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BACKGROUND REPORT | XXII | NATO | 03

Islamic State

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1 Introduction

ISIS¹ or Daesh² is a terrorist organization that has achieved recognition in the past couple of years. Like many other terrorist groups, it shares the common hope of becoming an extremist Islamic fundamental state. However, what makes it unique is its ambition and aspiration to achieve its goals in the shortest time possible.³

Of course, ISIS has everything needed to become a state, such as administrative buildings, courts and street signs, all of which are general characteristics of a state, but not one that is internationally recognized.⁴

Its brutal ways of implementing its ideology have made it a rival not only to the western countries, but also to the neighbouring ones and to other terrorist organizations,⁵ which are opposing its barbarity to this very day. ISIS has also gained a lot of attention owing to the amount of progress it has made in several different aspects ranging from military to financial, meaning that it was able to gain a huge amount of profit to fund its operations in three years.

One of the reasons why solving the problem of this organization's very existence is so crucial, is due to the fact that it set up its branches in several African,⁶ European, and Middle Eastern countries such as Syria, Iraq, and Libya. Not only has ISIS committed atrocities in its controlled areas in Syria and Iraq, but it was also capable of moving out of its operational zone in the Middle East and scarring the West numerous times by perpetrating attacks like those in Paris and Brussels.

All of this raises a question of whether or not and why NATO should tackle this particular problem. First of all, NATO has gained experience over the years⁷ thanks to its operations in Afghanistan and Libya. Moreover, they have showed that the Alliance can empower small- and medium-sized nations to take part in the fight against terror. All of the above could be applied in this region. Furthermore, there is still the case of the NATO members that were affected by the attacks such as France or Belgium. Thus, a terrorist attack against one can be interpreted as an attack against all under the Article 5 of the Washington Treaty.⁸

¹ Islamic State of Iraq and Syria.

² Arabic acronym, meaning he who crushes underfoot.

³ TOGNOTTI, Chris. *The Difference Between ISIS & Al Qaeda Comes Down To Their End Goals* [online]. November 21, 2015 [cit. 2016-09-04]. Available at: <<http://www.bustle.com/articles/125320-the-difference-between-isis-al-qaeda-comes-down-to-their-end-goals>>

⁴ *What is Isis and can the group be stopped?: Is IS really a state?* [online]. July 22, 2016 [cit. 2016-08-05]. Available at: <<http://www.theweek.co.uk/islamic-state/59001/isis-how-has-it-changed-and-can-it-be-stopped>>

⁵ MORTADA, Radwan. *Syria: al-Nusra Front declares war on ISIS* [online]. [cit. 2016-08-05]. Available at: <<http://english.al-akhbar.com/node/18785>>

⁶ RAHMANI, Bardia a Andrea TANCO. *ISIS's Growing Caliphate: Profiles of Affiliates: Nigeria* [online]. February 19, 2016 [cit. 2016-08-05]. Available at: <<https://www.wilsoncenter.org/article/isis-growing-caliphate-profiles-affiliates>>

⁷ KUHAR, Kathryn (ed.). *NATO's Counterterrorism & Counterinsurgency Experience in Afghanistan* [online]. Ankara, 2015 [cit. 2016-08-05]. Available at: <http://www.coedat.nato.int/publication/workshop_reports/05-CounterterrorismCounterinsurgencyExperience.pdf>

⁸ *Collective defence - Article 5* [online]. 22 March 2016 [cit. 2016-08-05]. Available at: <http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_110496.htm>



2 ISIS naming

The name of ISIS itself is quite hard to understand in English, considering the fact that there are three translations of the Arabic term *Daesh*. This term is not only used as an acronym, but more as an insult, because it carries the meaning of someone who crushes underfoot. This explains why it is not favoured by ISIS itself.

All three names that are used – IS, ISIL, and ISIS – actually do have different meanings; nevertheless, the group is the same. The first one is IS which stands for the Islamic State. This refers to the expansionist ambitions,⁹ thus generalizing the group. Then there is ISIL which stands for the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant. This gives it a broader definition, mainly because the Levant was used to describe “Greater Syria”,¹⁰ which included Lebanon, Jordan, Kuwait, Iraq, and Palestine. Lastly, there is the name ISIS which refers to the actual location of the group and to where it holds most of its territory – the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria.

3 Situation on the ground from 2013 to this day

Although the origin of ISIS dates back to 2004, it had not been officially formed and declared as a state until 2013. Meanwhile, in this nine-year gap it had witnessed a lot of changes in leadership from Zarqawi to al-Masri to Baghdadi eventually. In addition, it had gone through a lot of transitions in territory and power that eventually led to the announcement of establishing the caliphate.

However, 2013 marked the birth of ISIS, when the Islamic State in Iraq (ISI) announced a merger with an al-Qaeda affiliate in Syria, the Nusra Front. Nusra disagreed with this announcement and, as a reaction, pledged allegiance to al-Qaeda.¹¹ Nevertheless, ISI went on with the merger rebranding itself as *Al Dawla Al-Islamiya fi al-Iraq wa al-Sham*.¹² ISIS initiated a series of attacks in 2014,¹³ which led to the eventual capture of several key cities, for instance Fallujah, Raqqa, Mosul, and Tikrit, which were the basis upon which the state was built.

