

Pregledni rad

UDC 28:62

Primljeno: 21.05.2018.

Odobreno: 21.06.2018.

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## **USAGES OF MODERN TECHNOLOGIES BY ISLAMIC FUNDAMENTALISTS**

### **Abstract**

*Although modern technologies are often seen as a threat to fundamentalist religious view, fundamentalist groups are not really opposed to using the latest technological breakthroughs in order to promote their goals. The main focus of this paper will be the use of such technologies by Islamic fundamentalists, or their representatives. Therefore, we must first define what Islamic fundamentalism is and how influential and dangerous it is in modern times. Furthermore, we must present and explain some of the most notable terrorist organizations, which utilize Islamic fundamentalism as their ideological basis. In order to understand the use of modern technologies by Islamic fundamentalists, we must first define the concept of modern technologies, what the concept encompasses and its impact on societal and political conflicts around the world.*

**Keywords:** Islamic fundamentalism, technology.

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## INTRODUCTION

Today we live in the most advanced age of human civilization. The rapid industrial revolution of the XIX century, in conjunction with the development of capitalist markets, has ushered in an unparalleled age of technological advancement in Western cultures. With the spread of globalization and with it the spread of western values and way of life, western technologies have spread all across the globe. Of course, we should point out that the West still holds sway in technological development, however the fact remains that many developing countries, or Third World countries, are developing their own technological capacities at varying speeds.

Modern technology is one of the key factors that determine whether certain economic, social and political standards of living will be achieved. As such, it has a positive and incentivizing role in everyday social life. However, as with all things, modern technological achievement can be utilized for dangerous and harmful purposes. Numerous terrorist or radical organizations have shown a keen interest in utilizing new technologies as instruments for achieving their goals.

The main focus of this writing will be the use of such technologies by Islamic fundamentalists, or their representatives. Therefore, we must first define what is Islamic fundamentalism and how influential and dangerous it is in modern times. Furthermore, we must present and explain some of the most notable terrorist organizations, which utilize Islamic fundamentalism as their ideological basis. In order to understand the use of modern technologies by Islamic fundamentalists, we must first define the concept of modern technologies, what the concept encompasses and its impact on societal and political conflicts around the world.

It is not wrong to say that Islamic fundamentalists seek to revive the ancient idea of social and political structure, which was in force in the early years of the first Islamic community (Ummah). However, we must point out that an increasing number of such groups utilize the most sophisticated of technologies (made in and by the godless modern western world, against which they fight with fervor) so as to conduct certain operations with the aim of achieving religious and other goals. This includes a wide range of technologies: everything from global communications (like the Internet), all the way to most advanced weapons (like nuclear and biological).

## THE CONCEPT OF ISLAMIC FUNDAMENTALISM

*Islamic fundamentalism* is merely one form of religious fundamentalism; however, it presents the single greatest threat for peace and stability in the world. Granted, many equate Islamic fundamentalism with religious fundamentalism (which is wrong), which is a much broader concept. “Ascribing to Islam the status of the sole major religion which produces religious fundamentalism, extremists and violence is unjust. Even though fundamentalism is rightly associated primarily with Islam, there is no major religions, even tolerant Buddhism, which hasn’t been marked by its fundamentalism and by their extremisms. The term fundamentalism itself was born in the communities of American protestants of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century.”<sup>2</sup>

That which separates Islamic fundamentalism from others is the fact that many extremist and often terrorist organizations, which are extremely militant and intolerant towards societies in which they operate, claim to be Islamic. Therefore, it is necessary to understand the specificities of Islam as a religion which allow the creation of such a fundamentalism. “In some religions, as is the case with Islam, it is allowed for the believer to independently interpret the scriptures, without the mediation of church authorities. From this fact stem the many interpretations of Islam.”<sup>3</sup>In accordance with this, Islamic fundamentalism has the following characteristics: it tries to achieve the complete restructuring of societal relations; it seeks to introduce a specific notion of justice into social life; it is militant and exclusionary; it finds fertile ground in areas already hit by crisis etc.<sup>4</sup>

