

ABSTRACT
of the dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in the
educational program «8D02204 – Islamic Studies»

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**«The role of religious education in the prevention
of extremism and terrorism: Kazakhstan experience»**

General characteristics of the work. The Republic of Kazakhstan has been attracting the attention of the whole world in recent years. This is due to the fact that huge spiritual, socio-political and historically significant events are taking place in the country, which attract the attention of all mankind. Thus, the country is implementing the doctrine of "just Kazakhstan" and taking steps to prevent extremism and terrorism by the state on the basis of the principle of balance in accordance with the law on religion. It was clarified in the country that all religious associations are equal before the law, and it was recognized that this is the main guideline for civilized development.

Analyzing the emergence of religious extremism and terrorism in accordance with the research direction of the dissertation, the cause of this phenomenon is the conflicts of people in their interests and the examination of religious knowledge, which allows to identify historical, socio-economic, religious differences. The development of a scientific and methodological concept for the development of non-radical traditional Islam through a comprehensive study of Islamic values that have developed on the basis of spiritual experience in the history of Kazakhstan, from the point of view of philosophy and psychology of religion, as a way to preserve social internal integrity, secular principles and religious identity and prevent religious contradictions, determines the general direction of the dissertation.

The relevance of the research work. The causes of extremism and terrorism are different in each society and depend on the objective and subjective situation in that society. However, there is a basic condition for the emergence and spread of extremism and terrorism. Experts identify the following factors as prerequisites for the emergence of extremism at the present stage: socio-economic stagnation; a sharp drop in the standard of living of most of the local population; deformation of the public administration system and political institutions; insufficient ability to solve emerging problems of social development; suppression of opposition by those in power; persecution of free, new thinking; national exploitation; acceleration of solving their tasks by individual groups; political ambitions of leaders, etc.

In addition to these main factors, scientists identify additional factors that influence the emergence and development of extremism. These include the vulnerability of combating manifestations of extremism in the international or state system, the low political and legal culture of the population, individual groups, the

weakening of certain aspects of interstate relations, the growth of social tension, etc.

In order to prevent the spread of negative religious movements, especially among young people, it is necessary to carry out large-scale educational and propaganda work, to study various obvious and non-obvious anti-state principles of ideological destructive extremist movements.

The object of the research work is to determine the essence and activity of religious education in the prevention of extremism and terrorism in a Kazakh society that has experienced totalitarian ideology and restriction of religious consciousness.

The subject of the research work is the analysis of the spiritual and moral foundations, religious and ethical, moral mechanisms for improving religious knowledge in the prevention of extremism and terrorism.

The purpose of the dissertation is to determine the role of religious education in the prevention of extremism and terrorism by analyzing the Kazakh experience in a post-secular society.

The tasks of the dissertation work:

- to reveal the theoretical and methodological principles of the problem on the basis of international and domestic studies of religious extremism and terrorism;

- to identify the causes and factors of the formation of modern radical religious trends, to give them a religious and phenomenological analysis;

- identification of the causes and trends of religious extremism and terrorism in the Kazakh society;

- to provide a comparative analysis of concepts and world experience concerning the role of religious education in the prevention of extremism and terrorism;

- definition of the formation, history and present of Islamic religious education in Kazakhstan in the context of the possibilities of limiting extremism and terrorism;

- to reveal the trends and potential of Islamic religious education in Kazakhstan in the prevention of extremism and terrorism based on the experience of religious and social research.

Sources and research directions of the research work.

Researchers are actively engaged in discussing the problem of religious extremism and terrorism in the West: V. Lacker, A. J. Marcellus, K. O'Brain, A.A.Mirari, L. Miller, M. Miller and J. Filet, J. Post, W. Reich, D. Whittaker, P. Wilkinson, etc. In Russia, which experienced terrorism both at the end of the XIX – beginning of the XX century, and at the beginning of the XXI century, this issue is given great importance.

Here are Yu. I. Avdeev, Yu. M. Antonyan, V. Budnitsky, L. S. Vasiliev, A. Sh. Viktorov, V. V. Viktyuk, K. S. Gadzhiev, V. N. Ivanov, V. L. Inozemtsev, A. A. Kara-Murza, A.V.Kiva and V. A. Fedorov, V. N.Kudryavtsev, V. V. Lunev and V. E. Petrishchev, S. A. Nazarova, T. A. Nestik, E. N. Ozhiganov, D. V.

Olshansky, A.V. Panar, A. Sosnin, Such researchers as J. T. Toschenko, V. G. Fedotova, O. V. Khokhlova, S. I. Chudinov can be distinguished.

The study of this phenomenon among national researchers was Baitenova N.J., Bishmanov K. M., Borbasova K. M., Kurmanalieva A.D., Kosichenko A., Kurganskaya V. D., Zhetkinbaev E., Karin E., Nurpeisov D. K., Sakhiev S. E., Urazbaev A. Z., Shibutov M., Abramov V. and others. Their research is used in the text of the dissertation and is listed in the list of references.

The problem of religious extremism and terrorism in the literature is considered in various aspects. There are historical studies whose authors determine when the phenomenon of extremism and terrorism arose. For example, V. Lacker, B. Hoffman, I. Alexander and S. Maxwell, A. J. Marcella, V. Chalikova, O. V. Budnitsky, V. A. Sosnin and T. A. Nestik, etc. There are also different points of view on this issue. Some authors attribute the emergence of extremism and terrorism to antiquity (for example, V. Lacker [2], Others – to the end of the XIX century (I. Alexander and S. Maxwell [3], V. Chalikova [4]), O. V. Budnitsky [5], as well as V. A. Sosnin and T. A. Nestik [6] although, of course, some elements and ideological origins of extremism and terrorism, J. According to Marcel [7], are found in ancient times. The following is often found: This phenomenon is a certain system of elements uniquely associated with it. But over time, it became clear that some of its elements existed long before it. But then these elements, firstly, existed in a system of other phenomena and, therefore, performed functions other than those specified, and secondly, in this phenomenon they reach their developed form. The same applies to the elements that enter into the system of extremism and terrorism as a real phenomenon.

