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Past and Present reign of terrorism is there a solution?

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Table of Contents

Abstract

The development of the thesis integrates a clear detailed comparison between the two most influential and prominent affiliated terrorist groups; ISIL (Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant) and Al-Qaeda from their roots and their rise to the political economical and sociological impact worldwide. Likewise, my intention to begin with is to defy what the stereotype of the general customary belief that terrorism group are homogeneous and in fact illuminate the shadows of the Islamic State caliphate of Iraq and the Levant to the concurrent affiliated Salafi Jihad extremist group. Therefore, estimate and decode the impact of terrorism in the past, present and future and how these very different but similar terrorist groups are intertwined. From my own knowledge, primary and secondary sources cited, I was able to create a dynamic analogy of each faction to reach a conclusion, that we are destined to live with terrorism, we may think that these conventional terrorist networks have been eradicated but the means of the terrorist ideology will be an omnipresent threat to the global community.

__Introduction__

Islam, when reflecting about this term we have different interpretations because as a matter of fact it is one of the youngest religions, but none the less in the last decades it has been an eccentric stage for scholars and think tanks to reach conclusions about its essence. Terrorism and history have been walking hand, we have been taught by history that terror used by Kings, Tyrants and groups were implemented to achieve something by force. This undermines the basic fundamental rights of what constitute human rights, and "the term has been introduced in Europe after the 1789 French revolution" (Roberts, 2014) and the reason why we are focusing all of our attention in this matter is because its is a totally new dimensional concept which cannot be ignored. This events have been long discussed and debated therefore terrorism is a neo event where people are yet to discover.

We have amount a concept of terrorism totally different from the reality; accustomed and spoiled by the mass media and political hegemonies from the west, that Islam is a very dangerous religion from which these terrible acts of terror with the aim of discriminating human rights. Well, I believe that this is just a manipulation of our self belief, As a result we are familiarizing Islam to the brutal perspective to which a very small portion idealize themselves Muslims, Terrorists or extremist groups. "As a matter of fact terrorist attack from Muslim perpetrators is more likely to have drastically more coverage". (Erin M. Kearns, 2017). Therefore it is an over centralization of information to idealize our Muslim neighbors' as our imminent threat and propagate further likelihood of another attack.

What is really the symbiosis of Islam, Why are these so called "Muslims" creating chaos? The three main pillars of Islam are; God, Humankind and Religion. Their inner beliefs of salalfi-jihadism to the Arab Spring that proliferated from Tunisia and has some implication on the rise of the middle east terrorist world, but does not undermine the main touchstone of what constitutes Islam, the Quran with its Sharia Law. The Quran is a holy book written from the last prophet sent on earth by Allah and it is treated with immense respect by all Muslims, this book contains sacred words of Allah. The "Relations between man and God, between individuals, whether Muslim or non-Muslim, as well as between man and things which are part of creation." (Bassiouni, 2012).

Islam connotes peace therefore it is the religion of peace, likewise a muslim is he who surrenders to Allah. In other words a muslim will accept the tenets of life with the faith of Allah, with their mind, soul and heart that life after death will be a reward for their life conduct. At this point there are two vital concepts which constitute a believer and this come from two main subtopics which are of equal importance. The first one is holy war which in Arabic becomes Jihad. Jihad is the holy war to show god your internal will of your soul, devote yourself to follow the Quran and most importantly believe in the power of allah the one and true goddess. However, jihad has taken another route the one that Allah does not comply with but will be merciful to these specific actions. Nonetheless in other words "jihad" even though it has been interpreted in various unacceptable ways by western world, jihad is embedded in every other religions and in our everyday lives to become a better person and strive to make the world a more harmonious place for all human beings in other words a social jihad. I believe that this very small proportion of so called Muslims, are interpreting the religion of Islam in a totally different and wrong manner because they don't comply with the real essence of Islam.

There is a convincing factor is that "the second most popular world religion, is currently strongest in the Middle East and North Africa" (Worley, 2016), but the grievance of this small section who misuse the religion of Islam to commit acts of terrorism, who are on burst of hatred and marginalized. To recapitulate a true Muslim is entitled to follow the Islamic ideology within the parameters of the holy war, Jihad and contribute to uphold the enrichment of a good Muslim community. The Muslim community is composed of two different factions the Shia and the Sunni. The most dominant faction belongs to the shia, however the conflict which lasted more than a millennium arises from schism that after "Prophet Mohammed's death, the leadership as the leader of the Muslim community should be handed to his cousin some Ali ibn Abi Talib and others to his companion Abu Bakr" (Husain, 2016)

To recall Islam sometimes is used by both practitioners and sociological critics to highlight the fact that extremist groups are upheld by aggression to reach their political goals, since the tragic terrorist attack of September 11 2001, the west has turned its views to portray Islam as an imminent threat to global peace and security, even at times when terrorism was active in other places but ignored.

Another complementary product which is inevitable and usually people are not aware of is Salafism, it is a "philosophical outlook which seeks to revive the practices of the first three generations of Islam" (Maher, 2016). This concept has a widespread meaning in the sense that these new factions are trying to reinvent a more modern religion by using the pillars of early Islam. For these factions moderm legal systems and governments especially from the west is the real cause for the separation of people from the divine meaning of religion and that unbelievers were seen as infidels.

Islamic radicals from Osama Bin Laden the leader of Al-Qaeda to Abu Bakr al baghdadi the Caliph of ISIL are directly related to salafi-jihadists, since it is the right way and how the new religion commands. Salafism, introduced in the nineteenth century, Many Islamic radicals, such as al-Qaeda, try so incorporate the true meaning of Islam when it first came out, jihad is an long life duty for all loyal Muslims to follow so they are able to protect their religion, they are willing to give their life to keep Islam safe and untouched if not they are seen as infidels to the eyes of God. Consequently, salfi-jihadism has come to be known as religious-political ideology on a cemented belief in violent Jihad in other words on a life-long struggle. It has become so deeply entrenched in recent year in our everyday lives through mass media and politics that we are mesmerized of how recent this phenomena is.