It is not easy to *define Islamic fundamentalism*, given the fact that within it exist multiple variations. However, there is a common thread between all of them and that is identifying one’s own life (if one is a believer of course) with the life of Mohammed, the founder of Islam as a religion. “When we talk about Islamic fundamentalism it is important to note that this refers to the global movement which is visible throughout the Islamic world and whose main goal is the accommodation of personal and collective life to Islamic ideals. Since the Islamic ideal was set up buy the prophet Muhammed, this would mean that fundamentalism would

<sup>2</sup> Dragan Simeunović, *Uvod u političku teoriju*, Institut za političke studije, Beograd, 2009, p. 134.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 135.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 135-136.

try to emulate the life of the founder of this great monotheistic religion. From this comes the word fundamentalism, because it is about a movement which seeks to find the essence of Islam, its fundament.”<sup>5</sup>The goal of Islamic fundamentalists is to fundamentally alter current societal and political relations, both within Islamic countries and across the globe, in accordance with the relations which ruled in the first Islamic community under the guidance of Muhammed. Even though these ambitions are at odds with contemporary conditions, these men and women are loyal to their beliefs and they are deeply convinced that these beliefs are righteous and true.

Of course, as I have already pointed out, there are *various forms* of Islamic fundamentalism, which usually differ from one another in the degree of militancy. “Having in mind that for Muslims the ideal form of Islam is the one which was developed and cemented in Medina from 622-632 by Muhammed himself, then it becomes clear that Islamic fundamentalism is immanent to Islam as a religion. Simultaneously, we should not forget that fundamentalism is present in all other religions and ideologies in general. On the other hand, the ways in which various groups of Muslims interpret Islam and seek emulate the life of Muhammed are not identical, so in accordance with these fundamentalisms differ from one another. Thus, one of the main points of distinction between them is the degree of militarism. The most militant groups are called islamists or Islamic radicals and when we talk about Islamic fundamentalism we usually refer to them. To make things clearer, we should point put that the number of islamists is relatively small. To be more exact, most Muslims do not accept this ideology.”<sup>6</sup>

Islamic fundamentalism, in its militant form, arrives on the world stage after World War II. Several factors contributed to the emergence of Islamic fundamentalism in Muslim countries. *The birth of the state of Israel* in 1948 as a Jewish state, where once the British mandate of Palestine existed, is one of these factors. *Decolonization* after World War II gave birth to a great number of states with Muslim majorities, (countries of Northern Africa and the Middle East) was also one of the factors which helped the spread of Islamic fundamentalism as a legitimizing ideology for new states and governments. The spread of western culture through various channels of globalization, which endangered traditional Islamic modes of

<sup>5</sup> Miroljub Jevtić, *Politikologija religije*, Centar za proučavanje religije i versku toleranciju, Belgrade, 2009, p. 307.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid., pp. 307-308.

societal behavior, also aided the spread of Islamic fundamentalism. This ideology was quick to take on a terrorist form: “The modern renewal of Islamic violence and consequently the emergence of terrorism, starts in the late 60s when the atmosphere of frustration reigns in the Arab and Muslim world in general, after a series of military defeats against Israel (...). The indignation of the masses finds its expression in heightened religiosity and a cure for all societal problems is sought in the renewal of original Islam.”<sup>7</sup>

Today, when we speak about Islamic fundamentalism, mostly we refer to *jihadism*. We should note that jihadism is merely one form of Islamic fundamentalism, which seeks to achieve the political-religious goals of Muslims around the world through jihad, which is perceived as a holy war, or a war for one’s religion. According to Simeunović, jihadism stems from the militant interpretation of the Quran, the holy book of Islam.<sup>8</sup> Jevtić on the other hand, on the very concept of Jihadism claims the following: “Most often this term is translated as “holy war”. In the qur’anic sense, jihad is much more than mere war.”<sup>9</sup> Jihad, according to Jevtić, has its moral, economic, political and military dimensions. It requires expansion and strengthening of the Islamic community in which Islamic laws will be respected.<sup>10</sup>

