Heinrich Wilhelm Schäfer: Kampf der Fundamentalismen. Radikales Christentum, radikaler Islam und Europas Moderne
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Exposé in English:

The Clash of Fundamentalisms. Radical Christianity, Radical Islam and Europe's modernity
(Essay, 400.000 characters)

The book presents a new and completely formal definition of "fundamentalism". On this basis the book …
- assesses Islamic movements within the framework of the kind of modernity specific to the Middle East,
- assesses Christian movements in the USA within the framework of the kind of modernity specific to America,
- locates the different fundamentalisms within the global relations of power,
- discusses the logic of the relevant "political theologies", and finally
- outlines – contrasting with this picture – three strands of European modernity and the challenge of global justice.

The book is based on more than two decades of academic research, but its style is well-suited to a broader intellectual audience and does not require deeper religious, sociological or theological knowledge.

Definition of fundamentalism:
"Fundamentalism" is defined by two criteria that must be found in combination in order to qualify a certain religious or social practice as "fundamentalist". A movement or similar social actor has to
1. declare a certain conviction – religious, political etc. – as an absolute value and
2. employ this in an expansive strategy to control major social space.
Only such movements that meet *both criteria* are "fundamentalist". A movement like the Amish that meets the first criterion but focuses on withdrawal from society is not to be called "fundamentalist". Revolutionary movements, on the other hand, like the Sandinistas or Liberation Theology that meet only the second criterion are not "fundamentalist" either.
However, an important context condition must also be mentioned: fundamentalist movements are phenomena of modernity.
This formal definition has the advantage that it can be applied to non-religious actors as well. Nevertheless, the present book focuses on religious fundamentalism.

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