State terrorism, comes close to terrorism, however it diverges in a different way to the sense that the state itself is imposing a threat to its population and most of this depends in the form of state such as the French Revolution reign of terror by Robespierre to the current incident of the Bashar Al-Assad, with its provisions committing various crime towards his population. Instead, the fundamental issue is terrorism by sub national or transnational non-governmental groups, defining it as the premeditated use of violence by a non-state group to obtain a political, religious, or social objective through fear or intimidation directed at a large audience.

The entrenched element is terrorism which has become an international phenomenon, where the perpetrator, target group, or national locale of the incident involves at least two different countries. There have been vast terrorist factions, some are global and others are centric, this is because the newest generations seek the international stage which the early ones are protecting their most precious jewel. Al-Qaeda sprung at the end of the 1980s, was manipulated like puppets by the Americans who financed local militants to fights against the soviet invasion, it is more Nationalist political actor. On the other side, ISIS has evolved from

the blood left by Al-Qaedas fights, ISIS is an international political extremist actor whose solution of their faith is to purify the world by declaring the final war against the infidels in return to build a Muslim world. Al-Qaeda's strategy is more scholarly, all Muslims must be educated first on sharia and of jihad to defeat the imminent threat from the outside world, in fact Al-Qaeda mean in Arabic the "Base" where Muslims will be protected by the faith of god and by their brotherhood. Likewise, they have the same intentions; however one is more radical than the other, ISIS which is a caliphate, portrays itself as more bloodthirsty than al-Qaeda, with more lust for the power to gain territory and intimidate people.

Jihadism has had a never ending cycle since its birth in the late 1970s, now several groups are trying take the Arab world with a so-called caliphate. There is a history which explains the rise of these fatwas in the past for decades, since the start of the 1970s, commenced with a very important "document, The Neglected Duty, articulated a set of ideas revolving around the establishment of an Islamic state" (Rabil, 2004) is almost always forgotton but very relevant to the question of the rise of terrorism since AL-Qaeda, the spark to the emergent jihadist groups. Muhammad Abd al-Salam Faraj, argued that ever since the rise of jihad the only way to make islam great again is to impose a violent jihad and the struggle now is against the near enemy, they focused mainly on the inner struggle against their baser instincts.

 We can connote the fact that this first incentive was demonstrated following Sadat's death in 1981, former Egyptian president who was murdered by military rebels and as a matter of fact left to other countries who were same rage of ideology, Afghanistan, where jihadist battalions were gathered following the Soviet- Afghani war which lasted nine years. These insurgent groups needed a new scope of light or emergence, it was the right place for them to be in the right time, they had found "the base" and was a metaphoric way to make insurgent groups join global jihad but feel safe and important. Azzam came up with the idea jointly with Bin Laden to institute a base for all mujahedeen jihad foreign fighter and recruit them in one main faction, to the birth of Al-Qaeda. Bin laden's rebellion was for the sole reason that the US, with the excuse of protecting Saudi Arabia deployed their army and operated in Mecca and Medina, the holiest sites for Islam and this was an indirect insult and dishonor to Muslims.

Bin Laden with outrage declared the United States as the imminent threat, the "far enemy" which contaminated the Muslims in the Middle East. Muslims had one goal to confront and expel the Americans out of Saudi Arabia. They could not confront them on Saudi soil and instead on the morning of 11 September 2001, "these deliberate acts of mass murder killed nearly 3,000 human beings from 57 countries" (Taylor, 2011). This was a declaration of war from Al-Qaeda and in fact the result was that the US declared the War on Terror against these rebel groups.

The jihadists groups that had fought for the US against the soviet invasion and fled from Egypt to reach the Afghani soil were Al-Qaeda was located. They were able to launch spectacular attacks worldwide: "Bali in 2002, Casablanca in 2003, Madrid in 2004, and London and Amman in 2005" (Windrem, 2010). The US took immediate action to fight future attacks by this group, with the invasion of Iraq. The latter from this political-economic war saw al-Qaeda roots being formed elsewhere in the Middle East and North Africa. Such as in Iraq, with the rule of Saddam Hussein but no one knows the real truth behind it as some people sustain it was just for the dominance of oil. Militant groups called Mujahideen Shura Council were the most active at that time , which shortly afterwards became known as Islamic State in Iraq (ISI).
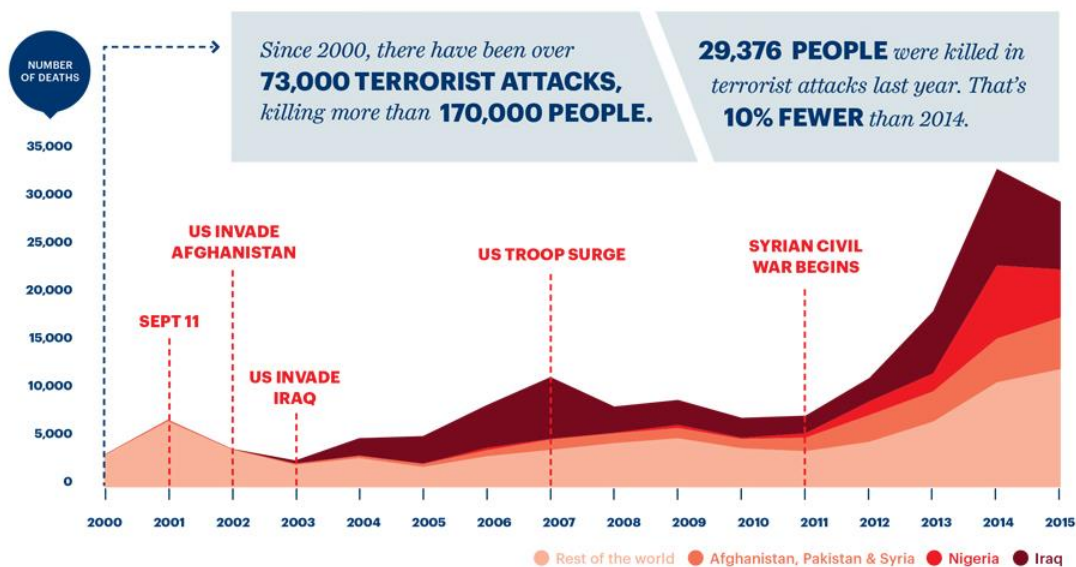
(START, 2016)

As the graph illustrates the most influential events which are in the Terrorist radar, these events led to the death of more than 170,000 people. Iraq and Syria are the countries that have been most affected by these terrorist groups in the middle east and this outcome derives from the uncontrolled respawn of new insurgent groups Such as ISIL, the Islamic State of Syria and Levant.

