

Homegrown Violent Extremism in John Updike's *Terrorist*

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Abstract

What happened on September 9/11 in the USA led to many changes in the world. Homegrown terrorism and radicalism have been as disastrous as foreign radicalism and violent extremism and terrorism. Since 9/11, many books and studies were conducted in different fields of sociology, psychology, politics, and education. The world of arts and literature was affected as well, and many novels, dramas, papers, and films were produced. In this paper, Updike's novel, *Terrorist*, is discussed. Views of McCauley and Moskalenko with regards to individual, group, and mass homegrown violent extremism are used to see how Ahmad is made into a would be terrorist under the guidance of Sheikh Rashid. It is argued that the lack of father in his life, being bullied in school, and the life style of his mother and his environment lead to his isolation and search for identity. However, due to doubts he does not become a terrorist at the end.

Keywords: terrorist, homegrown violent extremism, identity, John Updike, post 9/11 fiction.

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