

**SCTMG 2023****International Scientific Conference «Social and Cultural Transformations in the Context of  
Modern Globalism»****MAIN DIRECTIONS OF COUNTERING TERRORISM AND  
EXTREMISM IN MODERN CONDITIONS**

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**Abstract**

Terrorism and extremism have become the global problems of our time. The unprecedented surge of these crimes and the large number of victims cause concern for the entire world community. The dynamics of human needs is connected with ensuring national security, where the threat of terrorism and extremism is the most acute. The article reveals the essence of terrorism and its types, the main motives of extremism, responsibility for extremism and its variant terrorism. The work deals with the elements of terrorism and prevention of terrorist and other extremist activities. The peculiarities of adolescence and the risk of young people being drawn into terrorist sects are analysed. There are priorities in the work on prevention of extremism among young people. The role of the state and Russian citizens in the fight against terrorism is shown, including activities of the state-wide system of counter-terrorism. The prevention of terrorism is the activity of public authorities, public authorities of administrative-territorial formations of the state, local self-government bodies and public associations to prevent terrorism or terrorist activity. This consists in the identification, localisation and elimination of causes and conditions conducive to the emergence and spread of terrorism and terrorist activity, the commission of acts of terrorism, the protection of objects of potential terrorism. There is also the prevention of terrorism, the prevention of terrorism and terrorist activities, and the prevention of the spread of terrorism

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## 1. Introduction

Modern Russian society is in a state of deep transformation of its value system, due to the modernization of various aspects of social life. The processes of globalization, which have covered the spheres of economics, politics and culture, involve the population of countries in migration flows of different nature and scale, which leads to the complication of structural connections within specific societies and the world community as a whole. These factors, to a certain extent, aggravate tension in interethnic relations, often causing interethnic conflicts. Against this background, numerous opposition groups are emerging that seek to achieve their goals through the use of extremist and terrorist methods. This situation is due to the fact that globalization and migration create conditions for interaction between representatives of different cultures, religions and nationalities. As a result, there are both opportunities for cultural exchange and mutual enrichment, and risks of interethnic clashes and tensions. In addition, globalization leads to increased economic inequality and social polarization, which creates a breeding ground for the emergence of extremist sentiments. Inequality breeds discontent and frustration among certain segments of the population, which can be used by extremist groups to attract new members and fuel conflicts. In such conditions, strengthening inter-ethnic ties, developing intercultural dialogue and tolerance, as well as countering extremist propaganda and activities are of particular importance. To do this, it is necessary to implement targeted government policy aimed at creating conditions for the harmonious coexistence of representatives of different cultures and nationalities.

## 2. Problem Statement

The problem of counter-terrorism is not losing its relevance. It reminds us of itself in many corners of the world. And people have to accept the existence of this cruel and disgusting phenomenon. We also have to take it into account (Lipovaya & Kornienko, 2016).

It is crucial for both the state and public institutions to find the keys to solving this problem. After all, by directing their strikes against state authorities, terrorists do so by escalating violence against peaceful citizens.

And this is not accidental: an atmosphere of fear can be created by threatening those who live quiet lives without realising that they have already become a target. But tension and panic are only an intermediate goal of terrorists. Their ultimate goal is to exploit widespread fear and put pressure on power, even seize it.

The terrorists' calculation is obvious: with their bloody actions they cause a natural reaction of a normal person to a threat to his life, health, well-being. A person is afraid and involuntarily commits actions that are favourable to terrorists. Using this, the bandits put pressure on the authorities, blackmailing them and trying to extort what they want. That is why it is necessary to understand that the best weapon against terror is not to create conditions for success for those who carry it out. To do this, it is necessary to understand the motives of terrorists, the tools they use to achieve their goals. And most importantly, it is necessary to understand what depends on each citizen in the fight against this phenomenon, what behaviour in everyday life and in extreme situations can knock the ground out from

under the feet of those who sow death, destruction and panic (Giza, 2024; Mambetova et al., 2024; Mascareno & Chavez, 2024).