The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant which has a been active in a different time-lapse Al Qaeda, but there is a substantial difference with the technology that both insurgent groups had at their disposal, but have been recorded as the deadliest groups together with Boko Haram from Nigeria. Rather the technology ISIL was overwhelmed by their ideology of implementing a caliphate and take over the world, with the backup from Syrian rebels and the demise of the Baath party has marginalized an array of people who were induced to pledge alliance with ISIL. Likewise the Arab Spring that people frequently forget was also a pillar to the growth of the total number of rebels to join these groups.

The current jihadist militants are now part of a third generation guided by the light of global jihad, meaning that they are even more dangerous with experience and unreachable, they differ in various ways from the ones that of the second generation largely because they come from anywhere at any time. In the twentieth century, ISIL in a mere example of these generations which has become an international threat within very short time-lapse with a completely new level of intensity and ferocity. History has shown that each group has its own reasons, movements and arenas of operations which have evolved to become at an international level.

If we analyze the detailed progress of the two affiliated and connected groups we can interpret that each one has a specific destiny. AL-Qaeda which was formed around the 1980s and really had a specific goal of protecting their Muslim community from imminent threats, likewise the 2001deadly twin towers attack. They are still operating but have had a pitfall since their leader Osama Bin laden died no one knows as they have predicted its just a matter of time for them to come back stronger. On the other side there is ISIL which announced their caliphate in 2013 from that year they have been a machine of terror and chaos. "There is an exponential growth that is quite shocking in just three years they have managed to become extremely effective and dangerous Jihadism has exponentially grown since the 9/11 attacks". (Peace, Economics and Peace , 2016)

The West failed to predict the emergence of al-Qaeda in new forms a cross the Middle East and North Africa. The fact that the west did not hypothesize the rise of other Islamist extremist groups, means that it is unpredictable and immensely difficult for these indoctrinated jihadi groups to be tracked and attempt to blend back into western societies.
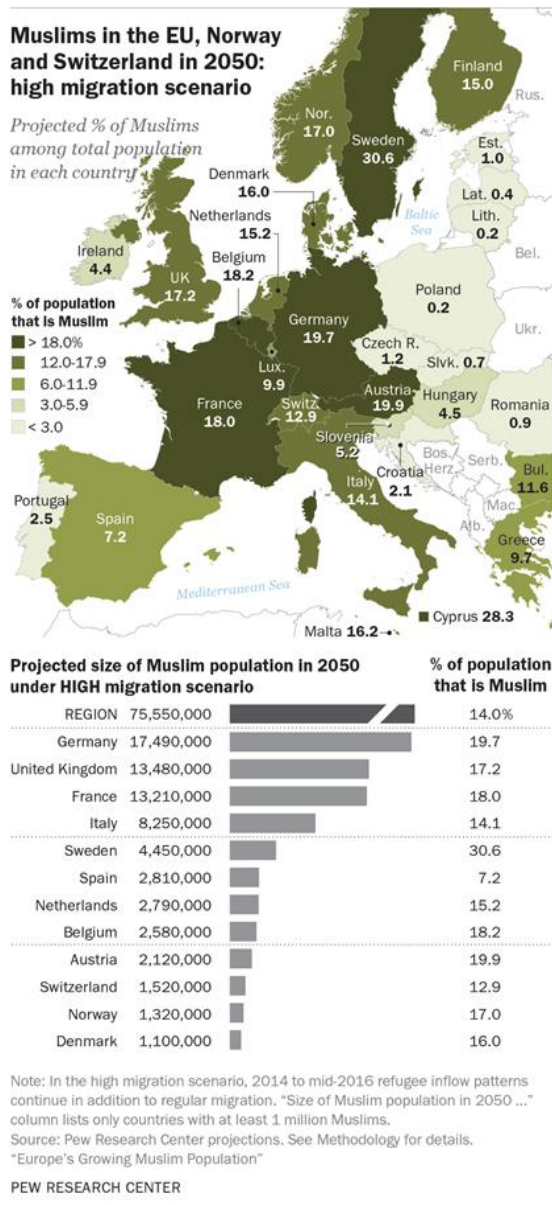
These movements have skillfully continued to evolve and proliferate which means that when ISIL will be to some extent exterminated another jihadist extremist group will resurrect Individual extremist groups differ from each other by intensity, intelligence and generality. Therefore it is vital to set borderlines for each group and focus and grasp the differences between two of the most predominant affiliated groups: DAESH or ISIL and Al-Qa'ida, which as cited previously are interconnected and from the same family but likewise extremely different.

Therefore, it is a very immense area of research because terrorist acts are unpredictable but follow common statistical patterns. ISIS obliged everyone to believe that it was an individual's sacred duty to wage jihad against enemies, the infidels. "Defeats are what make the group and ideology even stronger, which are part of ISIS dynasty. Over 7,700 Western foreign fighters heeded this call together with another 35,000 extremists from over 120 countries" (Loveluck, 2018).

Over the last decade, the world has been facing extraordinary waves of terrorist attacks instituted by the organizations themselves or by affiliated groups; Such as ISIL; Paris November 2015, 130 victims, Brussels March 2016, 32 victims, Orlando June 2016, 49 victims, and Nice July 2016, 86 victims. "The 51 attacks took place in a relatively limited number of countries . The country with the largest number of attacks was France, followed by the United States, Germany , the UK, Belgium, Canada , Denmark and Sweden" (Lorenzo Vidino, 2017). France is the country with the largest number of victims in Europe however Iraq is by far the most targeted nation worldwide.

It is essential to investigate and take into account on a parallel paradox that as we previously noted that, these terrorist factions are omnipresent by the meaning that they could be indoctrinated via mass media or influenced by new incoming members. There are numerous countries that have had uncountable numbers of Muslim refugees are automatically destined to have a Muslim community entrenched in their societies. These countries especially in the EU, are encountering a justifiable number of these migrants because of the many relevant acts from the United Nations these new migrants that will form the next generations of Muslims in the EU. 14% of the total EU population will be Muslims and this is an advantage for the uprising factions that will become active after the military fall of ISIL because it is extremely easy to recruit or indoctrinate these new generations that have lost their faith and internal belief in Jihad and Islam. This creates a never ending cycle of threat to our public security and other members with this phenomenon.

