

The 'Islamic State' and its Implications for the World Peace

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Abstract

The phenomenal rise of 'Islamic State' with vast area under its control, strong organizational base, huge financial resources and global recruitment, has posed severe challenges to the issue of state sovereignty, regional order and global peace. Its far-reaching ability to strike in Europe and Middle East has psycho-social and political connotations. The limited efforts to contain the IS have been met with varying successes. However, in the recent past, serious, concentrated and pointed efforts have yielded positive results, as the IS has lost territory, curtailing of supply lines and arrest of potential recruits. How this entity is going to impact the global peace and security depends on the stakeholders how they perceive and act against the IS.

Key Words: Non-State Actor, Islamic State, Frustration-Aggression, Global Peace

International affair has been primarily focused on the state behaviour, yet with the passage of time and new realities emerging, this has changed gradually. States from being the main actor now have to cope with the Non State Actors (NSA). These can be terrorist organizations or individuals or groups with certain political, social or economic bases, such as Al-Qaeda, Boko Haram and the Islamic State. These entities have posed direct threat to the state sovereignty and regional/global order.

Middle East is one of the regions where political turmoil and phenomenon of rising non state actors has put the region into global attention. One such group is the 'Islamic State' which is the most violent non state entity to ever evolve. This entity has created serious security concerns for Iraq and Syria and has also managed to put some other states in turmoil as well. More pressingly, it has proved to be a threat to international actors and indirectly the Western interests in the region. Factors like fundamentalism, sectarianism and religious violence are deeply rooted in the methods of IS. This makes it dangerous to deal with because the region is already brimming with violence. Its impact has been great in the region as well as the international system. Therefore, this paper endeavors to analyze the implications of IS to the world peace through various strengths it has and the actions to be taken by the stakeholders to jointly work against this dangerous entity.

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Theoretical Framework

In order to get a better understanding of the study, the prism of Frustration Aggression Theory is utilized. This theory was presented in 1939 by John Dollard et.al to explain violence, which was politically motivated in Europe of the 20th century (Dollard, 1939). The basic premise of the theory was, “the occurrence of aggressive behaviour always presupposes the existence of frustration and contrariwise, that the existence of frustration always leads to some form of aggression” (Miller, 2004). Frustration is that particular emotion which a human being goes through as a consequence of unease by any idea, person or circumstance. It can also occur when their set goal or response in upsetting the other is not meeting the criteria set in that person’s mind. Aggression on the other hand is that hard-core emotion which makes a person to inflict pain or injury towards another person. In this context, this injury would be inflicted at the source of the frustration.

The root cause of frustration can be many, but in certain cases they could inculcate from denial of political rights or economic abuse or for that matter social subjugation. It so happens that the target of aggression is usually the source of frustration, but one cannot always target the source of frustration. In such a case, if the source is considered threatening or if there is a probability that targeting the source can lead to penalization then aggression is moulded towards a less threatening source(Miller, 2004).In this theory, the concept of Displacement by Freud had a lot to contribute, since it states that the human mind is more like a mechanism of defence which is always forwarding feelings of hostility from a higher source of threat perception to a lower source of threat perception. The feelings of frustration become more prominent when a person is repeatedly pushed back from attaining his desired goals. This builds a wall of frustration within that person and then he wants to direct these feelings towards whatever is the cause in the form of aggression. In order to vent out frustration in the form of aggression, three major factors must be taken into account; the degree of strength which one expects by achieving the goals, what is the amount of frustration which is being felt by the blockage of the goals and how many times has the goal been achieved (Berkowitz, 1989). So it can be established that the amount of frustration which a person experiences is in parallel with the amount of satisfaction which he wishes to get.

It was much later in 1941 that the theory had certain developments which suggested that aggression is always not the foremost response to frustration. It occurs when the goal which a person wants to achieve is compromised for a period of time again and again. In such a case, aggression will become the dominant feature, emotion and a viable response. Minor frustrations

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accumulate and produce a response of far greater show of force than otherwise would have been the case. This emerges from the frustrating situations which appear to be the instant precursor of the aggression, which blocked the goals in the first place as well as the number of attempts to achieve this goal. (Borum, 2004) Therefore, this theory is utilized to study the case of IS which is a non-state actor and this prism first treat this entity as a single unit which has accumulated frustration and then as actors who have used aggression by and large.

