

ISLAMIC RADICALISM, EXTREMISM AND TERRORISM IN THE COUNTRIES OF THE EUROPEAN UNION: PROBLEM AND SOLUTION

ІСЛАМСЬКИЙ РАДИКАЛІЗМ, ЕКСТРЕМІЗМ ТА ТЕРОРИЗМ У КРАЇНАХ ЄВРОПЕЙСЬКОГО СОЮЗУ: ПРОБЛЕМА ТА РІШЕННЯ

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The article examines the problem of Islamic fundamentalism and terrorism in the countries of the European Union. The scientific work examines how Islamic fundamentalism has penetrated into member countries of the European Union over the past few decades and began to spread, threatening the national security of European countries. The emergence of the phenomenon of Islamic fundamentalism and terrorism is closely related to migration processes. Also, the governments of the European Union member countries made mistakes in their policy of integrating Muslim migrants into European society. A detailed analysis showed that the policy of the melting pot, the European society in which various radically different cultures were supposed to mix, did not live up to expectations and even caused new problems that European politicians and officials at different levels of government have to face today, as well as those that will intensify in the foreseeable future and may become a serious challenge for Europe in the XXI century. Muslim migrants in the majority cannot integrate into European society. They create their own diasporas and enclaves within the cities of Europe, thereby forming a state within a state, with its own laws, morality, and social relationships. Muslim youth cannot integrate and find their place in European society. Thus, becoming a target for the propaganda of Islamic fundamentalism, which will introduce destructive ideas into the consciousness of young Muslims, encouraging them to use violent actions against the indigenous population of European countries, as well as institutions of power. Particular attention in the study is paid to the study of factors that influence the radicalization of the Muslim diaspora living in European countries. The study examines this phenomenon both at the level of individuals who are in search of their identity in a foreign cultural space, and the study also analyzes the broader aspect of the existence of Muslim diasporas, their life, development, social, political, religious and cultural activities.

Key words: Islam, Terrorism, Migration, European Union, Radicalism.

У статті розглядається проблема ісламського фундаменталізму та тероризму у країнах Європейського Союзу. У науковій роботі вивчається як ісламський фундаменталізм за останні кілька десятиліть проникнув у країни-члени Європейського Союзу і став поширюватися та створювати загрозу національній безпеці Європейських країн. Поява феномену ісламського фундаменталізму та тероризму тісно пов'язана з міграційними процесами. Також уряди країн членів Європейського Союзу припустилися помилок у політиці інтеграції мусульман мігрантів у європейське суспільство. Детальний аналіз показав, що політика плавленого котла, європейського соціуму, в якому мали змішатися різні кардинально відмінні одна від одної культури не виправдали очікування і викликали навіть нові проблеми, з якими доводиться стикатися сьогодні європейським політикам і чиновникам на різних рівнях влади, а також які будуть посилюватися в найближчому майбутньому і можуть стати серйозним викликом для Європи в XXI столітті. Мусульмани-мігранти здебільшого не можуть інтегруватися до Європейського суспільства. Вони створюють власні діаспори та анклавів всередині міст Європи, тим самим формуючи державу в державі, зі своїми законами, мораллю та соціальними взаєминами. Мусульманська молодь не може інтегруватися та знайти своє місце в європейському суспільстві. Таким чином, стаючи мішенню для пропаганди ісламського фундаменталізму, який впровадять деструктивні ідеї у свідомість молодих мусульман, спонукаючи їх до застосування насильницьких дій проти корінного населення європейських країн, а також інститутів влади. Особлива увага в дослідженні приділяється вивченню факторів, що впливають на радикалізацію мусульманської діаспори, що проживає в країнах Європи. Дослідження вивчає даний феномен як на рівні індивідумів, які перебувають у пошуках своєї ідентичності в чужому культурному просторі, а також дослідження аналізує ширший аспект існування мусульманських діаспор, їх життя, розвиток, соціальну, політичну, релігійну та культурну діяльність.

