

SUNNI ISLAM MILITANT GROUPS

CORE IDEOLOGY Sunni Militant Islam organizations are committed to creating a global Caliphate. They advocate for the implementation of shari'ah law - either in the strictest form (STR-SHAR'I'A) or in a pragmatic / moderate form (PRAG-SHAR'I'A). Militant Sunni Islam is hostile to Western civilization and its values. They object to all political ideologies – Atheism, Communism, democracy, Socialism, etc. Sunnis are hostile to Shi'ites. Militant Sunni Islam is hostile to Jews and vows to eliminate the state of Israel.

IDEOLOGICAL COMPONENTS

Muslim Brotherhood (MB) Committed to creating a global caliphate through education, preaching, serving the community, social service projects, economic initiatives, and political activities. The MB seeks to implement shari'ah law in a pragmatic form (PRAG-SHAR). The MB rejects the concept of takfir.

Salafi-Jihadi (SJ) Committed to creating a global Caliphate through violence. Salafi-Jihadi groups seek to implement the strictest form of shari'ah (STR-SHAR). A core component of their ideology is the concept of Takfir.

Takfir An ideology that argues that there are Muslims who do not fulfill the commandments of Islam in "the true and correct" manner. Therefore, they should not be seen as Muslims, but as enemies of Islam whose danger is even greater than those of non-Muslim infidels. Salafi-Jihadi groups believe that rulers in the Muslim world are "infidels" because they do not run their countries according to the strictest interpretation of the shari'ah law. Therefore, they are "fake" Muslims and should be overthrown.

GROUPS	AREA OF OPERATION	MB IDEOLOGY	SJ IDEOLOGY	TAKFIR IDEOLOGY	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
AL QAEDA	AFRICA, CENTRAL ASIA, MIDDLE EAST, SOUTHEAST ASIA	NO	STR-SHAR	YES	
AL-SHABAB	SOMALIA	NO	STR-SHAR	YES	Governs part of Somalia
BOKO HARAM	AFRICA	NO	STR-SHAR	YES	
HAMAS	GAZA, WEST BANK	YES PRAG-SHAR	NO	NO	Governs Gaza by a moderate form of Shariah law
ISIS	AFRICA, CENTRAL ASIA, MIDDLE EAST, SOUTHEAST ASIA	NO	STR-SHAR	YES	
ISLAMIC JIHAD	GAZA, WEST BANK	YES	STR-SHAR	NO	
TALIBAN	AFGHANISTAN	YES	STR-SHAR with elements of Sufism*	NO	Created an Islamic Emirate and Governs most of Afghanistan

*Sufism, a mystical form of Islam. A school of practice that emphasizes the inner search for God through rituals and ceremonies, and shunning materialism.