Muslims in the EU, Norway and Switzerland in 2050: high migration scenario

Projected % of Muslims among total population in each country

Finland 15.0
Nor. 17.0
Sweden 30.6
Est. 1.0
Denmark 16.0
Netherlands 15.2
Lat. 0.4
Lith. 0.2
Ireland 4.4
Belgium 18.2
UK 17.2
Poland 0.2
Germany 19.7
Czech R. 1.2
Slvk. 0.7
Lux. 9.9
Austria 19.9
Hungary 4.5
Romania 0.9
France 18.0
Switz. 12.9
Slovenia 5.2
Croatia 2.1
Italy 14.1
Bul. 11.6
Portugal 2.5
Spain 7.2
Greece 9.7
Malta 16.2
Cyprus 28.3

% of population that is Muslim
> 18.0%
12.0-17.9
6.0-11.9
3.0-5.9
< 3.0

Projected size of Muslim population in 2050 under HIGH migration scenario		% of population that is Muslim
REGION	75,550,000	14.0%
Germany	17,490,000	19.7
United Kingdom	13,480,000	17.2
France	13,210,000	18.0
Italy	8,250,000	14.1
Sweden	4,450,000	30.6
Spain	2,810,000	7.2
Netherlands	2,790,000	15.2
Belgium	2,580,000	18.2
Austria	2,120,000	19.9
Switzerland	1,520,000	12.9
Norway	1,320,000	17.0
Denmark	1,100,000	16.0

Note: In the high migration scenario, 2014 to mid-2016 refugee inflow patterns continue in addition to regular migration. "Size of Muslim population in 2050 ..." column lists only countries with at least 1 million Muslims.
Source: Pew Research Center projections. See Methodology for details.
"Europe's Growing Muslim Population"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

(Centre P. R., 2017)

ISIL

The Islamic State of Iraq and The Levant, which encountered a series of evolutions to become an actual caliphate with a legal system, territory and Population. In three years of operations in the Middle East has appropriated territories that sum up the size of Italy and this was just the beginning before they were confronted by other nations. The Caliphate has had though many reforms to become an international threat, which commits atrocities and terrorist attacks abroad. ISIL is a reaffirmation of the holy war commenced by the mujahedeen's back in the 1980s, which took another road. What I believe was opened the curtains to the birth was the invasion of Iraq by US military forces, which condemned the secular throne of Saddam Hussein.

This caused a rumble of chaos within the country, which set free young militants from the Middle East to join the rebel groups as well as thousands of dispersed Sunni Iraqi soldiers to develop extremist views and fight the far enemy. Rebels at that time had Abu Musab Zarqawi, who at that time were incredibly ruthless and pledge alliance with Al-Qaeda taking the opportunity to initiate something new known as Al-Qaeda in Iraq. Jihadist groups saw this as a déjà vu of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, and again with the same scenario they start their jihad war. It was as if the holy war was something that every Muslim was entitled to give their life for.

None the less the US was very precise with their military operations and in 2006 they kill Zarqawi in an air strike in Baghdad in his own refugee base at the same time with the arab spring on the spread throughout the middle east and the start of the Syrian civil war by their dictator Bashar Al-assad released new militants to join the new group proclaiming itself in 2013 as Islamic State of Iraq and Syria by their new caliph Abu Bakr al-baghdadi. I believe that the Arab Spring was one of the important keys that opened the doors for the fortification of terrorist groups because it turns out to be an ideal environment for terrorism to thrive, trough rebellions and riots arose from Tunisia towards Egypt ending up with the liberation of former jihadist groups and rebels throughout the Middle East openly seeing the only refuge there was the ISIS. Meanwhile In Syria, which is the other hey element for the strengthening of ISIS was the fragmentation of a whole nation causing a civil war between the rebels and the Syrian army instituted by Bashar al assads dictatorial regime.

ISIS grows exponentially in Syria especially because Assad contributes to its rise indirectly, which he does because the country is facing a civil war. This is was the start of a humanitarian crisis which will encounter millions of refugees and not only bur new insutgent terrorist groups, by 2013, ISIS had finally their grips on the main cities of Syria. Within days, of the declaration of the Islamic State, its goal is more than anything imaginable by al-Qaeda, the incarnation of the so called Islamic Caliphate lust for power and controls a third of Iraq and a big part of Syria. It truly affirms that its jihad of holy war aginst the infidels will then reunite thousands of dispersed Muslims mostly from Europe and will encounter new jihadi factions.

The entire organization is led by Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi who is known as the Caliph and political leader of the it was one of the most wanted criminals by the US Government, two years just after the declaration of the caliphate was a very dominant one for ISIL, "increasing the number of attacks from previous years; this resulted in ISIL killing 6,141 people in terrorist attacks, a one per cent increase from 2014" (KAREN YOURISH, ISIS Attacks Around the World, 2016). This means that the lethality of attacks worldwide, there was also an increase in the number of countries targeted by ISIL. As the insurgent group has gradually expanded and increased by number undertaking attacks in various different cities during the first two years. Likewise, the number of affiliated groups increased significantly in the same year therefore had an immense reach and a facilitated structure to allocate its different resources to produce attacks. "Isis has "fully operational branches" in 18 countries" (Osborne, 2016) this shows the intensity of the various affiliated countries that have been affected by this ideological virus which gives ISIL a vital position to strategically plan attacks geographically anywhere. The countries which are facing most of the attacks are Iraq and Syria, Where ISIL headquarters operate and impose their legal system by force, As groups gain greater experience with explosives they tend to have more casualties with fewer attacks. These attacks worldwide are propagated by the other countries in which ISIL has its grip stable, this means that they have the power of inspiring attacks with suicide bombers, which makes them even more lethal and unpredictable, even though most attacks are conducted by ISIL its self.

With the immense overreach and the strengthening ties in other affiliated countries, "Iraq and Syria at the same time shows that the number of militant fighters is at least 200,000, seven or

eight times bigger than foreign in intelligence estimates of up to 31,500 men" (Cockburn, 2014), this is a very accurate estimate as ISIS has its grip on a territory the size of Italy which controls various oil fields to furnish its population with the right resources.

