Demystifying ISIS: Reality in the Context of Global Power Politics
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Etymology

Ad-Daulat
Al-Islamiyah
fee
i-Iraq
wa
Sh-Sham

Sometimes we can also call it ISIL, L stands for Levant, which is the translation of “Sham”.

*Shش* is the sun letter in Arabic language, so shaddah should be put on the consonant after the letter lamل, and you can see”sh-sham”.
Flag of ISIS

There is no god but god

Allah
Rasul
Muhammad

This sentence is Kalimah Shahadah, which is one of the pillars and the most important pillar in Islam. They use Kalimah Shahadah as the design of the flag.

Its original sentence:

la ʾilaha ʾilla-llah, muhammadur-rasulu-llah

Same sentence could be seen on the flag of Saudi Arabia

This sentence could commonly be seen in Islamic world, especially in Masjid, Madrasah and Maahad (Islamic Schools)
Introduction to Islam

Muhammad and Islam

- He was born in A.D. 570 in Makkah, his great-grandfather Hashim bin Abdul Manaf moved from Gaza to Makkah. (Banu Hashim)
- His birthday is so-called as Maulidurrasul
- His grandfather and grandmother: **Abdul Muttalib** bin Hashim and **Fatimah** binti Amr
- His parents: **Abdullah** bin Abdul Muttalib and **Aminah** binti Wahb bin Abd Manaf (Aminah: the third cousins of Abdul Muttalib)
- His parents died when he was young and was raised by his uncle-Abi Talib
- **Ali**, the son of **Abi Talib**, also the cousin of Muhammad, married to Fatimah, the daughter of Muhammad and **Khadijah** binti Khuwaylid (Khuwaylid: the cousin of Abdul Muttalib), and fathered two sons—**Hussein** and **Hassan** (Ahlul Bait)
### The concept of Islamic Politics

#### The split of Sunnah and Shia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunna</th>
<th>Shia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.2 Billion (about 87-90%)</td>
<td>200 Million (about 10-13%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leaders: chosen by the agreement of Ummah/ Umat</td>
<td>Must be the male descendents of Ali and Fatimah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mazhabs:</td>
<td>Mazhabs:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Hanbali-Arabian Peninsula</td>
<td>• Zayidi (5): Northern Yemen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Hanafi-Central Asia</td>
<td>• Ismaili (7):</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Maliki: Africa</td>
<td>• Twelvers (12): Iran</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Syafii: Somalia, SE Asia</td>
<td>• Druze, Alawi: Levant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Umayyid, Abbasid, Ottoman,</td>
<td>Fatimid, Safavid, Maanid, Shihab, Mutawakilite, Pahlavi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malacca, Aceh</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

And Sufism could be seen in Turkey, North Africa and Central Asia
**Shariah Law/ Qanun Islami**

**Hukum Allah (Law of Allah)**
- Sariqah (Stealing)
- Hirabah (Robbing)
- Zina (Adultery/ Fornication)
- Qazaf (False accusation of Zina)
- Syrub/ Shrub al-Khamr (Drinking wine)
- Irtidad/ Riddah/ Murtad (Apostasy)
- Bughat (Rebel, not part of Qanun, depend on unique situation)

**Source of Law**
- Al-Qur’an
- Al-Hadith
- Ijma/Ijmak (Consenses)
- Qiyas (Analogical Reasoning)
- Urf (Customs)
- Ijtihad

**Hukum Ibadah (Law of Worship)**
- Solat (Praying)
- Zakat (Donation)
- Sawm (Fasting)
- Haj (Pilgrimage)

**Hukum Muamalat (Law of social activities)**
- Nikah (Wedding)
- Istiqdad (Economic)
- Harb (War)
- Waqf/ Waqaf (Inheritance)
- Drawing and monument
- Sihir (Black magic)
## Four Sunni Schools of Thought (Fiqh or Jurisprudence)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hanbali</th>
<th>Hanafi</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mainly on Arabian peninsula</td>
<td>• Mainly in Central Asia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qur’an → Hadith → Ijmak</td>
<td>• Qur’an → Reliable Hadith → Istihsan (Good Preference) → Urf (Custom)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Consenses of Sahabah)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sahabi’s opinion → Mursalah or Dhaeef Hadith</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct Maslaha (Public Interest)</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Shafi’i/Syafi’i</th>
<th>Maliki</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mainly in E. Africa &amp; SE Asia</td>
<td>• Mainly in Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qur’an → Hadith → Ijma’</td>
<td>• Qur’an → Hadith → Urf in Madina → Mursalah → Qiyas → Muslim Maslaha → no conflict with Islamic practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Consensus) → Bid’ah</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Innovation) → Tasdiq</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Confirmation)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Different schools have their own different interpretations on Qanun Islami.
Method of Shariah Law (1)

• Hudud: literally means “Limit”, its singular word is Hadd, punishment based on Qur’an and Hadith, usually applied on Hukum Allah [Sovereignty of Allah]

• Qisas: Retaliation, i.e. *eye for eye, tooth for tooth* (Surah Maidah Ayat 45) (In Iran, the victim’s family have the right to choose whether they forgive the convict or not.)

