The Making of an Enemy: Understanding Middle East Extremists

All opinions and suppositions expressed are entirely those of the presenter and in no way reflect the positions, opinions, or policies of the United States Government or any of its entities.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>26 Mar</td>
<td>WWII Comes to the Middle East</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 May</td>
<td>The US Meets the Middle East in WWII</td>
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<td>18 Sep</td>
<td>WWII Scars the Middle East</td>
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<td>5 Nov</td>
<td>The Making of an Enemy: Understanding Middle East Extremists</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
How ISIS sees the fight
Words that Matter

- Tawhid (common: monotheism)
- Shirk (common: idolatry)
- Prophetic Methodology
- Jahiliya (common: ignorance)
- Sharia (common: Islamic law)
How ISIS sees the fight
Seeing the Layers of Narrative

Major Themes that Resonate
• Remaining and Expanding
  (Everywhere Caliphate)
• Tawhid
• Prophetic methodology
• Common grievances

Strategic Approach
• Call for and Create the Caliphate
  • Awaken Muslims (western and Shia threat)
  • Compel Muslims (civil war – extinction of the grayzone)
• Draw America in to the Middle East
  • Discredit allies of America
  • Weaken apostate or idolatrous states
• Exhaust America 500,000 : 1
• Defeat Enemies
• Rule the Caliphate
Necessary and Sufficient Causes of ISIS

**Necessary Causes**
- Rise and Success of Salafi-Jihadi-Takfiri Ideology
- US Foreign Policy and the Middle East
- US Invasion of Iraq

**Sufficient Causes**
- Sunni Loss of Power in Iraq and Syria
- Syrian Civil War
Perception: Good Guys and Bad Guys

Amaryllis Fox (Former CIA Clandestine Service Agent)
What are the Roots of Conflict in the Middle East?

Roots of Conflict
WWI – Present

Deep Roots of Conflict
Weakening of Empires – WWI

How it really is.
Evolution of the Terrain
Using John Boyd’s OODA Loop

1. Post-WWII Revolutionary War
2. End of Arab Nationalism
3. Rise of Islamism (Iranian Revolution)
4. Victory of the Mujahedeen
5. Declaration of War Against US
6. Post 9/11 Transformation
7. Arab Spring and Syrian Civil War
8. “Stray Dogs”

ISIS Cycles

The Looming Tower
The Management of Savagery
“What ISIS Really Wants”
“Islamic State Insurgent Tactics”
Countries with whom the US has an alliance, bilateral defense agreement, or major military installations.
Why is the U.S. in the Middle East?

- Oil
- Zionism (Religion)
- Cold War (Great Powers)
- Terrorism (Non-State Actors)
The Importance of the Middle East to the US is a Recent Phenomena – About 40 Years

My Restatement

Before 1979 almost every American military casualty happened outside the Middle East. Since 1979, almost every American military casualty happened inside the Greater Middle East.
1979
The Year that Changed the Middle East

Islamic Revolution in Iran
February 1979

Egyptian-Israeli Peace Deal
March 1979

Saddam Hussein Takes Power in Iraq
July 1979

American Hostages in Iran
November 1979

Grand Mosque Seizure
November 1979

Soviet-Afghanistan Incursion
December 1979
Rise of al-Qaeda

1993 World Trade Center Bombing

1996 Khobar Towers

1998 Embassy Bombings

2000 USS Cole Bombing
Since 9/11

RMA Proof of Concept
Why Iraq?
Could these guys really pull this off?

Without the help of a state
ISIS Created

1979
The Year that Changed the Middle East

• Necessary causes
• Islamism proven
• America defeated by Islam
• Jihad redefined
• Globalist movement created
• Globalist Salafism reinforced / reinvigorated
• Soviets defeated by mujahidin (1989)

Rise of al-Qaeda

• Necessary causes
• America identified as target
• *Wake the ummah*
• War declared
• Globalist, Salafist, Non-state actor
• America bleeds
• Franchise terrorism with global appeal

Since 9/11

• Necessary causes
• America’s technological superiority
• America’s impotence
• Commitment wins
• Iraq an unjust war against Muslims
• Global jihad

The Surge and the Arab Spring

• Sufficient causes
• Struggle against the superpower
• Compel the ummah
• Vacuum of authority in Syria
• America defeated by mujahidin (2011)
• Freelance / Crowd-sourced terrorism

The last force to defeat two superpowers was the mujahidin in the 7th Century. They defeated Sassanid Persia and Rome.
Understanding *The Surge*


### Necessary Conditions for Success

- Presence of US military
- Struggle for power between tribes and ISIS
- Esprit de corps and cohesion of tribes opposing ISIS

### Necessary Conditions for Failure

- Maliki’s government turned against the Sunnis
- The Awakening was not self-sustaining
- ISIS received a critical mass of Sunni support

