

Forum	Security Council
Issue	The question of the situation in Iraq and Syria
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Position	President

Introduction

The situation in Iraq and Syria has been one of the most violent, unstable, and controversial conflicts in the world ever since the end of the World War I and World War II. In 1946, Modern Syria has gained its independence from France; however, has passed through political instability due to the conflicting interests of several religious and ethnic groups, including Alawite Shia, Arab Sunnis, Christians, Kurds, Assyrians, Druze, and Armenians. Meanwhile in 1958, Iraq had declared itself as Republic; although, Iraq already had gained independent on October 3rd 1932 after several centuries of Ottoman rule and 17 years of British rule.

Instability and extreme conditions from Syria and Iraq started from the Arab Springs (December 18th 2010 – present). The revolutionary wave began to spread as one party dictatorship in countries such as Libya, Yemen, Egypt, and Tunisia were overthrown. Controversial conflict between two major parties caused Syria to face a full scale civil war. One was the Syrian Opposition and another was Government of Bashar al-Assad. This caused rise of other groups, in particularly Syrian Kurdistan and al-Nusra. However, there was one more party, which brought this Syrian Civil War into more dreadful and extreme condition, named the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS).

The Islamic State (IS), the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), or the Daesh is a Sunni Jihadist self-proclaimed Caliphate. With its extremist religious views, dreadful actions, and inhuman methods of execution, this unknown group has decorated main news headlines in the summer of 2014. Their on-going and rapid development of these extremist terrorist groups gave threat to Iraq and the Levant (Syria, Palestine, Lebanon, and Jordan) which caused millions of casualties and refugees until today. With cooperation from several Western superpower states such as the United States, Britain, and the Russian Federation, the United Nations (UN) are attempting to resolve this issue, and therefore should be addressed instantaneously.

Definition of Key Terms

Islamic State (IS)

“IS” is the name of the terrorist group in English version. “IS” claims to be a state ruled by a caliph called a caliphate. In Arabic, it stands for successor, meaning successor to the Islamic prophet named Muhammad. Currently, several governments and media are refusing to use this name as this meant the representative of Islam and the group legitimacy as a state.

Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS)

It is the name of the militant group which started as the Iraqi branch of Al Qaeda during the occupation of the United States. It has gained its name since 2013, when ISIS invaded Syria. ISIS is also in short for “Islamic State in Iraq and al-Sham”.

Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL)

The geographical term of the Levant is the eastern shore of the Mediterranean including Palestine, Lebanon, Israel, Syria, and Jordan. The term “Levant” was first used by the United States Government since it is an enhanced translation for al-Sham, which is the Arabic name for the region.

Daesh

Daesh stands for Arabic name, (Dawlat-al-Islamiyah f'al-Iraq wa Belaad al-Sham. ISIL hates to be called in that name as it sounds similarly to the Arabic words Dahes (“one who sows discord”) and Daes “one who crushes something underfoot”) This term was first used in September 2014 and also used by French President, Francois Hollande after Paris attack in November 13th 2015.

Islam

The religious faith of Muslims, based on the words and religious system founded by the prophet Muhammad and taught by the Koran, which is the basic principle of which is absolute submission to a unique and personal god, Allah. Most Muslims are of two denominations: Sunni (75~90%) or Shia (10~20%). Islam is the second largest religion in the world.

Muhammad

AD 570-632, Arab prophet / founder of Islam

Shia Muslims

The Muslims of the branch of Islam comprising sects believing in Ali and the Imams as the only rightful successors of Muhammad and in the concealment and messianic return of the last recognized Imam

Shia Muslims represent the second largest denomination of Islam. Shia is short for 'followers' of Muhammad's son-in-law and cousin, Ali. They believe he was the rightful successor of Muhammad in the Caliphate and not Abu Bakr. Shia Muslims constitute 10-20% of the world's Muslim population and 30% of the Middle East's entire population.

Sunni Muslims

The Muslims of the branch of Islam that adheres to the orthodox tradition and acknowledges the first four caliphs as rightful successors of Muhammad

Sunni Islam is the world's second largest religious body. Those who recognized Abu Bakr as the first Caliph after Muhammad's death were called 'Ahl al-Sunnah wa al'Jama'ah' (people of tradition) and are known as Sunni Muslims. Sunni Islam is the largest Islam denomination in the world, except from a certain few countries where Shias outnumber Sunnis; Lebanon, Bahrain (by a slim margin), Iraq and Iran.

Republic of Iraq

Western-Asian nation created in 1958. The majority population is Arabs and Kurds is the largest minority. Around 97% of the country's 36 million citizens are Muslims. Iraq was under control of the Arab Secularist dictator, Saddam Hussein from 1968-2003. Despite an end in American presence in Iraq since 2011, the Iraqi insurgency continues and intensifies as groups from the Syrian Civil War spill into the country.