> And We ordained for them therein a life for a life, an eye for an eye, a nose for a nose, an ear for an ear, a tooth for a tooth, and for wounds is legal retribution. But whoever gives [up his right as] charity, it is an expiation for him. And whoever does not judge by what Allah has revealed - then it is those who are the wrongdoers.
Method of Shariah Law (2)

• Tazir: Corporal Punishment, the times of lash depend on Islamic scholar and the choice of mazhab by national leaders

• Diyya: financial compensation in case of murder, bodily harm or property damage
Shariah Law (4)

Ibadah Ayats

- Mainly sent down (Revelation or Wahyu) in *Makkah*, so-called "Makkiyah"

Civil Law, Family Law, Penal Law, Constitutional Law, International Law, Economic and Financial Order, Jurisdiction and Procedure...etc

- Mainly sent down in *Madinah*, so-called "Madaniyah"

But some Ayats sent down in Madinah, and could be seen as Makkiyah
The rise of religious purification

- **Hanbalism**: Ahmad ibn Hanbal (780-855), born in Baghdad, suggested the following of Dalil (Guidence), Avoidance of Hypothetical Fiqh, Avoidance of Excessive Indulgence in Ra’i, Ease and facilitation in the rulings of worship, transactions and marriage.
- **Ibn Taymiyyah** (1268-1328): Mongolian invasion destroyed the Islamic culture, and Ibn Taymiyyah suggested Tauhid (Monotheism) to fight against foreign cultural invasion. He aimed to protect the Islamic culture under Mongolian administration.
- **Muhammad bin Abdul Wahhab** (1701-1793): the rise of Wahhabism aimed to solve the problems of Islamic practices and to resist the Turkish suppression. Wahhabism is the national ideology of Saudi Arabia nowadays.
- **Jamaluddin Afghani** (1838-1897): influenced by Wahhabism and suggested Pan-Islamism, the founder of Islam Modernism (his country faced with British invasion at that time).
- **Hassan al-Banna**: enlightened by the British colonial ruling and established Ikhwanul Muslimin (Muslim Brotherhood), brought ideological influence in Islamic world. While the Muslim Brotherhood faced with the persecution from Egyptian government in 20th centuries, some of them changed to extremism.
The combination of Salafism

• Salafism is an Islamic movement, it aims at strictly replicating the Islamic practices of their Prophet Muhammad.
• Tauhid is the main concept of Salafism, Allah is the sole creator, sovereign of universe, supreme and unique, has the right to be worshipped.
• The method of replicating islamic practices is to strictly follow the Qu’ran and hold fast to the purity of the Prophet Muhammad’s model. (Unchallengeable) Shariah Law
• They will issue fatwa to claim whether some customs or behaviors are HARAM or not if they discover its dispute.
Immediate Events

- European Imperialism activities in Middle East (Sykes-Picot Agreement)
- Abolishment of Caliphate (1923)
- Yawmul Nakba/ Catastrophic Day (1947)
- Gamal Nasser/ Jamal Nasser and Muslim Brotherhood (1950s-1960s)
- Seven Days War (1967)
- Iran Islamic Revolution
- Makkah Siege (Nov to Dec, 1979)
- Invasion of Soviet to Afghanistan (Dec 1979 to Feb 1989)
Al-Qaedaism and its legacy

- Set up by Osama bin Muhammad bin Awda bin Laden
- Born in Yemen and moved to Saudi Arabia
- Met with Ayman al-Zawahiri (the spiritual leader of Al-Qaeda after the death of Laden) and Sayyid Qutb
- Set up in Afghanistan and became his terror base
- 9/11 was the famous terror attack in USA
- Most of his followers or another Islamists “copy and paste” his development model and generate another similar organization
- ISIS was one of the followers and split to an independent organization in Iraq and Syria while they had logical differences.
Concept map: Internal Political Crisis + Internal Islamic Cultural Crisis + Foreign Invasion \(\rightarrow\) Find the solution from religious philosophies