⁹ *Islamic State, Daesh or Isis: the dilemma of naming the extremists: From Isil and Isis to Islamic State* [online]. December 2, 2015 [cit. 2016-08-05]. Available at: <<http://www.theweek.co.uk/isis/62422/islamic-state-daesh-or-isis-the-dilemma-of-naming-the-militants>>

¹⁰ REYNOLDS, Gabriel. *Naming An Enemy: Islamic State, IS, ISIL, ISIS, Or Daesh?* [online]. March 6, 2016 [cit. 2016-08-05]. Available at: <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/gabriel-said-reynolds/naming-an-enemy-islamic-s_b_10217768.html>

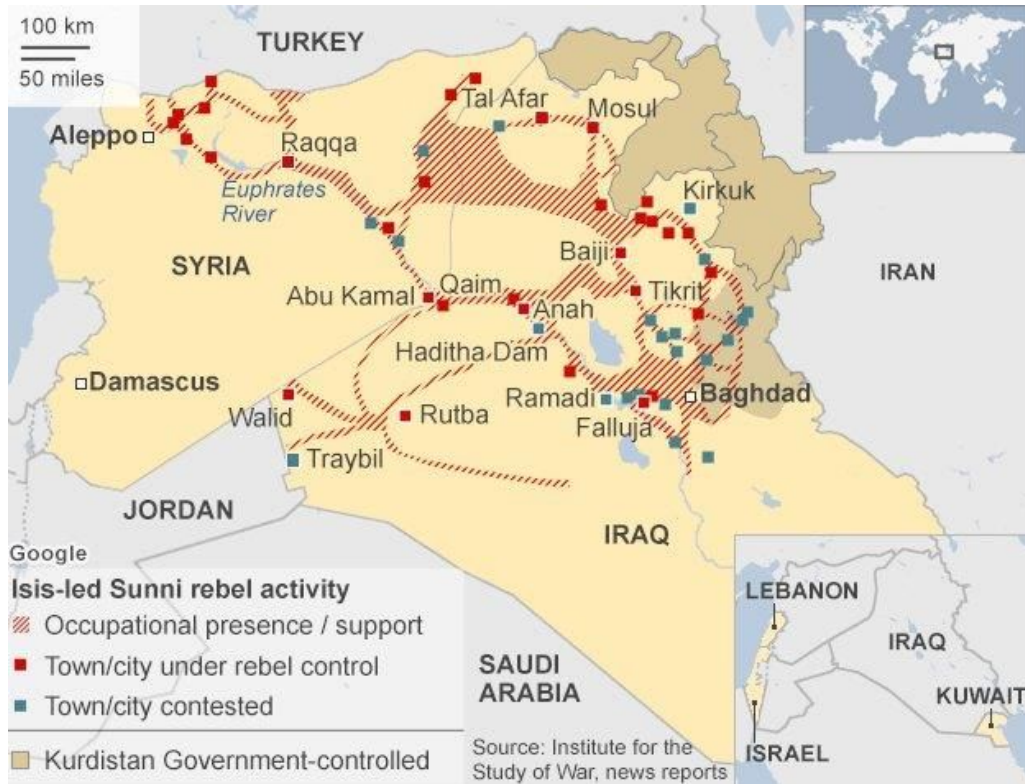
¹¹ *The Nusra Front Pledges Allegiance to Al-Qaeda* [online]. September 2, 2015 [cit. 2016-08-05]. Available at: <<http://www.counterextremism.com/content/nusra-front-pledges-allegiance-al-qaeda>>

¹² GLENN, Cameron. *Timeline: Rise and Spread of the Islamic State: 2013* [online]. July 5, 2016 [cit. 2016-08-05]. Available at: <<https://www.wilsoncenter.org/article/timeline-rise-and-spread-the-islamic-state>>

¹³ YOURISH, Karen, Derek WATKINS a TOM GIRATIKANON. *Where ISIS Has Directed and Inspired Attacks Around the World* [online]. March 22, 2016 [cit. 2016-08-05]. Available at: <http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2015/06/17/world/middleeast/map-isis-attacks-around-the-world.html?_r=0>



Figure 1: Territory conquered by ISIS in August 2014 with major cities highlighted¹⁴



This led to several disputes with other terrorist organizations, mainly al-Qaeda, due to ISIS' lack of obedience, which caused a disavowal of the two groups.¹⁵ This series of events eventually captured the attention of the West. However, no public decisions were made until ISIS closed in on the Kurdish city of Erbil in Iraq and Mount Sinjar. Thereafter, the US president authorized airstrikes against ISIS to protect the Yazidis running away from what has been recognized as a genocide by the US government.¹⁶

Afterward, ISIS expanded towards the Kurdish town of Kobane, causing an influx of refugees across the Turkish borders.¹⁷ As a result, a coalition between the US, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Bahrain, and Jordan was created in order to conduct

¹⁴ IS strongholds in Syrian rebel-held and contested areas. In: BBC.com [online]. © 2014 BBC. August 2, 2014 [cit. 2016-08-06]. Available at: <<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-24179084>>

¹⁵ SLY, Liz. *Al-Qaeda disavows any ties with radical Islamist ISIS group in Syria, Iraq* [online]. February 3, 2015 [cit. 2016-08-05]. Available at: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle_east/al-qaeda-disavows-any-ties-with-radical-islamist-isis-group-in-syria-iraq/2014/02/03/2c9afc3a-8cef-11e3-98ab-fe5228217bd1_story.html>