It fits perfectly in time and precision, because we have a mere example of the simplicity of the radicalization of the west by mass media from the jihadi group, like in France that has many Muslim communities and migrants is the European country with the most attacks, this is because the west is promoting a islamophobic stage for the new generations who are willing to join this revolution, but with no basic knowledge of what is waiting for them, ISIL brilliantly appealed directly to marginalized young militants throughout the Western World. This was a byproduct of a creation by Western indifference. It is a hereditary phenomenon, not much different from other mostly forgotten Islamic terrorist like the black widows or Tamil tigers.

The revelation of the Caliphate is just a way of converting young rebels, brainwash them with a fantasy of having superpowers, to devote their life to Allah and fight the infidels for the ultimate reward of being sent to paradise as well as making their family proud. "The Islamic State has three important attributes that any modern legal system contains: Courts, Prisons and Police. the Islamic State uses its legal system to advance three state building objectives, the establishment of a legal basis for territorial sovereignty. Secondly, enforcing internal discipline; and finally Taxation, which has become an increasingly important source of revenue for the group" (Bremmer, TIME, 2017). The population come after the radicals but are paradoxically seized by the chains of the radicalization as they are forcibly led to comply with their fantasized sharia law.

ISIL Organizational structure
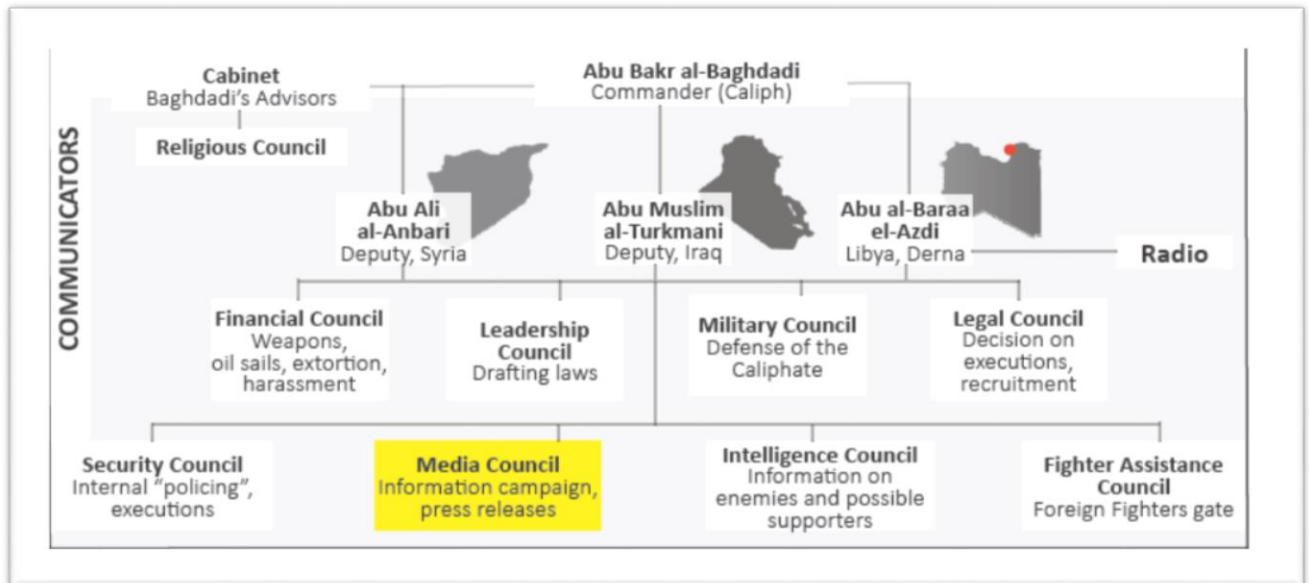
(USIP, 2016)

ISIL is divided among specialized sectors and divisions in charge of the international and regional stages. Each department plays an individual important role to the well functioning of their structure. The Media Council: has the vital duty for mass communication, for the international media. Daesh is one of many extreme jihadi organizations that rely the Internet and communication channels to spread their publicity internationally. However, Daesh uses mass communication to facilitate channels for to reach young people and capturing their interest much more fully than any of the other extremists have been able to.

The Intelligence Council: is constantly collecting information about Daesh enemies, potential target audiences, and the information surroundings. The Military Council: shows the attitude of the organization by the presence of its members on the battlefield, and works to outlay potential territorial gains that can be announced as battlefield successes. The Fighter Assistance Council: works as a institutional organization for the orientation of foreign fighters and new recruits. The Leadership, Security, and Legal Councils draft Sharia laws and key policies that apply to the occupied territories likewise the ones who do not follow these directives are immediately under investigation by the Legal Council, which gives its recommendations to the Security Council for executions and punishments.

The Financial Council: collects and invests money to plans, supports, and appoints various activities. ISIS instigates a direct confrontation with the West in the Middle East and idealizes itself as the supreme upholder of Sunni Muslim factions to bring them closer to the golden age of Islam. "If you remain steadfast, Allah will support you and grant you victory and plant your feet firmly. Know that Paradise is under the shade of the swords." — Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, caliph of the Islamic State (Wright, The Jihadi Threat, December 2016/January 2017) This words will clearly give you goose bumps as they are ultimately a call for war and that the Muslims who will raise their weapons to fight for their freedom and dignity the west has taken from them. Another additional advantage of the ISIL population is that each person has its own individual and each one of them does it to its full of their abilities, which makes them even more compact and productive.

ISIL Funding

As I mentioned previously the fact that the caliphate has been represented as a state with a legal system, each sector specialized in a sector. With an immense area for their own private benefit as they strategically targeted areas where the extraction and exportation of oil is facilitated by the abandoned convoys. With this said ISIL generates huge amounts of GDP for the purchase of artillery, according to the global terrorism index has specified that they were able to make revenue of $1.5million daily which account for half of the total revenue.

Likewise with a very stronghold of their population they implement a very detailed taxation system and each member is forced to pay their substantial part not to risk any repercussions with a benefit of $350 million yearly. Moreover situated in territories they were ablr to sell antiquities and artifacts from Syria and Iraq on the "black market which brought them a total of $100 million mainly purchased from the west." (Paton, 2017) Last but not least the revenues from kidnapping for ransom which is also an important source of money for the caliphate.

