

International Terrorism
International Relations Department

Second Grade Students

Lecture 15

ISIS & Counterterrorism

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Islamic state of Iraq and Sham (ISIS)

- The Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS, also known as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant): a Sunni jihadist group with the capability of a paramilitary, established an Islamic caliphate.

The Objective of ISIS

- Remove the aggressor from Iraq.
- Affirm *tawhid*, oneness of God among Muslims
- Propagate the message that “there is no god but God”, to all the countries in which Islam is absent.
- Wage jihad to liberate Muslim territories from infidels and apostates.
- Fight the *taghut* ruling Muslim lands.
- Establish a wise Caliphate” in which the Sharia rules supreme as it did during the time of Prophet Mohammad.

ISIS from the Establishing to Ending

- (2004) Abu Musab al Zarqawi's jihadist group in Iraq pledges allegiance to Osama Bin Laden's al Qaeda, henceforth becoming known as al Qaeda in Iraq (AQI).
- (2006) Al Masri, Zarqawi's successor, announces the establishment of the Islamic State in Iraq (ISI), with Abu Omar al-Baghdadi as its leader.
- (2009) Iraqi Prime Minister al-Maliki targets Sunni leaders, including Vice President Tariq al-Hashimi, increasing sectarian tensions. Support for ISI begins to increase in Sunni tribal areas, and ISI claims responsibility for suicide attacks that killed hundreds in Baghdad.

- (2013) Name of Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) adopted, ISIS attacks Ahrar-al-Sham and al-Nusra around Raqqa, ISIS takes control of Ramadi and Fallujah.
- (2014) ISIS takes over Raqqa and declares it the capital of the ISIS emirate, ISIS takes over Mosul, launching its largest offensive to date, ISIS announces the establishment of a caliphate and rebrands itself as the “Islamic State”. President Obama announces the beginning of airstrikes against ISIS in Iraq to defend Yazidi citizens stranded in Sinjar.
- ISIS advances on the Syrian border town of Kobani and thousands of refugees flee into Turkey.
- ISIS spokesman Abu Muhammad al Adnani calls for attacks on citizens of the United States, France and other countries in the anti-ISIS coalition.

- Faced with an overwhelming military campaign waged by an array of local and international foes, ISIS lost its last territorial foothold in Iraq in 2017 and in Syria in early 2019.

The U.S. may have helped to break up the ISIS proto-state or “caliphate” in Syria and Iraq, but it has scarcely defeated it. Moreover, even if the U.S. had succeeded in driving ISIS out of Syria and Iraq, this would scarcely have defeated terrorism if the same causes then created new movements.

Counter Terrorism

- On 12 September 2001, the Security Council took the unprecedented step of determining that 'terrorism' constitutes a threat to international peace and security, in its Resolution 1368.81 Equally important and unparalleled is the Security Council's subsequent Resolution **1373 (2001)** of 28 September 2001 to create an international obligation to adopt specific measures to combat terrorism. **Resolution 1373** also 'called on' States to take other steps to prevent and suppress terrorist acts. The Resolution included measures such as the screening of asylum seekers before granting refugee status and the criminalisation under domestic law of the provision of funds to terrorist organisations.

- Shortly after the adoption of Security Council Resolution 1373, a **Counter-terrorism Committee** was established to monitor the implementation of the resolution and to review States' reports.

- **Strategic focus areas for counter-terrorism activities:**

- 1- Promoting the implementation of the international legal framework against terrorism and enhancing international legal co-operation in criminal matters related to terrorism.

- 2- Countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, following a multidimensional approach.

- 3- Preventing and suppressing the financing of terrorism.

- 4- Countering the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes.

- 5- Promoting dialogue and co-operation on counter-terrorism issues, in particular, through public-private partnerships between State authorities and the private sector (business community, industry), as well as civil society and the media.

- 6- Strengthening travel document security.