

Jihadist terrorism in the United Kingdom and France: The constitution of a threat and its implications for the State and citizenship

Does it still make sense to talk, think and write about terrorism? Has not everything been said, thought and written in the aftermath of the 9/11? The answer will depend not so much on the point of view of how the phenomenon is viewed and perceived, but above all on the effects it has and how they are perceived. It is important to bear in mind that terrorism is neither a new nor a recent phenomenon. Since the end of the last century, the novelty in European countries is the fact that the notion of 'terrorism' has become associated with *jihadist* terrorism. The present research intends to analyse the responses that have been produced to this phenomenon by the European states affected by it, framing it in its wider socio-historic context. In other words, it is not intended to give relevance to the objective manifestation that terrorism assumes, but rather to give relevance to the way in which society constructs the vision of those who commit it as terrorists, as a threat and what are the effects of that construction on the political community and on citizenship. The central issue is the development of a conception of threat to the survival of the community and what transformations it causes in the community itself. It is from these assumptions that it is important to understand how terrorism is constituted as a threat and what are the effects of this threat on the formation of the State and citizenship, and then to understand how citizenship is being transformed in a way that excludes those who are terrorists but is also limiting the rights of those who are not. Apparently, *Jihadist* terrorism threatens the European civilization, values, life as a community and the very existence of the political community as is known. On the other side are the perpetrators, who are on the margins of civilization and of the principles of citizenships, true outsiders.

Paulo Faustino

University of Coimbra/Centre for Social Studies

paf.coimbra@gmail.com