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# The Islamic State (Terrorist Organization)

## FEATURED

ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and Syria), also known as ISIL (Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant), is a Sunni jihadist group with a particularly violent ideology that calls itself a caliphate and claims religious authority over all Muslims. It was inspired by al Qaida but later publicly expelled from it. RAND terrorism experts have analyzed the group's financing, management, and organization; its savvy use of social media for recruitment and fundraising; and the instability that spawned the group as a regional problem in the Middle East.



## Explore The Islamic State (Terrorist Organization)

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Visited on 10/22/2019



Oct 21, 2019

**COMMENTARY****The Syrian Withdrawal: Where Things Stand**

Without an orderly process for its national security decisions, the Trump administration has defaulted to the worst option regarding Syria. The sudden withdrawal of U.S. forces has left an opening for Russia to exploit. It also left the Kurds, a U.S. partner, to fend off a Turkish assault.



come.

Oct 21, 2019

**COMMENTARY****How the U.S. Withdrawal from Syria Provides a Boost to ISIS**

President Trump's decision to withdraw U.S. troops from Syria could provide the ISIS terrorist group with the time and space to regrow its organization and extend its networks throughout the Middle East. The longer-term strategic effects of the decision could reverberate in the region for years to

**JOURNAL ARTICLE****Winning the Peace in Iraq: Don't Give Up on Baghdad's Fragile Democracy**

Following years of war, Iraq's parliamentary government is stable and concerned with governance rather than sectarianism. But the work is not yet complete, and the author stresses diligence and patience before a lasting peace can be achieved.

## Journal Article

Oct 11, 2019

Visited on 10/22/2019



## COMMENTARY

**The Terrorist Threat Posed by Neglect and Indifference**

Western countries have seemingly washed their hands when it comes to the aftermath of ISIS. By ignoring the threat and leaving it to the Iraqis and Syrian Kurds to deal with European citizens in detention camps, Western nations are helping the terrorists' ideology persist.

Sep 23, 2019



## COMMENTARY

**Southeast Asia Loves ISIS, but Is the Feeling Mutual?**

As the ISIS core in Iraq and Syria attempts to rebuild, Baghdadi and his lieutenants will have to make difficult decisions about where to allocate resources. Now that the caliphate is gone and ISIS must transform into an insurgency, the largely untested lands of Southeast Asia may yield rich

rewards.

Sep 16, 2019



## COMMENTARY

**Al Qaeda Is Ready to Attack You Again**

As al Qaeda continues to evolve, one of the most pressing questions is to what extent the group is still focused on attacking the West. Does the absence of spectacular attacks attributed to al Qaeda since 9/11 represent a lack of capability or merely a shift in priorities?

Sep 5, 2019

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**REPORT****What Will Drive the Next Generation of Salafi-Jihadis?**

Continued economic stagnation and a high youth unemployment rate, exacerbated by the Muslim youth bulge, could lead to failed expectations and spur radicalization among disenchanting Gen Z Muslims. And this cohort's familiarity with the internet could foreshadow an adaptive, tech-savvy

terrorist threat.

Aug 22, 2019

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**NEWS RELEASE****Follow the Money: How the United States Can Counteract the Islamic State's Plans for a Comeback**

With the end of its territorial caliphate, the Islamic State will almost certainly attempt a comeback. Such efforts will require money. A new RAND report examines the group as an insurgency and a self-styled caliphate, with a focus on how the group

## News Release

managed its finances, drawing from the literature, the group's documents, and interviews with individuals who lived under the caliphate.

Aug 8, 2019

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**RESEARCH BRIEF****The Growing Need to Focus on Modern Political Warfare**

RAND researchers analyzed how political warfare is practiced today and identified ways that the U.S. government, its allies, and its partners can respond to or engage in this type of conflict to achieve U.S. ends and protect U.S. interests.

