

Flawed theory, misconceived policies and predictable 'unintended consequences': Social Cohesion and counter-terrorism in England.

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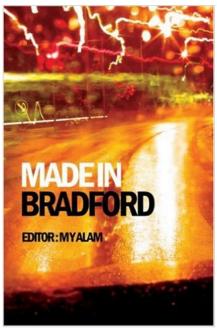
Abstract

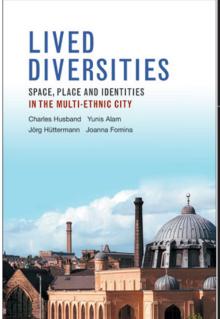


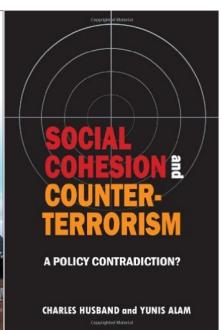
- This paper draws upon a study of the implementation of two policies that were central to the British government's response to the terrorist bombings in England in 2005. One policy was an extension of the long established British state policy on the integration of ethnic minorities into 'the British way of life'. This was a policy which was on a trajectory of becoming increasingly assimilationist in ideology and practice. After the outrages of 9/11 in the United States and of 2005 in England these policies had a very specific focus upon Britain's Muslim communities.
- The other policy was directly aimed at preventing the growth of 'Islamic radicalisation' and the production of 'home grown bombers' in the United Kingdom. This too was very specifically aimed at Britain's Muslim communities.
- The analysis will demonstrate the very negative interaction of these too policies as they were implemented at the level of the local state; and will draw out general implications for continuing state policy.













THE CONTEXT.

History of British diversity.

History of British self –regard

[the Mother of Parliaments : the haven of refugees etc]

Blommaert and Verschueren (1998) the limits of

tolerance

The victimisation of the majority





From 'Paki' to Muslim.



Thatcherism - the new racism

The enemy within

fear of being "swamped"

The Honeyford Affair in Bradford

The Satanic Verses and the Rushdie Affair



The Riots of 2001 - 9/11 - and the War On Terror: the Dash to Community Cohesion

informed by:

Self – segregation and Parallel lives

Muslims as - The wilfully alien 'stranger' and Distressed English Decency.

A policy agenda informed by The third way and :

RED a redistributionist policy agenda
SID a social integrationist discourse
MUD a moral underclass discourse



7/7/2005 LONDON HOME GROWN BOMBERS CONTEST - SECURITIZATION IN OVERDRIVE





"CONTEST is intended to be a comprehensive strategy: Work on

Pursue and Prevent reduces the threat from terrorism: work on Protect and Prepare reduces the UK's vulnerability to attack.

(The United Kingdom's Strategy for Countering International Terrorism. Cm 7547, The London Stationery Office.)

The Muslim communities of the UK were the specific targets of this policy.

The people encouraged to become like us through Community Cohesion are now told that they are the seed bed of Britain's home grown bombers and are therefore legitimately to be subject to intrusive surveillance.





Both policies are very largely implemented at the level of the local state.

The penetration of Community cohesion by the intrusive logics of Prevent corrupted the faith of local communities in local authority staff who had worked over the years to build a relationship of trust.

"There is going to be that level of suspicion, you know. Anyone who works with communities from now, on Community Cohesion, or whatever, it all comes back to Prevent".



Community Cohesion

Framed By SID and the centrality of entry into the labour market.

Reeking of MUD and the moral turpitude of archaic Patriarchal Islam.

Muslims are the SPECIFIC target of community cohesion

Implemented by the local state.





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