Syrian Arab Republic

In Syria, Sunni Arabs make up the largest population group. Bashar al-Assad became the president of Syria in 2000, after his father – Hafez al-Assad who was in office from 1970. Since March 2011, Syria has been caught in a civil war as a result from an opposition held uprising, as part of the Arab Spring.

Jihad

Jihad is an Islamic term, referring to the religious duty of Muslims to maintain the religion. In Arabic, the word Jihad is a noun meaning the act of "striving", "struggling", and "persevering". Jihad is commonly interpreted by extremists as a holy war waged on behalf of Islam as a religious duty or a personal struggle in devotion to Islam (especially spiritual discipline). The resistance, however initially was meant to be on peaceful means as stated in the Quran

Syrian National Coalition

The National Coalition for Syrian revolutionary and Opposition Forces is a coalition of groups and individuals that support the Syrian Revolution. Groups within this coalition include the Syrian National Council, Muslim Brotherhood, Coalition of Secular and Democratic Syrians and Damascus Declaration.

Free Syrian Army & Higher Military Council

A group of defected Syrian Armed Forces officers and soldiers founded during the Syrian Civil War (2011) to fight against Bashar al-Assad's army.

Al-Nusra Front

A branch of al-Qaeda operating in Syria and Lebanon which aims to overthrow the Assad regime and replace it with a Sunni Islamic state

The group was formed on January 23rd 2012, during the Syrian Civil War. It is one of the most aggressive and prominent rebel forces in Syria.

History

Long term: The Sunni Versus Shia Caliphate Dispute

The origin of division between the Shia and Sunni happened right after the death of the Islam Prophet Muhammad in the year 632 AD. There was a controversial conflict about who would succeed Muhammad. Shia assumed that the leadership should stay within the family of Muhammad, while Sunnis believed that leadership should be given to the person who seemed to be the elite of the Islam community and will be able to lead the group wholeheartedly. From since then, the political division began as the Shia-Sunni split.

The Middle East in the 20th century

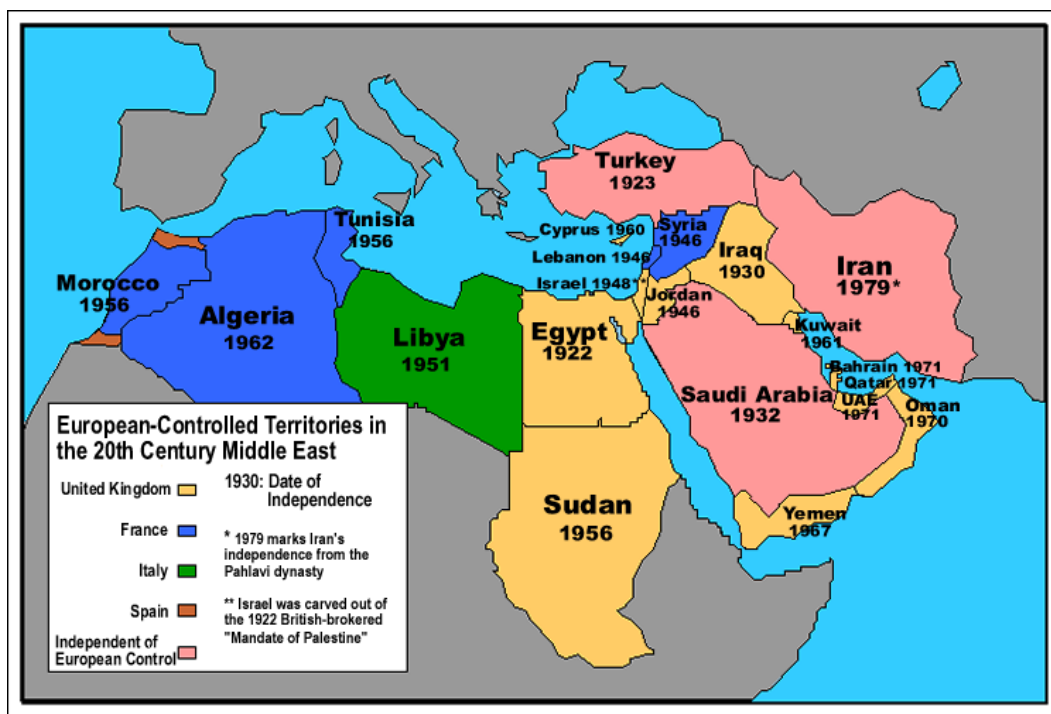


Figure 1 - European Controlled Territories in the 20th Century (Middle East)

The influence of the European countries grew when Ottoman power began to decline. Britain, Germany, Russia, and France, which are the great powers in Europe, started to establish colonies around the Middle East, in order to create markets for their industries and control natural resources. They in particular competed for economic and political influence in the Ottoman Empire, North Africa, Iran, and Egypt prior to the World War I. Mandates from the League of Nations (before Model United Nations) let the British occupied Iraq, Palestine, and the newly created Transjordan and France controlled over Lebanon and Syria. The figure 1 picture further demonstrates how Europeans controlled their colonies in the 20th century in Middle East.