*(note: need to understand what binds people together in opposition to our opponents)*
History of ISIS in 7 Periods

1. Operating in al-Qaeda’s Shadow 1999-2006
2. A State is Declared 2006-2010
3. Arab Spring 2010-2014
4. Building the State 2011-2014
5. Declaring the State 2014
6. Defending the State 2014-2017
7. ISIS Remains 2017-Present
# Battle of Mosul

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>7</strong> (4+ yrs prep)</td>
<td><strong>278</strong> Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>110,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60,000</td>
<td>9,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1:60</strong> Ratio of Attacker to Defender</td>
<td><strong>12:1</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>105+</td>
<td>*1,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6,500</td>
<td>8,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1:65</strong> Ratio of Attacker to Defender Killed</td>
<td><strong>1:7</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
<td>&gt;60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Civilians Killed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>500,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>25,000</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Civilians Displaced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>900,000</strong></td>
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All figures are estimates.
If you can persuade a person, you don’t need to kill him.

– Dmitry Kiselyev (Russia’s most famous television anchor and the director of the organization that runs Sputnik.)
Battle of Mosul Aftermath

published on 11 July 2017

Competition

Materialistic Hedonism

VS.

Aspirational Purpose
Contact Information

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Voices of the IRAQ WAR
Contemporary Accounts of Daily Life

ISIS
AN INTRODUCTION AND GUIDE TO THE ISLAMIC STATE

IRAQ WAR
THE ESSENTIAL REFERENCE GUIDE

ARMED CONFLICT
THE LESSONS OF MODERN WARFARE

PIERCING THE FOG OF WAR
Lessons from Military History in the Real World

BEES AND SPIDERS
Applied Cultural Awareness and the Art of Cross-Cultural Influence

NARRATIVE STRATEGIES
CHANGING THE WAY POWER WORKS
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agreement/Treaty</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sykes-Picot Agreement</td>
<td>November 1915 – March 1916</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(announced by Bolshevik Russia 23 November 1917)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Armistice of Mudros</td>
<td>30 October 1918</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treaty of Sèvres</td>
<td>10 August 1920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abolition of Ottoman Sultanate</td>
<td>1 November 1922</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Declaration of Republic of Turkey</td>
<td>29 October 1923</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abolition of Caliphate</td>
<td>3 March 1924</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treaty of Lausanne</td>
<td>24 July 1924</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Armistice of Mudros
National Pact

Misak-ı Millî

1. The future of the territories inhabited by an Arab majority at the time of the signing of the Armistice of Mudros will be determined by a referendum. On the other hand, the territories which were not occupied at that time and inhabited by a Turkish majority are the homeland of the Turkish nation.

2. The status of Kars, Ardahan and Batum [Eastern Turkey-Armenia] may be determined by a referendum.

3. The status of Western Thrace will be determined by the votes of its inhabitants.

4. The security of Istanbul and Marmara should be provided for. Transport and free-trade on the Straits of the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles will be determined by Turkey and other concerned countries.

5. The rights of minorities will be issued on condition that the rights of the Muslim minorities in neighboring countries are protected.

6. In order to develop in every field, the country should be independent and free; all restrictions on political, judicial and financial development will be removed.
Treaty of Lausanne

24 July 1923

Turkey’s invasion of Syria

Turkey’s invasion of Syria has thrown a once-stable corner of Syria into chaos.
Frontlines of the Battle between the Turks and the SDF in Rojava

8 October – 29 October 2019

This is a gif file which shows the frontlines of the battle between the Turks and the SDF in Rojava, which started in October, 2019. Each frame represents one day. Nate Hooper - Own work, derived from The syria livemap, Southfront maps and The civil war map. When sources disagree, I average the differences to the best of my ability, giving more weight to claims backed by photo evidence or which come from places which are not heavily biased. If I make mistakes and am made aware of them, I am all too happy to go back and re-edit old frames. (The discussion page can be used if anyone has any issues.)
Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi
28 June 1971 – 26 October 2019

(U) THE POSITIVE IDENTIFICATION OF ABU BAKR AL-BAGHDADI

• (U) 27 October 2019: A Defense Intelligence Agency DNA laboratory processed DNA samples from the enemy killed-in-action suspected to be Abu Bakr al Baghdadi. The DNA analysis resulted in a direct match to a 2004 DNA sample collected at an Iraq detention center from Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.

  • Statistical analysis indicates a probability of 1 in 104 Septillion (1.04 x 10^26) to support this match.

• (U) For perspective, if the population of earth was 14.8 quadrillion times what it is today (~7 billion), you would still only expect to find one person with this DNA profile.
al-Baghdadi Compound Strike

26 October 2019

Syria: Reported ISIS-Leader Al-Baghdadi Compound
al-Baghdadi Compound Strike

26 October 2019

Syria: Reported ISIS-Leader Al-Baghdadi Compound

PRE-STRIKE

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POST-STRIKE

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