¹⁶ COOPER, Helene, Mark LANDER and Alissa RUBIN. *Obama Allows Limited Airstrikes on ISIS* [online]. August 7, 2014 [cit. 2016-08-05]. Available at: <<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/08/08/world/middleeast/obama-weighs-military-strikes-to-aid-trapped-iraqis-officials-say.html>>

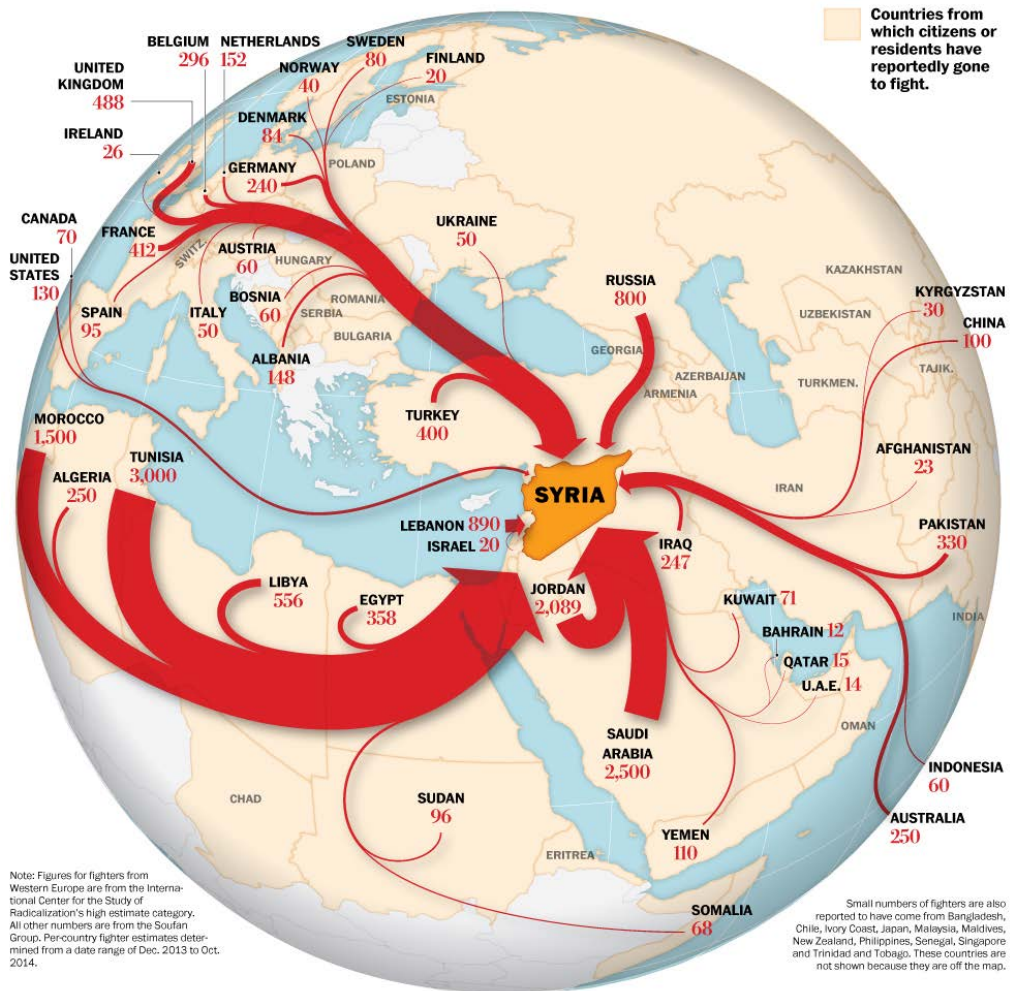
¹⁷ LETSCH, Constanze. *ISIS advance sends Kurdish refugees to Turkey ahead of key vote on crisis* [online]. October 2, 2014 [cit. 2016-08-05]. Available at: <<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/oct/02/isis-threat-to-kobani-send-refugees-to-turkey-ahead-of-vote>>



airstrikes.¹⁸ ISIS officially started its recruitment campaign, which included videos depicting the executions of mostly foreign reporters and photographers.¹⁹

Foreign fighters started flooding to ISIS-controlled areas in Arab countries such as Libya,²⁰ Syria, and Iraq, where ISIS found a safe haven in several cities such as Derna.²¹ Due to the city's proximity to Europe, many European countries started to feel threatened. In the same year, ISIS unleashed a series of suicide bombings in several Arab countries which contributed to the increasing disorder in the region.

