Evolution of Generational Jihadist Terrorism

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On June 16th, 656 AD, third caliph of Muslims was murdered by rebels. The attack was claimed by a radical group of early Muslims named Kharjites (outsiders).

After the incident, the son in law of Prophet Mohammad became Caliph in 656 AD who was assassinated 5 years later. Muslims and Islam witnessed the first terrorist group i.e. Kharjites who used to kill everybody not accepting their ideals. Later in the Islamic history, another generation of radicalised Shia Muslims emerged and terrorized people in late 11th century named Assassins.

A careful look on Islamic history and politics informs us that radical thought became a fundamental agenda of few Muslims that wanted to hold office of Caliph by force. With the eve of technology and changing geo political conditions, Afghan Jihad provided a new opportunity to these radicalised people again.

Hence a new generation of Kharjites emerged named Taliban. Born in Afghan Jihad and following the same traditions of radical thought a new generation of Kharjites emerged named Al-Qaeda (AQ). While AQ gave birth to another generation of radicalisation initially named AQ in Iraq which is later on claimed itself as Islamic State (IS).

Our research argues that Islamist terrorism is ingrained in Islamic history that takes it roots from early group of Muslims that refused to follow Prophet Orders of tolerance and peace.

Method:
Case Study Research
Participants:
Islamic Scholars,
Counter Terrorism experts in Pakistan

Findings:
Jihadist Terrorism is entering into its sixth generation.
1. Kharjites
2. Mujahedeen
3. Taliban
4. Al-Qaeda
5. IS
6. Takfiri

Significant Differences:
Among six generations of Jihadists
First generation: Against Muslim Rulers
Second: Against USSR
Third: USA and West
Fourth: Local in Afghanistan
Fifth: Global Caliphate
Sixth: Against Fellow Muslims

References: