

Islamist Violence in Western Europe. Development and Empirical Examination of an Explanatory Model for Radicalization and Violent Crime Offending

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Summary

This Open-Access-Book revolves around the question, how and why people develop the intention to commit an act of lethal Islamist violence (e.g. terrorism or violent hate crimes) in Western Europe. The explanatory model, developed in this book, approaches this question in two steps: at first, it is explained how and why people radicalize to the point where they become ready to kill in the name of an ideology. But most people who develop such an ideology-based readiness to use lethal violence never become violent. Therefore, the second step is to explain under which conditions people with this readiness actually commit an act of Islamist violence in Western Europe.

Following this, the developed explanatory model is tested empirically. The primary focus is on the theoretically formulated conditions for committing a concrete act of violence. These theoretical assumptions are examined using the example of realized or planned Islamist violent acts in Western Europe between 2000-2013.

Brief outline

1. Introduction – 2. The Object of Explanation: Ideology-based Violence – 3. Challenges for a Theory of Ideology-based Violence – 4. Previous Theories of Ideology-based Violence – 5. Theoretical Framework – 6. Empirical Study – 7. Summary and Implications