### 3. Research Questions

To successfully counter extremism and terrorism, it is necessary to know and understand the criminal nature of these phenomena.

Extremism and its variant terrorism poses a real danger both to the international community as a whole and to our State in particular.

Extremism is a commitment of individuals, groups, organisations to extreme, radical views, positions and measures in public activities (Collet-Sabé, 2023; Manakbayeva, 2023; Sheveleva, 2024).

Extremism permeates the deepest levels of our collective consciousness, encompassing social psychology, moral standards and ideological beliefs. It manifests itself in relations between social groups (social extremism), ethnic and national communities (ethnic and national extremism), public organizations, political parties and states (political extremism). In addition, extremism extends to the spiritual sphere, manifesting itself in religious extremism, which fuels conflicts between different faiths. Social extremism fuels antagonism and mistrust between different social groups, leading to polarization and division of society. Ethnic and national extremism divides people by ethnicity or nationality, sowing the seeds of discrimination and hatred. Political extremism manifests itself in extreme political ideologies that seek power and control over the population. Religious extremism exploits religious beliefs and texts to justify violence and discrimination against those who hold different views. Extremism at all levels undermines social harmony, understanding and progress. It suppresses dissent, fuels conflict and erects barriers between people. To effectively counter extremism, we need to combat it at all levels by promoting tolerance, encouraging intergroup dialogue and defending the fundamental values of our society such as equality, freedom and mutual respect (Mele, 2022; Nikulin, 2023; Rawel, 2022).

### 4. Purpose of the Study

Extremism is diverse, and so are the motives that give rise to it. The main motives are material, ideological desire for transformation and dissatisfaction with the real situation, power over people, interest in a new kind of active activity, comradeship, self-assertion, youth romance, heroism, playfulness, attractiveness of mortal danger.

Extremist activity (extremism) is (Karavaev, 2023; Trunov, 2006):

- i. violent change of the foundations of the constitutional order and violation of the integrity of the Russian Federation;
- ii. public justification of terrorism and other terrorist activities;
- iii. incitement of social, racial, national or religious discord;
- iv. propaganda of exclusivity, superiority or inferiority of a person on the grounds of his or her social, racial, national, religious or linguistic affiliation or attitude to religion;

- v. obstruction of lawful activities of state bodies, local self-government bodies, election commissions, public and religious associations or other organisations, combined with violence or threat of violence;
- vi. committing offences on the grounds specified in paragraph "e" of part one of article 63 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation;
- vii. propaganda and public display of Nazi attributes or symbols or attributes or symbols that are confusingly similar to Nazi attributes or symbols;
- viii. organisation and preparation of the said acts, as well as incitement to their implementation;
- ix. financing the said acts or other assistance in their organisation, preparation and implementation, including by providing training, printing, material and technical resources, telephone and other types of communication or information services.

Extremism manifests itself in numerous forms, reflecting the equally diverse palette of motives that fuel it. These driving forces can be classified into several main categories:

Material incentives:

- i. The desire to gain wealth, status, or material goods.
- ii. The desire for access to resources or control over territories.

Ideological aspirations for change:

- i. Deep dissatisfaction with the existing state of affairs.
- ii. The desire to radically change society or the political system.
- iii. Adherence to an ideology that justifies violence or extremist actions.

Psychological factors:

- i. Thirst for power and control over others.
- ii. Search for novelty and adrenaline.
- iii. The desire for camaraderie and belonging to a group of like-minded people.
- iv. The desire to assert oneself and prove one's worth.
- v. Relational maximalism and romanticization of violence.
- vi. The attraction of mortal danger and heroism.

Recklessness and impulsiveness. In the area of countering extremist activity, the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation and its territorial bodies shall exercise the following powers:

- i. In case of revealing facts indicating the presence of signs of extremism in the activities of a public or religious association or other organisation, they must issue a written warning to the organisation in question about the inadmissibility of such activities;
- ii. In cases established by law, they shall apply to the court with a petition for liquidation of a public or religious association;
- iii. When applying to the court, in cases established by law, they take decisions to suspend the activities of a public or religious association.