The Islamic State

Beginning from 1999, the 'Islamic State' has been passing into different phases before finally morphing into the structure it has today. Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi announced the foundation of an Islamic Caliphate in June 2014. This was pushed up due to the volatile situation in Syria and Iraq as well as the power vacuum there, which led the jihadi groups like the IS to thrive. The IS happens to be of a bureaucratic nature which is financially independent as well. It can be said that IS which was otherwise called ISIS was the direct result of the repression and totalitarianism of Nour el-Maliki, callousness of Bashar al-Assad, the intervention led by the US in Iraq and the breaking away of Al-Qaeda after Osama Bin Laden (Mohamedou, 2004). It began as terrorism spread then it turned into revolt and finally it took the shape and feature of 'proto-statehood'. This organization has a complete structure which is close to being perfect and the most alarming part is that it does not only focus on the military part but has expanded its scope for administration and economy of cities as well.

Origin and Evolution

The origins of IS can be traced back to two personalities who were also two prominent leaders of the organization; Osama Bin Laden and Abu Musa Al-Zarqawi. Al-Zarqawi happened to be an Arab from Jordan and he commanded the volunteer troops in Herat, Afghanistan before fleeing to Northern Iraq in 2001, there he joined forces with Ansar al Islam; 'Partisans of Islam'. When the US invaded Iraq in 2003 in order to 'de-Baathify' the regime, it left many within the state who were educated, skilled and jobless. It also installed a Shiite government which was more or less a puppet government. As a direct result, the Sunnis felt that they are not only being alienated but also are going to become a target of sectarianism. Thousands were either jailed or killed and more often without any charge in notorious prisons in Iraq. The Sunnis felt that their integrity is at question as they are no longer in power and are being subjected to ruthlessness. Their leaders were also being murdered and prosecuted and the most senior Sunni politician Vice President Tariq al

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Hashimi was charged with terrorism and was finally sentenced to prosecution after he fled the state (Stern & Berger, 2015). In the meantime, Nour el-Maliki began to systematically fill up all senior posts of the state, military and intelligence as well as police with the Shia factions. This made the Sunnis more aggrieved and they felt more frustrated as a direct result. Maliki was never in favor of appeasing the Sunnis and his policies further enhanced the already brimming sectarian tensions and the marginalization of the Sunnis in Iraq. The situation became so aggravated that an Iraqi government doctor said "Sunnis are a minority in Baghdad, but they're the majority in our morgue" (Kirkpatrick, 2015).

This was the time when one can estimate how the frustrations within one faction rose because of the political oppression and discrimination. This situation did not benefit anyone apart from Zarqawi who exploited it to the maximum. In the time when the Sunnis were feeling at odds with the government who was pulling no strings to cast away their grievances and seemed to be working under the shadows of the West, a spectacular recruitment ground was made present for the Jihadist groups, notably out of which was Al-Qaeda. In 2004 it was Zarqawi who swore allegiance to Laden and formed Tanzim Qaedat. Nada Bakos, a CIA officer states that "The war in Iraq provided al-Qaeda with a new front for its struggle with the West...The United States didn't "face down" al-Qaeda in Iraq; it inadvertently helped Zarqawi evolve from a lone extremist with a loose network to a charismatic leader of al-Qaeda" (Sekulow, 2014).

Later, Zarqawi founded Jam at al-Taw dwa-al-Jih d; Organization of Monotheism and Jihad (JTJ). But as soon as JTJ was on the horizon strong differences began to inculcate between Laden and Zarqawi over the issue of *Takfir*, which means the justified killing of Muslims. Zarqawi was in support and favor of this stance while Laden thought otherwise. It was during this period that Zarqawi began to maneuver around Iran, Iraqi Kurdistan, Iraq and Syria which gained him new jihadi outfits and contacts, ultimately resulted in the creation of Al-Qaeda in Iraq (AQI) in 2003. Much later he combined other Iraqi rebellious factions and established the Majlis Shura al-Mujahedin (MSM) or Mujahidin Shura Council in 2006. Later, Zarqawi was killed by the US forces and thus the entire group which was joined piece by piece was dispersed.

