

METHODS OF COMBATING EXTREMISM AND TERRORISM

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Annotation: This article discusses the methods of combating extremism and terrorism, as well as the measures to prevent these movements.

Keywords: Extremism and terrorism movement, history, development, prevention methods, ideology, idea.

In today's era of globalization, extremism and terrorism are considered serious threats across the entire world. These phenomena not only undermine peace and security but also negatively affect the political, social, and economic stability of states. Therefore, combating extremism and terrorism is not only the duty of law enforcement agencies but also an urgent task for society as a whole. This article analyzes effective methods of combating extremism and terrorism, their social and psychological roots, and ways to prevent them through education and upbringing. Extremism is the act of strongly opposing existing political, religious, or social systems in society, characterized by intolerance and radical behavior. Terrorism, on the other hand, is the use of violence to create fear and panic in society in order to achieve political or ideological goals. Both phenomena are closely interconnected and pose a serious threat to stability in modern society. The emergence of these issues is caused by several factors such as social inequality, including unemployment, poverty, and feelings of injustice; gaps in education, such as a lack of critical thinking, tolerance, and ideological immunity; religious illiteracy, including the misinterpretation of the Qur'an and Hadith; informational attacks through the spread of extremist ideas on the Internet and social media; and political instability caused by corruption and a lack of trust in government institutions. Legal measures to combat extremism and terrorism include improving national legislation — the Criminal Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan establishes strict penalties for extremist and terrorist activities — strengthening the activities of law enforcement agencies through constant monitoring by special services and the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and promoting international cooperation by implementing anti-terrorism conventions within the framework of the UN, SCO, and CIS. Education also plays an essential role in preventing extremism by building ideological immunity in schools and universities and directing the younger generation toward a strong civic position. Religious knowledge should be correctly delivered through explanations by imams and scholars, while culture and art — such as theater, cinema, and literature — should promote the ideas of tolerance. Ensuring information security and media literacy is equally important: young people must be taught to recognize false and manipulative information, Internet monitoring systems should be established to detect and block extremist content, and positive content should be created based on national values to inspire youth. Civil society and public institutions play a vital role in prevention — non-governmental and community organizations conduct educational events, families must raise children with care and guidance to prevent them from falling into negative influences, and local communities must pay attention to the psychological and social well-being of their residents. From a scientific perspective, extremism often appears as “ideological radicalism,” referring to ideas and actions aimed at drastically changing political or

religious systems, while terrorism manifests as “practical violence.” They complement each other and jointly threaten social order. For example, groups such as ISIS, Al-Qaeda, or other radical religious organizations spread their ideology through extremist doctrines and strengthen it with acts of terrorism. The causes of extremism and terrorism are deeply rooted in psychological, economic, and cultural factors. Psychological problems such as feelings of rejection, injustice, and worthlessness in society, geopolitical factors such as war zones in Syria and Afghanistan where extremist groups operate, and global migration and information flows leading to clashes between nations, beliefs, and cultures — all contribute to their rise. The consequences of extremism and terrorism are extensive. Socially, they create fear and distrust among people, disrupt stability, and provoke religious, ethnic, or political conflicts that can lead to wars and violence. Economically, they destroy infrastructure, reduce investments, and cause crises in production and trade, while forcing governments to increase defense spending at the expense of other sectors. Morally and culturally, they erode the values of peace, tolerance, and compassion, spread false religious beliefs, and suppress artistic and cultural freedom. Psychologically, those affected by such events suffer trauma, fear, depression, and stress, while children and youth may develop aggression and anxiety. Politically, they threaten state sovereignty, weaken government control, cause instability, and erode public trust, while sometimes serving as an excuse to restrict freedoms and violate human rights. In conclusion, combating extremism and terrorism is not limited to punishment or technical measures; it is a deep social and spiritual process that requires the cooperation of legal, educational, informational, religious, and civic institutions. In particular, working with the youth is crucial to instill in them the ideas of tolerance, justice, and patriotism, and to build ideological immunity against extremist ideologies. Only through these efforts can a stable, peaceful, and prosperous society be built.

Combating extremism and terrorism is not limited to punishment or technical measures — it is a deep social and spiritual process. It requires cooperation between legal, educational, informational, religious, and civil institutions. Particularly, working with young people, instilling ideas of tolerance, justice, and patriotism in their minds, and creating ideological immunity against extremist doctrines are essential. Only then can a stable, peaceful, and prosperous society be established.

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