

EUROPE'S WAR AGAINST RADICAL EXTREMISM



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From the beheading of a school teacher in **Paris** followed by an attack in **Nice** and the same in **Vienna**, the whole of Europe is in shock amid the global pandemic Covid-19.

All these things can be linked to **Extremism**. Currently, Europe is battling Islamic Extremism. All these things have also be seen related to **Jihad**.



According to 2020 Europol's TE-SAT, Jihadism is described as “**a violent ideology exploiting traditional Islamic concepts**” which can also refer to religiously sanctioned warfare and aim to create an Islamic state.

For years, Europe has been the hub for refugees from Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan. Europe accepted them as their responsibility.



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But things became unstable when the people from outside did not accept the culture of that country and wanted to impose their own culture on the people of that country.



Rise of extremism

There was a rise in terrorist incidents in Europe after 2014. The years 2014-16 saw more people killed than all the previous years combined.

The previous attacks were mainly carried out by ISIL and Al Qaeda. Earlier most of the attacks were carried out by groups and involved bombs, but since 2014, major number of attacks have been carried out by individuals using guns or knives.





According to French President Emmanuel Macron, Islamists have created a parallel culture in France that rejects French values, custom and laws.

The statement came just after the beheading of a history teacher, Samuel Paty, who showed his students some caricatures of Mohammed that had been published by the satirical magazine **Charlie Hebdo** in 2015. The murderer was an 18 years old Chechen extremist.

The cartoons published by the magazine have inspired many terrorist attacks, including the killings of 12 people at the Charlie Hebdo's office in 2015.



Reaction From The Islamic World

It's not just the terrorist groups that had added fuel to the fire in the wake of the controversy. Various current and former leaders of the Islamic world were outspoken in their condemnation of the French President.

"Muslims have a right to be angry and to kill millions of French people for the massacres of the past." said former Malaysian PM **Mahathir Mohammed**. The Muslim Cheer-Leader **Recep Tayyip Erdogan** said Emmanuel Macron needs "psychiatric treatment".

Overzealous Pakistan also came out in opposition of France and passed a resolution to call back its ambassador from France, but they forgot that they don't have any ambassador in France for the last few months.



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NONE OF THE ISLAMIC COUNTRIES HAVE CONDEMNED THE TERRORIST ATTACKS.

Retaliation from the European side

At present, the whole of Europe is simultaneously condemning Islamic terrorism.



In response to the development, the **UK** raised its terrorism threat level to “**Severe**” – indicating an attack is “considered highly likely”.

The **French Prez. Emmanuel Macron** asked the French council of Muslim worship (CFCM) to signup a charter of “**Republican values**” in a move that singles out Europe’s largest Muslim population.

Macron wants the CFCM to declare publicly that Islam is only a religion and NOT a political movement

The council has already agreed to set up a national body in France that will oversee the **accreditation of Imams** in the country.

The council has been given a 15 days ultimatum.

The draft legislation, which will be discussed next month, would dissolve Muslim NGOs if their “actions threaten human dignity” or if they “exercise psychological or physical pressure on others”. The draft also introduces an emergency procedure on the basis of which the Minister of Interior can suspend the activities of an organization for 3 months.

In a speech earlier, Macron described Islam as being “**in crisis all over the world**” and defended the rights of the Charlie Hebdo magazine.

By giving Samuel Paty **Légion d’Honneur**, the highest civilian award, France made it’s intention clear.



Macron has promised a crackdown on Islamist extremism, including shutting down mosques and other organizations accused of fomenting radicalism and violence.

The French government has also prepared a bill to prevent radicalization. Some tough measures have been proposed. Homeschooling will be restricted to discourage Madrasa styled education.

There’s a provision for harsh punishment for those who intimidate public officials on legal grounds. The proposed Law also wants children to have an identification number, which will be used to ensure that they are attending school. Parents who will break this law could face up to six months in prison as well as large fines.

Filming the police will be banned in France. Anyone found guilty will be fined heavily and/or sent to Jail.

France turns the screws on Pakistan too. The French firm **Dassault Aviation** has denied upgrading Mirage fighter jets, Air defense system, and Submarine. It’s a direct fallout of PM Imran Khan’s loud criticism of French Prez. Emmanuel Macron. France has also told Qatar not to allow any Pakistan-origin technicians to work with the Rafale fighter planes over concerns that they could leak tech information to Islamabad.

Airstrike in Mali

Just after the attacks in Paris and Nice, the French government confirmed, its forces have killed more than 50 jihadists aligned to Al-Qaeda in Air strikes in Central Mali.

Africa’s Sahel region has been a hub for extremists for a long time. The region is facing many difficulties and challenges including the growing threat of terrorism.



More than 5000 French military personnel are currently deployed in the Sahel region. French Defence Minister, Florence Parly, recently announced that the forces have killed **Bah ag Moussa**, a military leader of Al-Qaeda’s North Africa wing.

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Macron also condemned western media for their insensitivity and appeasement. The New York Times headline the article, “A Teacher, His Killer, And The Failure of French Integration”.

Thus, it is a random teacher, a random killer, but the conclusion is about “French Failure”.

Austria has strongly condemned the terrorist incident in which a total of 4 people were killed, including 2 women. The convict was identified as 20 years old Islamic radical, who was released early from jail in December 2019.



The Austrian cabinet headed by chancellor **Sebastian Kurz**(34), has agreed to begin a crackdown on extremism and implement a wide range of anti-terrorism measures.

The cabinet proposals include:

- 1. The convict will be sent to life prison if convicted in a terrorism case.
- 2. Digital surveillance of people convicted of terrorism charges after release.
- 3. A complete ban on Political Islam.
- 4. The process of closing mosques will become easier.
- 5. The old convicts will be put in jail again if there’s an alert of a terrorist attack.
- 6. People coming from outside will be constantly monitored. France already has made such a list of around 8,000 people.

Denmark, where cartoons of the Prophet Mohammed that triggered a global backlash among Muslims were first published in 2005, said it stood in solidarity with France over a new surge in outrage.

“*Freedom of expression is a fundamental value in a democracy*”, the Danish Foreign Minister Jeppe Kofod told a news channel.

Denmark has already prepared itself to deal with Bigotry and Extremism.

In Denmark, a law has been made for the children of the Muslim community. According to the law, it is mandatory for each and every Muslim children to stay 25 hours apart from their parents every week. During those 25 hours, children will be taught about Denmark’s culture and history. Children will also be told about Christmas and Easter. According to the Danish government, by doing this, they want to make their children aware of the **secular culture** of their country.

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CONCLUSION

The European States recognize that the vast majority of Muslims in Europe do not engage in violence or terrorist activities. But at the same time, they admit the existence of small cells, which are considered to be radical Islamists, prone to violence and with links to Al-Qaeda or Daesh(ISIL). The majority of Muslims in Europe are immigrants and almost half are political refugees. Muslims are settling in Europe and their numbers will increase in years to come. Given this reality, the European States should do their utmost to further their integration, and Muslims should contribute by showing their attachment and loyalty to their **New Home Countries**.

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