Ключові слова: іслам, тероризм, міграція, Європейський Союз, радикалізм.

Introduction. Islamic terrorism in the member countries of the European Union appeared at the end of the twentieth century. It became widespread at the beginning of the XXI century. Terrorism itself is a complex and ever-changing phenomenon that often makes headlines in daily newspapers, political magazines, online news publications, and is also discussed by various experts on television and the Internet. Terrorism has many forms and is associated with various political and religious organizations. Terrorist organizations have different goals that they

want to achieve through terror and violence. They range from right-wing and left-wing organizations, nationalist and separatist movements, religious extremist groups, as well as individuals driven by ideological, political and religious motives.

The article main goal. Research of the problem of Islamic radicalism and terrorism in the member countries of the European Union, and methods of countering this threat in order to strengthen the security of the EU countries as well as other countries on the European continent.

Recent literature review. The topic of Islamic fundamentalism was studied by such scholars as: Kasturi Sen, George T. Rankin, Kenneth M. Cowen, Steve Marsh, Derek E. Mix, Kristin Archick, Bruce Bawer, Bernard Lewis and etc.

The main research material. In the context of the problem of terrorism, Islamic terrorism occupies one of the most important roles. It should be considered not as a single phenomenon, the struggle of a group of people for their interests with the help of terror of various variations, but a struggle, to a certain extent, of Islamic civilization against Christian or Christian-Western civilization. A more detailed analysis of long-term historical events associated with Islamic terrorism shows that this is a long-term form of war that has been going on for many decades. For a clearer understanding of the concept of Islamic terrorism, let us understand the term terrorism itself.

The US Federal Bureau of Investigation divides terrorism into two groups, international terrorism and domestic terrorism. International terrorism is violent criminal acts committed by individuals or groups of individuals inspired by or associated with designated foreign terrorist organizations or states (state sponsored).

Domestic Terrorism: Violent criminal acts committed by individuals and/or groups to achieve ideological goals stemming from domestic influences, such as political, religious, social, racial or environmental in nature [1].

The legislation of the European Union has a definition of what terrorism is. According to EU law, the crime of terrorism is violence committed to intimidate a population, unlawfully compelling a government or an international organization to do or refrain from doing or refrain from doing any act to destabilize or destroy the fundamental political, constitutional, economic or social structures of a country [2].

In the modern world, the concept of terrorism refers to Islamic terrorism. Islamic terrorism arose against the backdrop of the Soviet war in Afghanistan in the eighties of the twentieth century. Gradually, Islamic terrorism went beyond the Islamic world and transformed into a threat to the security of the world. The emergence of Islamic terrorism in Afghanistan is associated with the desire of the Soviet Union to introduce the ideology of atheism and socialism into the Afghan conservative and religious society. Islamic fundamentalism became the ideological base for resistance to Soviet occupation. It was during the war in Afghanistan that the Islamic terrorist organization Al-Qaeda emerged, responsible for many terrorist attacks in the countries of the European Union.

The terrorist attack of September 11, 2001, which was carried out by the Islamic terrorist organization Al-Qaeda and planned by the Islamic international terrorist Osama bin Laden on the World Trade

Center buildings in New York, led to the beginning of a chain of wars, counter-terrorism operations, and changes in ruling regimes in Islamic regions around the world waged by the United States and its allies, which became better known as the War on Terrorism. Military actions in Afghanistan and Iraq led to the destabilization of the regions of the Middle East and Central Asia, poverty, increasing social tension and the growth of Islamic fundamentalism, which began to gain popularity among the poor population of Muslim countries.