For John Schindler, the usage of the term “Islamic fundamentalism” is a bit clumsy, for fundamentalism, according to him, first and foremost is tied to the American style of Protestantism. As such, fundamentalism does not have an equivalent in the Islamic dictionary. Schindler however, does not refute the fact that some Muslims, from a western standpoint, are fundamentalists who are convinced in the infallibility of the Quran as the true word of god.<sup>11</sup>

The standard-bearer of Islamic fundamentalism, more specifically jihadism, for more than three decades has been *alkaidism*. We are speaking of course about

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<sup>7</sup> Dragan Simeunović, *Terorizam*, Pravni fakultet Univerziteta u Beogradu, biblioteka Crimen, Belgrade, 2009, pp. 196-197.

<sup>8</sup> Dragan Simeunović, *Uvod u političku teoriju*, op. cit., p. 137.

<sup>9</sup> Miroljub Jevtić, *Politikologija religije*, op. cit., p. 316.

<sup>10</sup> More can be found in: Miroljub Jevtić, *Islamsko shvatanje rata i uloga islamske konferencije u očuvanju mira*, University of Law, Belgrade, 1984.

<sup>11</sup> Džon R. Šindler, *Nesveti teror – Bosna, Al Kaida i uspon globalnog džihada*, Knjiga 7, Službeni glasnik, Belgrade, 2009, p. 109.

the most militant faction of Islamic fundamentalists, who are organized into terrorist cells, which are collectively known as Al Qaida. They use various means (usually suicide attacks) in their fight to destroy: Christians, Jews and all other enemies of Islam.<sup>12</sup>

## MODERN ISLAMIST ORGANIZATIONS

Understanding Islamic fundamentalism and its link to the use of modern technologies isn't possible without an insight into the islamists organizations themselves. We can say that throughout the world there are numerous islamists organizations. They differ from one another based on: the number of members, their geographic spread and methods of their work. However, each one of them seeks to rally all radical Muslims, thus in a dogmatic sense, it decrees itself as holly and infallible. In the following lines I will list such organizations and explain the further.

*Al Qaida*, is bay far the most prominent islamist organization, even though, in my opinion, it is more accurate to describe it as a network of islamist groups across the globe. Its founder is Osama Bin Laden, who bas one of the leaders of the Taliban fighters who fought in Afghanistan during the 80s against Soviet troops. The USA closely cooperated with Al Qaida at that time, because the shared a common goal, weakening the USSR. After the Afghan war, Bin Laden along with his fighters turns on the West, especially against the US and Israel. He finds inspiration in fundamentalists interpretations of specific qur'anic ayats. Al Qaida quickly became (in)famous amongst Islamic radicals because its members committed a series of suicide bombing in a short time. The most (in)famous of these attacks was by far the attack on the US on 9/11 2001, which cause a tectonic shift in international relations, particularly in the Middle East.<sup>13</sup>

*Hamas* is an Islamic resistance movement formed in the late 80s from a branch of the Muslim Brotherhood. This is a typical islamist organization which recruits a large number of extreme Muslims and coordinates their bombing and suicide-bombing attacks. This is a vehemently anti-Semitic group; whose main

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<sup>12</sup> Dragan Simeunović, *Uvod u političku teoriju*, op. cit., p. 137.

<sup>13</sup> Gerard Chaliand and Arnaud Blin, *The History of Terrorism– From Antiquity to Al Qaeda*, University of California Press, 2007, pp. 314-349.

purpose is the destruction of the state of Israel. Consequently, the bulk of their forces is concentrated in the Gaza Strip and West Bank.<sup>14</sup>

*Hezbollah* (translated from Arabic roughly means “Allah’s army”) is a militant jihadist organization formed in 1982. It is a Shia organization based in Lebanon inspired by the Islamic Revolution of 1979 in Iran, which was led by Ayatollah Khomeini. Its members are highly trained and well-armed. They have conducted dozens of attacks in Lebanon, Israel and even beyond Middle Eastern countries. They are extremely hostile towards Israel and they draw their support from Iran, a country which protects Shia Muslims globally.<sup>15</sup>