- Nabi Muhd and the rise of Islam
  - Muhd his followers (Sahabat) and the split of Islam
    - Hanbali
      - Ibn Taymiyyah & Ibn Qayyim
        - Wahhabi Tauhid
          - Early Period
            - Middle Age: the rise of Wahhabism and Salafism (The decline of Islam and the foreign invasion) \(\rightarrow\) Revival of Islam
              - Hanafi: Central Asia
                - Maliki: Africa
                  - Syfii: Somalia, SE Asia

- KSA Wahhabi Saudi
  - Hassan al-Banna and MB
    - Jamaluddin al-Afghani
      - Support Sunni Yemani
        - Shi’ite
          - Vs
            - N. Yemen
              - Iran
                - Modern Islamic Countries
                  - Modern Extremist Bloc
                    - Al-Qaeda, AQIM, AQA
                      - Al-Shabaab
                        - Taliban
                          - Abu Sayyaf
                            - JI Indonesia
                              - Chechenya
                                - Al-Shabaab
                                  - Boko Haram
                                    - ISIS
Development of ISIS

• Most of them had been the member of Al-Qaeda in Iraq (Abu Musab Zarqawi), former officers of Saddam Hussein and foreign warriors

• Extreme Ideological Ruling: implementing Shariah Law with limited religious knowledge and professional education → caused a lot of innocent victims (including Shia Muslim)

• Brutal massacre: Non Muslim could only have three choices- Convert to Islam, escape or being killed (e.g. Yazidi people)

• Raise the international attention by internet and media (& Advertisement): challenge the people of tolerance by brutal killing method (e.g. Jordanian pilot Muaz Kasasbeh)

• Territorial expansion: aimed at building super Caliphate kingdom, including the territories belonged to Islamic world

• Destroyed cultural heritage: they did not tolerate any religious idols or non Islamic building → the cultural disaster (e.g. Palmyra/ Tadmur in Syria, Mosul in Iraq)

• Brainwashing education: closed secular schools, and opened religious schools → cultivating Tauhid education

• China and Russia veto move to refer in Syria to ICC: Syrian failed to see justice, indirectly led to the catastrophic humanity crisis,
**ISIS Joint Alliance: they are not alone?**

- Abu Sayyaf: in the Southern Philippines
- Harakat al-Shabaab Mujahideen: Somalia, Kenya and Uganda
- Boko Haram: Nigeria and Chad
- Jemaah Islamiah (JI): Nusantara World (SE Asia Malay World)
- Taliban in Pakistan
- Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU)
- Eastern Turkistan Islamic Movement (ETIM, in northwestern China)
- Ansar Bait al-Maqdis
- Caucasus Emirate
The place they claimed to be controlled already

ISIS’s Dream......

Red line: Achieved already

★ The place they claimed to be controlled already
ISIS’s bureaucratization

Anatomy of ISIS

Source: Terrorism Research and Analysis Consortium

*Al Imara
Executive branch

Financial Council
- Weapons, oil sales

Leadership Council
- Drafting laws, key policies

Military Council
- Defense of the “Islamic State”

Legal Council
- Decisions on executions, recruitment

Fighters Assistance Council
- Foreign fighter aid

Security Council
- Internal “policing,” executions

Intelligence Council
- Information on ISIS enemies

Media Council
- Regulates media & social media

Cabinet
- Baghdadi’s advisers

Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi*
Commander in Chief (Caliph)

Abu Muslim al-Turkmani*
Deputy, Iraq

Abu Ali al-Anbari*
Deputy, Syria

12 Governors of Iraq

12 Governors of Syria

Reported died
*Shura means “Consultation”, in Islamic Politics, Consultation is an important component, as it had been mentioned in Al-Qur’an (Surah Ash-shura Ayat 38) “Whose affair is [determined by] consultation amony themselves”*
Jihad John

- Original name: Mohammad Emwazi (Clan: Bedoon)
- British Kuwaiti [Iraqi in fact] descendant
- The victim of Saddam Hussein’s ruling
- Graduated from university in Westminster
- Visited Tanzania and linked with Islamists at that time
- Killed foreign hostages in front of the video and uploaded on the internet
- Reported escape outside ISIS

(Source of the chart: Al-Awsat)
ISIS Alias System

_Abu_ [Abu means “father” in Arabic] + _Chosen Islamic Name_ + _Name of Place_ (birthplace or working place) or clan name (Red: Iraqi)

