



NEW COMBATING GLOBAL STRATEGIES AGAINST RADICALIZATION, VIOLENCE, AND EXTREMISM

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Abstract: The development of society and the modern world can only be ensured through effective combating of radicalism, violence, and extremism. Different countries possess unique methods and experiences in combating radicalism. The article analyzes the experiences of countries such as Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Pakistan, and China in fighting against radicalism. Specifically, it discusses the practices in Saudi Arabian penal institutions dealing with convicts of radical ideas, Singapore's approaches to self-radicalization, educational and rehabilitation programs in Pakistan deradicalization centers, and China's strategies against separatism. The article provides an analytical approach and explores specific solutions to these problems.

Saudi Arabia has developed a comprehensive and multifaceted approach to combating radicalism, violence, and extremism, with programs addressing both prevention and rehabilitation. This approach positions the Kingdom as a leading example in tackling radicalization within a conservative, religious framework. Despite facing global challenges such as terrorism and extremist threats, Saudi Arabia has established itself as one of the world's safest nations. According to the Global Terrorism Index 2020 by the Institute for Economics and Peace, Saudi Arabia achieved a terrorism risk score of zero, underscoring its effectiveness in maintaining national security and ranking it among the safest countries, alongside Turkmenistan, Slovenia, Singapore, Togo, and Gambia [2].

Saudi Arabia's approach begins within its correctional facilities, focusing on prisoners convicted of crimes linked to extremism and terrorism. The authorities work closely with these individuals to understand the root causes of their radicalization. Through direct engagement, a comprehensive program is structured to address these causes with a blend of religious, psychological, and cultural rehabilitation.

In this process, religious scholars and counselors are brought in to provide inmates with an accurate understanding of Islam, aiming to clarify and correct any misconceptions or distorted interpretations that may have influenced their actions. The program emphasizes "pure" Islamic teachings, which include values



of peace, respect for life, and compassion—principles that contradict extremist ideology. Additionally, the Kingdom promotes a positive rehabilitation environment by encouraging family connections and personal development, allowing inmates to celebrate family milestones, participate in sports, and engage in productive activities. This approach reinforces the idea that a balanced life includes both spiritual and social elements.

Muhammad bin Nayef Counseling and Care Center - significant component of Saudi Arabia's anti-radicalization strategy is the Muhammad bin Nayef Counseling and Care Center, established in 2004 under the Ministry of Interior. This specialized center works with individuals who have been influenced by radical ideologies, offering targeted programs to aid their reintegration into society.

The center provides an 8 to 12-week rehabilitation program for individuals nearing the end of their prison terms. This program is designed to prepare them for a return to normal, productive lives and to help them overcome psychological, social, and ideological barriers that might otherwise hinder their reintegration. The center offers a range of support services, including:

Medical and Psychological Support: Professional medical care and psychological counseling address trauma, stress, and other mental health issues stemming from their previous involvement in extremist activities.

Social and Financial Assistance: The center provides financial guidance, legal aid, and social services, helping rehabilitated individuals reintegrate with dignity and stability.

Vocational Training and Employment: Individuals are trained in vocational skills relevant to the job market, and the center assists in job placements to ensure that they have meaningful employment opportunities upon release.

This holistic approach ensures that rehabilitated individuals have a solid foundation to rebuild their lives, reducing the likelihood of recidivism. Saudi Arabia's strategy demonstrates a proactive and humane model, offering support to those impacted by radical ideologies while safeguarding society from further risks.

In addition to working within its borders, Saudi Arabia has extended its anti-radicalization efforts to address those affected by extremism in conflict zones. For instance, the Kingdom has been successful in reintegrating 147 underage individuals who were previously involved in combat activities in Yemen. This project focuses on young people who have been exposed to radical ideologies or directly involved in armed conflict. Through intensive counseling



and support, these youth are guided away from extremist beliefs and provided with the tools to adapt to a peaceful, constructive role in society.

Saudi authorities use a combination of educational programs, psychological counseling, and social support to help these young individuals reintegrate into communities. By addressing the underlying traumas and experiences that led them to radicalization, Saudi Arabia not only aids their personal recovery but also strengthens societal resilience against the spread of extremist ideologies.

Saudi Arabia's efforts have gained international recognition for their effectiveness in reducing terrorism and creating one of the safest environments globally. The Kingdom's holistic approach to combating radicalism—from prison rehabilitation to social reintegration—serves as a model for other nations facing similar challenges. Saudi Arabia continues to adapt and refine its programs to respond to the evolving landscape of extremism, demonstrating a commitment to both national and global security.

In conclusion, Saudi Arabia's approach to radicalism involves a blend of prevention, rehabilitation, and reintegration that addresses the needs of individuals while safeguarding the broader society. By engaging radicalized individuals in correctional facilities, offering comprehensive counseling through specialized centers, and extending support to youth affected by extremism in conflict zones, the Kingdom sets a standard for countering radicalization with compassion and effectiveness. This approach not only protects Saudi citizens but also contributes to global stability and the prevention of extremism.