FIGURE 3.3 MAJOR SOURCES OF REVENUE FOR ISIL

ISIL's economic activities were believed to generate roughly US$2 billion in revenue in 2015. Half of ISIL's revenue comes from oil.

External donations 5%
Drugs 5%
Antiquities 10%
Oil 50%
Taxation 30%

Source: IEP

(Killelea, Global Terrorism Index , 2016)

ISIL Black standard

(Gander, Isis flag, 2015)

As we have seen throughout the years most of terrorist groups use the same typology of flag which is called a black standard and most of them have a significant white ideological banner at the top of their flags which is known as the "shahada". In the case of ISIL the black standard is always present since the flag was inspired by former Al-Qaida group, however the white banner says "There is no god but Allah [God].Muhammad is the messenger of God." (Gander, Isis flag, 2015) This banner is the sole submission used across Islam towards the one and only god. Underneath is a white circle with black anecdote reading "Mohammed is the messenger of God", which is meant to resemble the Prophet's immaculate words from god.

ISIS Attacks

Reflecting the extensive and military rapid growth of the organization, we all know through media the different atrocities led and issued by the terrorist group within the active years, ISIL goes global, as a CNN report dictates there has been an immense reach from this group and a total of "143 attacks in 29 countries have killed 2,043" (Tim Lister, ISIS goes global, 2017) recorded. This gives us a glimpse to what ISIL was able to achieve with its immense influence throughout the world. I believe that these numbers are no surprise if ISIL has been granted as one of the most lethal military terrorist organization ever to flourish. Other than Iraq and Syria the two countries who were in ISILs grips are the ones who will suffer from this attacks in the future but other than these two countries, The US individually has has suffered many attacks while the EU overall to the Middle East and North Africa to finally reaching Asia and Australia, it's unbelievable the ideological indoctrination thought-out the Muslim communities around the world. ISIL has various means to implement the attack and this is their biggest strength, they are literally omnipresent everywhere, from the lone wolfs to the communication of mass media and mass media which is clearly a very hard target to slow down this link of reach.
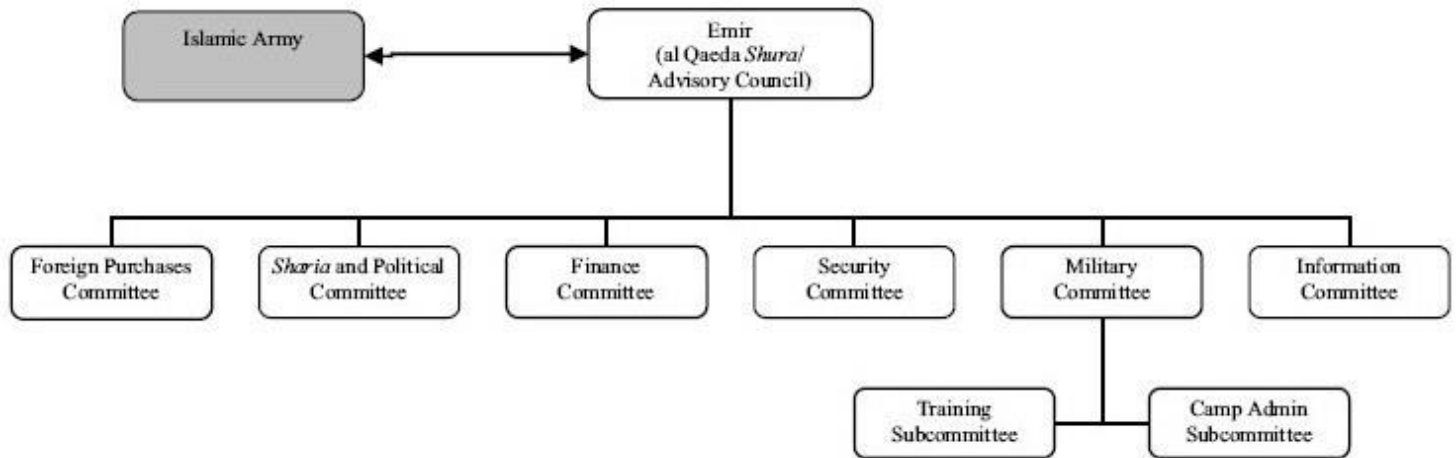
Al-Qaeda

Once upon a time a hegemony, the most feared and wanted terrorist groups in the world which conducted the most lethal attack ever. Al-Qaeda once the terrorist group who orchestrated the 9/11 attack and fought the soviet-afghan war with immense power and jihad for the liberty of their people, Since their ideological agenda was the implementation by jihadi-salafism to achieve a national sovereignty and reunite all Muslims worldwide. They followed a local agenda to promote freedom of the prosecuted Muslims and factions worldwide to gather them and create a force to fight and make Islam great again. Al-Qaeda which means the Base connotes a sense of protection and asylum which was perfect for recruiting manpower at the local level and running their training camps. Therefore, today, the "The Base" is vastly different from the "original" Al-Qaeda structurally and ideologically. Therefore we stand on a firm point that Al-Qaeda's top priority was to protect the virtues of Islam through war and bloodshed, however, this escalated to demand the U.S. to withdraw from the Middle East, as the US took the opportunity to engage with Saudi Arabia to protect them from this group which was called the Gulf war with the deployment of military forces near the holy sites of Mecca and Medina the two holiest Muslim sites in the world.

Al-Qaeda developed in Afghanistan from the soviet- afghan war which persisted along three years, the expansion of Al-Qaeda in Iraq under the authority of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, who saw an opportunity to re-gather the many dispersed mujahedeen's fighting for the Islamic freedom as he had pledged allegiance to Osama bin Laden in 2001. However, as time passed he saw the real dream of the Islamic reunion, therefore, Osama firmly supported worldwide jihad against the "Near Enemy". On July 9, 2005, Ayman al-Zawahiri, who was then Osama bin Laden's deputy and now his successor, through a letter appreciated Abu Musabal-Zarqawi's strategy of moving the focus of the global jihad to the Arab countries. Zawahiri, who was then following the lead of his Iraqi franchise, lay out the next steps of jihad in the Middle East. He directed Zarqawi to follow a three-step strategy (Halevi, 2005): 1) defeating the U.S. in Iraq; 2) extending the jihad to the secular countries bordering Iraq, namely Syria and Jordan, and; 3) entering into a clash with Israel, the core Al-Qaeda is too weak and in decay to be a worldwide risk, particularly towards the West and United States.