Figure 2: Flow of foreign fighters to Syria²²



¹⁸ CLOUD, David. *5 Arab nations support U.S. in strikes inside Syria* [online]. September 4, 2016 [cit. 2016-08-05]. Available at: <<http://www.latimes.com/world/middleeast/la-white-house-allies-syria-isis-20140923-story.html>>

¹⁹ PELLED, Daniella. *ISIS Execution Videos: A Propaganda and Recruitment Tool* read more: [online]. November 17, 2015 [cit. 2016-08-05]. Available at: <<http://www.haaretz.com/middle-east-news/1.683579>>

²⁰ *British jihadists fighting for Isil in Libya* [online]. June 19, 2016 [cit. 2016-09-04]. Available at: <<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/06/19/british-jihadists-fighting-for-isil-in-libya/>>

²¹ JOHN, Tara. *Timeline: The Rise of ISIS* [online]. October 9, 2015 [cit. 2016-08-05]. Available at: <<http://time.com/4030714/isis-timeline-islamic-state/>>

²² *Foreign Fighters Flow to Syria* [online]. October 13, 2014 [cit. 2016-08-05]. Available at: <<http://soufangroup.com/tsg-report-quoted-in-wapo-foreign-fighters-flow-to-syria/>>



The number of the coalition members increased as a reaction to the attacks. The US airstrikes played a role in retrieving Tikrit. However, the loss of Tikrit for ISIS was compensated by the capture of Ramadi.²³ ISIS shifted its focus from Iraq to Syria, where it gained control over half of the country's territory, mainly taking over border cities like al-Tanaf.²⁴ In the middle of 2015, ISIS started to lose territory to Kurdish forces in Syria such as Tal Abyad, a border town with Turkey, used as a supply line to the city of Raqqa.²⁵ The Kurdish forces proved to be an organized force worthy of backing up, wherefore a number of Western countries called for more support to the Kurdish Peshmerga forces.²⁶ Turkey joined the list of the US-led coalition members after an attack in Suruc.²⁷ More and more countries fell victim to ISIS attacks and joined the airstrikes as a result. However, according to the CIA report on 16th January 2015, ISIS was not any weaker than before the US-led airstrikes had begun.²⁸

Unlike 2015, 2016 has proved to be a military success in disbanding ISIS considering the fact that it has lost 40 % of its territory in Iraq and 20 % in Syria²⁹ while losing key cities such as Ramadi and Fallujah. A number of armed forces on the ground have contributed to this, for instance the Syrian army, the Kurdish Peshmerga forces, the Iraqi army, Shia militias and last but not least the rival terrorist groups such as the al-Nusra front, in addition to the airstrikes by the Syrian government, the Russian Air Force,³⁰ and the US-led coalition.

Of course, ISIS has also contributed to its own losses due to its obsession with openly defending its territory, stationing its troops in a way that makes them vulnerable to airstrikes in conventional battles.³¹ The loss of territory is reportedly the reason why ISIS is conducting attacks all over the world³² in order to demonstrate its influence and power. These attacks indicate the possible end of ISIS. Surely, ISIS won't completely vanish, but it may shift from a state to a global terrorist organization.³³

²³ JOHN, Tara. *Timeline: The Rise of ISIS* [online]. October 9, 2015 [cit. 2016-08-05]. Available at: <<http://time.com/4030714/isis-timeline-islamic-state/>>

²⁴ *Al-Tanaf crossing is under control by IS* [online]. March 6, 2016 [cit. 2016-08-05]. Available at: <<http://www.syriaahr.com/en/?p=44823>>

²⁵ *Kurdish forces seize border town of Tal Abyad, cutting off key Isis supply line* [online]. June 16, 2015 [cit. 2016-08-05]. Available at: <<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/jun/16/kurdish-fighters-cut-key-supply-line-to-islamic-state-capital-raqqa>>

²⁶ VAN WILGENBURG, Wladimir. *British MP calls for more support to Kurdish Peshmerga forces* [online]. July 26, 2016 [cit. 2016-08-05]. Available at: <<http://aranews.net/2016/07/british-mp-calls-support-kurdish-peshmerga-forces/>>

²⁷ ROBERTSON, James. *The Suruc Massacre and the Turkish Deep State*. [online]. July 25, 2015 [cit. 2016-08-05]. Available at: <<https://crimesofempire.com/2015/07/25/the-suruc-massacre-and-the-turkish-deep-state/>>

²⁸ DILANIAN, Ken, Zeina KARAM a Bassem MROUE. *US intelligence: ISIS is no weaker than a year ago* [online]. July 31, 2015 [cit. 2016-08-05]. Available at: <<http://www.businessinsider.com/us-intelligence-isis-is-no-weaker-than-a-year-ago-2015-7>>

²⁹ DEARDEN, Lizzie. *Isis 'loses 40% of Iraq territory and 20% in Syria' as international air strikes support ground operations* [online]. January 5, 2016 [cit. 2016-08-05]. Available at: <<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/isis-loses-40-of-iraq-territory-and-20-in-syria-as-international-air-strikes-support-ground-a6797486.html>>

³⁰ VIRTUE, Rob. *Russia takes out 49 ISIS targets in ONE DAY causing quaking jihadis to flee their posts* [online]. October 20, 2015 [cit. 2016-08-05]. Available at: <<http://www.express.co.uk/news/world/613057/Russia-takes-out-49-ISIS-targets-24-hours-of-ruthless-bombing-in-Syria>>

