

Understand the process of radicalization

Society as a breeding ground for radicalization

A number of sociopolitical and socioemotional elements can play a part in shaping situations in which certain individuals experience social malaise. Global events (wars, conflicts, the political situation in a foreign country, etc.), the social and political positions adopted by the State (foreign policy, political decisions, social policies, etc.), and public and media discourse (social debates, controversies, etc.) are all factors that may indirectly contribute to the development of feelings of stigmatization, discrimination, frustration or humiliation. At the same time, social vulnerability, economic marginalization, and fragile family ties may reinforce feelings of failure and helplessness in those who experience them.

Often, it is the intersecting of these sociopolitical and socioemotional circumstances that ultimately leads individuals to question their place in society and their identification with the collective values of shared community. In other words, because they resonate with an individual's personal experience, issues, social debates, and international and local events may all act as breeding grounds for radicalization.

The social environment as a barrier or driver for radicalization

Individuals who experience identity malaise, or perceived injustice or marginalization, may sometimes seek answers and remedies for situations they deem to be unjust or in need of redress. Depending on the settings and social environments in which they find themselves, different factors may offer them worldviews with either a prosocial or, on the contrary, a radicalizing perspective—some even going so far as to espouse violent engagement. These factors include:

+ Protective factors: All individuals have their own personal protective factors against radicalization (tolerance of ambiguity, critical thinking skills, broad-mindedness), while other protective factors are tied to their environment (stable relational environment, non-violent social network).

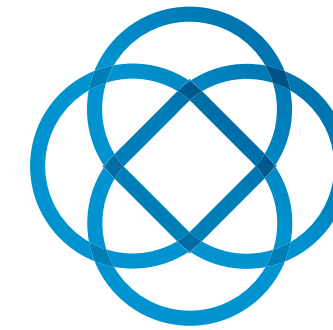
+ Vulnerability factors: Some people exhibit certain characteristics that tend to make them more fragile (intolerance of ambiguity, lack of critical thinking skills, difficult life events), or are exposed to environmental factors (radical social network, weak social or emotional ties) that cause them to be more vulnerable to radicalization.

It should be pointed out that when vulnerability factors outweigh protective factors the imbalance can lead some individuals to adopt a simplistic ideological worldview with a reductive Manichean style of discourse.

The motivations and personal dimensions of radical engagement

For individuals undergoing a process of indoctrination, all interpretations of the world necessarily become ideological with a 'good' and a 'bad', an 'us' and a 'them', a 'pure' and an 'impure' group. Through this progressive dichotomization of the world, individuals start to dismiss systematically any competing explanations or alternative views of society. In the indoctrination process, ideology supplies the justifications and explanations that encourage devotees to take part in more radical forms of action, including active support for or participation in violent action.

THE PROCESS OF RADICALIZATION LEADING TO VIOLENCE



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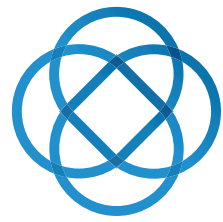
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