Protecting Islam consists of knowingly sacrificing oneself became widely used during the eight long years of the Iran Iraqi war, the lone wolfs were introduce by them, encouraging young Iranian militants by assuring them the road to Heaven, if they sacrificed themselves to protect Iran . Iran introduced this new form of martyrdom to the upcoming terrorist groups. Al-Qaeda indeed is one example such as the 9/11 attack, these factions have members that are highly educated individuals and some are very wealthy such as Bin Laden who was able to able to finance many of the operations that the organization carried out. Bin Laden has a team of highly skilled professional that were entitled to carry them in certain ways.

The 9/11 hijackers took a perfectly organized project to the end assembled by Al-Qaeda, officially the deadliest terrorist attacks ever, these men are deceived as sociopathic crazy men, Bin Laden has also been described in the same manner however, the available psychological sources have shown opposite results, they are neither crazy nor sociopaths. Bin Laden was direct and clear as he publicly explained his actions towards the US. His political goals were well defined as they were willing at all costs to purify governments from corruptions, infidels and enemies and establish a true rule under sharia law. Religion and politics are vividly present in al-Qaeda's ideology, as it is throughout, Al-Qaeda adheres to the Salafist which is the Quran that demand God's law must be the law that governs men and not the other way. Bin Laden was the leader of al-Qaeda and the paternal figure that made the organization so tamed. However, he has just developed religious and political ideology that already existed long before. The sole goal of al-Qaeda is to restore Islam to bring the true beauty of Islam, the golden age of the 8th century.

Al-Qaeda structure

(Pike, 2012)

The organizational structure of Al-Qaeda looks sort of like the ISIL one, which consists of compact well distributed councils, "The "Shura" or advisory council, an inner circle of Bin Landen's close associates, most of whom had long-lasting ties with him going back to the formative days in Afghanistan" (Balasubramaniyan, 2013). The "sharia" and political committee, responsible for recruiting members in the Islamic law authorizing certain actions including deadly attack. The military committee, is responsible for imposing targets, and managing training formations camps. The finance committee, is responsible for budgetary support for training camps, and military artillery with the he foreign purchases committee, responsible for both acquiring weapons, explosive and technical equipment. The security committee, is responsible for physical protection, intelligence collection and counterintelligence and finally the information committee in charge of the propaganda (Security, 6/16/2004)

The network is not intended to represent a hierarchical system, but instead is a mean for a well distributed structure that performs the overall formulation of operations, and with the approval of their leader Bin laden. The aim was to build a multinational council intended to promote common goals and coordinating target goals for terrorist operations, this represented a new level a of teamwork among other terrorist groups. "Al Qaeda Sees itself as the vanguard of the Salafi-jihadi movement its aims at providing strategic base and provide networks for individuals, groups, and organizations that subscribe to the Salafi-jihadi

ideology and form the true base of the movement. Al Qaeda prioritizes the Muslim reincarnation rather than targeting the West" (Habeck, 2017). It works hard to teach its religion to the masses, having learned through experience that too-rapid imposition of its views will alienate the population. Al Qaeda induces attacks to the west for the only reason that in the future other Muslim countries will collaborate for the global welfare of Islam, which al Qaeda believed would open doors for the success of popular revolts in the name of Islam. Salafi-jihadi ideology shapes al Qaeda's global strategy and operations in unpredictable ways.

Al Qaeda incites the international ties between Muslims by religion to undertake a global jihad to defend their patriots. Al Qaeda encourages those in Muslims lands to support the mujahideen fighting in their defense by whatever means possible and threat from any other source. It tells Muslims in the West to mobilize and conduct small-scale attacks against those denigrating Islam. This comes to a touchstone that Al-Qaeda will attack you if they feel they are threatened, just like the attack in "St. Petersburg, Russian, led by current Al Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri" (News B. , St Petersburg bombing: Group says al-Qaeda chief ordered attack, 2017).

Al-Qaeda has been dealt two blows since 2011. The first one is their paternal leader, Osama bins Laden in pakistan, who was eliminated by a military operation by the United States in May 2011. The second one is the marginalization which culminated by the uprising estremist group ISIS in the mid 2014, Al-Qaeda has evolved exponentially since its formation in the 1980s. "Al Qaeda which has been brought up first and has inspired other extremist groups has three main stages of Jihad; the first one is weakened jihad, second preparation jihad and finally violent jihad" (Morpheus, 2012).

Al Qaeda black standard

As I have previously cited the term al Qaeda has a long lasting meaning in the Muslim religion, "The Base". This is influenced by fundamentalism which has a religious connotation that indicates indissoluble attachment to specific religious beliefs, every Islamist radical groups flag is resembled by a black background called the black standard which clearly has a "historic roots since the Abu Muslim and his enlightment period of the Abassid revolution in 747" (wikipedia, Black Standard, 18 December 2017), the flag was flown by prophet Mohammed and takes on a branch which leads us to the Islamic "theology concerning the world which refers to the judgment of Allah, kwown as Yawm al-Qiyāmah" (wikipedia, Islamic eschatology, 2017).

[1] https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Flag_of_Jihad.svg)

AL-Qaeda Economic welfare

Al Qaeda has become a self-independent organization soon after the death of Osama bin-laden. Al-Qa'ida has evolved from a group that depended exclusively upon Usama bin Laden's personal wealth and donations by individuals from Gulf states to a global organization with a diversified portfolio of criminal business. "An annual revenue of 150 million dollars, this is partially generated from its principal source which is the organized crime franchise, yet we cannot forget to count other sources which include external donations and kidnappings" (START, Global Terrorism Index, 2016). The franchise structure enables centralised control but decentralised activity. As such, local groups can be opportunistic in seeking revenue sources which are based on their region.

AL Qaeda attacks

The extremist group became worldwide known after their attack on the twin towers in 2001, the enigma with al-Qaeda here is that the group after the twin tower attack has been on a stagnant position to which people still are doubting if they are still active of they have passed their sword to other affiliates such as Al-Shabbab. They were responsible for the "death of more than 3.000 people and uncountable injuries from around 180 countries, which sent a shockwave of terror globally" (Library, 2017).