Methodological foundations of the study.

To reveal the content of the topic, a study was conducted “on the role of religious education in the fight against extremism and terrorism.” The study used a questionnaire survey method, and a questionnaire survey was obtained from 200 respondents. The selection of the study was carried out by random sampling. Students of Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, Nur-Mubarak Egyptian University of Islamic Culture took part in the survey and 3 experts took part as experts and interviewers.

Currently, the dissertation uses the following methods used in religious studies analysis:

- a comparative functional method used in in-depth interviews and focus groups: identifying differences between the compared denominations and religious trends and identifying these differences at the level of goals and use of religious and cultural units;
- the semiotic system-structural method consists in systematically describing not only the universal connections of religious phenomena, but also the legal connections between parts of these phenomena, that is, by determining their structural organization and semantics, taking into account the facts of the interests of religion and society.
- field religious and social methods are aimed at generalizing research materials that are the core of scientific knowledge:

a) survey; b) observation; d) interviewing method; e) study of interests.

The theoretical and scientific-practical significance of research work.

The theoretical and practical value of the research topic may be related to the preservation and further improvement of our national identity in accordance with the modern requirements of our culture. The results obtained can be used in the field of sociology, religious studies, psychology, and cultural studies. The significance of the dissertation research can be applied by political scientists, religious scholars, cultural scientists, sociologists, psychologists, criminologists in professional activities and theoretical research.

The scientific novelty of the dissertation work. One of the most urgent global problems of our time, taken as the topic of a special search, is to determine the place and role of religious knowledge in limiting terrorism and extremism, considering it within the framework of a religious phenomenological paradigm, first posed in this work from a religious point of view. As a result of the study, the following **new scientific results** were obtained:

- In modern Kazakhstan, as shown by "Terrible January", it has been established on new interdisciplinary methodological foundations that the intensification of the processes of politicization of religion leads to extreme forms of anti-humanism, including religiously motivated extremism and terrorism. In a genuine model of ethnocultural, confessional, civil and political identity based on factors of stability and harmony, at the same time, the religiosity of the people began to be used by a certain group as a political tool, and this was confirmed by the data.

- It is determined that the successful Islamic practice, which has shown the way to limit religious extremism and terrorism, is very relevant in today's socio-cultural and political reality and in this direction, as a new position in the fight against religious terrorism and extremism, the applicant proposes the following specific measures: legality, complexity, efficiency, effectiveness.

- The large-scale humanistic heritage of the thinkers of the Turkic world A. Yassawi, J. Balasaguni, A. Iugineki, S. Bakirgani, etc. It was scientifically differentiated and adapted to the social practice of modernity; the place and role of schools formed by religious historical figures Abu Hanifa, Maturidi, K. A. Yasawi and others are reflected. in the worldview of the Kazakh people, their prospects in the harmonization of public relations, service to the future are determined; studied from the point of view of the teachings of fih, usul-fih, kalam, ihsan, etc., their place in science was evaluated; the worldview of thinkers Abai, Mashhur Zhusup, Shakarim, etc. was clearly analyzed from the point of view of Islamic teachings limiting religious extremism and terrorism, and their real ideological potential was revealed; - An important role in the prevention of religious extremism and terrorism is played by the improvement of religious knowledge in accordance with modern requirements. Due to this, the interrelation of traditional Islamic values and national worldview, religious beliefs, law, ethics, ethnography in the history of the Kazakh people was built.

Conclusions proposed for protection:

1. The main signs of extremism and terrorism as a religious and socio-political phenomenon include: the use of rape and threats implemented using particularly acute forms and methods; focus on achieving a political goal, weakening opponents; high public danger associated with a threat to human life; the use of conspiracy.

2. The radicalization of members of society is influenced by many factors, such as religious literacy, psychological, social need, kinship, and discontent. It is also proved in the dissertation that each factor has its own characteristics and contributes to the spread of a radical idea. These include: social and economic crises; a decline in the standard of living of a significant part of the population; the desire of leaders of political parties and religious groups to achieve their goals as soon as possible.

3. In order to strengthen the fight against the phenomena of religious extremism, religious studies education is based on modern principles and directions. The subjects directly fighting religious terrorism and extremism are defined not only by state and law enforcement agencies, but also by religious educational organizations of the country.

4. As modern religious studies have found out, the gathering of supporters of radical ideology is now increasingly moving from offline to online. The use of social media and even chat rooms in virtual games has also become a favorite way to spread this ideology. Consequently, the problem of cybersecurity in society is becoming increasingly important, and its approaches to combating it at the international level are becoming more and more obvious.

5. Extremist and terrorist ideas of religious significance turn religiously illiterate people into religious fanatics, resulting in terrorists who support the interests of an individual or a group. This, in turn, leads to social tension and threatens the sovereignty of the State. Therefore, the fight against elements that exacerbate mass consciousness, provoke, and misinform does not negate its importance either. In this regard, it is necessary that not only moral, but also legal restrictions be created in society against the above destructive steps.

6. The penetration of the ideology of violence into the youth environment is closely linked to an increase in the crime rate with their participation, negative socialization of young people, and social tension in society. Youth extremism differs from adult extremism in its organization and spontaneity.

The structure of the dissertation work. The structure of the dissertation is built in accordance with the set purpose and objectives. The research work consists of an introduction, two chapters, a conclusion, and a list of references. The number of pages are 162 pages.