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The New Middle Class Jihadists in Europe

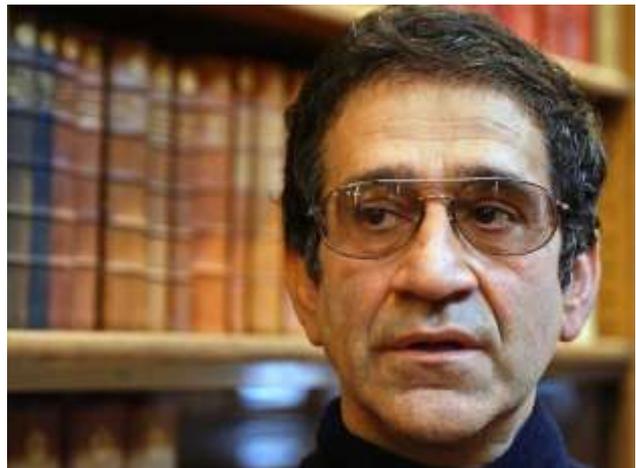
European Jihadism has evolved since it first appeared in the 1990s. In many European countries, at the outset, it tended to be restricted to the 'disaffected youth' from the poor suburbs (France) or poor inner city areas (in the UK) but it rapidly spread to the middle classes, whether Muslims or converts.

In 2013, with the civil war in Syria, Jihadism underwent major changes. Before that it was restricted to a few hundred people, but it has now risen to several thousand (around 5000 young people have left Europe for Syria and their number would have been much higher had the governments not established controls preventing the departure of adolescents via Turkey to Syria). At the same time, adolescents have become numerous and the number of girls and converts has sharply increased. The aim of the lecture is to propose an understanding of the mindset of these new social actors in the light of the internal conditions of European societies.

Farhad Khosrokhavar is Professor at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales in Paris, France. His main fields of study are the social movements in Iran, mainly after the Islamic Revolution; Arab societies, in particular radical Islamist movements therein; the Arab revolutions; Jihadism in Europe with a focus on France.

He has published some 20 books, three of which have been translated respectively into eight or nine different languages and more than 70 articles, in French, English, and Persian.

He has been a Rockefeller Fellow (1990), has given conferences in different European and American universities (Saint Antony's College in Oxford, U.K., Princeton, NYU, Columbia, UCLA, USC, Stanford, Harvard, Yale, Texas University at Austin); he was a Yale Visiting Scholar in 2008 and a Harvard Visiting Scholar in 2009.



His latest books are:

- Muslims in Prison: a comparative perspective between Great Britain and France (with James Beckford and Danièle Joly), Palgrave, London, 2005*
- Suicide Bombers, The New Martyrs of Allah (translation from French), Pluto Press, Michigan University Press, 2005.*
- Quand Al Qaeda Parle: témoignages derrière les barreaux, Grasset, Paris, 2006.*
- Inside Jihadism: Understanding Jihadi Movements Worldwide (Yale Cultural Sociology Series), Paradigm Publishers, Boulder, Colorado, 2009.*
- Etre jeune dans le pays des ayatollahs (in cooperation with Amir Nikpey), Robert Laffont Publishers, Paris, 2009.*
- Jihadist Ideology, The Anthropological Perspective, CIR, Aarhus University, Denmark, 2011.*
- The New Arab Revolutions that Shook the World, 2012, Paradigm Publishers, Boulder, Colorado.*
- Radicalisation, Maison des sciences de l'homme, Paris, 2014*
- Le jihadisme, (with David Bénichou & Philippe Migaux), Plon, Paris, 2015.*