



Title: Countering Radicalization of Diaspora Communities in Canada

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Research Question:

1) What factors may promote radicalization and terrorism from diaspora communities in Canada? and 2) What strategies can security, policing, and justice organizations employ to detect or reduce radicalization and prevent terrorism within these communities?

Importance:

In recent years, North America has seen an increase in the number of cases of homegrown extremism and radicalization amongst diaspora communities involving recent immigrants as well as second and third generation residents and citizens. Diaspora communities have a long history of producing violence in Canada and can import conflict rapidly to Canada's shores.

Research Findings:

The authors conducted a thorough literature review and examined over 60 cases of radicalization amongst diaspora communities in North America, which included individuals with first- or second-generation roots in more than 30 different countries. Radicalization in Canada is multi-faceted, and several diaspora communities still suffer from small, unabashed radical elements within them, including the Tamil, Sikh, Arab, and Muslim diasporas. Radical groups and individuals appear to have failed to integrate into a tolerant democracy, or they have turned away and embraced a radicalized subculture that has taken root through a perversion of the freedoms afforded by multiculturalism. There is no single path to radicalization, and there is no guaranteed deradicalization method. There are viable models for dealing with radicalization in Europe, Asia, and the Middle East that could be modified for use here. There is no evidence to suggest that Canada's radicalization problem will diminish on its own.

Implications:

Canada should develop a national counterradicalization strategy that is complemented with targeted policies and programs that deter and prevent future radicalization as well as a formal deradicalization program. These efforts should be supported by culturally-sensitive community policing and voluntary self-policing within diaspora communities. The variety of violent groups tied to North American diaspora communities suggest the need for policies and programs that address both secular and religious organizations.