Saddam Hussein's Iraq

Saddam Hussein is the president of Iraq from 1979 until 2003, whose inhumane control marked by costly, non-benefit, and unsuccessful wars against nearby nations. Under Saddam's rule, Iraq was in extremely harsh condition for both Kurds and Shias as they both faced extreme oppressions. Saddam Hussein applied Sharia Laws and occupied Sunnis into positions of power, although Sunni was a minority making up only one fifth of the total population in Iraq. The Kurds also suffered from dictatorship as Saddam embarked on the al-Anfal Campaign, which is genocide of the Kurdish North, executing approximately 50,000 to 180,000 Kurds. Furthermore, during the invasion of Kuwait from Saddam Hussein (August 2nd~4th 1990), the uprising of both Kurds and Shias happened to take over his position; however, their revolutions were defeated, which resulted 80,000~230,000 deaths.

The US invasion of Iraq in 2003

As Saddam Hussein refused to leave Iraq, the United States and its allies began their attack on the March 20th. There were several air strikes and bombardment occurred in Iraq from the US military forces and the group against Saddam Hussein. Furthermore, there were setting fire to Iraq's southern oil wells and destroying dams and bridges. Although there were Iraqi resistance, which some of them were crucial, on April 9th, the final resistance in Baghdad has come to the end and the US soldiers took control over the city.

Iraq has experienced a shift in the power pendulum from the result of this invasion. Iraq's population is 55% Arab Shia, 21% Kurds and 18% Arab Sunni. Although the Sunnis were the smallest out of the three groups, it has been in power during 24 years of Saddam Hussein's rule. In 2006, Nouri al-Maliki took over as the new leader of Iraq. Being a hard-lined Shia, Al-Maliki began to capture Sunni leaders, worsening the present tensions and pressures inside Iraq.

Syrian Civil War

In March 2011, Syria president, Bashar al-Assad has faced the extraordinary challenge to its authority and power when prodemocracy protests exploded all around the country. The protesters wanted the

Assad government to come into end, which started since Assad's father Hafiz al-Assad became president in 1971. Several types of violence were used to suppress riots by using military, paramilitary, and police forces. The video showing Syrian security forces hitting and executing protesters, were taken by the foreign journalists. In 2011, the government opposition groups began to form and activate its action and by 2012 the conflict between revolutionist and government stretched out into a full-fledged Syrian civil War.

Rise of IS

Islamic States (IS) has various names such as ISIL and ISIS. Recently, several countries in Europe call this organization by the name "Daesh", which is disliked by IS. ISIS is a jihadist militant group which operates in Iraq, Nigeria, Syria, and Libya. ISIS is highly influenced by the Wahhabi version of Islam and proclaims itself as the independent state for the regions under its control in Syria and Iraq. As it is against to Shiism, it has been also illustrated as "Shiophobic".

ISIS was the group that began in the early years of the Iraq War and relating itself with al Qaeda in 2004. Their main target was to establish a caliphate in the Sunni majority regions of Iraq, later expanding areas to include Syria. During the Iraq War, ISIS was in the Iraqi provinces of Ninawa, Kirkuk, Al Anbar, Babil, Baghdad, and many more. Furthermore, during the on-going Syrian Civil War, this group had expanded its area upto Aleppo, Ar-Raqqa, and Idlib.

IS has become familiar after takeover from Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. When the Syrian Civil War broke out in 2011, IS has joined as an anti-governmental force. However, this risky behaviour in Syria caused al-Qaeda to cut all relationship with IS in early 2014. IS has taken control of the Western Iraqi border on June 5th 2014. After 4 days, IS has successfully taken over Mosul, which is the second biggest city in Iraq.

The US-led coalition is targeting IS by air raids and bombardment with cooperation of allied countries such as the United Kingdom, France, and many more. Until today, IS has committed lots of crimes in various continents. In July 2015, 33 casualties happened in Suruc, Turkey, due to the suicide bomber from IS. What's more, on October 31st, a Russian aircraft was destroyed by the bomb from IS, killing all 224 people on board, whose mostly were Russians. This stimulated Russia to participate in air raid and assistance of military troops in Iraq and Syria to eliminate IS. Moreover, on November 13th 2015, three teams of IS terrorists killed about 130 people by bombardment and military guns, causing Paris attack. Figure 2 shows current Syrian territory in January 2016, which black shows IS and red shows the government.

