
Guide to ISIS



Historical Rise



The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, is a Sunni, jihadist, extremist, and unrecognized state in the Middle East.

At the start, it was an al Qaeda splinter group. It's aim and ultimate goal is to create an Islamic state across Sunni areas of Iraq and in Syria. Over the courses in time, ISIS began to be known for killing huge amount of people and carrying out public executions, crucifixions and other extreme actions. Right now, ruling with Sharia Law, the group is controlling hundreds of square miles and has a huge presence from Syria's

Mediterranean coast to south of Baghdad. ISIS's main way for revenue was through extortion and robbery but now it shifted to generating resources by capturing territory. ISIS became world famous recently after it's public execution of U.S. journalist Steven Sotloff, U.S. journalist James Foley, British aid worker David Haines, and the hostage Alan Henning.

Main Actors

Leader of ISIS : Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi:

He earned a doctorate in Islamic studies from a university in Baghdad. Before he joined al Qaeda, he formed a militant group in the North of Iraqi capital and was detained by the U.S. for four years. After two leaders of ISIS were killed in a joint U.S.-Iraqi operation, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi became the leader.



Barack Obama

President Obama announced that the U.S. intends to launch air



strikes in Iraq, land more troops, and expand the U.S. intervention. The United States is also considering its options to arm and train competing Syrian rebels who can help fight against ISIS and Syrian dictator Bashar al-Assad.

Nouri al-Maliki

As the president of Iraq, he had been rumored to be using his office to exacerbate historic tensions between the country's Sunni minority and Shia majority. Also, one of the reasons ISIS could take over so much territory is because many Sunni citizens in Iraq felt disenfranchised by Maliki. Many people agreed that regarding who to blame for the situation, it be him.



Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani

The most revered Shia spiritual leader in Iraq, he warned that the rise of ISIS would be a



great danger in the future and that fighting against ISIS is everyone's re-

sponsibility. Under his influence, people are now willing to protect the holy shrines in cities such as Karbala and Najaf by arming themselves to fight ISIS.

Hassan Rouhani

As the president of Iran, the world's biggest Shia power, he had said that his country was prepared to help Maliki government combat ISIS. Right now, Iran had supplied arms and intelligence to Shia uprisings in countries such as Bahrain and Lebanon. To combat ISIS, the Iranian president had stated that he might be willing to work with the United States, Iran's long time nemesis.

