

## **ISLAM AND THE CONTEMPORARY DISCOURSE OF EXTREMISM**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Extremism as precursor to terrorism and in certain cases even as the root cause of terrorism and socio-political violence is a mainstay nowadays among scholars, policymakers and journalists alike. It has become the master signifier of the late 'war on terror' and provided a new lens through which to view Muslims and Islam. Various circles opposed to Islam are playing the most effective role in planting this fear into people's minds and virtually led to a cottage industry of Islamophobia.

In recent times, the subsequent horrendous killings and serial bomb explosions in major metropolitan cities around the world have further led to a burgeoning interest in this phenomenon in the academic arena as well.

What Islam and the Holy texts itself says about this discourse of extremism, in this article, a sincere effort will be put forward to answer all the related questions.

**KEYWORDS:** Islam, Extremism, Al-Ifrāt, Al-Tafrīt, Al-Wasāṭiyyah, Moderation