

Fundamentalism in the United Arab Emirates

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Domestic Fundamentalism in the UAE

The UAE's Stance on Islamic Fundamentalism

- The UAE is committed to countering violent extremism within its borders
- Some of its actions include:
 - Monitoring and freezing terrorists' financial assets
 - Working with religious leaders to monitor and stop religious extremism
 - The UAE has passed laws to counter violent extremism
 - Cybercrime law
 - Anti-Discrimination law
 - Banning extremist groups
 - Muslim Brotherhood
 - Leading CVE efforts



Muslim Brotherhood

- Muslim Brotherhood is a good case study
- Popular in 60s and 70s
- Took over education and judiciary (Jammiyat Islah)
 - Controlled who became an educator (only Brotherhood supporters)
 - Controlled who received scholarships (only Brotherhood supporters)
- Connected to more radical Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood
 - “They are taught that...standing to the national anthem of their country is polytheism.”
 - Tharwat Al-Kherbawi, expert on Muslim Brotherhood
 - Swear allegiance to leader, or “Supreme Guide”
- Islah gave money to Egyptian Jihadists (according to Egyptian authorities)



https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/5/5a/Muslim_Brotherhood_Emblem.jpg

UAE's Response to the Muslim Brotherhood

- Crackdown began in 1990s
 - Brotherhood members couldn't run for office
 - Government ousted previous board members
 - Large arrests of Brotherhood members
- Present
 - Muslim Brotherhood declared terrorist group (2014)
 - “Abu Dhabi's foreign policy has two principle goals: To protect itself against Iran, and to destroy political Islam in all its forms, with the Muslim Brotherhood as its main target.”
 - Former French Official Marc Cher-Leparrain
 - Domestic policy as well
- UAE continues to crackdown on political Islam to this day

<http://safa.ps/thumb.php?src=http://safa.ps/uploads//images/57b9744af1ca5e57c76d24ad0cc4each.jpg&w=855&zc=1>



Hedayah

- One of the leading Countering Violent Extremism(CVE) think tanks
 - Hedayah means “Guidance” in Arabic
- Researches effective methods of CVE
- Objectives also encompass the following:
 - Spreads CVE methods
 - Integrates former terrorists back into society
 - Spreads stories that challenge terrorist narratives
 - Fights Islamic fundamentalist propaganda on internet
 - Is a forum of discussion for religious leaders, policy makers, etc.
- CVE, not just counterterrorism operations necessary



<http://www.hedayahcenter.org/admin/Content/ABOUT-HEDAYAH-Small1582016104258.jpg>

The UAE and External Fundamentalism

UAE

- Abu Dhabi: Destroy Political Islam in all its forms
- Anti- Money laundering
- Cut ties with Tunisia
- Uses force to deal with terrorism
 - Started in Afghanistan
- “Sparta of the Gulf”



<http://www.thenational.ae/uae/government/20150823/3103/uae-is-a-leader-in-counter-terrorism>

<https://www.alaraby.co.uk/english/comment/2017/2/23/the-uae-has-it-in-for-the-muslim-brotherhood>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/oct/30/uae-united-arab-emirates-leading-player-opposition-isis-middle-east>

<http://almezmaah.com/english/2016/08/11/the-world-press-presents-the-uae-military-as-a-model-army-in-the-fight-against-terrorism/>

Yemen

- Saudi Arabia Military Coalition
 - Huthis
- Target jihadi bases
- Aden
 - Strategic location
- AQAP
 - UAE Involved in Trump's first military raid
- Muslim Brotherhood
 - Al-Ahmar
 - Southern Resistance

<https://www.alaraby.co.uk/english/comment/2017/2/23/the-uae-has-it-in-for-the-muslim-brotherhood>

<http://www.internationalaffairs.org.au/global-wire/uaes-military-priorities-in-yemen-counterterrorism-and-the-south/>



http://www.khaleejtimes.com/storyimage/KT/20151106/ARTICLE/311069826/AR/0/AR-311069826.jpg&MaxW=780&imageVersion=16by9&NCS_modified=20151106163805

Libya

- Allied with Egypt
- Proxy War
 - Qatar
- Muslim Brotherhood
- Jibril and Salabi



<https://www.alarabiya.net/articles/2011/03/25/142959.html>

<https://www.alaraby.co.uk/english/comment/2017/2/23/the-uae-has-it-in-for-the-muslim-brotherhood>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/aug/26/united-arab-emirates-bombing-raids-libyan-militias>

The UAE and International Relations with the West

Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed
al-Nahyan John Kerry

UAE and USA

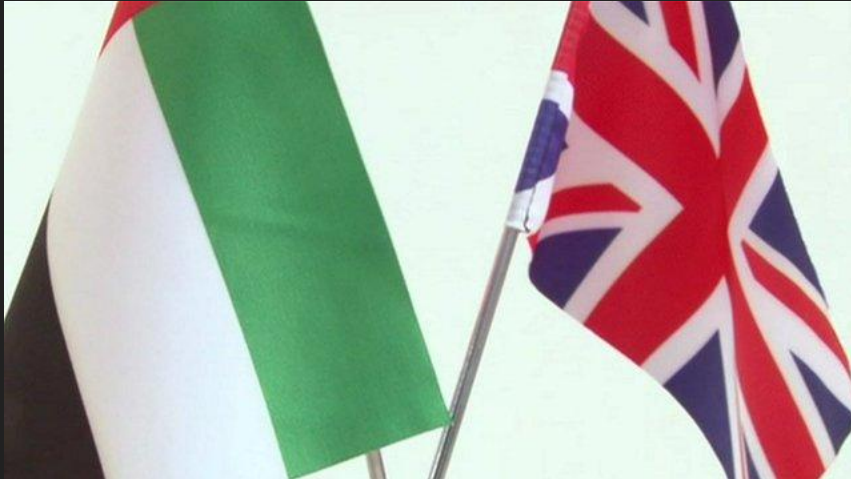
- USA and UAE team up against ISIS/Daesh
 - Hedayah
- Influence to promote human rights
- “The UAE has gone all in. It’s the strongest relationship that the United States has in the Arab world today” -General Zinni, former Commander, US Central Command



<https://muftah.org/uae-criticizes-us-report-on-human-rights/#.WRuvHjtH1AY>

UAE and UK

- 1971 Independence from Britain
 - Has had good relationship since
- Economic ties
- Similar border concerns regarding arab countries
- Defence Cooperation Accord in 1996



<http://www.bbc.com/news/av/business-22213360/economic-ties-that-bind-uk-and-uae>

How Fundamentalists Cause International Strains

- UAE terror list
- Popular antipathy for some US actions
- Two of the 9/11 bombers from UAE



<https://www.investigativeproject.org/5758/the-inside-story-of-how-john-kerry-secretly>

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2014/11/uae-lists-scores-groups-as-terrorists-2014111517644316294.html>

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<http://almanac.afpc.org/united-arab-emirates>

<http://www.uae-embassy.ae/Embassies/uk/Content/570>