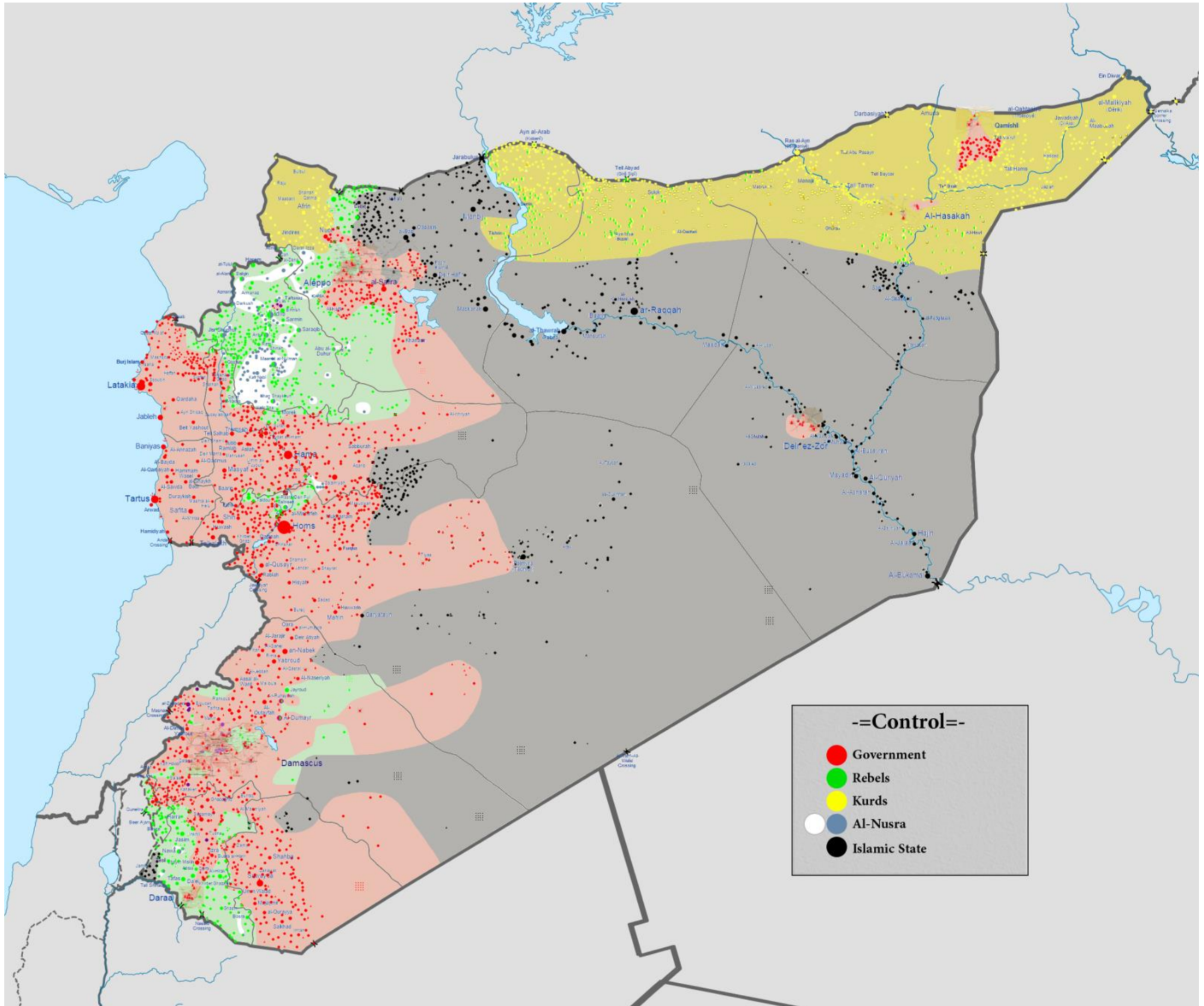


Figure 2 – Syria’s current territory in January 2016 (Black is Islamic State and Red is Government territory).

Key Issues

Child Soldiers

Even children aged six are kidnapped and recruited to religious and military training camps, where they are brainwashed with the religious views of ISIL. The purpose of ISIL, using those children are to provide blood transfusions for injured IS soldiers or to be human shields on front lines. They are also used as propaganda. According to a spokesman in VICE news, the teenagers under the age of 15 are sent to sharia camp to learn about their religions, while older teenagers can go to military training camp.

Islamic State and its chemical weapons

There is small possibility that IS militants forces may possess chemical weapons such as mustard gas which can be used against the Kurdish fighters in the Syrian area. Some of the reports show how ISIS captured Muthanna, which is a chemical weapon facility locating near Samarra. This chemical weapon facility is known to have “materials worth military value.” However, there is still a question remains that whether the Islamic State owns chemical weapons or not. However, in August 2015, it has been reported that Kurds in northern Iraq was attacked by ISIS with chemical weapons which were chlorine gas.

