

NETWORK OF EXCELLENCE FOR RESEARCH
IN VIOLENT ONLINE POLITICAL EXTREMISM

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Online Extremism Today: Who, What, When, Where, and Why



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1. Who? – Jihadis



1. So-called 'Islamic State' (IS)
+ IS franchises/affiliates (e.g. Abu Sayyaf, IS in Somalia/*Abnaa ul-Calipha*)
2. Other violent jihadis (e.g. Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham, al-Shabab, Boko Haram)

Shared ideology of violent jihadism:

An ideology whose adherents aim to reorder government and society through the implementation by violence of Islamic law (i.e. Sharia)



2. What? – Jihadis



- Statements / 'Press Releases'
- Still images – mostly battle footage now
- Infographics
- Videos – from shorts to 'feature films'
- Magazines/Newspapers (*an-Na'aba*)



In local and large number of global, including EU, languages



3. When? – Jihadis



- All the time
- But uptick after attacks
- Also, some coordination



4. Where? – Jihadis



IS – Under Sustained Pressure

- Largely Telegram
- Content hosting sites
- Some Dark Web

Other Jihadis – Differential Disruption

- Still on mainstream platforms
- Also Telegram



5. Why? – Jihadis



IS

- No longer recruiting, but still radicalising
- Making threats
- Trying to stay relevant and show they still have capacity

Other Jihadis

- Projection of power



1. Who? – XRight



- Encompasses extreme nationalists, white supremacists, fascists, National Socialists/Nazis, and/or so-called 'alt-right'
- Struggle to differentiate users, social media accounts, etc., espousing traditionally violent extremist views (e.g. Nazi or neo-Nazi) from those more radical populist (e.g. around anti-immigration, Islam)




Shared core of beliefs around superiority of native/European/white people and culture; destruction of Europe by black/Muslim refugee/migrant 'hordes'; often described as orchestrated by 'globalists'



2. What? – XRRight



- Social media posts
- Websites
- Videos
- Memes

 Lots of coded language and symbols (e.g. 'globalists,' 1488, etc.)



3. When? – XRRight



- Piggyback terrorist attacks/protests (#GiletsJaunes)/high profile crimes/trending hashtags (#StopRacismo)
- Take all opportunities to enter 'mainstream' (e.g. comments sections of news websites)



4. Where? – Xright



- The 'Big' platforms: Facebook, YouTube, Twitter
- Other heavily trafficked platforms: Reddit, 4Chan, 8Chan
- Dedicated platforms: Gab, BitChute
- Online Forums: Stormfront, Iron Forge
- Websites: Daily Stormer, Voice of Europe, Nordfront



5. Why? – Jihadis



- Radicalisation of individuals (“red pilling”)
- Recruitment of individuals
- Shift the Overton Window (i.e. the range of ideas tolerated in public discourse)



Summing-up: What's Your Context?



Need to do your homework and drill down into your local context:

- **Who** are you targeting?
- **What** are they consuming/social networking around?
- **When** are they most accessible online?
- **Where** are they hanging out online?
- **Why** are they attracted to extremist content?



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