## Research Brief

May 31, 2019

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Visited on 10/22/2019

**JOURNAL ARTICLE****Options for Dealing with ISIS Foreign Fighters Detained in Syria**

The U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces are holding thousands of fighters who had joined ISIS's ranks from abroad as well as members of their families. What the world does (or does not do) about them could affect the future stability of the region and the countries from which they came.

May 31, 2019

**COMMENTARY****We're Just Beginning to Grasp the Toll of the Islamic State's Archaeological Looting in Syria**

During the Islamic State's rise, looted artifacts were said to be a significant source of income for the group. But no one had identified the value, using empirical data and systematic calculations, of the artifacts that were known to exist in Syria's archaeological sites. Until now.

May 15, 2019

**COMMENTARY****Sri Lanka's Easter Attacks: Dismantling Myths to Prevent the Next Attack**

On Easter Sunday, suicide bombers hit six locations across Sri Lanka, killing more than 250 people. Even before ISIS claimed responsibility, there was no obvious connection to the quarter-century of violence that afflicted the nation until 2009. It is worth dismantling a few myths that might prevent

better preparation for future attacks.

May 6, 2019

Visited on 10/22/2019



## COMMENTARY

**Baghdadi Resurfaces: What It Means for ISIS's Global Terror Campaign**

With last week's release of a video of Abu Bakr Baghdadi, ISIS showed that it's still got some life left—literally. The most important message to take away from the Baghdadi video may be that the Islamic State does not need territory to survive and even thrive.

May 6, 2019



## COMMENTARY

**What the Baghdadi Video Means**

For the first time in five years, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the reclusive leader of ISIS, appeared on video. Why did he suddenly feel the need to show his face and speak to his followers? The answer concerns how recent events intersect with ISIS's long-term needs.

Apr 30, 2019



## COMMENTARY

**How Terrorist Groups Learn: Implications for al Qaeda**

With the Islamic State losing the last of its territory, the global jihadist movement is now entering a new phase. The question on the minds of many is whether al Qaeda will be able to capitalize upon the moment and reclaim the dominant position as the most capable Sunni jihadist terrorist organization.

Mar 14, 2019

Visited on 10/22/2019



## COMMENTARY

**To Ensure Deradicalisation Programmes Are Effective, Better Evaluation Practices Must First Be Implemented**

Given the increasing number of ISIS foreign fighters seeking re-entry into the UK, a better understanding of deradicalisation programs is essential. More robust and transparent evaluation processes for intervention programmes should be implemented before confidence in their effectiveness can be established.

Mar 4, 2019



## COMMENTARY

**America's Absence Could Be Syria's New Nightmare**

President Trump's decision to withdraw U.S. troops from Syria reverses his administration's recent policy of retaining them as long as Iranian troops stay. U.S. withdrawal would give Bashar al-Assad, Iran, and Russia freer rein to subdue opposition forces. And Assad could feel emboldened to act with greater impunity and brutality.

Jan 10, 2019



## COMMENTARY

**Confusion Over the U.S. Withdrawal from Syria**

Washington's strategy in Syria has been to impose costs on the Syrian government by diplomatic ostracism and economic sanctions. This punitive approach is morally satisfying and politically expedient, but as a practical matter it just helps perpetuate the conflict and sustain Assad's dependency on Iran.

Jan 9, 2019

Visited on 10/22/2019



## COMMENTARY

**Withdrawing from Syria Leaves a Vacuum That Iran Will Fill**

President Trump's decision to withdraw American troops from Syria may be unintentionally signaling that the United States is unwilling to compete in critical geopolitical hotspots. Such a message could embolden powerful states—including Iran—to expand their presence.

Jan 8, 2019

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[Next](#)

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RAND Topic: *The Islamic State (Terrorist Organization)*

Topic Synonyms: *DAESH (Terrorist Organization); ISIL (Terrorist Organization); ISIS (Terrorist Organization);*

*Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (Terrorist Organization); The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (Terrorist Organization)*

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## ABOUT

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