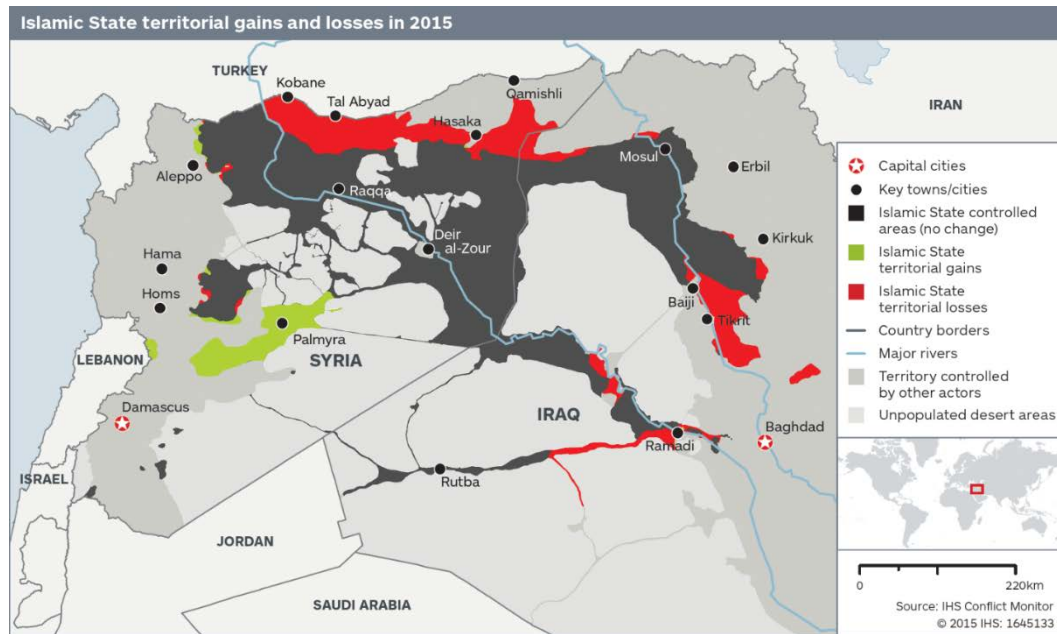
³¹ HARRIS, Johnny. *ISIS is losing. Watch how and why it's happening*. [online]. April 15, 2015 [cit. 2016-08-05]. Available at: <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MbDIYj7IIQo>>

³² GARRISON, Emma. *Isis loss of 'caliphate' could fuel terror attacks abroad* [online]. November 22, 2015 [cit. 2016-08-05]. Available at: <<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/nov/22/isis-loss-of-caliphate-fuel-terror-attacks-abroad>>

³³ SCHMITT, Eric. *Strategy Shift for ISIS: Inflicting Terror in Distant Lands* [online]. November 14, 2015 [cit. 2016-09-04]. Available at: <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/11/15/world/europe/strategy-shift-for-isis-inflicting-terror-in-distant-lands.html?_r=2>



Figure 3: ISIS territorial gains and losses in 2015³⁴



4 ISIS financing

The fact that ISIS is the richest terrorist organization the world has ever witnessed³⁵ raises a question of how ISIS is managing to fund itself. This is determined by several factors which depend greatly on ISIS territory.

One of ISIS' main sources of income comes from oil refineries in both Syria and Iraq. The group's control over cities like Raqqa, Mosul and many other crucial points gives it access to a variety of resources which are later sold on the black market to several groups involved in the conflict or which are refined and later officially sold in both Syria and Iraq.³⁶ As a result, ISIS is both strengthened and weakened by these strategic positions, bearing in mind that these oil refineries are both hard to protect and an important target to airstrikes.³⁷ An alternative way to ISIS' income is through taxes that are imposed on the civilians living in the cities under ISIS' control.³⁸ The tax system is very similar to any governmental institution meaning that everyone is obliged to pay taxes. In addition to the regular taxes, ISIS imposes *Jizyah*³⁹ on non-Muslims who are not willing to convert.⁴⁰ Moreover, ISIS' taxes are backed up by

³⁴ ENGEL, Pamela. *This map shows how much territory ISIS has lost this year* [online]. December 21, 2015 [cit. 2016-08-05]. Available at: <<http://www.businessinsider.com/map-how-much-territory-isis-lost-2015-12>>

³⁵ LOCK, Helen. *How Isis became the wealthiest terror group in history* [online]. September 15, 2014 [cit. 2016-08-05]. Available at: <<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/how-isis-became-the-wealthiest-terror-group-in-history-9732750.html>>

³⁶ SOLOMON, Erika, Robin KWONG a Steven BERNARD. *Inside Isis Inc: The journey of a barrel of oil* [online]. February 29, 2016 [cit. 2016-09-30]. Available at: <<http://ig.ft.com/sites/2015/isis-oil/>>

³⁷ *This is the Pentagon's new strategy to defeat ISIS* [online]. January 14, 2016 [cit. 2016-08-05]. Available at: <<http://www.militarytimes.com/story/military/war-on-is/2016/01/14/pentagon-strategy-islamic-state-iraq-syria/78269180/>>

³⁸ CHODOROW, Adam. *Even ISIS Needs to Collect Taxes* [online]. December 7, 2015 [cit. 2016-08-05]. Available at:

<http://www.slate.com/articles/business/moneybox/2015/12/isis_collects_taxes_and_its_effort_exposes_some_big_weaknesses.html>

³⁹ A yearly tax imposed on non-Muslims.

