

We hear a lot about so-called **jihadi terrorism** these days... Is it a real threat?

97% of surveyed Americans believe **foreign terrorism** is an important threat to the United States.

HOWEVER:

The stats show us that fear is overblown!

Americans aren't at any meaningful risk of being killed by "jihadi terrorists".

They're more likely to **drown in a bathtub** or **be struck by lightning!**

EVERY YEAR:

- fewer than **one in one million** Muslims participate in political violence, and
- **far right groups kill more Americans** than Muslims do.

So why are so many people in America afraid of 'jihadi terrorism'?

In truth, US popular culture & media teaches people to be afraid of a threat that hardly exists

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If we define terrorism as any act of violence carried out for a political purpose, it becomes clear how skin color and religion affect the way that act is portrayed.

Lets compare how that portrayal typically differs in US media, news & Hollywood films:

When a Muslim or Arab person commits political violence:

They are **immediately** labelled a terrorist.

VS

When a white person commits political violence:

They are **almost never** labelled a terrorist.

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The violence is blamed on Islam and on Muslim culture.

VS

It's blamed on mental illness or on life circumstances.

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The media claims that Muslims are prone to violence.

VS

The white attacker is considered a 'lone gunman' and their culture and religion are never brought into question

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Muslim communities are asked to apologize and take responsibility for the violence.

VS

Christian communities and white supremacists are never asked to apologize or take responsibility.

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Mosques and Muslim organizations are asked to denounce "Islamist terror."

VS

Churches and Christian organizations are never asked to denounce acts of violence perpetrated by Christians

Why does the media frame Muslims as exceptionally violent if that isn't true?

Convincing Americans that all Muslims are violent helps the US government justify military intervention around the world and reshape American society to the benefit of the elite.

To date, the US government has spent **trillions of dollars** on wars in the Middle East under the guise of "fighting terrorism."

These wars help the US government maintain its global dominance while protecting **US oil interests**.



Since long before Donald Trump took office, the United States government has actively worked to maintain the threat of "jihadi terrorism."

The FBI routinely sends agents and informants into Muslim communities to **entrap vulnerable people** by encouraging them to participate in fake terrorist plots.

When the FBI "uncovers" these fake threats, the media reports them as foiled ISIS plots. This helps drive the narrative that "jihadi terrorism" is a major threat.

How are American Muslims impacted by the ongoing "War on Terror?"

1. The FBI spies on Muslims in mosques, community centers, and even children's sporting leagues.
2. Many are placed on "no-fly lists" and banned from travelling in planes despite posing no threat.
3. Some are incarcerated for crimes they never would have participated in if not for FBI coercion.
4. Muslims are increasingly targets of hate crimes, bigotry, and discrimination.

How can we fight anti-Muslim racism?

To make meaningful progress, the root causes of anti-Muslim racism must be addressed. This includes **ending the War on Terror**, ceasing US intervention in the middle east and building an anti-war movement.

As individuals, we can begin by **educating ourselves** on the ways racism has been instrumental in the creation of the US state, its ongoing global dominance, and the injustices and inequalities in American society.

Reference:

Kumar, Deepa. *Constructing the Terrorist Threat: Islamophobia, The Media & The War on Terror*. Directed by Sui Jialy. 2017. Media Education Foundation.