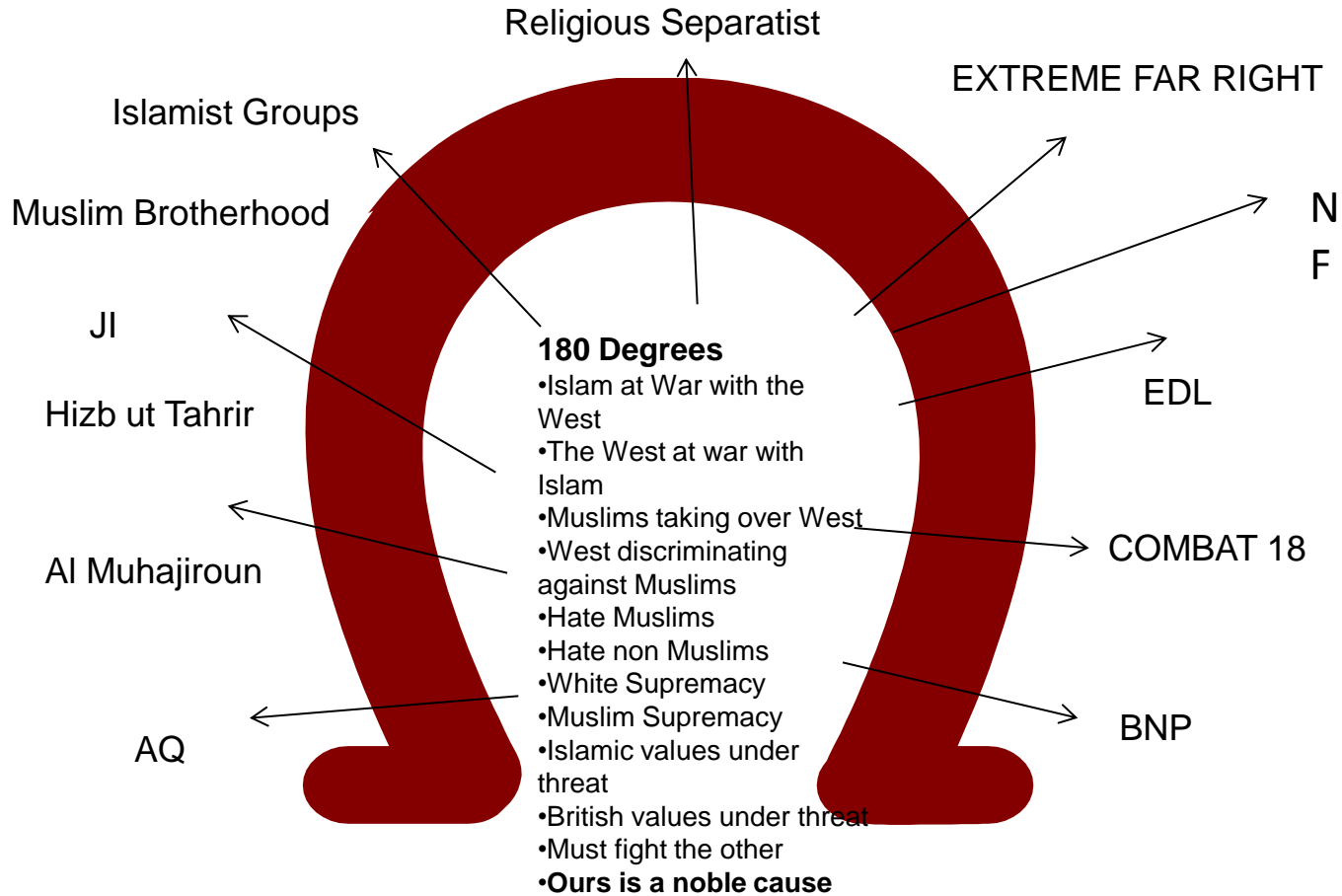


Manipulation of grievances for an ideological agenda

Objectives

- To demonstrate how real, perceived or invented grievances are manipulated for an ideological agenda
- To introduce the Islamist grand-narrative as understood by key Islamist ideologues

Extremism can work both Ways



Whoever Shouts the Loudest

Brainstorm

- Do grievances, which may cause anger and frustration, lead to radicalisation in themselves or do they merely aid the process?
- How do extremists exploit grievances?
- Can extremist ideology exist independently of grievances?

The Extremist grand-narrative

- Islam and the 'West' are competitors for global domination hence they are eternally at conflict
- The incompatibility of Islam and secularism
- The desire to see Islam dominate the world politically
- A medieval interpretation of Shari'ah must be imposed on all people even if it is against their will
- Muslims who disagree with Islamist aims are corrupt, evil and allies of the West

Exploiting grievances

Extremists exploit grievances by construing them through their grand-narrative:

- Identity
- Racism/ Islamophobia
- Media portrayal of Islam and Muslims
- Israel/ Palestine conflict
- Syria war and tensions in the Arab world
- Colonialism

Selective moral outrage

- Darfur – does not fit the script
- Kosovo
- East Timor
- Muslim-on-Muslim violence
- Oppression
- Moral outrage of other communities & terrorism e.g. Hispanics in the USA

The grand-narrative and the solution

- All extremists maintain that these grievances are caused by the lack of Islamist governments, ignorant (*Jahilliyah*) societies and the prevalence of *Kufr* thoughts and emotions
- Hence the only solution is the establishment of an expansionist Islamic state or to fight this expansion
- All Muslims must work towards this and if they do not they are sinful and have not truly understood Islam
- All non Muslims must work to tackle Islam

Summary

- Whilst there are grievances which people may be affected by, these on their own do not lead to radicalization
- Some grievances are real; some are invented or exaggerated
- The grievances are manipulated by extremists, viewed through the ideological prism of Islamism and hence used for recruitment purposes
- Grievances may attract individuals to extremism but once they are fully immersed in groups, it is the ideology that becomes the driving force