Human abuse and violence

There are currently several types of sexual violence caused by ISIL, which includes forced marriage to their fighters, trading females as sex slaves, and using rape as a weapon of war. Several reports and evidences show the enslavement and sexual abuse in ISIL controlled area of women and girls, which most of them are from the minority Christian. Fighters insist that they are allowed to have sex or rape non-Muslim captive women.

ISIL are also committing other types of crimes such as destruction of cultural and religious heritage. According to UNESCO’s director general, Irina Bokova, ISIL has been destroying Iraq’s cultural heritage. Moreover, they have been stealing artefacts from Syria and Iraq, which are sold to Europe.

Recruitment through media

ISIL is known organization for its effective and extensive use of the propaganda and social mass media. ISIL has developed an emblem which has clear symbolic meaning in the Muslim world and currently using the version of the Muslim Black Standard Flag. This group operates the radio network called Al-Bayan, which can be spoken into various languages such as English, Arabic, Russian, and many more, that tells about its military activities in Syria, Libya, and Iraq. The release of photographs and videos from IS showing shootings, beheadings, and caged prisoners were used to grab attention of the public and the media in the world. Currently, they are still using Social Network Service (SNS) such as Facebook, Twitter, and many more to recruit people for IS group members. On December 2nd 2015, about 31,000 foreign fighters are reported to travel Iraq and Syria, in order to join ISIL.

Major Parties Involved and Their Views

The United Nations and the Permanent Five (P5)

The United States leading coalition of Middle Eastern and Western countries started air raids and bombing against the terrorist group in Iraq in August 2014 and in Syria in September 2014. After 10 days

later, on September 24th, the United Nations Security Council (SC) voted on Resolution 2178, in order to induce member states to prohibit their citizens from helping IS. This resolution was passed unanimously with 15-0 votes. The unanimously vote and overpowering assist from the Security Council members meant eagerness and fully participation to combat against ISIS.

On 22nd December 2015, another Resolution (2257) was also unanimously voted for authorizing passage of humanitarian aid into Syria. The 15 member states decided their implementing partners and the United Nations humanitarian agencies were authorized to use routes across border crossing of Al-Ramtha, Bab al-Hawa, Bab al-Salam, and Al Yarubiyah and the passages across the conflict line in Syria.

Russian Federation

Russia did not assist the US-led coalition; however, began to carry out its own air raids in Syria in September 2015, due to a request from Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, who is allied with Russia and has clung on to power despite more than four years of Syrian civil war. It has also launched missiles from warships in the Caspian Sea. Russian President Vladimir Putin states that his country is targeting ISIS and other militant fighters. Russia strongly believes that it would not further condone ISIS after a bomb that brought down the Russian aircraft over Egypt that gave more than 200 casualties, which most of them were Russian sightseers.

United States of America

The United States of America has largest influence in this crisis as it is one of the Permanent Five in the UN Security Council and due to the participation in the Gulf War in 1991 and Iraq War in 2003. The most of air strikes against IS targets were carried out by the United States air strikes from since forming the US-led coalition in August 2014. The US president Barack Obama is unwilling to send its ground armies to the conflict region; however, approximately 3,500 troops are located in Iraq to train Iraq's armed forces. Not only assisting with armies, but also the United States had provided training and weapons to moderate Syrian rebel forces. Obama revealed plans to continue conducting air raids against ISIL, providing humanitarian aid, and working cooperatively with Iraqi Government. In October, the US Defence Secretary Ashton Carter mentioned a possible shift in the United States campaign against ISIL.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

In 2013, the United Kingdom Parliament voted against on air strikes in Syria. However, the only British air strike targeting IS in Iraq was passed in September 2014. In December 2015, the United Kingdom parliament voted on outspreading its bombing campaign targeting IS in Iraq to Syria. The Conservative Government has suggested the motion to strike the targets in Syria; however it was opposed by the Jeremy Corbyn from the Labour leader. Corbyn advised the people in Labour to vote against this motion, but permitted them to have a free vote, which led to the condition that 67 MPs voted in favour. From the night of the vote, the air strikes from the United Kingdom has begun with RAF Tornados bombing IS controlled Omar oil fields in Eastern Syria.

French Republic

France was one of the countries that was part in the US-led air strikes targeting IS in Iraq from September 2014 and after a year, it proceeded its first air strikes on targets in Syria. After dreadful bomb attacks in Paris on November 13th 2015, French President Francois Hollande promised to strengthen the air raids against IS and started call them as “Daesh”.

