



Federal Bureau of Investigation

Title of Instruction:	Islamism and Militancy
Time of Instruction:	1 hour
Target Group:	New Agent Trainees and Regional IT
Instructor:	CTC Staff
Methods of Instruction:	Lecture with Q & A throughout the course of instruction
Additional Information:	N/A
Date:	Habitual

Statement of Goals and Objectives

Instructional Goal:

This block of instruction seeks to educate the students regarding Islamism and Sunni extremist ideology. During this block, the instructor will trace the development of Sunni extremism from the 13th to the 20th century, while providing an understanding of Islamism, Wahhabism, and Salafism.

Instructional Objectives:

After 1 hour of instruction, the learner will be able to:

1. Describe the roots of Islamic militancy since the 7th century
2. Restate the definition of Islamism
3. List the key Islamist ideologues
4. Explain the history and evolution of Salafism
5. Explain why the appeal of Islamists is stronger when governments lack legitimacy

Criterion Test Questions



b7E

Criterion Test Answers



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List of Items and Materials

Equipment / Aids Required for Instructor:

- Overhead Proxima projector
- Computer
- Pointer
- PowerPoint
- Dry erase board

Equipment / Aids Required for Students:

- CTC West Point handbook with note-taking space provided
- Pencil/pen

Power Point Slides or Outline:

Outline

1. Title Slide
2. Origins of Islamism and Militancy
 - The Mongol invasion and ibn Taymiyya
 - The decline of the Ottoman Empire and Mohammad bin Abd al-Wahhab
 - Colonialism, the creation of the Israeli state, and Sayyid Qutb
3. Recap of Khawarji 661 AD
4. Loss of Territory
5. Decline of the Ottoman Empire
6. Colonialism, Failure of Arab Nationalism, and Israel
7. Response: Mawdudi and Jama'at-i-Islami
8. Response: Muslim Brotherhood and Sayyid Qutb
9. Sayyid Qutb's Ideas
10. Key Take-Aways

Handouts:

- Provided by CTC West Point

Outline of Activities

Content	Instructor Notes
Grabber: <i>(Please see attached presentation)</i> Introduction: Instructors introduce themselves and their credentials. Thesis Statement: The problem of militancy is not a new development, in fact, since its inception, Islamic history has witnessed militant organizations and ideologues that seceded from the mainstream and advocated a radical version of the religion. The worldviews and doctrines of notable pre-modern militant ideologues still play a significant role in the attitude and ideology of modern Sunni terror groups. Needs Statement: Understanding contemporary manifestations of militant Islamist organizations requires the study of early and medieval Islamic history and the role of leading militant ideologues. Objective #1: Describe the roots of Islamic militancy since the 7th century. Discuss the Khawarij, the first militant Islamic organization in history. Explain their worldview, doctrine, modus operandi, and why they seceded from the Army of the 4th Caliph Ali and assassinated him. Objective #2: Restate the definition of Islamism. Explain the political ideology of Islamism, the belief that Islam should serve as the primary source of law, culture, and politics in a given society. Objective #3: List the key Islamist ideologues. Discuss the life and journey of Hanbali cleric Ahmed ibn Taymiyya, his worldviews, and his contributions to the world of militancy. Explain the significance of this medieval Islamist thinker and how his ideology still influences and motivates modern terror organizations. Discuss the life and worldviews of Hanbali cleric and	Emphasize that Islamism is a political ideology, and not a theology or sect of Islam.

founder of Wahhabi ideology Muhammad bin Abd al-Wahhab. Elaborate on the impact of his ideology and the significance of his alliance with the Saudi clan in 18th century Arabia.

Objective #4: Explain the history and evolution of Salafism

Discuss the formation of the Salafi movement by Afghani and Abdu at the turn of the 20th century, its main tenants and overall political orientation. Explain how Salafism has evolved throughout the 20th century from a movement of modernity to its current form as a puritan, anti-western political ideology. Explain the relevance of Saudi Arabia to the spread of Salafism today.

Objective #5: Explain why the appeal of Islamists is stronger when governments lack legitimacy

Discuss the sources of appeal of Islamist movements in the Middle East and clarify how these movements grow and benefit from the failures of secular or moderate regimes in the region.

Summary/Conclusion: Islamism is a political ideology that strives to make Islam the primary source of law, culture, and politics (governance) in a Muslim dominated country. Islamism is not just political resistance against West, but also cultural resistance to western values. In the turbulent history of the Middle East, Islamist organizations and movements have often gained power and acceptance among populations when secular, nationalist governments fail to deliver and lack legitimacy.

Emphasize that Salafism is not inherently violent, but that groups like al-Qa'ida garner legitimacy from their Salafi roots. The difference between a Salafi and a Salafi-jihadi is the belief that violent jihad is required in order to achieve Salafi goals.

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Articles:

“Understanding Islamism,” *Middle East/North Africa Report* 37, 2 March 2005, International Crisis Group, <http://www.crisisgroup.org/home/index.cfm?id=3301&l=1>.