

# Models and mechanisms of group radicalization

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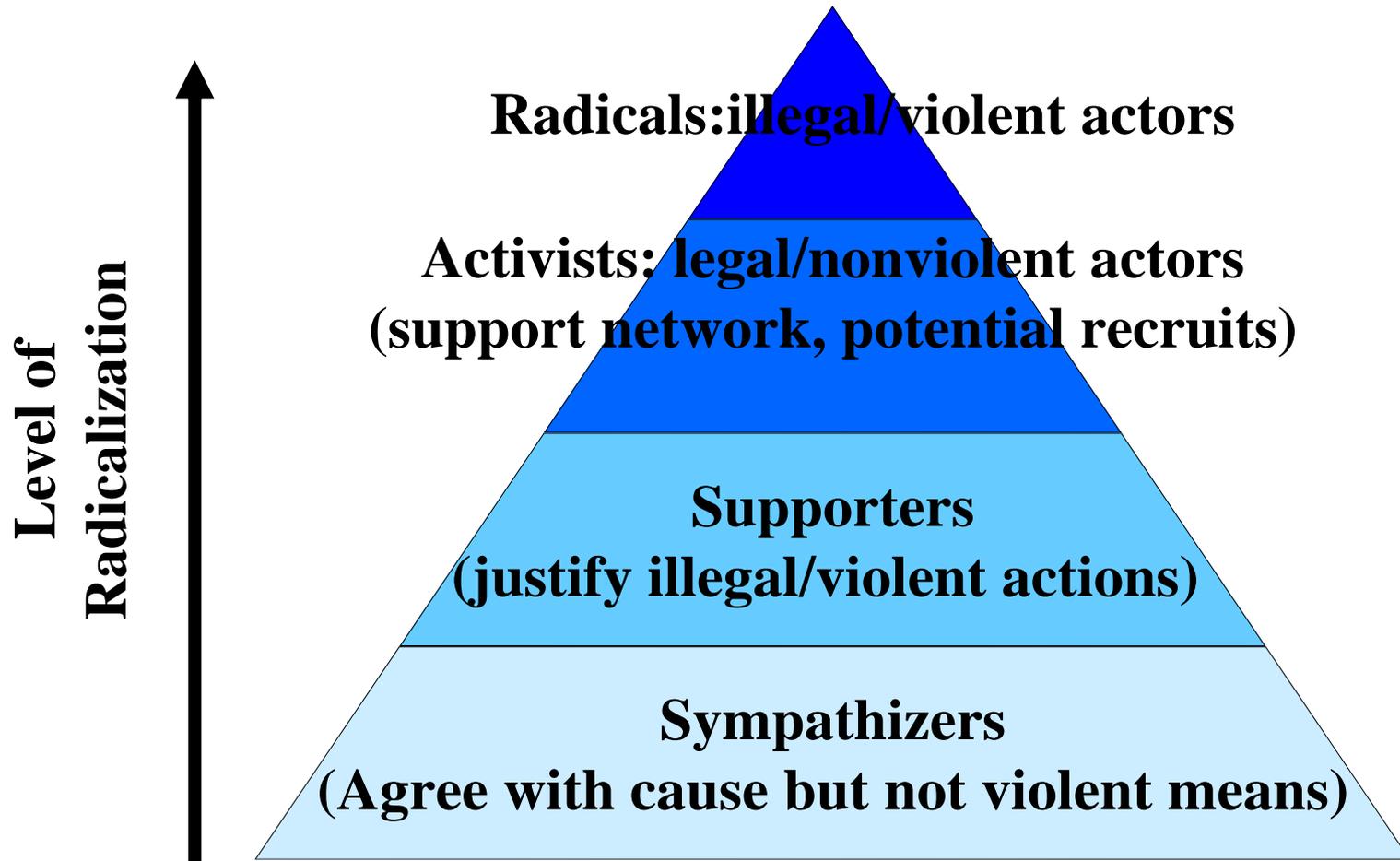
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# What is radicalization?

- Changes toward increased support of intergroup conflict
- Anti-U.S. radicalization: change in beliefs, feelings, and actions toward increased support for activism (legal) and radicalism (illegal) against U.S.

# Activism and Radicalization in the pyramid model



# Crucial problem: beliefs and feelings vs action

“Do you think any further attacks by British suicide bombers in the UK are justified or unjustified?” (ICM poll UK Muslims >7/7/05)

Five percent said “justified”;

$.05 \times 1.6\text{M} = 80,000$  UK Muslims

~80 implicated in terrorist action

~999/1000 not radical in action

# Mechanisms of group radicalization to action

1. *Extremity shift in like-minded groups* (increased uniformity, increased polarization)
2. *Social reality power of isolated group* (more isolated =>faster radicalization)
3. *Competition vs state* (escalation, e.g. SDS)
4. *Competition vs non-state groups* (e.g. PFLP)
5. *Competition within group* (factions and fissioning e.g. IRA)

# Radicalization as opposition politics

- Usual focus on radical/terrorist groups
- Need more attention to competing groups
- Radicalization occurs in dynamic competition between group and group, group and state, in which both sides are radicalized.