and combat extremism; some of which are more developed than others. There are other European countries that do not see a dire need as it is too difficult to assess its effectiveness and feasibility. Even proponents of counter-extremism efforts are cautious about the expected results, realizing that the task is more complex than was imagined, and measures of success remain ambiguous. Many studies indicate that many fighters did not join ISIS out of belief in a specific cause; rather, they found a compelling reason to justify their hate and violence. They are less interested in developing an ideology, and more interested in achieving a personal outcome, which is to excel over others. The result is a global ideological war and more bloodshed.

Counter-extremism programs take great care of religious extremism, although some chapters include themes on non-jihadi extremists.

Programs to combat far-right extremism face significant resistance because they are closer to the mainstream. They are not the other foreign immigrants in Western countries; the lines between extremism and normal behavior are less clear. The terrorist attack in New Zealand on March 15 of 2019 demonstrated the great threat to far-right ideologies, whether political or religious. In addition to the escalation of Islamophobia in the West, which has spread further, it is possible that there will be mutual intolerance, extremism, and terrorism in many countries, and in the cyberspace, which will affect global peace and security.

It is therefore important that world leaders make concerted efforts to counter all forms of violent extremism, particularly ideological extremism.

How do we measure the success rate in such programs? Is it the absence of terrorism? Is it a few attacks? What if the attacks are evidence of the calm before the storm? Is the analogy with improved intelligence and law enforcement, or decisive changes in the international situation, such as the elimination of ISIS? Is success measured by the preservation and safety that participants in the preventive effort

demand, or by reducing the external manifestations of religion and extremist beliefs, which may or may not be a precursor to violence?

Terrorism is not an indication that extremism has reached its goal. Many may share to extremist beliefs and ideologies, but only a few choose the path of violence and practical terrorism. Involvement in violent acts does not necessarily demonstrate deep knowledge of an extremist religion, ideology, or politics. Many terrorists are not motivated by an ideology. There are many other factors that push them to terrorism. Unless they draw attention to themselves through threats or engage in violence, it is likely that the intelligence services will not detect them. It may be necessary to provide mental medical advice rather than attempting to understand religious orientation or political motives. No matter how tempting it is, putting everyone in prison may lead to more problems than we are attempting to solve because prisons are often a hotbed of extremist ideologies and fundamentalism. For instance, although foreign fighters are involved in more than a quarter of terrorist plots in their home countries, the majority of returning fighters are not considered a significant threat; they may even be an opportunity for community re-engagement.

However, combating extremism and promoting rehabilitation represent a sensitive political and moral challenge. Anti-extremism and rehabilitation efforts require governments to involve civil society and show some resilience and transparency with society. Politics is usually guided by established positions on interests and fear, not by research studies of think tanks and civic organizations. This does not mean neglecting the efforts made in research. Regardless of the terminology and theories used, even in the best of circumstances, it is difficult to make the rehabilitation and de-radicalization successful once and for all, and attention is often given to fragile concepts to describe the phenomenon.

There is no ideal solution to the problem of extremism, nor a viable ideal programme. Britain, which has been praised for years for its pioneering work in combating extremism and rehabilitation, has had to adapt as it seeks to transform such efforts to deal with today's terrorist threat. In general, it can be stated that anti-extremism and rehabilitation efforts remain incomplete, whether in terms of conception or practical application; the feasibility of such programs are still a mooted matter of debate.

Although the threat of religious terrorism persists, the clear manifestation of the far-right, far-left and ethno-nationalist threats has become a major challenge for states. Since counterterrorism planning and implementation capabilities are ineffective in

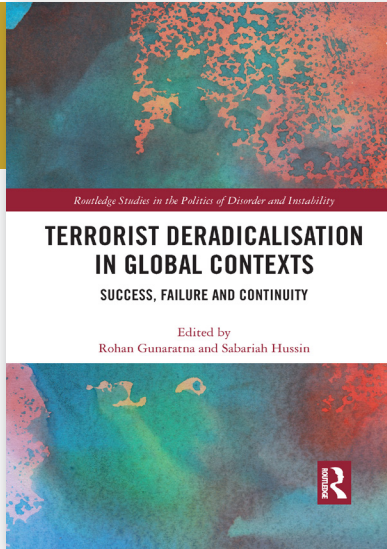
combating extremism in all its stages, we must ask whether we can involve civil society in rehabilitation strategies in the early and middle stages, rather than waiting for the threat to turn into terrorism. This is what governments have noticed, and they have started to involve all segments of society in projects to prevent fundamentalism.

Nevertheless, extremism and religious terrorism remain at the forefront of public discussions, and extremism and violence can also be derived from other religious and political references. Far-right, Buddhist and Christian fundamentalist movements also engage in cyber-attacks and youth extremism, through digital propaganda. Therefore, if national governments fail to address all types of terrorism, conflicts can escalate and develop into large-scale insurgencies, snowballing into other areas of society.

The Book provides various perspectives and topics of research studies from different countries and demonstrates that rehabilitation and counter-extremism efforts are intricately linked to local social and political factors, limiting the possibility of exporting ready-made policies and experiences, with some basic principles that can be generalized in specific cases.

The causes of violent extremism are complex and linked to the political, economic, cultural, and social conditions. After the establishment of the International Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force in 2005, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a global counterterrorism strategy, based on four key foci: 1) addressing the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism; 2) preventing and countering terrorism; 3) building the capacities of countries to prevent extremism and strengthening the role of the United Nations; 4) ensuring human rights and the rule of law.

Although the international strategy come into force in 2005, governments and international agencies did not realize the need for a comprehensive threat management project until after ISIS ballooned and snowballed into reality in 2014, and after the terrorist attacks that destabilized many countries. This included the reliance on a group of partners, including community organizations and the private sector, in addition to developing many capabilities in the initial, middle, and final stages, such as preventing societal extremism through participation and strong efforts in combating ideologies, rehabilitating, and integrating terrorists and extremists, and using movement responses to control and thwart terrorist operations. It is in this context that the principles of countering violent extremism and counterterrorism, and other military and security responses within global counterterrorism frameworks, must be understood.



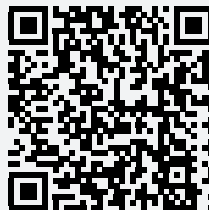
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