

THE MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD: NEW TERRORIST FRET?

ABSTRACT: This paper attempts to answer the question of whether the Muslim Brotherhood is a terrorist organization or not. In order to do this, the paper gives an overview of the history of this organization, its ideology and organizational structure. In the section related to the historical context of the development of the Muslim Brotherhood, we will give an overview of the crucial events that have permanently marked this organization as a driving force behind the Islamic resurgence, not only in the collective consciousness of Egyptian people, but throughout the Arab-Islamic countries. This research will also examine the ideological matrix and the influence the Muslim Brotherhood has had on the emergence of Islamic political activism and contemporary Islamist terrorist organizations in the Middle East and across the Islamic world. The chapter entitled 'The Organizational Structure' will focus on the militant branch of the Muslim Brotherhood - the Secret Service (Nizam al-Khass). Admittedly, this research cannot provide a final and complete answer to the above question. Instead, it will attempt to point at the possible course of reflection within the existing efforts of academia and the security community, with the view to gain a more objective and comprehensive understanding of this organization and its present impact on contemporary social trends in the Islamic world.

KEYWORDS: *the Muslim Brotherhood, a terrorist organization, ideology, the Islamic resurgence.*