The MSM began to fuse with other rebellious groups and established the Dawlat al-Iraq al-Islamiyah; Islamic State of Iraq (ISI). Under this a cabinet was also established and Abu Abdullah al-Rashid al-Baghdadi became ISI's chief commander and 'emir'. In 2010 he was appointed as the new leader of ISI and a year later he began to deploy his forces in Syria as well as in Iraq.

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This force comprised of members who had experience in guerilla tactics. In 2012, this group established and organized its formation as Al-Nusra Front which began to grow rather swiftly into a strong force which had the popular support of the faction from Syrian population who were opposed to the Assad regime. In 2013, there emerged some gaps within Al-Qaeda and the IS, which led al-Baghdadi to extend the ISI into Syria and he changed the name into Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS). In 2014 they announced the creation of an Islamic State or a Caliphate that would erase all state borders and installed Baghdadi as the self-declared Caliph of the estimated 1.5 billion Muslims of the world. (ISIS jihadist declare Islamic Caliphate, 2014)

Organization

Undoubtedly, the IS is the most dangerous and violent non-state actor to exist in the Middle East with probability to spread out in other regions as well as seek grounds in the international arena. The group, unlike other NSAs like Al-Qaeda and Hou this is much different in its working, organization, governance and overall structure. In sharp contrast to Al-Qaeda, it has a more credible structure instead of a loose one. The organization is the rehabilitated form of Al-Qaeda with a superior operational structure and a more cultivated ideology. They have kept most of its structural facts intangible which makes it harder to locate their capabilities.

The organization has a multi-functional form; it works both militarily as well as politically. The IS has its own loyal infantry which is well trained and equipped. This particular infantry seems to be working as a core unit and is motivated by their ideological cults. This organization began working simultaneously in Iraq and Syria and slowly began to seep its way within other areas, for instance Yemen. It thrives for the enforcement of Islamic Sharia and Laws. (Lynch, 2015)

The entire structure of ISis quite fragmented and has a set hierarchy. There is a Caliph who is the sole authority and is considered a representative of the Prophet. They have a prescribed Military Council the task of which is to supervise the military commanders and the operations going on in the field. Then there is the Shura Council which supervises the state affairs. It can also, in theory, overthrow the Caliph. All the judicial issues are supervised by the Judicial Authority while the Defence, Security and Intelligence Council is perhaps the most important council, as it has to take care of the safety of the Caliph as well as implement orders and is responsible for collecting intelligence. Then there is the Islamic State Institution for Public Information, which is less self-explanatory. Apart from these, there is a well-defined Cabinet with multiple functions, War Officers and Governors for each state as

well. The organizational setup is mostly dominated by former military officers from the Iraqi army and Baath loyalist.(Lewis, 2015)

Military Capabilities and Strategy

The overall environment used by the IS happens to be one of instability and chaos in order to fulfill its objectives. (Neriah, 2014)It has the ability to engage in conventional warfare but it makes use of guerilla techniques as well as conventional warfare for carrying out attacks. The weapons and armament structure of the organization is giant and most of it has been either bought or captured from the Iraqi forces. The loyal fighters it has range from 20,000 to 50,000 who are well trained and well-motivated. The IS has its own training camps and also recruits the most ruthless fighters. It has a military strategy which is based on two operational activities; to carry out attacks in civilian and urban areas and attack the Allawites, Shi'ites, Kurds and Yazidis, and to carry out operations against their opponents which include the Iraqi as well as the US and Syrian forces. This ignites sectarianism at the one hand and motivates the fight against the big power at the same time. It also helps in confusing and diffusing the opponents in targeting the IS. (Ignatius, 2015)

Objectives and Ideology

The overarching and pronounced long term objectives which the IS stands by are multi-fold. They largely manifest from a bigger ideology and transforms into the form of a cult. Obviously one major strategy is to have a system of Caliphate in the world, which is dominated by the principles of 'true' Islam. Following are its long term objectives; (Wood, 2015)

- There must be an enterprise of a 'True Islamic State' which initiates from Iraq and Syria
- There should be an aggrandizement of IS in the region of Middle East without any territorial boundaries
- There must be a Caliphate which must guide and lead the entire global Muslim community
- There must be an International Jihadi state which spreads Jihad world wide
- The Shariah which is to be inculcated and implemented must be of Sunni domination

