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978-1-107-07893-2 - Eurojihad: Patterns of Islamist Radicalization and Terrorism in Europe

Angel Rabasa and Cheryl Benard

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Eurojihad

Patterns of Islamist Radicalization and Terrorism in Europe

Throughout history, radicalization has involved social and economic conditions and issues of identity. Patterns of Islamist radicalization in Europe reflect the historical experience of European Muslim communities, particularly their links to their home countries, the prevalence of militant groups there, and the extent to which factors of radicalization in Muslim countries transfer to European Muslim diasporas. *Eurojihad* examines the sources of radicalization in Muslim communities in Europe and the responses of European governments and societies. In an effort to understand the scope and dynamics of Islamist extremism and terrorism in Europe, this book takes into account recent developments, in particular the emergence of Syria as a major destination of European jihadists. Angel Rabasa and Cheryl Benard describe the history, methods, and evolution of jihadist networks in Europe with particular nuance, providing a useful primer for the layperson and a sophisticated analysis for the expert.

Angel Rabasa is a senior political scientist at RAND whose research and analyses address problems of international security, extremism, and terrorism. His 2003 book, *The Muslim World after 9/11*, received wide acclaim for its comprehensive synthesis of the trends across the different regions of the Muslim world. Rabasa is the lead author of the 2006 book *Beyond al-Qaeda, Building Moderate Muslim Networks* (2007) with Cheryl Benard, *Ungoverned Territories: Understanding and Reducing Terrorism Risks* (2007), and *Deradicalizing Islamist Extremists* (2010).

Cheryl Benard is the president of Metis Analytics, a Washington, DC-based research company. From 2003 to 2012, she was a senior analyst with the RAND Corporation, where she worked primarily on methods for understanding and countering radical extremism. Benard's career has spanned two continents. Her focus has been on published results with a high degree of accessibility for policy makers, media, and the interested public. She has been the recipient of several awards in recognition of her work, including the Theodor Kery Prize for Socially Relevant Research and the Donauland Prize for Nonfiction Writing. Her books, including *Civil Democratic Islam*, have been translated into several languages.

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ANGEL RABASA

CHERYL BENARD



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Preface

The terrorist attacks in Madrid in March 2004 and in London in July 2005, the assassination of Dutch filmmaker Theo Van Gogh in November 2004, the killing of U.S. soldiers at Frankfurt airport in March 2011, and several major foiled attacks throughout Europe such as the so-called Europlot – al-Qaeda’s plan, uncovered in 2010, to attack targets in several European countries – erased any doubt that Europe has become a central theater of Islamist terrorist operations. The 9/11 Commission listed European cities with Muslim communities, along with the Afghan-Pakistani border, the Horn of Africa, and Southeast Asia, among the places where terrorists seek sanctuary and operating bases. Indeed, investigations after 9/11 uncovered extensive terrorist networks in the United Kingdom, France, Spain, Germany, Belgium, and Italy. The threat of Islamic radicalism has also become a central contentious issue of domestic and European politics, influencing elections and policy at all levels from the municipal to the European Union.

To understand the shape and dynamics of the Islamist extremist and terrorist challenge in Europe, it is necessary to examine the sources of Islamist radicalization in Europe; jihadist ideology and strategy; radicalization patterns, nodes, and networks; terrorist operations and tactics; and the response of European governments and societies. We can then draw the implications and lessons from the European experience with Islamist extremism and terrorism.

This book builds on research at the RAND Corporation on Islamist radicalism and terrorism in Europe over the past several years. It integrates work from several projects as well independent research conducted by the authors. The first project was part of the RAND Corporation’s continuing program of self-initiated independent research. Support for such research

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Our most important sources of information were European intelligence analysts, terrorism experts, policy practitioners, and members of civil society who shared their insights with us. Particular thanks are due to M. Gilles de Kerchove, EU Counter-Terrorism Coordinator; Peter Neumann, Director of the International Centre for the Study of Radicalisation and Political Violence at King's College London; Alan Johnson, Edge Hill University, United Kingdom; Ghaffar Hussain of the Quilliam Foundation, London; Shiraz Maher, now a Senior Research Fellow, International Centre for the Study of Radicalisation and Political Violence; Alexander Meleagrou-Hitchens, Policy Exchange, London;

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Abbreviations

AIVD	Algemene Inlichtingen- en Veiligheidsdienst (General Intelligence and Security Service, The Netherlands)
AQAP	Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (Yemen)
AQIM	Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (formerly GSPC)
BfV	Bundesamt für Verfassungsschutz (Office for the Protection of the Constitution, Germany)
CNCA	Centro Nacional de Coordinación Anti-Terrorista (Spain)
CNI	Centro Nacional de Inteligencia (Spain)
DCRI	Direction Centrale du Renseignement Intérieur (France)
DGSE	Direction Générale de la Sécurité Extérieure (France)
DGSI	Direction Générale de la Sécurité Intérieure (France)
DNAT	Division Nationale Anti-terroriste (France)
DST	Direction de la Surveillance du Territoire (France)
FFI	Forsvarets Forskningsinstitut (Norwegian Defense Research Establishment)
GIA	Armed Islamic Group (Algeria)
GICM	Moroccan Islamic Combatant Group
GSPC	Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat (Algeria)
ICI	Islamic Culture Institute (Milan, Italy)
ICU	Islamic Courts Union (Somalia)
IJU	Islamic Jihad Union (Central Asia, Pakistan, and Germany)
IMU	Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan
ISIS	Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham (Iraq and Syria)
MCB	Muslim Council of Britain
MI-5	Security Service [Internal] (United Kingdom)

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RG	Direction Centrale des Renseignements Généraux (France)
RICU	Research, Information, and Communications Unit (United Kingdom)
SITCEN	Situation Centre (EU)