



The National Defense College
44th Class 2016-2017

Final Paper Research Proposal

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The subject of the paper:

Modern Jihadism: The Case of Singapore and Europe Muslims.

Background:

The rise of the Islamic State (IS) has presented a new form of warfare, touted as the modern jihadism. Their extreme ideology, sophisticated organization and operational methods have created a profound impact on the psyche of societies and the response frameworks of states worldwide. The ideological and terrorist threats affecting European and Western countries are viewed with deep concerns, as seen from the issues of radicalization and deadly terrorist attacks in these regions in recent years. Concomitantly, the influence of extremism and modern terrorism, as espoused by the IS, has intensified from the epicenter of the Middle East towards Asia and South East Asia. Singapore, being in the midst of this turmoil in South East Asia, faces the same daunting challenges as the others. Lately, IS-claimed terrorist attacks in Indonesia and Malaysia, as well as the discovery of terror plots against Singapore, meant that the occurrence of an attack in Singapore is not a matter of “if”, but “when”.

Be it in Europe or Singapore, countries are grappling with the phenomenon of modern jihadism, such as understanding its impact on societies, how it impinges national security and ultimately what the responses should be. The inextricable link of modern jihadism to the radical interpretations of Islamic teachings and perpetration of terrorism typically by individuals self-identified as Muslims, has put the Muslims in any country that is affected by the phenomenon “in the limelight” for two reasons. First, the Muslim community is most vulnerable to the influences of extremist ideology and they are potential perpetrators or supporters of terrorist acts. Secondly, this group will be subjected to a certain perception from the rest of the society, who cannot but feel apprehensive about the presence of Muslims in their environments. The social status and image of the Muslims will be profoundly affected depending on the counter-extremism and counter-terrorism efforts of the state, as well as the reactions of the society in general.

Goal of the paper:

1. To examine the influence of modern jihadism on the Muslim population of a state, in relations to its national security and social compact.
2. To analyze and understand the similarities and differences of this influence between Singapore and Europe due to the different cultural, geographical and political environments.

Research questions:

How is the national security and social compact of a country affected by the influence of modern jihadism on its Muslim population? What can be learned from the comparative study between Singapore's and Europe's strategies to counter extremism and terrorism?

Research claims (if any):

1. South East Asia is an ideal hub for ideological extremism and is a vast resource potential for modern terrorism to breed. A proper handling of the Muslim situation in Singapore is a must for Singapore's stability and security.
2. As the phenomenon of modern terrorism and extremism will only exacerbate in the near future, Singapore has to continuously learn and adapt its strategies.

Method of presenting the idea of the research (Outline):

This paper will focus only on the Muslim population, and not the other ethnic groups of a society, not that the latter is not susceptible to the influences of extremism or terrorism but rather the close relations between jihadism and Islam/Muslims described in the background section is worthwhile for further investigation. Within the limits of this scope, the analysis will examine the impact to national security in the social, economical, military, political and legal aspects of a state or region.

1. Introduction: Present the subject to be studied and research methodology.
2. Critical analysis on Singapore's Muslims.
3. Critical analysis of Europe's Muslims.
4. Comparison of Singapore and Europe.
5. Recommendations and Conclusion.

The importance / novelty of the paper:

Threats of extremism and modern terrorism are getting more sophisticated and their effects penetrate many facets of a modern society. As the perpetrators of terrorism modernize their methods and tactics, policymakers and practitioners must keep pace with the relevance and effectiveness of the counter-measures. In Europe, one of its biggest challenges with regard to its Muslim population is being dealt with and given the complex environment it faces from the immigrant issues, economic situation and nationalistic sentiments, valuable insights for strengthening national security strategies can be derived.

Gantt Chart : “Modern Jihadism: The Case of Singapore and Europe Muslims”

S/N	Tasks	Start Date	End Date	Duration (Days)
1	Brainstorm topic	1 Oct 16	20 Oct 16	20
2	Proposal for Final Paper	21 Oct 16	4 Nov 16	15
2.1	Draft research proposal	21 Oct 16	24 Oct 16	4
2.2	Topic discussion with Team Instructor	25 Oct 16	27 Oct 16	3
2.3	Topic discussion with Academic Advisor	28 Oct 16	1 Nov 16	5
2.4	Complete research proposal	2 Nov 16	4 Nov 16	3
3	Research and Reading	5 Nov 16	4 Dec 16	30
3.1	Methodology	5 Nov 16	9 Nov 16	5
3.2	Refine scope of work / Mind-map	10 Nov 16	19 Nov 16	10
3.3	Preliminary writing	20 Nov 16	4 Dec 16	15
4	Presentation to MG Tamir Haiman	- Dec 16	- Dec 16	3
5	Chapter 1: Introduction	15 Dec 16	24 Dec 16	10
5.1	Draft Introduction	15 Dec 16	20 Dec 16	6
5.2	Feedback on Introduction	21 Dec 16	24 Dec 16	4
6	Chapter 2	25 Dec 16	7 Jan 17	14
6.1	Draft Chapter 2	25 Dec 16	3 Jan 17	10
6.2	Feedback on Chapter 2	4 Jan 17	7 Jan 17	4
7	Chapter 3	8 Jan 17	21 Jan 17	14
7.1	Draft Chapter 3	8 Jan 17	17 Jan 17	10
7.2	Feedback on Chapter 3	18 Jan 17	21 Jan 17	4
8	Chapter 4	22 Jan 17	4 Feb 17	14
8.1	Draft Chapter 4	22 Jan 17	31 Jan 17	10
8.2	Feedback on Chapter 4	1 Feb 17	4 Feb 17	4
9	Chapter 5: Recommendations and Conclusion	5 Feb 17	16 Feb 17	12
9.1	Draft Recommendations and Conclusion	5 Feb 17	12 Feb 17	8
9.2	Feedback on Recommendations and Conclusion	13 Feb 17	16 Feb 17	4
10	Status update	17 Feb 17	20 Feb 17	4
10.1	Preparation	17 Feb 17	19 Feb 17	3
10.2	Presentation on status of the draft	20 Feb 17	20 Feb 17	1
11	Completion	21 Feb 17	6 May 17	73
11.1	Final amendments (Instructor / Advisor)	21 Feb 17	1 Apr 17	40
11.2	Abstract / Acknowledgement / Bibliography	2 Apr 17	23 Apr 17	22
11.3	Proof-read	24 Apr 17	3 May 17	10
11.4	Print and Bind	4 May 17	6 May 17	3
12	Submission of Final Paper	7 May 17	7 May 17	1
13	Presentation of Final Paper	2 Jul 17	2 Jul 17	1