*Muslim Brotherhood* is perhaps the oldest Islamic extremist group in existence today. The group was formed by Hasan al Bana in 1928 in Egypt. The group insist on typical extremist demands; waging jihad, dave, calling for the destruction of Israel and the West etc. Apart from supporting terrorism, the Muslim Brotherhood actively participates in Egyptian political and university life. This organization uses both violent and nonviolent methods to achieve its goals, which makes an analysis of it far more complex.<sup>16</sup>

In the last couple of years, the *Islamic State of Syria and Levant (ISIL)* came into focus. During the war in Syria jihadists carved up parts of Iraq and Syria to form their own state based on fundamentally Islamic principles. I believe that it hadn’t existed long enough for it to be grouped in with the aforementioned organizations, which have existed for decades. However, ISIL will be my primary object when dealing with the usage of modern technologies by Islamic radicals.

## MODERN TECHNOLOGIES AND THEIR IMPACT ON SOCIETAL CONFLICTS

Technological achievements from the second half of the XX century and the first decades of the XXI century are unprecedented and monumental. A lot has been said and written on the importance of modern technologies- from the Internet, satellite technology and robotics to industrial and military innovations. The use of

<sup>14</sup> “Foreign Terrorist Organizations“, Chapter 6 – Terrorist Groups, Department of State, p. 98.

<sup>15</sup> “Foreign Terrorist Organizations“, op. cit., pp. 99-100.

<sup>16</sup> Dragan Simeunović, *Terorizam*, op. cit., pp. 197-198.

such technologies makes life easier for millions of people, on the other hand modern technologies can be used in various ways in different kinds of societal conflicts.

Given the fact that we live in a “global village”, exchange of information, knowledge and technologies is faster and conducted on a larger scale than at any point in human history. This fact is greatly beneficial for various terrorist groups all around the world, including religious extremists. Modern technologies have a wide range of uses in their activities. States which face these challenges have quickly realized that problems such as these are of a supranational character and as such they should be resolved not on a national, but on a regional or even international level. Again, groups which commit acts of terror and other violent acts, can use modern technologies in various phases of their activities. First of all, **modern Internet systems** (Facebook, Twitter, Skype) are extremely useful for: cheap, reliable and fast communication between its members even if they are thousands of miles away from one another. Secondly, **different websites and YouTube channels** can be used for recruitment, propaganda or overt calls for violence. Additionally, they can be used to train members of terrorist cells to use and make various weapons.<sup>17</sup> Thirdly, **modern weapons** are a powerful tool in a terrorist’s arsenal when they acquire them, which isn’t that hard considering the blossoming black arms market, a byproduct of ever more intense globalization. In this context it is especially important to mention the use of **chemical and biological weapons**. Fourthly, **modern transport systems** have allowed these groups to move faster and easier across the globe than ever before. I believe that this are just some of many examples of how modern technology can be utilized by these groups to cause conflicts.

A testament to the fact that the development of modern technologies and the development and rise of militant organizations (especially religious ones) go hand in hand, are the following statistics. Namely, in the period of 1968-1989 terrorist acts were a relatively rare occurrence. Only in the first half of the 90s, in comparison with the previous period, did we see a rise of terrorist attacks by as much as 162%. During the 80s there were only 2 terrorist organizations in existence and now we know over 60 of them. Technological development and the rise of globalization have contributed to these trends, especially if we take in the fact that terrorist networks have spread so wide that taking out their leaders does not nec-

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<sup>17</sup> Gabriel Weimann, “How Modern Terrorism Uses the Internet“, United States Institute of Peace, Special Report, Washington, 2004, pp. 1-12.



essarily mean that the group will cease to exist. On the contrary, many of them have recuperated after the fact quite quickly.<sup>18</sup>

### ISLAMIC FUNDAMENTALISM AND MODERN TECHNOLOGIES- AN IMPOSSIBLE UNION OR A CHANCE FOR NEW POSSIBILITIES?

Islamic fundamentalists are often perceived as great foes of everything that has to do with modern way of life. Given the fact that they see to organize social life in accordance with the model of the early Muslim community of the VII century, Islamic fundamentalists are often thought of as *antimodern*. Is this really so? This is precisely the question which this work seeks to answer.