People’s Republic of China

As China is currently suffering from terror, Chinese media see ISIS as an extremist terrorist group. China has once officially insisted that they are facing against all forms of terrorism and ISIS is no exception to it. Due to the People’s Republic of China’s history with secessionist states such as the Tibetan and Xingjiang regions of China, China government would maintain the policy of opposing any measures to permit secessionist of recognition of the ISIS as a power equal to that of national entities or countries.

Islamic Republic of Iran

Iran’s regional Shia power has viewed the IS as heretics, who should be executed in advance to within 40 km of its border line. Even though Iran is against on much of the international community over Syria, it has also declared none cooperation toward IS. Iran has turned its position into neutral state upon the actions from the United States in Iraq, which it has archaeologically opposed. Iran has officially controverted that it has deployed any combat military armies in Syria; however, in June 2015, the Iran news has officially stated that at least 400 Iran-based Afghan “volunteers” and Iranian had been killed in the past four years. The Iranians have played a main position in fighting against IS by carrying out the air strikes.

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

One of the groups participating in the part of the US led military action against ISIL targets in Syria is the regional Sunni power in Saudi Arabia. The capital as well as the largest city in Saudi Arabia, Riyadh also agreed upon the US request to offer a military base to train the moderate Syrian rebel forces. Saudi Arabia has been a major supporter of the rebel forces including hard-line Islamist groups; however it has refused an Iranian denunciation that it has directly supported ISIL. Nevertheless, rich Saudis have sent donations and about 2,500 Saudi men have went to Syria to fight. The Saudi government is concerned that ISIL will inspire Saudi jihadists to challenge the monarchy's legitimacy and look to rebel. In July 2014, 30,000 military troops were deployed by Riyadh to reinforce the security along its border with Iraq.

State of Qatar

Qatar is another country in Gulf to join in and support the US led coalition against IS in Syria. Qatar is the location of a highly classified US facility from which all surveillance undertakings and attacks in the region named Al Udeid Air Base where is coordinated by the United States Central Command. The Qatari government has been put into force to continuously refuse the accusations from Shia leaders of Iraq, which it supported financial provision to IS. However, the government is believed to give money and weapons to extreme Islamist groups in Syria and so as the wealthy individuals in Qatar has made donations.

Republic of Turkey

Turkey Government is keen to destroy IS, which has progressive movement into its territory along its borders with Iraq and Syria. Turkey believes that the dreadful bombings in the capital Ankara in October, which caused nearly 100 casualties and in the border town of Suruc in July 2015, that killed 32 youth activists were carried out by IS. Air forces from Turkey carried out the attacks on IS positions in Syria, and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) member is permitting the United States Jets to use its southern Incirlik military air base.

Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

Jordan is one of the United States allies and it had participated in the US led coalition and air strikes on IS militants carried by several Gulf Arab states in September 2014, in order to ensure the security and

stability of its country borders. The Jordan Government spokesman mentioned that they want to eliminate the danger before it arrives its own nation. However, the IS has threatened Jordan to destroy Jordan's borders and welcomes the assistance from a increasing number of people in Jordan. Approximately more than 2,000 Jordanian citizens are reported to have went over to Syria to fight in the past three years. The Jordanian military forces had doubled its troops size along its border with Iraq, before participating in the air raids on IS.

Republic of Iraq

The former Shia-dominated government of Nouri Malki in Iraq has helped construct the conditions to create the extremist Sunni IS to come to prominence. Maliki has demanded the United States air raids, before moving south region, when IS invaded the northern city of Mosul. Nonetheless, the president of United States Barack Obama stated that further military support was reliant on a wide-ranging government being formed. But, he finally launched air raids in August 2014, when thousands of people of the Yazidi religious minority became imprisoned on Mount Sinjar. Currently, it is not sure how new Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi will be able to contract with the Shia militiamen who have immobile the IS reaching Baghdad. However, some have accused Iraqi Government for working outside of the nation's control and carrying out revenge outbreaks against Sunnis.

Syrian Arab Republic

Since the beginning of the uprising against Syrian President Bashar al-Assad in March 2011, Bashar al-Assad has continuously cautioned of the threat of the Islamist extremists to Syria and to the broader region. Western member states primarily sacked Assad's portrayal of his enemies as terrorists; however, became rapidly concerned by the rise of the al-Qaeda's affiliate, al-Nusra Front, and IS. Western powers now admit that without attacking its strongholds in Syria, IS can't be defeated; nevertheless, western countries still eager President Assad out of power and are unwilling to collaborate with him. The foreign ministry from Syria has insisted that it was given advance threat of the US led air raids on IS targets on its territory that was occurred in September 2014, having said that it supported the combating terrorism efforts from international member states.

Timeline of Relevant Resolutions, Treaties, and Events

The timeline of relevant treaties and events will begin from the independence of both Syria and Iraq, in

order to show better explanation and description of situation in Syria and Iraq from the past and what has caused this to occur.