This seems to be the very alarming account of the extended objectives which emerge out of their ideology but this just happens to be the idea which must be followed in the long run. These are the ends of which there are many means. The other short term objectives are;(Wood, 2015)

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- There will be and must be targeted persecutions against all the forces which are involved in Syria and Iraq
- There must be destruction of personal property, infrastructure and other historical sites, most of which have been preserved under the non-Islamic terms
- There will be ethnic cleansing of all minorities which include Shias, Christians and Kurds

Both sets of objectives complement each other and have been made to do so. These objectives automatically establish the IS as a very dangerous entity. The other features which again, complement their strategy like the force and the armament as well as the structure gives the IS a shade of a powerful non-state actor which can in the long term challenge the entire order of statehood. Even if one of the objectives is achieved by them, it would mean that soon enough the power is transformed to them and ultimately there will be cracks in the world system.

In this particular Jihadi organization, two branches or schools of thought have played a major part. These are Muslim Brotherhood School of Thought and the Salafi School of Thought. On the larger side, the underlying motive is to breach all forms of boundaries of the Muslim community (Bunzel, 2015). The second school of thought which is the Salafist, whose main objective is to cleanse the entire faith. This faction is more readily focusing on the end of all infidelity, idolatry and anything which is harmful to Islam. Anything which violates the roots of Islamic ideology and questions the oneness of God is looked upon with disgust by the Salafis. They term the Shias, Sufis and even democracy as those aspects which constitute as infidels and question God. They believe themselves to be the only true Muslims and every other faction as absconders who are immoral in the eyes of God (Bunzel, 2015).

The IS happens to be one such Jihadi Salafist organization, the leaders of whom are dedicated to the Salafi ideas. But even then, IS has slight differences to Jihadi Salafism in two ways; (Malka & Lawrence, 2013) 1) their idea to recruit individuals as well as keep their motivation levels up is by the usage of apocalyptic prophecies. It claims that the end of this world is near and only the ones on the right path will pave the way for the Islamic Messiah; 2) belief on the Messiah makes IS slightly different from other groups on the ground of its operational faculties. It is also like to implement the hard-core ideologies and the mass murders as well.

Manpower Strength

The IS has an alarming human strength, which makes it unique of its kind. The astounding fact is that they have men as well as women who work in this group, which makes it to reaffirm its stance. It is established that this entity has a manpower strength of around 20-50,000 personnel, out of this there are around 15-20% women assailants. This fact establishes that though their number is not as high as it possesses but it is expanding and that it is maintaining its strong posture directly from this contained number of personnel. It could also be seen that through this containment, inter-group tussles and proliferation of ideologies is somewhat curbed. This might as well be considered an overlying strategy by the force. It is also estimated that by mid-2015 around forty two Jihadi groups around the world pledged their support to the IS, which in a way means that directly their manpower strength is somewhat contained but in other parts of the world, their sub-groups are emerging (Lynch, 2015).

As for the recruitment is concerned, nearly 20-35000 foreign fighters from across the globe have been recruited as of 2015. Out of these, the European states have showed expanded amount of recruits. More than 4500-6000 constitute from the European states of France (412-900), UK (366), Belgium (296), Italy (50). From the US, there have been around 50-300 recruits while from Australia there are 200. Tunisia (2400-6000), KSA (2500), Jordan (2000), Morocco (1200) and Lebanon (900) establishes that the largest amount of recruits are from the MENA region and the Muslim States(Lynch, 2015).

Strategy/Tactics

The IS has made use of armament in terms of its military, prophecies in terms of its ideology and media in terms of its information environment. The IS used prophecies which fulfill their ideology; they used Syria as a major tool in their activities as well as prophecies. It seems that Syria does have a unique status in apocalyptic prophecies. In historic terms Shaam, Shammat and Baladasham are usually referred to the present day Syria, Lebanon, Palestine and Jordan. It is a prophecy that before the end of times, there will be large amount of subversion in Syria, which will engulf the entire Muslim Ummah. There will be a tussle between two groups in Syria and the Western forces will enter Syria. Moreover, all the pertinent sites which revolve around the apocalyptic times are mentions to be in Damascus. This factor has greatly helped the IS to recruit volunteers from these areas by instigating fear (Denby, 2015).

