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A Comparative Analysis of Australian and Canadian Foreign Fighters Traveling to Syria and Iraq

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ABSTRACT

This article provides a comparative analysis of Jihadist foreign fighters who traveled from Australia and Canada to engage in the conflict in Syria and Iraq. Data are provided on the demographics of those who traveled, group affiliations, when and how they traveled, and their social connections. Despite the strong similarities between these societies, significant differences are detected across levels of educational attainment, immediate familial status, and the degree of connection to existing Jihadist networks. The Australian and Canadian foreign fighters also differ, in key respects, from their European counterparts, and even those from the United States. Consideration is given to the possible significance of these differences, as well as the possible return of those currently detained in the region.

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