For example:

- Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi (Baghdadi is the capital of Iraq)
- Abu Muslim al-Turkmani (Turkman is a Turkic tribe in Central Asia)
- Abu Ali Al-Anbari (Anbar is the province in Iraq)
- Abu Mohammad al-Adnani (Adnan is the clan name on Arabian Peninsula)
- Abu Omar al-Shishani (Shishani is the Arabic writing of Chechen, Arabic does not have alphabet “Ch”, and replaced by “Sh”)
- Abu Talha al-Almani (Almani is the Arabic writing of “Germany”)
- Abu Ali al-Shishani (same as Abu Omar al-Shishani)
- Abu al-Baraa al-Azdi (Azd is the clan name on Arabian Peninsula)
- Abu Fatima al-Jaheishi (Jaheishi is one of the members in Al-Jabouri’s clan, it is an Iraqi clan in Northern Iraq)
- Abu Abdulrahman al-Bilawi al-Dulaimi (Dulaimi is the clan name in Iraq)
Most of the fighters came from the Middle East and North Africa, second largest from Europe and third largest from Central Asia.

Some fighters came from Asia, such as Indonesia, Malaysia, China.
ISIS Main sources of Income: the chance to cut their financial sources?
If you observe the chart, you will see the influence of global powers.

- Saudi Vs Iran & USA Vs Russia
- Saudi w/ USA and Iran w/ Russia
- Saudi aids Southern Yemen (Sunni) while Iran aids Northern Houthi Yemen (Zayidi Shia), worsened the Saudi-Iran relationship.
- Foreign rivalries indirectly led to the humanity crisis in Iraq and Syria.

• Iran wants to expand Shia influence in Syria and Iraq; Saudi wants to expand Sunni influence in Syria and Iraq
• Russia wants to replace USA as another regional power.

Source of the chart: the Economist
Responsibilities of China and Russia

What did China say in ICC?

- "The Security Council submitting the Syria issue to the International Criminal Court will only make the situation even more complex and the problem even more difficult to solve," Hong said in a briefing in Beijing on Thursday.
- "Ultimately, those suffering are the people of Syria and other countries in the region."
- In fact, China & Russia (trade profits) and Iran (Shia Islam) are standing by Syria for a long time.

Source: http://research.un.org/en/docs/sc/quick

Security Council - Veto List
(in reverse chronological order)

Prepared and maintained by the
Dag Hammarskjöld Library Data from 1946-2004 were taken from the official list of vetoes contained in document A/59/47, Annex I.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Draft</th>
<th>Meeting Record</th>
<th>Agenda item</th>
<th>Permanent Member Casting Negative Vote</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>29 July 2015</td>
<td>S/2015/562</td>
<td>S/PV.7498</td>
<td></td>
<td>Russian Federation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 July 2015</td>
<td>S/2012/559</td>
<td>S/PV.7481</td>
<td></td>
<td>Russian Federation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 May 2014</td>
<td>S/2014/348</td>
<td>S/PV.7180</td>
<td>Middle East - Syria</td>
<td>China</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 July 2012</td>
<td>S/2012/538</td>
<td>S/PV.810</td>
<td>Middle East - Syria</td>
<td>China</td>
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<td>4 February 2012</td>
<td>S/2012/77</td>
<td>S/PV.3711</td>
<td></td>
<td>Russia Federation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 October 2011</td>
<td>S/2011/512</td>
<td>S/PV.627</td>
<td>Middle East - Syria</td>
<td>China</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 February 2011</td>
<td>S/2011/24</td>
<td>S/PV.5494</td>
<td>Middle East situation, including the Palestinian question</td>
<td>USA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Effect & Significance of ISIS

- Economic damage: ISIS destroyed the economic activities, most of the people escaped to foreign countries or killed by ISIS if they disagreed the mission of ISIS.
- Loss of life and property: ISIS occupied Syria and Iraq, killed residents brutally and robbed their properties, Iraq and Syria became as dangerous as Somalia, Nigeria and Afghanistan.
- Damage of cultural heritage: ISIS do not tolerate any non Islamic heritage, because they defined it as the worship to other religions, most of the pre-Islamic and Islamic heritage damaged by ISIS.
- Refugees problem: thousands of Syrian and Iraqi left their countries and migrate to Europe, led to the social burden and migrate crisis, some of them died on the sea before they reached to Europe (e.g. Aylan Kurdi, Ghalib Kurdi and their mother Rihan) As the European decided to receive the refugees, ISIS will use refugee crisis to infiltrate West, which will cause the terror attack in future.
A Syrian national who fled the country's civil war and made his way to Hong Kong has filed for asylum seeker status. The Immigration Department confirmed to the Post that the Syrian has filed a non-refoulement claim - including both torture and refugee applications - with the government.”

