Radical Islam and its Threat to Global Security

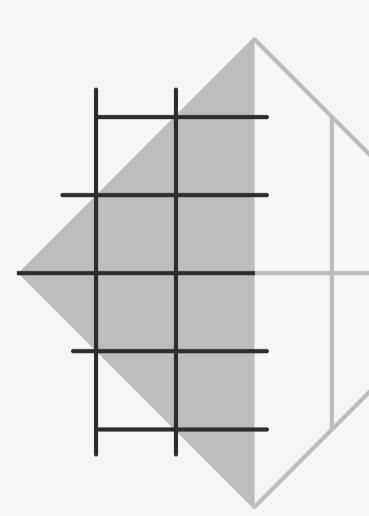
For Presentation

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Introduction

Radical Islam poses a significant global security threat, extending beyond Muslim-majority nations. Characterized by extremist interpretations of Islamic teachings, these movements prioritize violence, leading to terrorism and instability worldwide. Acts by groups like Al-Qaeda and ISIS result in substantial casualties, material losses, and psychological trauma. The opposition to legitimate governments further contributes to political and economic instability, affecting global dynamics. Mitigating this threat involves promoting moderate Islamic teachings, addressing socio-economic disparities, and enhancing education, aiming to prevent the emergence of radical movements and foster global stability.



Research Methods

The research, conducted in October 2023, employs qualitative methods to investigate and elucidate the global security threat posed by radicalism. It relies on library research and utilizes secondary data from relevant books and journal articles to analyze the phenomenon. The analytical strategy involves connecting known facts to form a comprehensive and fact-based explanation of radicalism, aiming to provide a methodical understanding of the subject.

History of the Emergence of Radical Islam



The term "radicalism" in a religious context, particularly in Islam, lacks an equivalent in the Arabic dictionary and is often associated with Western concepts such Islamic fundamentalism extremism. While or interchangeable with terms like "fundamentalist Islam," radical Islam is frequently linked to a rejection of liberal interpretations, potentially leading to narrow views and destructive actions. Radicalism extends beyond physical violence to include ideological radicalism, posing a problem when such radical thought fuels movements advocating violence to eradicate perceived deviations from religious teachings.

The origin of Islamic fundamentalism in the 20th century, notably popularized during the Iranian Revolution in 1979, marked a significant development. The Khawarij sect, an early radical movement in Islam, emerged amid political conflicts, opposing those who disagreed with its doctrines, which include radical and fanatical teachings. Modern Khawarij, akin to their predecessors, legitimize conflict and violence in the name of Islam, demonstrating radical religious а perspective rooted in the doctrine of takfirism.

Factors that Encourage Islamic Radicalism

Economic, social and political condition factors

The emergence of fundamentalism, radicalism and terrorism is a reaction to the dissatisfaction of some groups with the economic, social and political conditions within the country. The members of the radical group themselves come from various circles with different backgrounds in terms of economics. Not all of them come from groups with bad economic factors, some even come from groups with a well-established economy. This can show that radicalism originating from the economy is not solely from personal economic conditions, but in the form of empathy and the desire to change the economy globally.

For a long time, the issue of injustice has been known by experts as the main factor in understanding the emergence of violent behavior. Radicalism is basically a response to ongoing conditions. In social movements, the order they promote often uses human values, giving rise to an emotional attitude that justifies all acts of violence. The conditions of the socio-political framework influence changes in the behavior and form of religious groups.

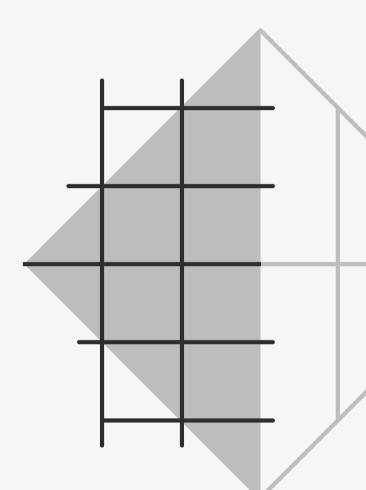
Changes in world politics as part of globalization policies will cause changes in attitudes and religious patterns of religious organizations.