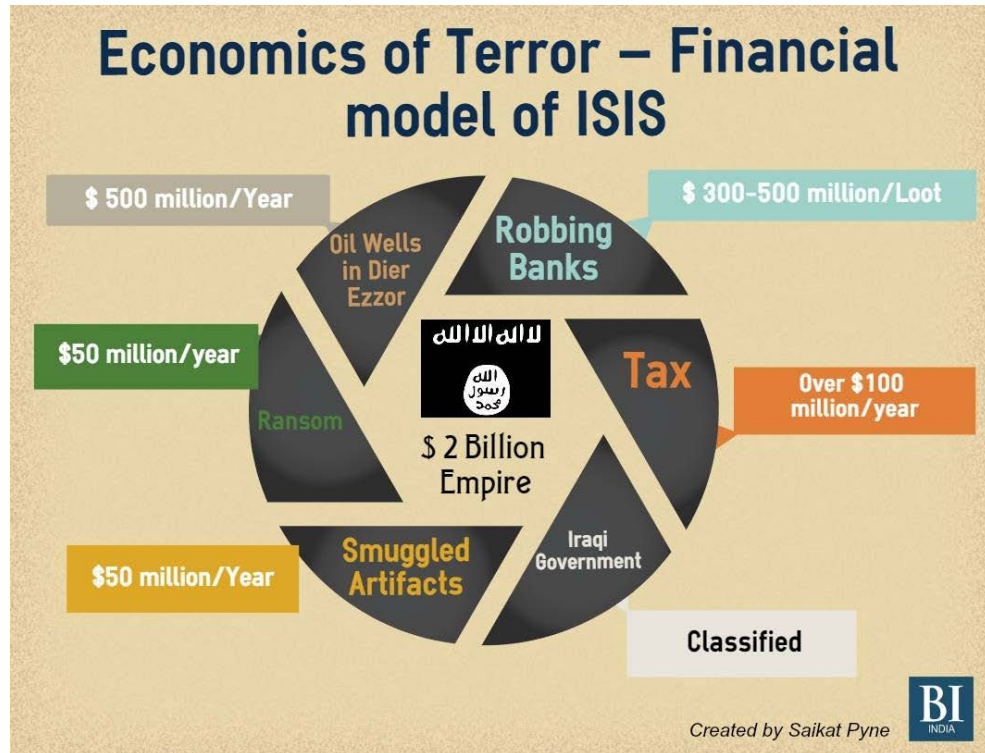
⁴⁰ MOORE, Jack. *ISIS Forces Christians To Live Under Its Rules in Syrian Town After Release* [online]. September 4, 2015 [cit. 2016-08-05]. Available at: <<http://europe.newsweek.com/isis-forces-christians-live-under-its-rules-syrian-town-after-release-332538>>



finances that are implemented according to ISIS' wants and needs. A new source of income has been made available to ISIS after it took over ancient cities in both Syria and Iraq such as Palmyra and Nimrud.⁴¹ This has enabled ISIS to use the artefacts as part of its funding, where the majority of the artefacts of value have been sold on the black market along with a database of wealthy purchasers from both the Middle East and the West.

In order to fight ISIS not only militarily but also financially, it is crucial to try to cut down any possible sources of income, therefore limiting ISIS' power.

Figure 4: Sources of finances for ISIS⁴²



5 NATO's role in fighting ISIS

Prior to the NATO Summit that took place on the 8th and 9th of July 2016 in Warsaw, there had not been any major effort from the Alliance in fighting ISIS. It is crucial to know the difference between the US-led coalition and the Alliance; despite the fact that US-led coalition includes all member countries, these countries aren't represented by NATO in the various airstrikes and operations against ISIS.

Moreover, among other factors, the US-led airstrikes have contributed to the loss of ISIS territory; however, like any other airstrikes, they haven't proven to be very precise in targeting enemies.⁴³

Furthermore, the decisions made at the Warsaw Summit might offer a better solution than a direct involvement in the conflict with the potential of projecting

⁴¹ SCHABI, Rachel. *Looted in Syria – and sold in London: the British antiques shops dealing in artefacts smuggled by Isis* [online]. July 3, 2015 [cit. 2016-08-05]. Available at: <<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/jul/03/antiquities-looted-by-isis-end-up-in-london-shops>>

⁴² *Economics of Terror – Financial model of ISIS* [online]. September 4, 2015 [cit. 2016-08-05]. Available at: <<http://www.businessinsider.in/Economicsof-Terror-Financial-model-of-ISIS/articleshow/48811725.cms>>

⁴³ ROSS, Alice. *Hundreds of civilians killed in US-led air strikes on Isis targets – report* [online]. August 3, 2015 [cit. 2016-08-05]. Available at: <<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/aug/03/us-led-air-strikes-on-isis-targets-killed-more-than-450-civilians-report>>



stability to the region, which means that “NATO will use its forces in order to train others to fight”.⁴⁴ The first decision was to use AWACS (NATO’s surveillance aircrafts),⁴⁵ which is based on a radar system installed on the aircraft to provide a long-range detection of air targets.

Secondly, NATO will provide logistics in addition to training programs in the region similar to those implemented in Afghanistan in order to stabilize the region as well as to enable the local forces to take over. At the moment, NATO is already training some 500 Iraqi soldiers.⁴⁶

6 Possible allies on the ground:

There are several ground forces which contribute to the fight against ISIS. This calls for the need to synchronize NATO’s efforts with these forces in order to minimize the damage inflicted on NATO and to raise the efficiency of the fight.

One of the potential allies on the ground is the Kurdish Peshmerga,⁴⁷ which has proven to be successful and very organized in its attacks. Moreover, any possible efforts to support them can maximize the attacks on ISIS in the northern parts of Syria and Iraq.

