

## Abstract of Doctoral Dissertation

### **Deradicalization Policies of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia: Seeking Moderate Interpretations of Islam (1979-2020)**

Doctoral Program in International Relations  
Graduate School of International Relations  
Ritsumeikan University  
アルマイマン アナス アブドラハマンエ  
ALMIMAN Anas Abdulrahman A

Amidst the Cold War (1947-1991) between the religious movements in KSA, extremists have exploited the platforms to reshape the Islamic religious landscape since 1979. This exploitation has affected Saudi national security. In 2017 Saudi Crown Prince Muhammed bin Salman (1985-) presented coexistence, tolerance, and openness to the world. Various interpretations of Islam claiming to apply religious teachings have spread, some of which encouraged extremism. However, in recent decades, KSA has attempted to reduce extremism with new tools and fresh strategies, evaluated in this dissertation. We are aware of the sources gap in this topic which we attempt to fill in this dissertation.

This dissertation focuses on three dimensions. The first dimension is extremists' influence and exploitation of Islamic platforms. By overtaking these platforms and accessing millions of people, terrorists can spread their ideas globally, greatly impacting the national security of KSA. Thanks to a new research approach, understanding how this exploitation takes place is crucial to crafting a comprehensive policy challenging extremism. The second dimension narrows the focus of the study by analyzing Islamic intellectual security as the policy choice of the government of KSA. Given the religious source of conflict, the fight between extremists and the government takes place on an ideological level, requiring officials to combat extremist Islamic doctrines used to persuade the youth to join the *jihad*. The last dimension deals with the anti-extremist policies within the Islamic intellectual security idea by showcasing KSA's three-pronged deradicalization approach based on

the tenets of moderate Islamic teachings.

Using an analytical-descriptive research method the dissertation analyzes the shortcomings of existing literature to understand how moderate Islam influences deradicalization policies from an Islamic perspective. KSA's national security requires an understanding of the religious nature of the conflict, soft power approach targeting minds, and extremists' belief systems to successfully eliminate terrorist threats.