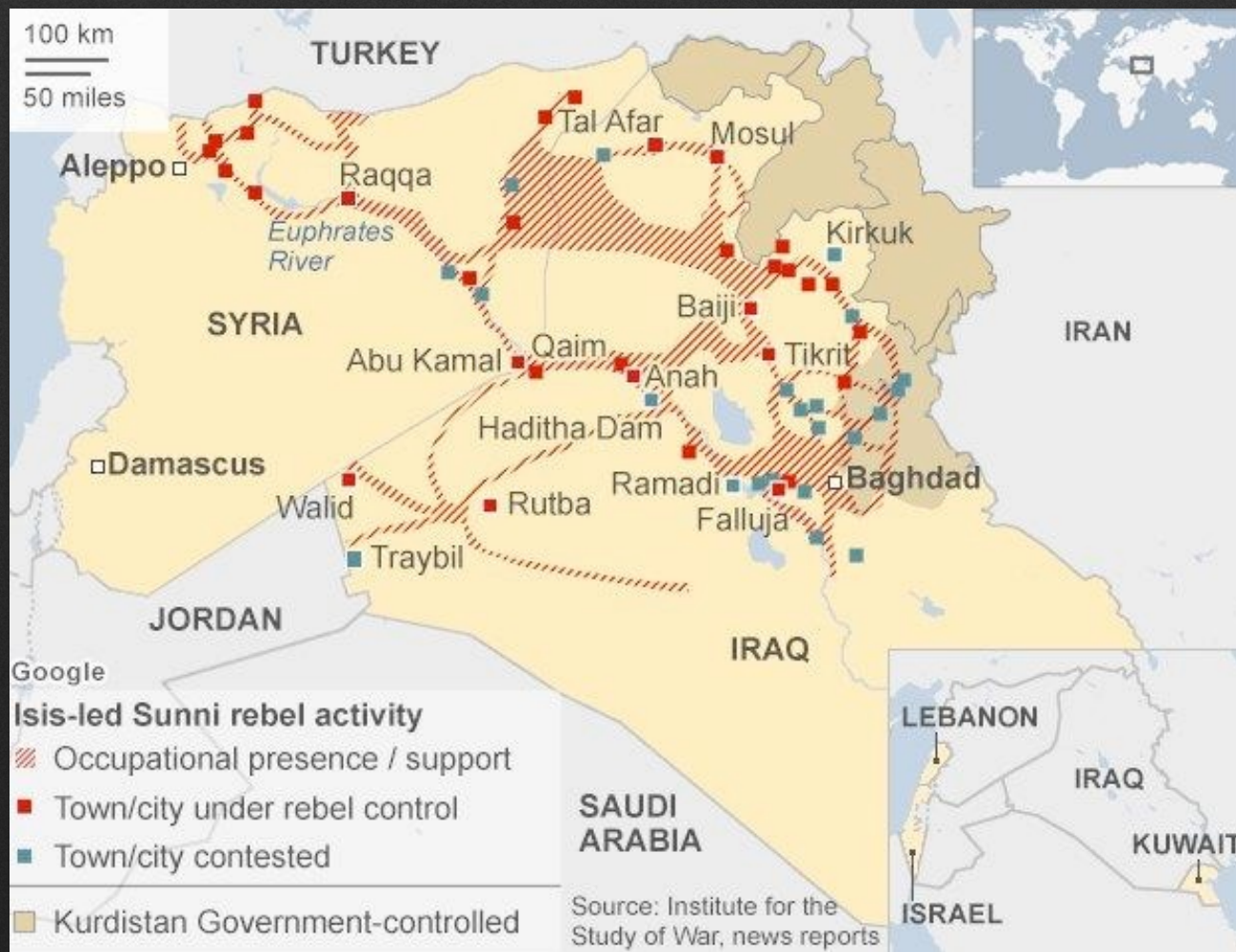


Iraqi Kurds, President Masoud Barzani

The Iraqi Kurds had always been suffering under Saddam Hussein. While tensions between Sunnis and Shia have become increasingly violent, the Kurds, led by Masoud Barzani, have been operating a region in the North. And While ISIS's recent conquest of Mosul and Tikrit has paralyzed the central Iraqi government in Baghdad, Kurdish fighters took advantage of the situation and reclaimed the oil-rich city of Kirkuk, which had been annexed by Saddam in the early 1990s.



Current Life In The Islamic State



The Syrian Civil War forum on reddit hosted a question-and-answer session with an activist in Raqqa, which is a northern Syrian city controlled by ISIS, and he talked about the situation there.

Currently the electricity and water situation is terrible. There's always water and electricity rationing, and there has no internet for the past year and so this session has to be taken through TwoWay. Regarding ISIS's actions, it is revealed that it's zero tolerance policy such as chopping off limbs for smoking is real. In his point of view, ISIS has not done anything good at all. ISIS has brainwashed many children into joining them. Though ISIS claimed that they brought stability to their areas, but

the truth is ISIS does nothing for residents or refugees. ISIS conduct brutal and horrific acts on a daily basis and it's simply to spread terror.

Another Syrian student concealed a hidden camera and showed footages of what's happening in Raqqa.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1TkuAIK0I28>

Cause Of Terrorism & Type Of Conflict

ISIS wants to create an Islamic state across Sunni areas of Iraq and in Syria, creating an ethnic conflict. Their actions on terrorism is caused and justified by religion.

Ethnic conflict is when ethnic groups conflict with each other as a result of ethnic nationalism. In conflict, ethnic groups often want to wipe out the others completely (genocide). Ethnic conflicts are also based on intangible causes, meaning people hate each other not for what they did but rather who they are.

The ISIS conflict constitutes as an ethnic conflict due to the fact that the ultimate goal of ISIS is to expand their Islamist ideology by seeing the failure of Iraqi government and establish a caliphate in Iraq (Caliphate is an enormous Islamic state that encompasses all Muslims worldwide). ISIS wants to have control of the whole world's Muslim population, even by force. The acts of ISIS are so brutal that

even al-Qaeda cannot handle them. Unlike other ethnic conflicts where genocides of an entire ethnic group take place, ISIS strategically took another approach by giving people the option to join. For those people who chose to not join, they end up dead on the street. ISIS

also hold extremely strict rules for those who chose to join. People had been crucified or have their limbs chopped off for disobeying ISIS's rules. All of these actions, are all due to religion. ISIS's leader, al-Baghdadi, holds a particularly brutal interpretation of Islam that led them onto such a bloody

path. Now, countries are working together to see how they should deal with ISIS. The ethnic conflict started by ISIS and their terrorist actions, is all because of religion.



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