Furthermore, the Iraqi army in its coalition with the Shia Militias has also demonstrated its capabilities in thwarting ISIS attacks⁴⁸ and liberating key cities.⁴⁹ The Iraqi troops are already being trained by NATO following the decisions of the Warsaw Summit, though NATO can offer more support.

Lastly, the US-led coalition can partner up with NATO or, as an alternative, NATO can take command of the existing mission in order to synchronize the operations in both Syria and Iraq.

However, the two other forces in Syria, the Syrian Army and the Russian Air Force, as damage-inflicting as they are to ISIS, share different targets than NATO and the US-led coalition because they attack even the FSA⁵⁰ and the moderate opposition.⁵¹

⁴⁴ STOLTENBERG, Jens. *Projecting Stability: Charting NATO’s Future* [online]. April 6, 2016 [cit. 2016-09-04]. Available at:

<http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/opinions_129758.htm?selectedLocale=en>

⁴⁵ *NATO to use surveillance planes against ISIS* [online]. July 9, 2016 [cit. 2016-08-05]. Available at:

<<http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2016/07/09/NATO-to-use-surveillance-planes-against-ISIS.html>>

⁴⁶ WONG, Kristina. *NATO moves toward ‘direct’ role in ISIS fight* [online]. June 15, 2016 [cit. 2016-09-04].

Available at: <<http://thehill.com/policy/defense/283539-nato-looking-to-train-iraqi-troops-provide-surveillance-aircraft-in-isis-fight>>

⁴⁷ *Peshmerga ‘most stable force as an ally to the Western world,’ expert says* [online]. May 18, 2016 [cit. 2016-08-05]. Available at: <<http://rudaw.net/english/kurdistan/180520164>>

⁴⁸ *Buraq forces thwart ISIS attack western Anbar* [online]. July 20, 2016 [cit. 2016-08-05]. Available at:

<<http://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/buraq-forces-thwart-isis-attack-western-anbar/>>

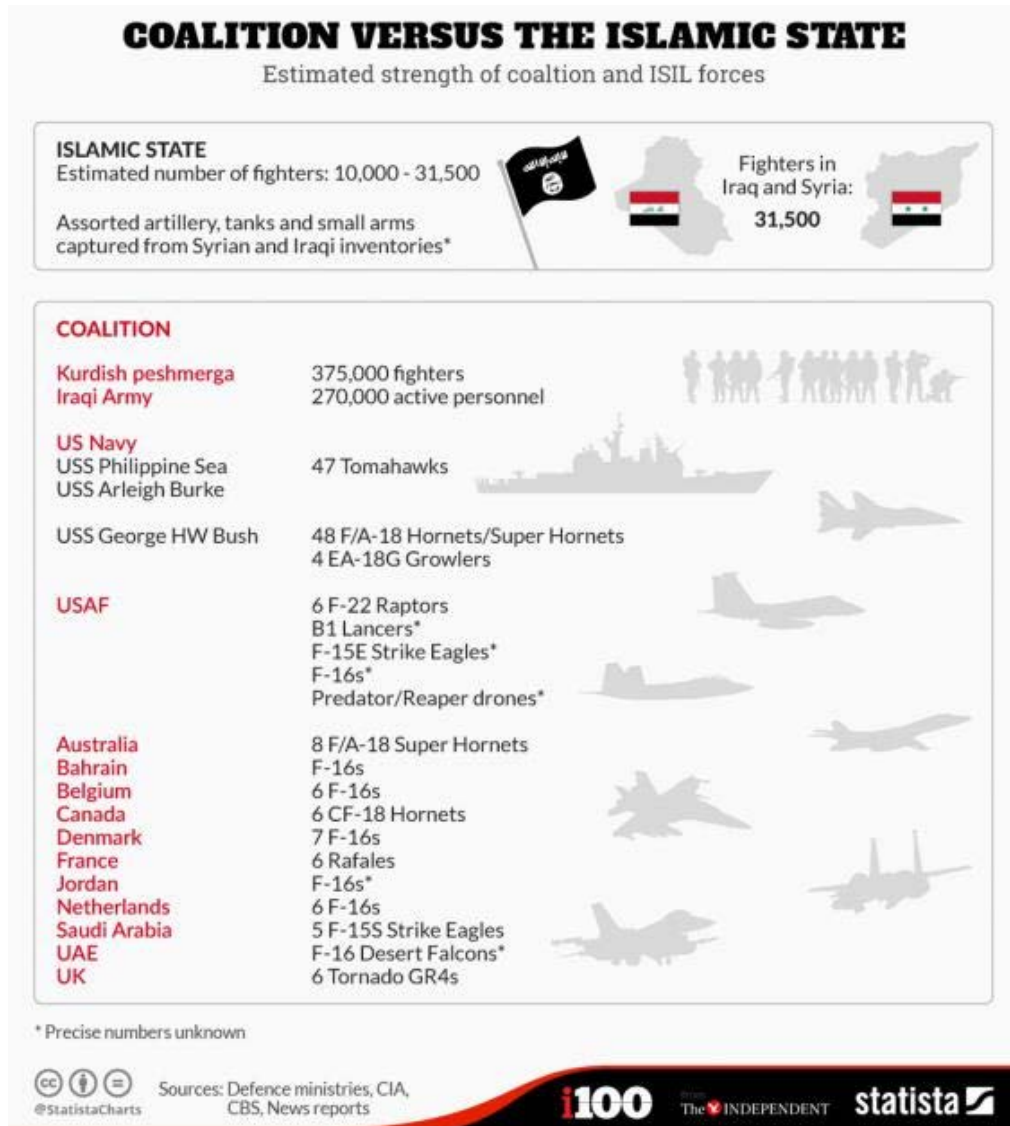
⁴⁹ *Iraqi Forces Liberate Anbar Region from ISIS: 200 terrorists killed* [online]. February 8, 2016 [cit. 2016-08-05]. Available at: <<https://southfront.org/iraqi-forces-liberate-anbar-region-from-isis-200-terrorists-killed/>>

⁵⁰ The Free Syrian Army.