Some authors, like *Hunter* are more in favor of the claim that fundamentalism today is locked in a deadly conflict with any form of modernity.<sup>19</sup> Some of them claim that Islam is incompatible with modern technologies, for Islam is incompatible with the modern western way of life.<sup>20</sup> On the other hand, numerous Islamic fundamentalists have been refuting these claims for years through their own work, because they are more the willing to use the latest technologies to achieve their goals. "Fundamentalism is wrongly accused of **being absolutely antimodern** (...). In reality, fundamentalism is based on a continuous **selection** of everything, from religious principles to technological achievements. For instance, Iranian **Shia** religious fundamentalism does not relinquish nuclear weapons, even though they ultramodern, nor do Osama bin Laden and his followers shun the Internet. Quite the contrary, with its use they achieve frightening results."<sup>21</sup>

There are numerous examples which corroborate the claim that Islamic fundamentalism is more than ready to adopt and utilize modern technologies to achieve its

<sup>18</sup> Florin Stibli, *Terrorism in the context of globalization*, Faculty of Economics, West University of Timisoara, Vol. 9, 2010, pp. 1-2.

<sup>19</sup> More information can be found in: James Davison Hunter, "Fundamentalism in its Global Contours", in: *The Fundamentalist Phenomenon: A View from Within, a Response from Without*, ed. by Norman J. Cohen, Grand Rapids, 1990.

<sup>20</sup> Phil Elmore, "Islam: Incompatible With Modern Technology", *WND*, 2015, Available at <http://www.wnd.com/2015/01/islam-incompatible-with-modern-technology/> (Accessed : 25.11.2017.)

<sup>21</sup> Dragan Simeunović, *Uvod u političkuteoriju*, op. cit., p. 136.

goals. If this was not the case, 9/11 would never have happened, nor Madrid, London, Brussels, Paris or Nice. Because of this it is important to describe which technologies were used and how, by which groups in which situations and locations.

Members of Al Qaida have shown great aptitude in the use of modern communication software (chiefly the Internet) to recruit new members and coordinate attacks. Thanks to the Internet, Al Qaida cells across the globe can communicate without physical contact, which allows for “sleepers” to be activated as needed (because they can receive information and instructions for an attack anywhere in the world). This is clearly demonstrated by the case of **Faysal Shahzad**, an American citizen of Pakistani decent, who was foiled in his bombing attack in Times Square in New York. He was a part of the Al Qaida network, even though he never met a single member, let alone one of the leaders.<sup>22</sup> Modern media have proved to be a lethal weapon in the Al Qaida arsenal. Thanks to pro-Islamic media from across the world, Al Qaida has broadcasted thousands of pictures and vides from the Middle East and the Caucasus, which show western occupiers killing Muslims, in order to foster radicalization across the Muslim world and attract new recruits. Media outlets that race to broadcast sensationalist news, without thinking of the long-term consequences, share the blame for this.<sup>23</sup> One among them is *Al Jazeera*, which is thought to be extremely pro-Islamic. It is worth to point out that Al Qaida used old fashioned methods of communication (letters, telegrams, line phones and the like) up until the end of the 90s, as well as old forms of propaganda. As Al Qaida expanded, so to did the video and audio content made by its members expand. After 9/11 Al Qaida begins work on perfecting its communication. Three notable media outlets, through which members of this organization directly communicate with interested viewers and listeners across the world, have been activated: *As-Sahab*, *Fajr* and *Global Islamic Media Front*.<sup>24</sup>

Even though the Islamic State faces complete destruction, its existence during the past few years has shown that not even the most fundamentalist Muslims will shy away from the use of modern technologies. On the contrary, they are quick to utilize them to attack hostile armies and nations. In an EU document drafted after the Paris terrorist attacks in late 2014, this fact is clearly shown: “The ter-

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<sup>22</sup> Carsten Bockstette, “Terrorists Exploit Information Technologies – Use of Strategic Communication Calls for United Response“, *Per Concordiam*, p. 11.