The experience of **Singapore** is also noteworthy in the fight against radicalism. As a secular, democratic, and multi-ethnic, multi-religious developed state, Singapore actively promotes tolerance among all its citizens and has become one of the leading nations combating radicalism to ensure societal harmony. Singapore faces the unique challenge of “**self-radicalization**,” where individuals, influenced by travel to Arab countries or exposed to extremist content online and on social media calling for “jihad,” adopt radical ideologies. This phenomenon has become especially prevalent among adolescents aged 15–20 and women [3].

In Singapore's approach to combating radicalism, as in Saudi Arabia, the initial focus is on identifying the root causes of radicalization in individuals influenced by extremist and radical ideas. Authorities conduct an in-depth analysis of these individuals' understanding of Islam and assess their exposure to extremist content. Through a structured program, affected individuals are paired with mentors who provide psychological, social, and religious guidance. This



program includes one-on-one counseling sessions and religious consultations to correct misunderstandings and reinforce accurate teachings of Islam that promote peace and unity .

Singapore's counter-radicalization program extends beyond direct interventions. As a major component of this initiative, awareness campaigns are conducted in secular and religious educational institutions, community organizations, and various public forums. This wide-reaching program includes training and awareness for a diverse range of people, including taxi drivers, call center operators, hotel and retail staff, as well as foreign nationals and their families. The goal is to empower these groups with knowledge to recognize and counter signs of radicalization, fostering a sense of shared responsibility in maintaining societal safety and unity.

Singapore's proactive approach combines educational outreach, community involvement, and individualized interventions to build resilience against extremist ideologies and promote inclusivity. By addressing the social, psychological, and religious factors contributing to radicalization, Singapore strengthens its multicultural society and mitigates the risks associated with self-radicalization. This comprehensive strategy serves as a model for other nations facing similar challenges in an increasingly interconnected world.

Pakistan is another country with significant experience in combating radicalization. As a nation with considerable potential for democratic development, Pakistan today stands as a strong opponent to radicalization, effectively cooperating with the international community and, most importantly, retaining a modern governance model.

One of the unique aspects of Pakistan's approach is the **legal foundation** provided by its Constitution, which plays a crucial role in the fight against violence and extremism. This foundation is further supported by the efforts of **policymakers, political parties, and community organizations**, all of whom contribute to countering radical ideologies. The commitment of these diverse groups strengthens Pakistan's stance on radicalism and supports a holistic approach to national security and social cohesion.

A key component of Pakistan's counter-radicalization efforts is its military's **"Winning Hearts and Minds" (WHAM)** initiative. Under this slogan, the Pakistan Army has focused on the youth, women, and minors in border regions, using education, ideological support, psychological counseling, economic assistance, and social welfare initiatives to steer vulnerable populations away from radical and extremist ideologies. By investing in these communities, the program not only



deters radicalization but also contributes to **peace and stability in these regions**.

Over the years, Pakistan has gained extensive experience in deradicalization through its efforts to address **Afghan refugees, captured combatants, and separatist movements**. This has provided the country with the tools and strategies necessary for effective rehabilitation, even among individuals exposed to prolonged extremist influences. Pakistan's experience has proven instrumental in integrating combatants back into society and providing them with pathways away from extremism.

Pakistan has established **deradicalization centers** such as **Sabon, Mishal, and Sparley**, which have been operational since 2009. These centers focus on rehabilitating inmates in correctional facilities by providing religious education, psychological counseling, and vocational training to counter extremist beliefs. In cases where the inmate's behavior warrants, these sessions are held with family members present, creating a support network that enhances the individual's rehabilitation.

These centers are part of a broader **deradicalization program**, which, according to Pakistani officials, has successfully helped over **2,500 former fighters** from terrorist organizations to transition toward a path of recovery. Through a combination of **religious re-education, psychological support, and vocational training**, Pakistan's deradicalization centers aim to not only rehabilitate individuals but also equip them with skills for a constructive role in society.

Pakistan's approach to combating radicalization highlights the importance of a **multi-dimensional strategy** that encompasses legal, social, military, and educational elements. With a focus on both **prevention and rehabilitation**, Pakistan addresses the root causes of radicalization while also offering viable paths for reformed individuals to reintegrate into society. This comprehensive approach not only strengthens Pakistan's internal security but also contributes to regional stability and counter-radicalization efforts globally. Through WHAM initiatives, deradicalization centers, and collaboration with the international community, Pakistan sets a practical example for effectively combating the pervasive issue of radicalization [4].