The Role of the Internet and Social Media in the Spread of Radical Ideology

Global capitalism has an important role in the spread of radical ideology on social media. The spread of radical ideology carried out by a number of extremist groups on social media is a global capitalist profit that is always ready to be saved at any time. These actions bring huge profits to social media companies. These profits are obtained from the distribution of content posted via social media accounts owned by radicals. The ability of social media managers to stem the spread of negative content is not being implemented. Social media managers carry out their role as a means or channel for spreading messages containing radical ideology

Threats to Global Security

Radical Islam, particularly associated with groups like Al-Qaeda and ISIS, poses a significant threat to global security. The rise of radicalism in ASEAN countries, such as Indonesia, not only jeopardizes local security but also extends risks to other regions, including ASEAN. Influenced by ideologies like ISIS, radicalism in Indonesia involves various nonmainstream Islamic organizations embracing extremist views. This perception of Islam as a religion of terror can lead to discrimination against Muslims, further fueling radicalism. The impact of radical Islamism on regional and global security is substantial, necessitating a comprehensive approach involving education, law enforcement, and community engagement to prevent its spread. Governments, including local authorities, play a crucial role in implementing strategies such as deradicalization programs to address this threat and ensure political stability, international peace, and global economic security.



Efforts to Overcome Radicalism

Addressing Islamic radicalism requires a holistic approach involving government, civil society, religious leaders and the international community. These efforts include encouraging social inclusion, better education, economic opportunities, and improved law enforcement. The UN Security Council as an international community has conducted a comprehensive review in the fields of politics, economics, social, psychology, communications, education, military and migration, as part of international policy. According to Article VII of the UN Charter, every country has a legal obligation to arrest, try and punish or extradite perpetrators of terrorism.

Hard Approach

Hard Approach or what could be called the Firm Approach, is a repressive action carried out by BNPT in collaboration with Densus 88. This collaboration takes the form of law enforcement as a form of follow-up from the government against perpetrators who use weapons.

Soft Approach

Soft Approach or what could be called the Soft Approach, is a preventive action carried out by the government in the form of education, outreach and deradicalization. This effort involves several parts of society such as academics, religious leaders, community leaders and youth. The aim of this approach is so that people have an understanding and awareness of radicalism, the characteristics and consequences of radicalism itself.

In carrying out the deradicalization program in Indonesia, the Deradicalization Directorate under Deputy I for Prevention, Protection and Deradicalization has 4 approaches which include Reduction, Rehabilitation, Resocialization and ReintegrationThe deradicalization program has 6 objectives to be achieved, namely:

- 1.Docounter-terrorism
- 2. Avoiding the process of radicalization.
- 3. Anticipate provocations, the spread of hatred, and divisions between religious groups.
- 4. Prevent the public from being exposed to radical doctrines.
- 5.Increase public understanding to reject terror ideology.
- 6.Expanding understanding through comparison with terror ideology.

After the establishment of the Badan Nasional Penanggulangan Terorisme (BNPT) by the Government of the Republic of Indonesia in 2010, many parties from various segments of society had high hopes for overcoming the problem of terrorism which had been disrupting state security for the previous decade. However, a number of individuals in the community also showed excessive suspicion. BNPT faces various challenges and obstacles, both from internal and external sources, in its efforts to build deradicalization. These obstacles and challenges are as follows:

- Internal
- 1. Lack of competent human resources capable of carrying out the mandate to be able to design and develop policy strategies as a form of countering terrorism.
- 2.In terms of regulations, BNPT has limited mobility because it is regulated by presidential regulations, which is different from other national bodies which are regulated by law.
- 3. Need for institutional reorganization.
- External
- 1.Lack of involvement of all parties in society in supporting efforts to counter terrorism.
- 2. Funding provided by the state to support efforts to prevent and overcome terrorism is minimal.
- 3. Lack of public understanding regarding countering terrorism

Conclusion

Radical Islam, is another term for Islamic fundamentalism, denotes a phenomenon of Islamic revival often accompanied by extreme militancy and fanaticism. Originating from the Khawarij sect post the Jamal and Siffin wars, radical Islam legitimizes violence by considering major sin perpetrators as infidels. Its growth is influenced by economic, social, and political factors. Despite utilizing social media, these groups' content isn't effectively controlled. Associated with threats to global security, especially through groups like Al-Qaeda and ISIS, radicalism in ASEAN nations, notably Indonesia, requires addressing root causes. Government, society, and international cooperation play crucial roles. Indonesia's counterterrorism efforts involve the Badan Nasional Penanggulangan Terorisme (BNPT), employing both Hard and Soft Approaches, along with a Deradicalization program, while facing internal and external challenges.