9th September, 2015 (SCMP)

“7000km distance=$$\rightarrow$$ It is an unique case. And does this person know the real situation in Hong Kong, like expensive house rents and purchasing prices, deteriorating living standard? Possibly, it will be worse than fled to Europe or stay in Syria?
Refugees around Syria

Map showing numbers and locations of people fleeing internal violence in Syria. 87,774 Syrians registered for aid in Turkey. 56,225 Syrians registered for aid with UNHCR in Lebanon. 2.5 million in need of assistance inside Syria, including 1.2 million internally displaced persons (IDPs).

Map of Europe's refugee crisis, showing routes of migration from Syria to Europe.
Why Europe?

- Turkish received 1.8 million refugees, and Lebanon host the second largest number of refugees, they might have inadequate space to receive refugees in future.
- Iraq had received in the past, but it is no longer a safe choice as they are facing the threat of ISIS now.
- The six wealthy Gulf countries have officially resettled none of them.
- Theoretically, gulf countries have duty to receive refugees as they share the same religious and cultural background.
- Thus, the refugees choose to seek better life in Europe. (with stable and democratic politics and attractive social welfare), most of them chose to Germany.
What difficulties will they face with after the migration to Europe?

• Cultural Conflicts: different culture→social arguments (Christianity Vs Islam) Saudi Arabia said that they would build 200 Masjids for the Islamic refugees in Europe, led to the rise of cultural conflicts

• Different climate and health impact: difficult to adapt new environment and they will delay to find doctor’s consultation if they get sick (unemployment and poverty)→ risk of public health

• Job opportunities, education system: different background and culture limited their job opportunities or learning

• Social prejudice and negative stereotype in Europe: negative media description widened the communication gap between refugees and Europeans

• Blamed to be the creator of political and social instabilities (especially potential crises)

• Innocent refugees influenced by extremists: if extremists carry out any format of attack and these innocent refugees will get negative public opinion by politicians
How to solve ISIS?

- **Receive the refugees** is a pessimistic method, because it can not reduce the number of refugees, but ISIS problem is still affecting Syria and Iraq, and will generate a series of social, economic, cultural and political problems in Europe, especially ISIS will send fighters to infiltrate West. New source said that ISIS will send 4000 fighters to Europe via this infiltration trend. European leaders suggested to share the burden of refugees, means to share the risk of ISIS too.

- **Carry out the air strike** is also not a good solution, the fighters are on the land, and air strike could not understand the real situation. ISIS will not totally be cleaned by air strike, innocent people will be the victims and will get the moral condemn from global media.

- **Coordinate with Arab countries to fight against ISIS**: this is the most suitable and effective method until now. It can recover the political situation in Syria and Iraq, and at least solve the migrant crisis. Of course, the process will be more difficult than the previous wars they had experienced in the past, but it is **the only solution**! We can reduce the victims with the comprehensive plan as soon as possible.
Reuters: Migrant Crisis must be tackled at source in Syria

- George Gideon Oliver Osborne, the Britain’s finance minister, said that “You’ve got to deal with the problem at source, which is this evil Assad regime and the ISIS terrorists, and you need a comprehensive plan for a more stable, peaceful Syria”

Reuter, 5th September 2015

http://in.reuters.com/article/2015/09/05/europe-migrants-britain-osborne-idINKCN0R50IN20150905
Recent situation: Two blocs are forming

Pro-Shia Vs Pro Sunni and Pro-Russia Vs Pro-America
Reference Book

• Dr Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned, *The Shariah Penal Code—An Introduction*
• Professor Dr.M. Mutawalli Asy-sya’rawi, *495 Kemusykilan terungkai Anda bertanya Islam Menjawab*
• Izzath Uroosa, *Learning Arabic Language of the Qur’an*, Darussalam
• Profesor Dr. Teungku Muhammad Hasbi Ash-Shiddieqy, “*Ilmu-IImu Al-Qur’an—Membahas Ilmu-IImu pokok dalam manafsirkan Al-Qur’an”*
• 王志遠，《伊斯蘭教百問》
• 叢恩霖，《大宗教小派別—伊斯蘭教支流派別研究》
Thank you!