<sup>23</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 12.

<sup>24</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 13-14.

rorist organization Islamic State (IS) has recruited experts in the fields of chemistry, physics and informatics in order to continuously wage war on the West with weapons of mass destruction (WMD); this was published in a European Parliament report.<sup>25</sup> According to a statement from Wolfgang Rudischauzer, director of the NATO Centre for WMD Nonproliferation, *Islamic State has within its ranks members who are both trained in manufacturing chemical, atomic and biological weapons, and possess the materials necessary to make them.* This should not be surprising, since IS has recruited a large number of fighters all across the globe, many of whom have obtained degrees in chemistry, physics, biology or computer sciences.<sup>26</sup> This report states another important fact, that Muslim extremists have managed to smuggle the materials necessary to make chemical, biological and atomic weapons into the EU.<sup>27</sup> This only corroborates the claim that modern transportation systems are beneficial for the work of Islamic fundamentalists. The consequences of all of these above mention facts can be potentially catastrophic.

*Abdel-Bari Atwan*, a Palestinian journalist, has conducted a series of interviews with Islamic State insiders, during which he obtained a lot of information on how IS, which seeks to rule mankind back into the VII century, uses modern technologies in sophisticated ways. According to him, *IS uses social networks masterfully, creates videos that look like Hollywood blockbusters and even video games inspired by jihadism.* It creates videos of brutal prisoner executions, which are then aired on almost every media outlet in the world. In brief, by using modern mass media IS instills fear into the hearts of its enemies, while simultaneously mobilizing supporters across the world.<sup>28</sup>

*Cyberterrorism is* a thoroughly modern phenomenon facing the world today. Islamic terrorists have been using cyberterrorism, particularly after 9/11. Cyberterrorism implies the usage of cyberspace to conduct terrorist activities. This entails attacking enemy website, emails, information system and the like (although it is worth pointing out that cyberterrorism and hacktivism are two different things).

<sup>25</sup> “Evropski parlament: ISIS sprema oružje za masovno uništenje“, *NI*, 06.12.2015, available at: <http://rs.n1info.com/a115627/Svet/Svet/Dokument-EP-o-ISIS-u-i-oruzju-za-masovno-unistenje.html> (Accessed : 24.11.2017.)

<sup>26</sup> “Evropski parlament: ISIS sprema oružje za masovno uništenje“, op. cit.

<sup>27</sup> Ibid.

<sup>28</sup> More information can be found at: Abdel – Bari Atwan, *Islamic State: The Digital Caliphate*, Saqi Books, 2015.

For example, Al Qaida has been utilizing cyberterrorism for a long time now. There are several reasons why this is the case. Firstly, it is a ***much cheaper method*** of combat when compared to traditional ones. Secondly, ***anonymity*** is much more pronounced in cyberspace. Thirdly, there is a ***large number of potential targets***- government computer networks, newspaper website, individual accounts etc. Fourthly, ***the risk of death is smaller***. Fifthly, cyberterrorist attacks can influence a much larger number of people than traditional terrorist attacks.<sup>29</sup>

It is common knowledge that the ***Islamic Republic of Iran*** has been developing its ***nuclear program***, despite the sanctions levied against it by USA and its allies. However, a small part of the public is aware of the tight bonds between Iran and Hezbollah, an Islamic fundamentalist organization from Lebanon. Given the fact that Iran is a Shia country and Hezbollah is a Shia organization, Iran considers it to be its duty to protect and aid Shias across the world, particularly in the Middle East. Logistical, financial and any other kind of aid from Iran to Hezbollah was never put into question. A question must be asked, ***what would happen to Iranian nuclear potential if it were to land in the hands of Hezbollah?*** Given the fact that the main target of Iran is Israel and Hezbollah is its instrument to deal with Israel directly, this scenario is quite likely. Thus, we can see that an overtly theocratic Islamic state, which undoubtedly aides an Islamic fundamentalist organization, possesses nuclear capacities- in other words, it doesn't want to give up this modern technology.<sup>30</sup>

