

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria commonly known as ISIS is a resistance group that operated in the region of Iraq and Syria, moreover the group has now conquered the territory in Western Iraq and Eastern of Syria region, the region that approximately six and a half million people lived there. Although created as one of al-Qaeda's manifesto, but different from al-Qaeda, ISIS became an organization that evolves quickly, evolve using a variety of strategies in addition to terror and insurgent tactics, into an organization that is more organized. After seizing some territories in Iraq and Syria, in mid-2014. ISIS calls upon the international public by setting up an Islamic State, they claim authority over political and theological exclusively over the Muslim world. (Laub & Masters, 2014, p. 1).

“We are getting stronger every day in Sham and Iraq but it will not end there—of course, one day we’ll defeat all the taghut regimes and bring back Islam to the whole region, including al Quds (Jerusalem).” Abu Omar, Islamic State fighter, June 2014 (Omar, 2014, p. 32).

The name changes of Al Qaeda in Iraq, first to The Islamic State of Iraq, then to The Islamic State of Iraq and Greater Syria, and subsequently to The Islamic State or the Khilafa (Caliphate), show more than the evolution of the group's

geographical ambition, or a mere display of hubris. There is great religious significance for the Salafist/takfiris in declaring an Islamic State, whether geographically limited or not. When Abu Bakr's predecessor, Abu Omar al Baghdadi, declared the formation of The Islamic State of Iraq in 2006 he regarded himself as the leader of all Muslims and the defender of their faith (Barret, 2014). He was in many respects declaring a Caliphate, though he did not go so far as to say so, and his organization pointed out that it controlled as much territory as had the Prophet when he governed in Medina.

The Islamic State presents itself as the representative of authentic Islam as practiced by the early generations of Muslims, commonly known as Salafism. Many postcolonial and modern Islamic movements describe themselves as Salafist. ISIS was known as one of a Salafist-jihadi Islamic organization, part of the Sunni Islamic extremist faction which seeks to restore the early Islam's days of glory through jihad, a holy war directed against internal and external enemies. The Salafist movement perceives the time of the Prophet Muhammad as ideal and the first Caliphs who succeeded him as role models (the Arabic word Salaf means ancestor or first generation). The modern Salafist movement began in Egypt, a result of the desire to purify Islam of its flaws and return to what was perceived as the Golden Age of Islam.

The development of ISIS were also can't be denied for the role of their actors behind their presence and were able to make ISIS become an international issue. The writer believed that there are two figures that are influenced in the development of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) and these figures are the

actors behind that, started from establishing a small resistance group in Iraq expanded into a jihadist organization with all their controversies, in the mid-2014 they have reached to declare into the Islamic State. Abu Musab al-Zarqawi is the founding father of ISIS, and his successor Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi continues his idea and mastermind ISIS declaring to establish the Islamic State.

When it declared its territories as a caliphate one year ago, ISIS stated its ultimate aim as the establishment of a single, global state under its interpretation of Islamic rule. Conquering the whole world is clearly a target for the extreme long term, particularly for a group which appears to be struggling to advance much beyond its swathe of northern Syria and Iraq.

ISIS's main goal is to create a state under a Caliph in Muslim-majority lands. Its expansion should be regarded in similar terms to that of the Nazis in Europe, and the ambitions it has on the key capitals of the region; namely Baghdad and Damascus. ISIS has already begun the eradication of the borders of Iraq and Syria and would like to do the same elsewhere. It will focus on the most tempting targets where similar conditions existed prior to their takeover in much of Iraq and Syria. The weakening of al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) could allow for expansion there.

Their ultimate goal has ever been the establishment of the caliphate, i.e. controlling a certain geographical area and turning into a real state. This is the ultimate goal for all jihadist groups. Practically, right now it is to hold their territory and consolidate their rule, while they also have to push away competing

jihadist groups. I also think that after thinking they could overrun Iraq, they are concentrating more on Syria and Assad right now.

What is abundantly clear is that ISIS falsely uses the name of Islam to commit barbaric atrocities against Muslims and non-Muslims. ISIS claims to have established an effective state for Iraqis and all Sunni Muslims. But the reality is the reverse; people face hunger, disease and violence. ISIS wants all Muslims to declare allegiance to its caliphate and the caliphate to rule the entire world. Its more practical objectives are to survive and expand which it has so far succeeded in doing. The final aspect of the ISIS narrative is a focus on the end times, drawing extensively on Hadith literature, selectively (and occasionally figuratively, in contrast to the group's claims to literalism) applied. This explains the focus on 'Rome' (or Byzantium, read: the United States) and 'Persia' (Iran), the two great enemies of the growing Islamic empire in the eighth century and beyond. It also draws on the location of the battle.

The town of Dabiq, in northern Syria, features in some prophecies as the location of one of the great battles of the end times. In every issue of the propaganda magazine of the same name, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi is quoted: "*The spark has been lit here in Iraq, and its heat will continue to intensify 'by Allah's permission' until it burns the crusader armies in Dabiq*".

The writer thinks that their ability to get their goals will only be prevented if we understand that we all need to believe and act. We need to understand that the threat is not just the Islamic State but the demographic that is being affected, and

the virtual armies that will be around long after the Islamic State is gone. The group is expansionist and thrives on gaining more territory. The sky is the limit for it, unless it is forced to remain in its territories and then shrink. Its ideology is global and inspires like-minded adherents throughout the world.