Military operations of the Western coalition in Muslim countries destabilized a region that historically had a complex and distinctive system of social relationships between the population and the authorities based on the specific history of the development of society based on religious narratives and dogmas of Islam and the tribal system. The destabilization of the region inevitably led to a series of social upheavals, changes in ruling regimes and civil wars, which began in December 2010 and became known as the Arab Spring. Long wars, political crisis and poverty have created a populace ready to seek a better life outside the Muslim region. In 2015, the situation reached a bifurcation point, which led to a migration crisis in Europe. The situation was due to several factors. Firstly, as noted earlier, long wars, political crises and poverty have contributed to the emergence of a large number of people who are dissatisfied with their lives and who do not see prospects for further life in their countries. Secondly, the dissemination of information via the Internet contributed to the creation of an image among the population of the Muslim world of the European Union as a place of high standards of living and security. Thirdly, the geographical proximity of the Middle East and Europe simplified the movement of entire peoples from Asia to Europe in a short time.

Since 2015, two parallel worlds have begun to emerge in the countries of the European Union. On the one hand, the indigenous population of European countries continues to live in Europe, who speak various European languages and profess Christianity. On the other hand, several million migrants have arrived in Europe since 2015, settling compactly in large European cities, speaking Arabic among themselves and professing Islam. The process of integration of the Muslim population in Europe into European society occurs either at a very low level or does not occur at all. The non-integrated Muslim population, especially the younger generation, is influenced by the propaganda of Islamic fundamentalism, which claims in its narrative that Europe must answer to the Muslim population for its crimes during the era of colonialism. One of the methods of influencing the authorities and population of European countries is terrorism by radical Muslims. The main strategic goal of Islamic terrorism in Europe is to expand the Islamic world beyond its original historical existence.

One of the important elements of Islamic terrorism in Europe is the goals pursued by Islamic fundamentalists. When approaching the question of the goals of Islamic terrorism, we can look at it from a secular perspective. The context of goals can be divided into three categories, such as political, cultural and social. For a clearer understanding of the picture of the ongoing conflict, between Islamic fundamentalism and the countries of the European Union or European countries as a whole, it is necessary to consider the problem from the point of view of the struggle of two civilizations, Western Christian and Eastern Muslim. So, this issue can be viewed as a conflict between the north and south. When we look at this conflict from the point of view of the struggle between two civilizations, we see a long historical conflict whose roots can be traced back to the era of the expansion of Islam to the north in the territory of the Iberian Peninsula and the Byzantine Empire, as well as the expansion of the kingdoms of Europe into the Islamic region during the Crusades.

Also, an important aspect in understanding the conflict between Islamic and Christian civilizations is the era of European colonialism, when European empires such as Great Britain, France, Italy controlled almost all the Muslim countries of North Africa, the Levant and the Arabian Peninsula. One of the goals of modern Islamic terrorism in Europe is revenge against the colonial past, which brought destruction and grief to Arab and other Muslim countries at the hands of European colonial powers. The past, in which Muslim countries were colonized by European empires, is perceived by Muslims as humiliation and gives Islamic fundamentalists justification for their actions as revenge, as well as a sense of moral superiority. Also, with the beginning of the XXI century, the terrorist attacks in the United States on September 11, 2001, the war against terrorism began. The war of the Western coalition against Muslim countries, primarily Afghanistan and Iraq, as well as interventions in other countries, for example, Libya, Syria, Yemen and others, which destabilized the region. The interventions of Western countries, which are Christian countries, in Muslim countries should also be seen as a struggle between Christian and Islamic civilizations.

Thus, we see that Muslim regions or countries in which Islamic fundamentalist movements arose and developed, where religious ideologists of radical Islam appeared, are those places where Muslim society came into confrontation with Western civilizations. Such countries were Egypt, Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan, Sudan, Pakistan and others. The feeling of resentment and sense of injustice was used by radical Islamic theologians as an impetus for the passionate part of the population to act and legitimize the strategy of violence. Simply put, a radicalized society feels a sense of resentment that serves as a moral justification for revenge, transforming into violence [3].