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The IS in its propaganda magazine *Dabiq* has clearly used these prophecies which are about Syria to attract youth in order to utilize them in Jihad from all around the world. There are prophecies like the Black Flag, which is known to come from Khorasan and that there will be no power to stop them. These will be the end of times and all Muslims will unit under this flag in unity. It is considered that the Iraqis will join Imam Mehdi, the final Imam, in Mecca and the final battle will be fought. In this context they have announced the *Wilayat* Khorasan, which includes Pakistan, Afghanistan and Central Asia (Denby, 2015).

When the US destroyed some vehicles of IS and later recovered some of the forensics they claimed that the IS has a vast and complete electronic warfare garrison. The IS makes use of an entire team of hackers who have hacked various websites of different authorities. Some of these hackers have claimed allegiance to the IS and have hacked or at least claimed to hack the twitter accounts of the US Central Command and posted propaganda videos some of which have titles like "American Soldiers, We Are Coming, Watch Your Back" and "ISIS is already here, we are in your PC's and in each military base" (Zaimov, 2015) to improve their efficiency the IS claimed to be building the encryption technology and they have released an encryption program namely *Asrar al Ghurabaa* in 2013. (Al-Qaeda usage of encryption, 2015)

Apart from these tactics, the IS has made use of Deception as well as Operational Security. In 2014, the supervisory committee of the IS had ordered the militants to disable their GPS systems in order to avoid detection. (Lewis, 2015) Another fact is that their fighters have mainly curbed their vulnerability to any air strikes by acclimatizing the ever-changing battlefield settings. For instance they move to the areas which are more urbanized and divide their forces into smaller units as well as operate in the night time as there is minimum vision. (Jasper & Moreland, 2014) The deception tactics of IS can be read at their travel guide named 'Hijrah to the IS' which was issued in February 2015 which gives instructions to the jihadists while they travel to Syria. It notifies them to always purchase a return air ticket when travelling which would make them less susceptible and to never wear any religious clothing or carry a religious demeanour or to carry any religious account. (Macfarlan, 2015)

Finances: The richest NSA

The IS is known to be one of the richest non-state actors, studies show their assets to be between \$1.5 billion to around \$500 billion (Daesh/Daash, Islamic State, 2016; Lynch, 2015). They have a unique structure of economy as well, which involves taxing in the areas under their control. They impose \$4 tax for

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protection and \$14 for water and electricity, thus generate \$40 million per month. Importantly, they make some side money as well out of criminal activities like kidnapping and ransoms; these were around \$1.5-2 billion in the years 2006-2009, these reached to \$20 billion in 2014. The IS also looted around \$429 million from the Bank of Mosul in 2014 when its forces were advancing into Iraq. But the most alarming factor is that they have raging oil reserves, much more than any NSA are ever known to have. In 2013, these revenues were \$800 million and reached to \$2 billion in 2015(Daesh/Daash, Islamic State, 2016; Lynch, 2015). These statistics show how the IS has expanded and how their reserves have increased.

Regional/Global Support

The IS like other such groups, happen to have regional as well as international support along with some factions which work as its proxies. One of these happens to be some Sunni Militia Group which are based in Iraq along with the Ba'athist Party loyalists and some of the supporters of Saddam Hussain. There are many other groups which work on behalf of IS, such as Free Iraqi Army, Free Syrian Army and the Al-Nusra Front. Yet it seems rather impossible to distinguish between their supporters as there are many grey areas which exist. One instance is in terms of control of Aleppo, the IS and the Free Syrian Army become opponents yet they still support each other in terms of toppling the Assad regime.

There have been speculations about the international support of IS as well, some states are believed to be playing a hypocritical role. The US happens to be one example, where multiple controversy theories are rife. There have been documents of the US Department of Defence (DOD), which claims that al Baghdadi had been a prisoner in Iraq at Bucca Camp by the US forces. There had been speculation as to the account of how a mass value target like Baghdadi could escape the prison which is something rather unattainable (Chulov, 2014).

Apart from this, there have been other speculations of Israel supporting some of the armed groups within Syria. Yet it is difficult to claim as to Israel directly supporting the IS. There had been a report by the UN Secretary Ban Ki Moon on the UN Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF), which states that it had been noted that there have been frequent movements between armed forces of the opposition interacting with the IDF. (Fitzgerald: 2015) There have been reports by some Canadian think tanks about how Zionists are claimed to have created the IS in order to rupture the Arab world slightly more than it is done so and taking the opportunity to establish the Greater Israel (Greater Israel, 2016).