Date	Description of Event
1920	Britain creates state of Iraq with League of Nations approval
1932	Iraq has gained independence from Britain
1946	Syria has gained independence from France
1958	<p data-bbox="287 669 1375 707">Military Coup in Iraq</p> <p data-bbox="287 719 1375 808">The monarchy of King Faisal II was overthrown by a military coup led by Col Abd-al-Salam Muhammad Arif & Brig Abd-al-Karim and Iraq was declared a Republic</p>
1971~1973	<p data-bbox="287 842 1375 880">Assad has elected for the Syria's president</p> <p data-bbox="287 913 1375 1055">After an election, Assad has been voted to be the Syria's president in 1971. However in 1973, riot break out because Assad has blamed of heading an atheist regime. The riots were suppressed by the government force.</p>
1979- April 9th, 2003	<p data-bbox="287 1088 1375 1126">Saddam Hussein became the Iraq's 5th President</p> <p data-bbox="287 1142 1375 1279">After a series of protests and uprisings, Saddam Hussein and the Ba'ath Party became dominant in Iraq. Due to his dictatorial rule, both the Kurds and the Shia population suffered.</p>
August 1990- 1992	<p data-bbox="287 1312 1375 1350">Persian Gulf War</p> <p data-bbox="287 1384 1375 1525">As Iraq invades Kuwait, the first Gulf War has begun. Thirty countries including the United States and Britain has warned Iraq to retreat from Kuwait and ordered to end all military actions in the area..</p>
2003-2006	<p data-bbox="287 1559 1375 1597">Iraq War</p> <p data-bbox="287 1630 1375 1771">President Bush declared war on Iraq. In October 2006, Islamic State of Iraq (IS) was formed as merger group from Al-Qaeda in Iraq. Saddam Hussein was executed in 2006 due to crimes against humanity.</p>
September 2007	<p data-bbox="287 1805 1375 1843">Aerial Strike from Israel</p> <p data-bbox="287 1883 1375 1919">Israel had carried out an aerial raid against a nuclear facility region in Northern</p>

Syria that was under construction.

2011-June
2014

Syrian Civil War

Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi began send Iraqi and Syrian ISIS to Syria, in order to establish an organization inside the country as one of the several groups, known as the al-Nusra Front by early 2012. Throughout 2013, ISIL fought in different regions of Syria. Early 2014, ISIL began to receive large funding and movements near Iraq by capturing small cities.

July 2013
September
2013

Rise of Islamist

Ahmed Jarba becomes the leader of opposition National Coalition, defeating Qatar-backed rival. In 2013, the United Nations weapons inspectors concluded that chemical weapons (mass destruction weapons) were used in an attack on the Ghouta area of Damascus in August, which killed approximately 300 civilians. In June 2014, the UN announces that the removal of Syria's chemical weapons material was accomplished.

June-July
2014

Capturing Mosul & Full Scale Campaign

After returning to Iraq, Sunni rebels led by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIS) took over Iraq's second city of Mosul and other key cities. Human Rights Watch has issued on their violent executions and threat to civilians in Iraq. ISIS renames itself as Islamic States. By the end of July 2014, the United Nations reported 1737 casualties with 1186 of them were civilians.

August 2014

Air Strikes Authorized by Obama

As IS continues to take over more towns, Obama authorized targeted airstrikes in Iraq against IS, in order to assist government in repelling attacks. Meanwhile, the Prime Minister of Britain, David Cameron seemed to condemn cruelty from IS. By the end of August 2014, the United Nations informed more than 5000 Yazidi civilians had been killed while 5000-7000 kidnaped by IS.

IS's declaration of their territory

Islamic States of Iraq and Syria military forces declared "caliphate" in territory from Aleppo to eastern Iraqi province of Diyala.

September

New Strategy from the United States

- 2014 The United States has announced a new strategy against IS, which carries out air bomb near Baghdad to support Iraqi Army. At International conference in Paris, all countries including ten Sunni Arab nations, but in exception for Iran and Syria has agreed to support this strategy.
- March 2015 **Destruction of Archaeological Sites**
Islamic States destroyed Assyrian Archaeological sites of Hatra and Nimrud.
- January 30th 2015 **IS beheading Japanese hostage**
IS executed both Kenji Goto and Haruna Yukawa, who were the first Japanese nationals to be held hostage by IS. The video of their execution was due to Japanese Prime Minister, Shinzo Abe's decision to take part in the war.
- April-December 2015 **Governmental Forces Versus Islamic States**
After long period of time, the Iraq government forces regained control over the city of Tikrit from IS; however, IS captures city of Ramadi. On December 2015, government forces recaptured Tamim, the district of Rmadi and capital of western province of Anbar.
- September–December 2015 **International military actions toward IS**
In September 2015, Russian Federation carried out its first air raids in Syria. In contrast, the Western countries and Syrian opposition insists it overwhelmingly targets anti-Assad rebels instead. In December 2015, Britain joins the United States air strikes against IS, due to Paris suicide bomb attacks.
- November 13th 2015 **November 2015 Paris attacks**
The terror in Paris on the night of 13th November by suicide bombers and gunmen from ISIL in a major stadium, restaurants, concert hall, and bars resulted approximately 130 people killed and hundreds wounded.
- January 2016 **ISIL's atrocity all around the world**
On January 1st, ISIL has published the video named 'First target' by showing New York's famous tourist attractions. On 17th, two civilians were killed due to terror by ISIL in Jakarta, Indonesia. This was the first official terror by ISIL in Southeast Asia region. On 17th January, ISIL has committed crime, which killed 280 civilians in Eastern part of Syria.