The most important goal of Islamic terrorism in Europe is to fight against Western civilization using accessible methods. The goal of terrorists is to intimidate residents of European countries, destabilize the political and administrative system in the state where a terrorist attack occurs, as well as manipulate government officials in order for terrorists to achieve their goals. If we summarize the narratives that are present in each of the terrorists' goals, we can say that the main goal is power. Power is political, economic, religious and social. From the point of view of Islam, the world is divided into the territory of Islam (*dar al-Islam*), the territory of disbelief (*dar al-kufr*), the territory of war (*dar al-harb*), etc. Thus, the countries of the European Union are considered as a territory of disbelief, which means it is also turning into a territory of war, where fighting is carried out using the methods that Islamic fundamentalists have at their disposal. The main goal of Islamic fundamentalism in the European Union is to expand its influence, that is, to transform originally Christian territories into Islamic territories.

The Islamic scholar theologian Muhammad al-Shafi'i, who lived in the second half of the VIII century and the beginning of the IX century, formulated a clear concept of jihad or holy war. Al-Shafi explained that God commanded war, because otherwise the Islamic community (*ummah*) could not exist. He believed that the goal of Islam is to extend its dominion over all humanity. The main mission of Islam is to establish social justice and equality, to free all people from the tyranny of a state based on worldly principles [4, p. 107].

When we consider Islamic terrorism in the countries of the European Union and in Europe as a whole, we must understand that terrorism is a strategy of waging asymmetric warfare, a weak actor against a stronger opponent. Islamic terrorist organizations use various methods available to them to achieve their goals. First, consider the issue of terrorist organizations that have carried out acts of violence in Europe. These organizations have changed periodically during recent history, some weakened, while others became stronger, and new ones appeared that did not exist before that time. It is also important to note that some Islamic terrorist organizations set themselves the goal of attacking a specific European state, and not the entire European Union as a representative of Western civilization. For example, in 1994 and 1995, the Algerian Islamic terrorist organization Armed Islamic Group of Algeria carried out two terrorist attacks. In 1994, militants of the organization hijacked an Air France plane flying from the capital of Algiers to Paris. The terrorists' goal was to fly the plane into the Eiffel Tower. Three passengers were killed by terrorists, and the militants themselves were killed by French police while refueling the plane in Marseille [5].

In 1995, Algerian terrorists shot eight people on public transport in Paris and Lyon. The main motivation

of the Algerian Islamic Terrorist Organization was against the French government's assistance to the Algerian leadership during the Algerian Civil War [6].

In the XXI century, Islamic terrorism has become more active. We can distinguish two historical points in the intensification of Islamic terrorism in the current century. The first point is the events of September 11, 2001, and the terrorist attack on New York and the Pentagon in the United States. After this event, Islamic terrorism in the European Union intensified. The main terrorist organization in the first decade of the XXI century was Al-Qaeda. After the Arab Spring and the outbreak of the civil war in Syria and Iraq, amid chaos, the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIS) intensified its activities. ISIS was able to create an unrecognized state with all the attributes of state and institutions of power in the occupied territories of Syria and Iraq. They were also active in the countries of the European Union. It can be said that between 2014 and 2019, ISIS was the dominant Islamic terrorist organization in the world.

Between 2001 and 2014, the main methods of terrorist attacks in the European Union were bombings and mass shootings. So, on March 11, 2004, two bombs were detonated on a commuter train in Madrid, killing 191 people. A terrorist cell linked to al-Qaeda has claimed responsibility for the Madrid train attack. The terrorist attack in Spain was linked to the war in Iraq and the radicalization of Muslims in the European Union [7, p. 16–19].

Another example of such an attack with a large number of casualties was the series of terrorist attacks in central London that occurred on July 7, 2005. As a result of this tragedy, 56 people died and several hundred more were injured. The Islamic terrorist organization The Secret Organization of al-Qaida in Europe claimed responsibility for the attack. This organization was a small terrorist cell that operated in various countries of the European Union and was associated with al-Qaeda [8].

