

**Title:** Quantifying and Qualifying Charisma: A Theoretical Framework for Measuring the Presence of Charismatic Authority in Terrorist Groups

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**Research Question:**

In order to stimulate the production of robust and replicable empirical research on the dynamics of charismatic leadership in terrorist groups, this working paper operationalizes the social-scientific concept of charismatic authority. It presents and justifies a theoretical framework consisting of fourteen indicators meant to be used as a heuristic to qualitatively and quantitatively analyze the presence of charismatic authority in terrorist groups. It then applies the framework to an illustrative case study that examines the relationship between violent radicalization and charismatic authority in the Covenant, the Sword, and the Arm of the Lord (CSA).

**Importance:**

This article provides researchers and analysts with a theoretical framework for future qualitative and quantitative analyses of charismatic authority in terrorist groups.

**Research Findings:**

Findings from the illustrative case study demonstrate the usefulness of the framework as a heuristic device, and suggest that a complex relationship exists between the violent radicalization process and the presence of charismatic authority in terrorist groups.

**Implications:**

This working paper will assist in the eventual creation of empirical research and the development of theories related to charismatic leadership in terrorist organizations.