## 5. Research Methods

An extremist organisation is a public or religious association or other organisation in respect of which a court has issued an effective decision on liquidation or prohibition of activities in connection with extremist activities (Antonyan et al., 2008; Bryatova, 2005; Sokolov, 2022).

Extremist materials are documents or information on other media intended for publication, calling for extremist activities or justifying the need to carry out such activities, including the writings of the leaders of the National Socialist Workers' Party of Germany and the Fascist Party of Italy. Such publications justify national and/or racial superiority or the practice of committing war or other crimes aimed at the complete destruction of the human rights of the people, including the National Socialist Workers' Party of Germany and the Fascist Party of Italy.

The political practice of extremism finds expression in various forms of extremist activity, ranging from manifestations that do not exceed constitutional limits to such acute and socially dangerous forms as rebellion, insurgency and terrorism.

Terrorism in the domestic legal literature is considered as an extreme form of extremism.

Sometimes it seems that terrorism as a social phenomenon is a recent phenomenon. However, this is not the case. The history of terrorist ideology and practice goes back more than two thousand years.

The study of the essence and history of terrorism inevitably leads to the question: "If terrorism is a social evil, why has it not yet been eradicated? The answer is not simple. The fact is that terrorism is a very complex social phenomenon. In the system of its causes and preconditions, there are phenomena that go far beyond terrorism as such.

Terrorist activity is known to increase when states undergo major changes. Such upheavals as wars and revolutions are prerequisites for the emergence of extremist national and religious movements and organisations, as well as separatism. Such events were abundant at the turn of the 20th and 21st centuries. This trend is particularly pronounced at the borders of different cultures and epochs of historical development, above all when bloody conflicts have been ignited and extinguished for many centuries. Another factor in the intensification of terrorist activities, which we are still witnessing today, is the difference in ideological doctrines, political views and religious beliefs, especially when they are professed by radicalised people.

The challenge of countering terrorism is also that it is not a homogeneous phenomenon. Terrorism is multifaceted, it is based on different motivations and goals, and different means and methods are used to achieve them. Today there are at least four types of terrorism (Volkhin et al., 2007).

- i. Political terrorism is aimed at seizing power in a country, forcing its leaders to make certain decisions and take certain actions, up to and including relinquishing power. A variation of political terrorism is ideological terrorism, the purpose of which is to establish a particular type of political power in a country (fascism, anarchism, etc.).
- ii. Nationalist terrorism aims to separate an ethnically whole part from the state, create its own state entity and lead it.

- iii. The following goals form the basis of religious terrorism: first, to undermine secular power and establish religious power and, second, to achieve absolute domination of one's own religion over other faiths up to the creation of a mono-confessional world.
- iv. Criminal terrorism goal is to force the authorities to adopt laws and other decisions that facilitate the life of the criminal community. A variation of this terrorist trend is economic terrorism, which aims to achieve dominance in the economic sphere through the use of terrorist means and methods of fighting competitors.

Cyberterrorism (war in the Internet space) is sometimes distinguished, but it is rather a means of achieving political, ideological, nationalist, religious and criminal goals, as well as individual and pathological terrorism. Cases of terrorist acts committed by loners or mentally handicapped people are quite rare.

These types of terrorism rarely exist in their pure form. More often than not, they are intertwined, forming complex social constructs with mixed goals, means and modus operandi. In addition, terrorists of one strand sometimes dress up as terrorists of other strands. For example, it is not uncommon for nationalist terrorists to adopt religious slogans, destroy government officials, or participate in the criminal redistribution of the economic market.

The establishment and activities of organisations whose aims or actions are aimed at propaganda, justification and support for terrorism or the commission of offences under articles 205 to 206, 208, 211, 277 to 280, 282.1, 282.2 and 360 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation shall be prohibited in the Russian Federation.