Relevant UN Treaties and Events

- Resolution 2258, 22 December 2015 (S/RES/2258)
- Resolution 2254, 18 December 2015 (S/RES/2254)
- Resolution 2249, 20 November 2015 (S/RES/2249)
- Resolution 2233, 29 July 2015 (S/RES/2233)
- Resolution 2199, 12 February 2015 (S/RES/2199)

Evaluation of Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue

Humanitarian Aid

There are currently several countries which are supporting by humanitarian efforts. Some countries like the United Kingdom and Australia has been started to airdrop the humanitarian aid in the Northern Iraq and Syria since August 13th 2014. Other countries including Italy, European Union (EU), Sweden, Denmark, and France has been involving donating humanitarian aid for the further assistance. However, it seems that those humanitarian aids are still insufficient due to increasing number of the refugees from Iraqi and in particular, Syria.

Military Strategy

There have been the US-led coalitions targeting ISIL by air strikes with cooperation with Western Powers such as Russian Federation and the United Kingdom. By targeting military bases of ISIL in Iraq and Syria, it has been given lots of damages to them. Furthermore, the Western Powers and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization has been providing the Kurdish fighters with small arms and military weapons for the incoming battle with the Islamic State militant group. This has been reported to be more effective and efficient than supporting military aid to Iraqi troops, due to the fact that the Kurds pose a strategic location near ISIL occupying territories, therefore the campaigns would be more effective. Not only providing military aids to the Kurdish fighters, but also the United States has been active in setting up military bases around the Iraq to provide military equipments and weapons to the rebel forces. Although this solution is not the best, however it is one of the few ways that can solve this situation quickly as possible.

Possible Solutions

Solutions to the ISIS crisis can be varying by differentiating into several areas. The recent US-led

coalition targeting IS by air strikes were proven to be effective to eliminate ISIL's military bases. However, provision of military weapons to anti ISIL groups such as Syrian government and Iraqi Kurdistan will not be very effective and also not the only solutions to this.

To begin with, as the number of refugees is increasing, all member states and non-governmental organization (NGOs) must collaborate with each other to provide further humanitarian aid and assist those countries which Syrian refugees are coming. In particularly, Turkey and Jordan is recommendable and must try their best to supply them with shelters, food, and necessary equipment, in order to sustain liveable conditions for the refugees with the assistance from the NGOs.

Furthermore, the US-led coalition air strike program should continue to carry out, as it seems to be quite effective. However, it will be way better, if there are evaluations and improvements toward the current air raid strategy. Air raids are a good strategy to kill and destroy the ISIL dominated Syrian provinces, with little bit of damage to allies. Furthermore, the air strikes on Eastern Baghdad and Anbar areas with the cooperation with Iraqi ground forces will be more helpful. Although Russia, France, and the Britain have joined in part of the air raids on ISIL, there must be more support from other dominant states such as China. For the nations who are not willing to participate in this air raids can also assist them indirectly by providing additional military aid to Turkey, which has been deeply contributed in struggling against ISIL forces due to its geographical feature.

Moreover, as the methods for recruitment of additional ISIL members are improving by using social media or SNS such as Youtube, Facebook, and Twitter, the solutions to prevent this issue is essential and need to be done quickly as possible. Due to the recruitment of addition ISIL members, many nations such as the United States, China, and Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and France are frightened and concerned about the security issue in their respected home countries. In particular, in the United Kingdom and Australia, several citizens have already gone to Iraq and Syria to fight for ISIL. Some of the possible solutions might be to consider monitoring these SNS in terms of contents and by users in each individual country.

Finally, as the large finance of ISIL comes from selling oil at black market, oligopolies such as Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) that can overproduce more oil. This action will be able to lower the oil price for ISIL in the black market, which will lead to the result in lowering the revenue and income of ISIL that can wane them tremendously. Although some OPEC member states do funding for ISIL due to its religious view, which makes this solution emasculative, many other member states should still ponder other solutions to the issue that can give massive impacts to ISIL.

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