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Tablighi Jamaat: Discourse and Challenges

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Abstract

The role and impact of Tablighi Jamaat (TJ) have been under discussion for a long time. It has been a topic of discussion not only for the religious circles in the Muslim world, but for western scholars as well. Salafites not only object to the approach adopted by the TJ but also reject it, labeling it as an unlawful innovation (*bid'ah*).

The range of the TJ's activities, however, continues to expand. This paper looks at the TJ in the context of South Asia, particularly Pakistan, where it originated and expanded. The Jamaat's main emphasis is on making a man an example of a good character. It has deeply penetrated into South Asia's Muslim society.

Criticism against the TJ is leveled on two counts—its belief system, and, the method of its operations. In addition, objections are raised regarding the duration of visits, schedules, and the method of administering the oath of allegiance. Reservations and concerns are expressed in the West with reference to the TJ and its potential link to jihad, terrorism and political Islam.

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