The former prime minister of Malaysia ***Mahathir Muhamad*** once called for an international conference of young Muslim, where they would develop new skills and technologies necessary to create modern and sophisticated weapons. He explicitly stated that these weapons would be used for attacking and defending against the enemies of Muslims. He stressed that under modern weapons he means new generations of tanks, warships, warplanes and rocket systems. Unfortunately, there

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<sup>29</sup> Gabriel Weimann, "Cyberterrorism – How Real Is the Threat?", United States Institute of Peace, pp. 4-6.

<sup>30</sup> More can be found at: William O. Beeman, "Iran's ties to Hezbollah", *International News*, available: <http://www.political-analysis.org/intnews/id3.html> (accessed: 24.11.2017.)

are still many scientists who treat Malaysia as a modern, secular society, which further complicates any efforts to understand these problems.<sup>31</sup>

*Abdul Rahman Bilal*, a high ranking Pakistani officer, often called for the Islamic world to develop nuclear capacities to aide them in potential conflicts. After these statements, Pakistan soon enough declared that it had become a nuclear power. Today a Pakistani radical party *Jamatud-Dava* supports the use of nuclear weapons in Jihad, praising the Pakistani scientists who have shared their expert knowledge with Iran. According to this party, modern technologies are the key for achieving Muslim dominance in the world.<sup>32</sup>

## CONCLUSION

The Islamic world today presents a significant and vary influential population (demographic). Consequently, it is important to understand the nature of Islam as a religion, as well as the political and social consequences which stem from it. Likewise, it is important to analyze Islamic fundamentalism, which is more than ever a serious threat on a global scale.

Modern technology further complicates the situation in today's terrorist network. Many terrorist groups have been using technologies for decades to achieve their ends. Modern information technologies, communication technologies, sophisticated weapons etc. are widely used today. It is plainly evident that modern terrorist organizations are much more dangerous and deadly then before, precisely because of modern technologies.

Radical Islamic fundamentalists, who are by far the most (in)famous terrorist of today, do not lag behind other terrorist groups when it comes to the use of modern technologies. Since the end of the 90s they have been working on perfecting the use of Internet as a propaganda and recruitment tool. Likewise, they have been working on the use of modern weapons and transport systems, while many of them seek to acquire nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, as the deadliest weapons of today.

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<sup>31</sup>Patrick Sookhdeo, *Understanding Islamist Terrorism: The Islamic Doctrine of War*, Isaac Publishing, Pewsey, 2004.

<sup>32</sup>Ibid.

All this points towards the need to further explore the links between Islamic fundamentalism and modern technologies, in greater depth, all for the purpose of eliminating threats to peace and stability in the world.

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## KORIŠĆENJE MODERNIH TEHNOLOGIJA OD STRANE ISLAMSKIH FUNDAMENTALISTA

### **Apstrakt**

Iako se moderne tehnologije često doživljavaju kao pretnja fundamentalističkom religijskom gledištu, fundamentalističke grupe zapravo se ne protive korištenju najnovijih tehnoloških otkrića kako bi promovisali svoje ciljeve. Glavni fokus ovog rada biće upotreba takvih tehnologija od strane islamskih fundamentalista ili njihovih predstavnika. Zato prvo moramo definisati šta je islamski fundamentalizam i koliko je on uticajan i opasan u modernim vremenima. Osim toga, moramo predstaviti i objasniti neke od najupečatljivijih terorističkih organizacija, koje kao ideološku osnovu koriste islamski fundamentalizam. Da bismo razumeli upotrebu modernih tehnologija od strane islamskih fundamentalista, prvo moramo definisati koncept modernih tehnologija, šta koncept obuhvata i njihov uticaj na društvene i političke sukobe širom sveta.

**Gljučne reči:** islamski fundamentalizam, tehnologija.