

The Islamic State in Britain

Drawing on extensive field research with activists on the streets of London, Michael Kenney provides the first ethnographic study of a European network implicated in terrorist attacks and sending fighters to the Islamic State. For over twenty years, al-Muhajiroun (Arabic for “the Emigrants”) strived to create an Islamic state in Britain through high-risk activism. A number of Emigrants engaged in violence, while others joined the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria. Kenney explains why young Britons joined the Emigrants, how they radicalized and adapted their activism, and why many of them eventually left. Through an innovative mix of ethnography and network analysis, Kenney explains the structure and processes behind this outlawed network and explores its remarkable resilience. What emerges is a complex, nuanced portrait that demystifies the Emigrants while challenging conventional wisdom on radicalization and countering violent extremism.

Michael Kenney is Associate Professor of International Affairs at the University of Pittsburgh. He is the author of *From Pablo to Osama: Trafficking and Terrorist Networks, Government Bureaucracies, and Competitive Adaptation*, among other publications. His new book, *The Islamic State in Britain*, is based on extensive field work on al-Muhajiroun, an outlawed activist network in the United Kingdom. His research has been supported by the National Science Foundation, the Office of Naval Research, the National Institute of Justice, and other institutions.

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The Islamic State in Britain
*Radicalization and Resilience in an
Activist Network*

MICHAEL KENNEY
University of Pittsburgh



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For Emilia and Caroline, who make it all worthwhile

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