China has a distinctive approach to combating radicalization, viewing it as a critical component of its broader policy to prevent extremism and terrorism. China has established specialized anti-radicalization training centers under the





Anti-Terrorist Committee in regions where separatist, extremist, and terrorist activities may be observed, such as in Xinjiang and Tibet. These centers focus on providing vocational training and enhancing awareness of the rule of law to address the general lack of knowledge about national legislation and legal rights among residents. Individuals at these centers receive legal education alongside professional skills training, aimed at creating stable opportunities for them to reintegrate into society positively.

In China, traditional media channels such as television, newspapers, radio, and the Internet play a prominent role in the fight against radicalism. The government has introduced specific programs to promote anti-separatist and anti-terrorism legislation, using public spaces to broadcast awareness content. For example, digital screens, billboards, and bus televisions in city centers display anti-terrorism messages and videos, creating a consistent reminder of the importance of countering extremism.

In addition to direct informational campaigns, China has developed innovative anti-terrorism education projects aimed at promoting cultural values through entertainment. This approach uses songs, games, and comedy sketches to communicate anti-radicalization messages in an engaging manner. By embedding these themes into popular culture, China aims to shape public attitudes against terrorism and foster a community ethos that discourages extremist beliefs.

The Tibetan Autonomous Region presents unique characteristics in China's anti-radicalization strategy. In response to the specific threat of extremism in this region, police officers receive training within Buddhist temples to address local issues effectively. Tibet's counter-terrorism strategy also includes redefining certain behaviors, such as self-immolation, categorizing them as acts of "terrorism" to discourage such actions and highlight the consequences of extremist ideologies.

China offers financial incentives for citizens who provide information about foreign terrorist organizations, their members, or individuals involved in spreading religious extremism and promoting terrorism within China. Rewards can be as high as 300,000 yuan (approximately \$45,000), encouraging community involvement in identifying and reporting extremist activities [4].

China's approach to radicalization prevention is comprehensive, combining legal education, media campaigns, cultural projects, targeted training, and financial rewards. This multi-layered strategy not only seeks to counter immediate threats but also aims to foster a society resilient against extremist influences.



In the **Arab Republic of Egypt**, the fight against radicalism and extremism is supported by institutions such as the Al-Azhar Observatory for Combating Extremism, the Electronic Fatwa Center, and the Salam Center for Extremism Studies under the Egyptian Dar al-Ifta (House of Fatwa).

Al-Azhar Observatory for Combating Extremism -Established in 2015, the Al-Azhar Observatory's primary goal is to monitor and analyze extremist ideologies and propaganda disseminated by terrorist groups. To achieve this, the observatory employs **50 multilingual experts** proficient in foreign languages who actively monitor extremist ideas and content on various websites and social media platforms. These experts produce counter-narratives and responses in **13 different languages**, effectively challenging extremist messaging and providing alternatives to radical interpretations.

Electronic Fatwa Center - The Electronic Fatwa Center serves as a central point for responding to religious inquiries from the public. Questions submitted to the center are categorized based on content and subject matter, allowing them to be directed to the appropriate specialists. In addition to responding to individual queries, the center monitors the quality of its online responses to ensure they align with authentic Islamic teachings.

The center emphasizes the importance of both in-person discussions and disseminating information via social media as effective tools in the fight against radicalism. Through online engagement and interactive sessions, the Electronic Fatwa Center works to clarify religious misconceptions, thereby reducing the risk of individuals being influenced by radical ideologies.

Salam Center for Extremism Studies - The Salam Center focuses on researching and developing strategies to combat extremism and radicalism. It provides support to government bodies by examining the **scientific, cultural, social, economic, and psychological dimensions** of extremism and radicalization. By addressing these facets, the center aids in the creation of comprehensive counter-radicalization policies that consider the root causes and various influences contributing to extremism [5].

Each of these institutions plays a critical role in Egypt's strategy to counter extremism. Through **monitoring extremist narratives, providing religious guidance, and developing preventive measures**, these centers work collaboratively to create an environment where radicalism is less likely to thrive. By integrating cultural and psychological understanding into their approach, Egypt is working towards a sustainable and multifaceted solution to the challenges posed by radical ideologies.



In Uzbekistan, several strategies have been developed to combat radicalization and extremism. These strategies include the following key measures: establishing anti-radicalization centers, promoting cultural diversity and religious tolerance through educational programs; rapid response to religious extremism in media, countering recruitment, efforts by extremist organizations, educating youth with positive role models, engaging in international experience exchange.

In summary, methods and strategies to combat radicalism, violence, and extremism vary across the globe, with each country developing approaches suited to its environment and circumstances. Countries like Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Pakistan, and China have distinct methods tailored to their unique conditions. Similarly, Uzbekistan is developing effective measures against radical ideologies, focusing on education, cultural and religious tolerance, social rehabilitation, and increasing efforts against extremist organizations. By utilizing foreign experiences and continuously improving national strategies, Uzbekistan is advancing in its fight against radicalism and extremism, building a safer and more resilient society.

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