So, in the period between 2001 and 2014, there were less significant terrorist attacks where there were not a large number of victims. Thus, we see that a chain of events such as the terrorist attack on the United States on September 11, 2001, the outbreak of the war in Afghanistan in the fall of 2001, the outbreak of the war in Iraq in the spring of 2003 and other smaller military operations against Islamic terrorists around the world that were part of US strategies in the war against terror have led to an increase in terrorist attacks in the countries of the European Union.

The next period began in 2014. A number of events in the Middle East and North Africa led to the creation of a situation that influenced the development of a new wave of Islamic terrorism in the countries of the European Union. The Arab Spring, which began in Tunisia in December 2010, led to changes in political regimes in Tunisia, Libya, Egypt and Yemen. Thus, the

crisis in the Middle East and North Africa provoked wars in Libya, Syria, Yemen and the escalation of hostilities in Iraq, which have not stopped since March 2003. Coups d'etat in Arab countries led to the creation of a power vacuum, which was filled by Islamic fundamentalists of varying degrees of radicalism. In some countries, such as Tunisia and Egypt, Islamic fundamentalists came to power democratically through the mechanism of elections. In Syria and Iraq, Islamic fundamentalists, represented by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIS), seized power in parts of the territories of these two countries for several years through armed struggle. Starting in 2014, a new wave of terrorist attacks began in the European Union, behind which ISIS stood, the purpose of which was to create terror in the EU countries, as well as an Islamic attack on Europe, as on Christian civilization and the spread of radical Islam.

After 2014, the methods of terrorist attacks in the European Union by Islamic fundamentalists have changed. Mass shootings, as well as individual terrorism, became new methods. Among the changes that influenced the new wave of terrorist attacks in the European Union, it should be noted such as the availability of the Internet among all segments of the population in Europe and the propaganda of Islamic radicalism via the Internet, militants who gained combat experience in the Syrian and Iraqi conflict, the younger generation of Muslims who were born in the countries The EU failed to integrate, as well as mass migration from the Middle East in 2015. After 2014, the main countries of the European Union that were often attacked by terrorists were France, Belgium, Germany, Great Britain and other countries.

During this period of time, the most resonant terrorist act was the shooting of employees of the political satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo on January 7, 2015 in France.

Also, in 2015, large-scale migration of the population professing Islam to the countries of the European Union began, from the regions of the Middle East, North and Central Africa, and Central Asia. Constant political crises and civil wars in the countries of these regions have pushed their populations to migrate to the rich and calm countries of the European Union. Also, the result of this process was a situation where not all new migrants were able to adapt to the new life. Also, you need to take into account the difference in religion, culture, way of life, which forms the difference between two peoples, even two civilizations. Youth professing Islam, and who have not been able to adapt to a new life, become victims of the propaganda of Islamic fundamentalism, which pushes them to carry out terrorist attacks against the indigenous population and government structures that are considered hostile to Islamic civilization.

In the fall of 2015, another massive terrorist attack occurred in France. On the evening of Friday,

November 13, ISIS terrorists in three teams killed 130 people and wounded several dozen more. According to Europol, French and Belgian police, all participants were jihadists of Arab origin and some of them fought on the side of ISIS in Syria or Iraq, or planned to go to these countries to take part in hostilities.

ISIS terrorists used small arms and the element of surprise to kill as many ordinary people as possible in places where they gathered, carrying out attacks on crowded streets, a concert and a stadium. The terrorist attacks on November 13, 2015 are identical to those that occurred in early 2015 in Paris during the attack on the satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo [9].

In the period between after 2015, that is, starting from 2016, and until approximately 2021, terrorist attacks by jihadists became regular. It is important to note that the factor of individual terrorism began to dominate. This means that Muslims who were not happy with their social status were often influenced by the propaganda of Islamic fundamentalism through the Internet, namely Internet sites disseminating information of a radical and extremist nature, and provoked these people to action. Due to the fact that these people were not members of any terrorist organization, they acted alone. Also, since they did not have access to firearms and did not know how to assemble explosive devices, they used improvised means, such as edged weapons, as well as vehicles, to kill as many people as possible.