In its socio-political essence, terrorism is the systematic, socially or politically motivated, ideologically based use of violence or threats thereof, through which, by intimidating individuals, their behaviour is managed in a direction favourable to the terrorists and the terrorists' objectives are achieved.

Terrorism involves several interrelated elements:

- i. terrorism ideology (theories, concepts, ideological and political platforms);
- ii. terrorist structures (international and national terrorist organisations, extremist right-wing and left-wing, nationalist, religious and other social organisations, organised crime structures, etc.);
- iii. terrorist practices (terrorist activities).

It is impossible to prepare for a terrorist attack in advance, so you should always be alert.

## **6. Findings**

Ensuring the security of society from the threat of terrorism and extremism requires an integrated and multifaceted approach implemented at the state level. Preventive measures carried out by authorized bodies include a wide range of political, socio-economic, informational, educational, organizational, operational investigative, legal and special measures. These measures are aimed at preventing terrorist and other extremist activities, their timely detection and suppression, minimizing the consequences of such manifestations and creating unfavorable conditions for the emergence and spread of such ideas.

The key elements of this system are:

- i. Political measures: development and implementation of strategies to counter terrorism and extremism, strengthening cooperation between government agencies and civil society.

- ii. Socio-economic measures: ensuring economic well-being and social justice, reducing poverty and unemployment, creating conditions for self-realization and integration of vulnerable groups into society.
- iii. Information measures: countering the spread of extremist propaganda in the media and the Internet, raising public awareness of the harm and danger of extremism.
- iv. Educational measures: promoting tolerance, respect for human rights and cultural diversity through educational programs, youth initiatives and public campaigns.
- v. Organizational measures: creation of specialized structures to coordinate activities to counter terrorism and extremism, improvement of the system for monitoring and early warning of threats.
- vi. Operational investigative measures: timely detection, suppression and documentation of criminal activities related to terrorism and extremism.
- vii. Legal measures: adoption and improvement of legislation establishing legal liability for terrorist and extremist activities, as well as measures to prevent and counter such manifestations.
- viii. Special measures: implementation of a set of measures to ensure the security of critical facilities, social facilities and crowded places, as well as preparation and conduct of counter-terrorism operations.

The comprehensive implementation of these measures allows the state and society to effectively counter the threats of terrorism and extremism, ensuring the safety of citizens and stability in the country.

In order to prevent extremism in the youth environment, it is necessary to distinguish extremist groups from informal youth associations. In informal associations there is no clear membership and they are usually considered as formations that unite young people on the basis of subculture (Latin sub - "under" + culture).

Adolescents are becoming increasingly involved in nationalist groups. Unlike regular groups of teenagers who commit hooliganism or vandalism, usually with the aim of "having fun", informal extremist groups carry out their illegal actions to "overcome all political and economic problems in the country in order to create a 'purely national' state", as they believe this will serve as a guarantee against any threats.

Problem families are rare in this environment. As a rule, these are children who are financially secure but have limited communication with their parents due to their constant employment.

In order to counter extremist activity, federal public authorities, public authorities of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation, local authorities within their competence, as a matter of priority, implement preventive, including educational, propaganda, measures aimed at preventing extremist activity (Olshansky, 2002; Zhuravel & Shevchenko, 2007).

These include:

- i. identifying manifestations, sources and carriers of the ideology of extremism and radicalism;
- ii. identifying external and internal threats to extremism;
- iii. monitoring extremist activity in a particular territory;
- iv. legal response to manifestations of extremism.

The priority in work to prevent extremism among young people is given to educational and propaganda measures. In fact, all work in terms of interaction between young people and the public can be considered preventive, as any such event involving the public has a positive impact on minimising illegal and extremist manifestations.