The logic and dynamic for these attacks was to demonstrate their efficacy and outrage; while Al-Qaeda did not match the regularity of attacks made by the Taliban or ISIS, because they were well aware that they had caused tremendous amounts of damage therefore countries had to be very watchful on their actions. The number of deaths and injuries from terrorist attacks worldwide gives an important statistical reference of the scars left by Al-Qaeda when in action and were "responsible for 12,185 injuries, over 3000 more than the Taliban" (STATISTA, 2012). The most recent claimed attack by the new terrorist faction was the St Petersburg attack, Russia. "The bombing in the train killed 14 people and injured 51" (Tim Lister E. M., 2017) authorities claim and the new leader of Al Qaeda leader in charge Ayman Al-Zawahiri, which once again reassure the fact that Al-Qaeda even though is a dormant extremist group can ease deadly attacks anywhere, everywhere and unexpectedly.

There are four main fundamental attacks which were regarded as the most disastrous. The first one situated in Kenya and Tanzania in 1998, which strategically conducted the "bombings of the US embassy. 301 people were killed, and more than 5000 people were injured in this incident" (Library, 1998 US Embassies, 2017). The second one is the deadliest attack in US history and for sure worldwide, the heartbreaking "twin towers attack 3,000 people were killed in the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York and on the Pentagon in Washington on September 11, 2001" (Networks, 2014). The third one was an indirect attack programmed and induced by Al-Qaeda situated on "a nightclub in Bali, Indonesia, killing approximately 180 people and finally the bombings of four packed trains in 2004, in Madrid which killed 190 people and injured more than 1400 people" (News B. , The 12 October 2002 Bali bombing , 2012). The Al-Qaeda terrorist group has been active since 1998, to defend their country from the red army invasion. however since the elimination of their leader Osama Bin Laden in 2011 they have had a colossal fall due to the fact that the war on terror against the US and other allied countries. Secondly, disrupted al-Qaeda's global operations and terrorist financing networks and destroying al-Qaeda terrorist training camps., Al-Qaeda has lost four heads of the military committee, four chiefs of the special operations unit and at least a dozen of the senior regional field commanders.

<u>Conclusion</u>

Terrorism in conclusion is a method, which can be adopted by any person or group with the intention and motive to implement chaos, can take the route due to political matters of a manifestation of an ideology, such as the Arab Spring. As a form of violence, terrorism reveals little about the people who employ it, nor does the tactic itself explain why it is being used. Simultaneously, ISIS and al-Qaeda induce an omnipresent threat to global security, which is very serious because Muslims cover 24 percent of the global population meaning they these extremist individuals could be hidden anywhere and attack anyone in despair.

This is the main reason why my thesis outlines the sociology of the global jihadist spectrum which differs completely today (ISIS) than it was on 9/11 (Al-Qaeda) with the world trade centre. The omnipresent danger is not only from this duo because global jihad is unexpected and deadly. Neo-extremist affiliates are stemming ever more complex and rapidly across the Middle East as they are already exposed to raw material from past extremist groups. Islamist State of Iraq and Syria's (ISIS) which in their case prioritize the complete destabilization and overthrow of regimes to control territory and impose a caliphate. If we assume ISIS should fail this time around, they have their seeds everywhere and will attempt a comeback due to the fact that "the financial resources has reach almost in every corner of the world such as ISIS in the Philippines" (VILLAMOR, 2017). Al-Qaeda may look on the same road, however it vastly differentiates as it relies increasingly on local allies and affiliates, to maintaining a low level profile.

Al-Qaeda has invested heavily in convolving local Islamist movements to wake up and give them a sense of hope and dignity such as the Arab spring and embedding popular beliefs therefore al-Qaeda has the potential to be an immense jihadist threat even greater than ISIS. ISIS on the other hand indoctrinates local populations while advertising to a global audience via mass media. It has created local governance and a legal system. "Worldwide propaganda in dozens of languages addressing unique issues to Muslim communities in France, Russia, and marginalized Muslim communities" (Center, 2016). Moreover, they compromise a zero-sum game which meaning you either become an ISIS absolutist or you are regarded as an infidel.

These insurgent groups have had an enlighten period due to the fact that they have always been subordinate to weak and inefficient governments. New ideological teachings have emerged that are beyond the control of traditional governments and maybe their only source of defense. Extremist organizations quickly replicate and adapt conventional tactics. The truth behind this is that jihadis are always be one step ahead of everyone, one may believe that eradicating an extremist group physically does not destroy its ideology as it is very easy to recruit young marginalized militants to become part of a new group.

Iraq has always been in the pinnacle of conflicts making them unstable and stagnate, its facilities and institutions were on the verge of failing towards healing its Sunni minority, and the reality is this contributed to the reemergence of ISIS even when al-Qaeda was to its last bits. These groups do not know what international boundaries institute therefore they know that they have the means to reach and indoctrinate people worldwide. Not all jihadi groups are the same in terms of goals, strategies, tactics, or willingness to collaborate. There is another factor in common which states that not all groups stanby with their initial goal as they gron in numbers and especially expand in their new factions and affiliates.

At its height, the Islamic State the size of Italy spread across Iraq, Syria and Kurdistan with ten million people under its control. ISIS transformed the theology of jihadism into an international entity with the power to recruit tens of thousands from over five continents. Yet the Islamic state has not finished as an entity for sure, its evil ideologies have leached across the world. "Their extremism will endure, in different forms and perhaps under different banners, by already claiming provinces, spread from Algeria, Philippines and Yemen" (Wright, 2017). In other words, the current caliphate may have collapsed, but serious dangers lie ahead, as the push factors that produced ISIS loom even larger today than when it emerged.

The traditional way of understanding terrorism and looking at terrorists based on organizational definitions and attributes in some cases can be a trap to where it is even harder to classify the parameters of a terrorist lone wolf. ISIS, in form of a caliphate, is living its last days. However, like Al-Qaeda their ideology is still embedded in the minds of the ones who will restore and uphold new groups. The fact that the Middle East is facing splits along; sectarian lines, ethnic and regional lines which makes it a fertile ground for extreme violence.

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