⁵¹ DYOMKIN, Denis. *Putin says Russia has struck targets identified by Free Syrian Army* [online]. November 13, 2015 [cit. 2016-09-30]. Available at: <<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-russia-putin-idUSKCN0T21ID20151113>>



Figure 5: Number of forces against ISIS, 2014.⁵²



Fundamental questions

This is where the background report almost ends. Nevertheless, this topic raises a lot of questions that are unavoidable in tackling the problem. Please, go through each and every one of them and research further details on how the state you represent would respond to them.

- Are the US-led airstrikes solving the problem with ISIS?
- Does your country think that ground troops deployment could solve the problem?
- Should NATO as a whole take part in the fight?
- Could NATO's potential decisions in fighting ISIS be successful?
- Should NATO take the risk of possible further chaos in case of an intervention in the region?

⁵² Syria air strikes: Why can't the US-led coalition stop the march of Isis? [online]. October 9, 2014 [cit. 2016-09-04]. Available at: < <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/syria-air-strikes-why-cant-the-us-led-coalition-stop-the-march-of-isis-9784481.html> >



- In your country's opinion, does a deal with the Syrian government constitute an integral part of the fight?
- What are the plans of your country within NATO on solving the problem with foreign fighters?
- Does the fight against ISIS represent a possibility for the cooperation with Russia?
- Does your country think that there is another solution different from those already suggested by other countries?

More useful information

Reading a background report is a good starting point, but in order to understand the topic completely, it simply is not and **cannot** be enough. Here are a few possible ways for you to take now:

Factsheet - The Islamic State:

Before you continue with your research, a recommended first step in this part – before studying the individual state-policy – is this factsheet about ISIS. It summarizes the most important pieces of information from this report:

<https://www.clarionproject.org/sites/default/files/islamic-state-isis-isil-factsheet-1.pdf>.

The rise of ISIS, explained in 6 minutes:

This video chronologically explains the series of events that led to the creation of ISIS.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pzmO6RWy1v8>.

ISIS live map

This is a live map showing the forces on the ground in addition to the latest news represented by interactive icons in order to give you a better image of where ISIS resides and where the airstrikes are taking place.

<http://isis.liveuamap.com/>

10 alternative ways to defeat ISIS that aren't airstrikes:

This site offers 10 suggestions on how to defeat ISIS. Information provided is not too detailed, but it may provide you with an understanding of the possible solutions as preferred by different countries.

<http://indy100.independent.co.uk/article/10-alternative-ways-to-defeat-isis-that-arent-air-strikes--WknFKxYmqg>.



Full list of sources

Al-Tanaf crossing is under control by IS [online]. [cit. 2016-08-05]. Available at: <<http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=44823>>

Buraq forces thwart ISIS attack western Anbar [online]. [cit. 2016-08-05]. Available at: <<http://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/buraq-forces-thwart-isis-attack-western-anbar/>>

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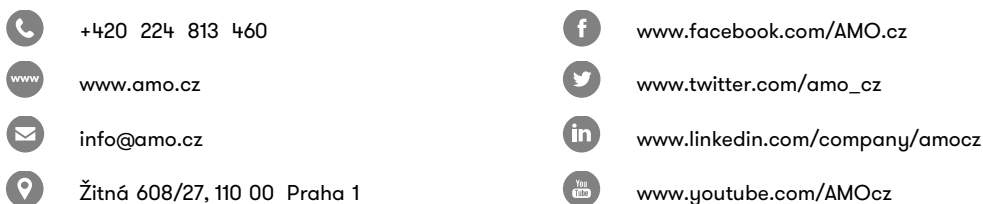
Pražský studentský summit

Pražský studentský summit je unikátní vzdělávací projekt existující od roku 1995. Každoročně vzdělává přes 300 studentů středních i vysokých škol o současných globálních tématech, a to především prostřednictvím simulace jednání čtyř klíčových mezinárodních organizací – OSN, NATO, EU a OBSE.



Asociace pro mezinárodní otázky (AMO)

AMO je nevládní nezisková organizace založená v roce 1997 za účelem výzkumu a vzdělávání v oblasti mezinárodních vztahů. Tento přední český zahraničně politický think-tank není spjat s žádnou politickou stranou ani ideologií. Svou činností podporuje aktivní přístup k zahraniční politice, poskytuje nestrannou analýzu mezinárodního dění a otevírá prostor k fundované diskusi.



Autoři

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Background report slouží jako vzdělávací materiál pro žáky středních škol účastníků se Pražského studentského summitu. Všichni partneři projektu jsou uvedeni [zde](#).



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