If we look at a typical portrait of a European jihadist, we will see certain traits. Firstly, this is a male person, a teenager or a young man. This person was born in the European Union or arrived in one of these countries as a migrant. He is unemployed or does not have a regular income. May be involved in crime. Participated in combat operations in the Middle East or plans to do so. He grows up slowly, his consciousness is dominated by a radical worldview, which influences his behavioral algorithm. He has no education or has a very basic one, which does not allow him to get a good job [10].

A would-be jihadist has a set of motivational factors that motivate him to carry out a terrorist attack. We will include such things as identity crisis, psychological trauma, racism and the influence of the growing environment as basic factors. Factors that serve as a trigger for action include the popularization of jihad on the Internet, the policies of Western countries towards the Islamic region and a charismatic leader who is able to push an individual or group of people to illegal actions. For meetings of a group of jihadists or places where a person can be influenced by the ideologists of Islamic fundamentalism, mosques, the Internet, school, clubs, work, as well as the influence of family and friends can be used (11, p. 34).

To counter Islamic radicalism, extremism and terrorism, the authorities of the European Union use

various tactics and strategies. Modern methods for combating terrorism, and especially Islamic terrorism, began to be developed in the European Union after the terrorist attack in the United States on September 11, 2001. Over the past two decades, Islamic radicalism and terrorism have become an important issue that European Union countries face every year.

At the first stage, the authorities of the European Union use various programs aimed at de-radicalization a radical group of Muslims who may in the future pose a danger to the public of various EU member countries. The next stage involves preventive measures to prevent terrorist attacks at the planning stage, as well as direct combat against terrorists during their active actions. The main task for the European security system is to identify at an early stage those people who may become terrorists in the future. At the first stage, an individual may be neutral towards extremist ideas. But his dissatisfaction with his life can be exploited by various interested extremist organizations. At the next stage, the person begins to sympathize with the radical idea, but does not actively participate. At the next stage, he justifies extremist ideas, as well as radical terrorist actions. The final stage is carrying out a terrorist attack [12].

The European Union uses various methods, which include legislative initiatives, political civil, and educational initiatives, to prevent the development of radicalism among Muslim diasporas living in EU member countries. The main task that EU leaders have declared is countering violent extremism.

In 2023, the Council of Europe adopted a counter-terrorism strategy for the period from 2023 to 2027. It must meet the modern challenges that the member countries of the European Union face today and may arise in the near future. The new strategy is aimed at strengthening preventive measures to counter the development of radicalism, extremism and the fight against terrorism in Europe. The goal of the strategy is to counter the growing abuse of new technologies, recruiting and training new terrorists among people living in the EU. Particular attention is paid to people who took part in hostilities in Iraq and Syria as part of ISIS troops. Since their return to the EU, countries such as Austria, Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, Denmark, Spain, Sweden and the Balkans have suffered from their illegal actions [13].

Conclusion. Thus, it can be stated that the European Union, and in general almost all European countries, will inevitably face Islamic radicalism, extremism and terrorism. A series of political, economic and social crises in the countries of the Middle East and North Africa, as well as coups d'etat and wars, created a situation favorable for the activities of Islamic fundamentalists who promise the population of Arab countries a quick solution to their social problems, as well as migration of the population to European countries in search of better life. The situation after 2015

showed that the European policy of multiculturalism towards people of other cultures and religions did not bring the desired result, which will lead to the fact that in the foreseeable future Islamic fundamentalism will increase its influence on Muslims in Europe who will not be able to integrate into European society. The European Union needs to strengthen its efforts

to integrate Muslims into European society. Also, the European Union should increase interaction with the Arab world to develop a preventive system to counter extremism and terrorism. The EU must work with both the official authorities of the Arab states, as well as the official opposition, to achieve progress in countering security threats on the European continent.

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