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Turkey is indirectly supporting the IS to control the Kurds authority near Turkey's borders, besides some Gulf States, who are covertly supporting the IS insurgents in Iraq and Syria. Sir Richard Dearlove, former head of British Intelligence MI6 claimed that 'there is no doubt that substantial and sustained funding from private donors in Saudi Arabia and Qatar, to which the authorities may have turned a blind eye, has played a central role in the ISI's surge into Sunni areas of Iraq' (Cockburn, 2014).

Implications for World Peace

There is no doubt that the ISIS a lingering threat to the international order and world peace. There are severe implications for regional/global peace and security, some of which are discussed below.

The foremost implications are that the state sovereignty is being challenged in the region, especially in Iraq and Syria. The control of large territory in these states by the IS has severely undermined the established state structure in the region. The military, political and geographical advances of IS have created chaos and anarchy in the region with a possibility of redrawing of regional boundaries. The brutality and inhuman treatment has rendered millions of people without food and shelter, which has led to massive refugee issue knocking at the doors of Europe. Moreover, the recruits from Western states while going back would be able to spread radicalism in their respective states, an alarming situation for the peace, harmony and stability of Europe. The rise of IS has also subsequently led to disastrous suicide attacks in Europe as a result Muslims living in these states are being seen as potential terrorists. This is going to be further enhanced anti-Westernism in certain cases and the result of that would be a much brutal tussle of Anti-Islamism versus Anti-Westernism.

The IS has caused proxy war situations in the Middle East itself and between major external and internal powers. In a way the Syrian Crisis is being carried on in full might and the ISIS a big part of it. Their policy of hitting Assad had launched the key supporters of the regime to begin targeting the IS, as was the case of Iran and Russia. This then led to further complications when their rival states also sought to be the part of the larger quagmire in Syria. KSA versus Iran and Turkey versus Russia along with NATO versus Russia are on a full spectrum. The ISIS ultimately getting more power and spreading its ulterior agendas by carrying out attacks almost everywhere in the world, latest examples are that of Paris and Brussels.

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The situation due to the rise of IS has become so complicated that the ultimate world order has been challenged, which is a call for chaos and ultimately the 'death of peace'. The rate with which it keeps spreading is something which if not controlled will turn the world into ultimate chaos, out of which it might never recover. More than that the New Islamic Order which is being imposed by the IS in itself is challenging to the current global standing. The idea of no borders and their own rules and norms will not benefit any of the enterprise, neither the Western nor the Muslim world. The very call which challenges the existing structure of the globe and the rise of this entity with its slogan of building the world in a "New Islamic Order" is a cause of alarm, since the form of Islam used by this entity is nowhere near Islam and uses inhumane methods of barbarism as a tool of dominance. Such barbaric tools which spread fear and hatred are an anti-thesis of peace. The IS has done its homework well that in its existence and rise, along with the rise of other non-state entities, already existing conflicts are either being completely forgotten or they are being expanded and taken into the bigger quagmire; Yemen crisis is one example of this.

Due to the rise of IS, there has ultimately been rise of other non-state actors in the world, AQAP is back with a rigorous stance, Al-Qaeda, al-Nusra, Houthis, Taliban, Boko Haram, and they all have either over-riding differences among each other or are on the same page. This again leads to two things; intra-non-state actor wars and integration of non-state actors. Both the cases are alarming because they will further cause the world to become a new battlefield. Finally, the IS has led to tussle in the already cracking Muslim States; mere existence of it has not only led to the opening ground for the formation of sub-sects in these states but this ultimately leads to hostilities between all of them. In one way, more and more entities keep emerging out as a result of these two themes; IS and Sectarianism. Again the idea is that the Muslim World is moving further apart instead of integrating itself. The crux of the matter is that with this entity in existence, power is being negatively used almost in every state, small wars are becoming a common ground which is putting fear, anxiety and chaos among various populations, a state of fear is becoming more and more common, hatred among ethnicities, races, nationalities and states is getting more common as a result harmony is shrinking.

