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THE ANTI-ISLAMIST DISCOURSE: THE CASE OF AL-BUTI

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AL-SHAJARA

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Abstract

This paper explores al-Buti's critical view on contemporary Islamists who, according to al-Buti, have misapplied the Islamic law and sacrificed da'wah in favour of political gains. Among their dogmatic beliefs is the ruthless and hasty call for the establishment of the Islamic state, the takfir of rulers, arbitrary application of the question of tatarus, etc. Having presented and evaluated al-Buti's views pertaining to Islamists' position on the above issues, the paper further attempts to examine whether they are applicable to contemporary movements or not. This was done through consulting the literature of the most eminent Islamist movements (Hizb al-Tahrir, the Muslim Brotherhood, jihadists, the AKP, and Hizb al-Nahda). The paper followed textual analysis aspiring towards providing a more comprehensive approach to the study of al-Buti's views. Accordingly, seven important issues were selected and used to assess the position of movements according to al-Buti's approach. It concludes, that al-Buti's anti-Islamist discourse deserves to be taken as a yardstick against which a clear distinction is made between extreme and moderate Islamist movements. The paper also suggested several measures to further enhance research in this important area of study.

Keywords

Author Keywords: Islamist; discourse; Takfir; da`wah; moderate; extreme; tatarus

KeyWords Plus: MODERATION; EGYPT; PATH

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