

# ARENAS

ANALYSIS OF AND RESPONSES  
TO EXTREMIST NARRATIVES



Extremists are said to be engaged in a fight “against the socio-political and cultural system in which they operate” (Orofin & Allchorn 2023: 4)



## Features of Extremism

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Four major “pillars”  
on which (political)  
extremism is based:  
Jesse (2021: 279)



- identity theory of democracy
- friend-foe-stereotypes
- Usually a missionary perspective
- high degree of ideological dogmatism

## Polarisation

- the in-group presents itself as morally superior AND victim of the out-group, who are framed as a danger and morally inferior
- thus, the hostile actions against the out-group are justified

## The Question of Violence

There is a broad consensus now that not only physical acts but also verbal behaviour can constitute violence, e.g. in the case of hate speech (see e.g. Guillén-Nieto 2023)