Future of the 'Islamic State'

It is a reality that the IS has emerged as a latest actor in the security matrix of Middle East. Although this is not anything strange for the region as it is already a hub of many such entities. Beginning from Al-Qaeda and going all the way to Houthis, there are many in between like Hamas and Hezbollah. Yet

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many of these actors began with much hype but later on turned into history due to the complex political situation of the region. The IS has emerged as an entity which challenges most of the already existing NSAs like Houthis and Al-Qaeda and more than that it has infused a very dangerous ideology within its origins. Therefore, predicting its future is very complicated given the ever-growing chaos and anarchy in the region.

However, as the IS is losing territory and finances, this has led to an internal debate between the globalist and regionalist; one going beyond the region to target the Western capitals and the other to focus within the region. (Gurcan, 2016) Many believe that the IS may not hold out beyond 2017 and would be splinted into various sub-groups. Graham E. Fuller also believes that due to its brutal actions and clashing ideology with the mainstream Muslims, the IS has lost support among the Iraqi and Syrian Sunnis, therefore, the entity may not be living long. (Fuller, 2015) Nonetheless, the IS seems to be there for the time being and there is an urgent need to coordinate actions by regional and global actors to wipe out this menace.

How to Overcome the IS Threat

The IS has grown a significant amount in all spheres; military, economic and even political. This threat has become a lethal force which must be handled with sound political and military action. Their policies are strange and assertive and their entire scheme for the region is perplexing, which have already turned the entire region into a quagmire. In order to curb this threat, no single power can be effective and a solid front must be created. It seems that the Middle Eastern powers who are involved in exercises which led towards collective security are not entirely looking at the right enemy. The newly created Saudi-led 34 State Alliance against Terrorism should be employed towards the IS.

The Iraqi and Syrian armies are fighting the IS militia, besides the Kurd Militia and 100,000 Iraqi Volunteer Force are involved in pitched battles against the IS. There are also reports of Quds Force of Iran and Hezbollah fighters helping the Iraqi and Syrian armies. The Russian involvement in Syria and targeted operation against the IS have resulted in positive developments. There are reports that the US is contemplating to use B-52 bombers against the IS targets. Destroying of IS command and control structure, cutting off its supply routes for oil sales and recruits must be ensured. Besides propagation of brutal and inhuman actions of the IS must be highlighted through Arab media. Therefore, long term international actions must be applied but these should be in cohesion with the regional plan to eradicate this entity. More importantly it must be taken into consideration that single-handedly military or

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political actions are not enough but on a more social level this threat needs to be addressed. This is because the social bifurcations are causing the entity to develop more and more. Ethnic and sectarian minorities along with the tribes must be taken into confidence.

On political and diplomatic level, all stakeholders, within and outside the region must come together on one page and utilize their diplomatic effort to bring the IS to ground. This could prove effective if it goes hand in hand with the military level by which the states can curb this existential threat to the world. This means that joint exercises must be held in order to take over this target. This is obviously flawed in context because on paper, maybe all the states are vocal against this entity but in reality there are many factions who are inherently supporting their cause. It seems like one good strategy which obviously IS has been making sure to avoid is expanding its horizons to large numbers and sub-groups. The opponents of IS can utilize the age old strategy of divide and conquer in this regard. Because no matter how strong a party or a group is, there are always loopholes and gaps within. This is one of the gaps which must be found and made use of.

Conclusion

The surfacing of IS is certainly not a new occurrence when it comes to the emergence of non- state actors in the Middle East region. In fact the region has already given birth to a wide amount of ethnic and sectarian non-state actors. The IS has brought enormous modifications in the security structure of Middle East. The IS trend would pressurize the Middle Eastern states to rationalize the contours of their foreign policy. The IS can only be curtailed by the joint action plan of all the Middle Eastern states. Otherwise the region would be in turmoil and chaos and will run amuck and sooner or later this threat will pierce through other adjoining regions as well.

The Frustration-Aggression Theory proves that there exist certain psychological attributes to the IS, which actually make it more prone to violence. And it has guided the entity to take certain measures which make it absolutely lethal. Yet the implications are not just ordinary, especially if one observe the kind of organization and structure the entity has. International, regional and individual sponsorship is duly required to put the IS into place. And this means that all stockholders need to work together to sort out this challenge to international peace and security.

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