Violent Extremist Innovation: A Cross-Ideological Analysis

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Terrorist actors are constantly innovating to circumvent the state. This paper compares the efforts of both salafi-jihadi and racially and ethnically motivated violent extremists (REMVE).



Salafi-jihadi actors are innovating more dynamically and potently than their REMVE counterparts.

This is mostly due to salafi-jihadist innovation originating from ungoverned spaces that are permissive environments for terrorist training, innovation and attack-planning.

Two case studies are considered in this paper: vehicle-ramming attacks and the use of drones.

First deployment of these tactics tends to happen either in active combat zones or in fragile states highly susceptible to terrorist attack.