In this regard, young people must be involved in physical development, healthy lifestyles and military-patriotic activities, in particular, organising meetings with veterans of the Great Patriotic War and military service (veterans of local wars). These include providing targeted assistance to war and labour invalids and families of fallen soldiers, holding heroic-patriotic events, organising traditional events to celebrate Victory Day, and their coverage in the media. All have a combined effect on the formation of tolerant consciousness among young people.

At the same time, more attention should be paid to professional-activity and socio-cultural areas. Such work is carried out by local history museums and art circles. Love for the native land, its culture and customs, interest in folk traditions form the basis of a patriotic attitude to their small homeland and the country as a whole. It is necessary to hold "round tables", conferences, seminars, various mass events and youth actions that contribute to the unity of young people on all-civil positions on the topics: nationalism, terrorism, extremism, juvenile delinquency, drug addiction and drunkenness (Kleimenov et al., 2021; Lipovaya & Kornienko, 2016) Prevention of extremism and terrorism (b), Extremism Prevention System.

Countering the ideology of terrorism includes a complex of organizational, socio-political, information and propaganda measures. These measures serve to prevent the spread in society of beliefs and ideas that are aimed at radically changing the existing social and political foundations of the state. The prevention of terrorism is understood as the activities of the nationwide system of counter-terrorism, including a set of measures aimed at identifying and eliminating the causes and conditions conducive to terrorist activity.

Terrorism prevention is carried out in three main areas:

- i. organising and implementing a systematic approach to countering the ideology of terrorism and extremism;
- ii. improving anti-terrorist protection of potential targets of terrorist aspirations;
- iii. strengthening control over compliance with administrative, legal and other regimes conducive to countering terrorism.

Potential objects that could become the target of terrorist attacks are a variety of material and legal entities, crowds of people, critical infrastructure facilities, and much more. Ensuring anti-terrorist protection of such facilities involves the introduction of a comprehensive set of measures, including:

- i. Physical Protection Force: Security guards, patrols, law enforcement officers, and private security companies responsible for the physical protection of facilities.
- ii. Engineering: Physical barriers such as barriers, fences and checkpoints; electronic security systems, including CCTV cameras, motion sensors and access control systems.
- iii. Regime measures: Administrative procedures and rules aimed at limiting access to objects and regulating activities on their territory.



Of particular importance in ensuring anti-terrorist protection of facilities is the effective application of administrative and legal regimes established by the legislation of the Russian Federation. These modes include:

- i. Access regime: Regulation of access of persons and vehicles to facilities, including the issuance of passes and registration of visitors.
- ii. Intra-facility regime: Establishing rules of conduct on site, including requirements for wearing a uniform, restricting access to certain areas and conducting safety briefings.
- iii. Security regime: Organization of the protection of objects by security units, including patrolling, responding to alarm signals and ensuring the integrity of protective structures.

The implementation of these administrative and legal regimes makes it possible to create a multi-level protection system that increases the resistance of facilities to terrorist threats and ensures their safe operation (Epikhin et al., 2021; Karavaev, 2023; Kondratyev et al., 2019; Tenischeva et al., 2019).

## 7. Conclusion

Therefore, nullifying, minimising or timely blocking the causes and conditions that contribute to the commission of terrorist offences is currently the main focus of prevention and suppression of terrorist and extremist activity. This requires constant monitoring and systematic study of the ever-changing causal base of terrorism. The fight against terrorism must be based on professional operational, informational, analytical and predictive work.

Consequently, the prevention of terrorism is the activity of public authorities, public authorities of administrative-territorial formations of the state, local self-government bodies and public associations to prevent terrorism or terrorist activity. This consists in the identification, localisation and elimination of causes and conditions conducive to the emergence and spread of terrorism and terrorist activity, the commission of acts of terrorism, the protection of objects of potential terrorism. There is also the prevention of terrorism, the prevention of terrorism and terrorist activities, and the prevention of the spread of terrorism.

Sooner or later, terror will be defeated. This is evidenced by the many successful actions of our State and the governments of other countries in the fight against it. This is also evidenced by the growing worldwide negative attitude of citizens towards terror and terrorists.

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