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### **Abstract**

The emergence of Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) or ISIS or IS or Da'esh has resulted in a major shift in the political landscape of Middle East. Its origin and leadership are primarily Iraqi. The roots of ISIS can be traced back to region's violent conflicts such as Syrian Civil War and political instability in Iraq. All the predecessors of this organization, fought under a broader idea of enforcing the Sharia Law against modern states, western values and to confront and contest all other ideologies that were at odds with Wahabhi Salafism including pan-Arabism, Secularism, Nationalism, Democracy and Modernity. But one wonders what makes ISIS different from these organizations? The answer lies in the simple fact that the idea to restore a glorious past and to win over a world empire by reestablishing the Caliphate has been an all advancing dream of this organization. The sectarian cleavage has been a defining factor rooted deep in Arab societies. However, the US-led invasion of Iraq caused a rupture in an already fractured society. The dismantling of Iraqi police and armed forces through de-Baathification eliminated the entire Sunni representation in the government and institutions and brought to power the Shiite forces under the total influence of Iranian Islamic Shiite ideology. The situation unleashed a fierce power struggle and clashes among all the sects and ethnicities of Iraq, ensuing the worst sectarian clash between the two groups. This situation was cleverly manipulated by ISIS, hence an appropriate environment for its growth.

The civil war in Syria actively aided the emergence of ISIS. Before the civil war there was no ISIS in the region. The Islamists in Syria had never revolted after their 1983 rebellion in Hama was brutally suppressed by former President Hafiz al Assad (Bashar's father). But ISIS is now the principal opposition of the President Assad in the Syrian Conflict and controls territories as big as Great Britain straddling the Iraqi-Syrian border. How did it become so powerful in just a couple of years? Where does it get support from? What are its

security implications for the region as a whole? Does it bear any threat to the Global security? These are some engaging and intriguing questions for researchers who have been focusing upon this Phenomenon.

ISIS owes its genesis to war; a great perception maneuvers the idea that it was US, Europe, their allies and proxies that created the conditions for the rise of ISIS in the region. Over the years ISIS has exploited the ever-growing discontent and persecution among the Sunni in Iraq. Al-Baghdadi took advantage of the growing instability to garner the support of the masses.

The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) and its parent organization Al-Qaeda were developed under the influence and claim of defending and reclaiming Muslim lands from corrupt and apostate regimes. However, differences existed between these organizations both in methodology and pattern. ISIS's doctrine was based on reviving and holding of territories, and were supposed to follow the same system of first state in Islamic history established by Prophet Mohammad and the four Caliphs in the 7<sup>th</sup> century AD.

In the long run, the total defeat of the group is directly linked to the ability to dry up its financial resources. The group has shown great resilience and high adaptability to any offensive on their economic capacities and resources. It has cleverly manipulated the geopolitical turmoil to its utmost advantage, and derives its strength from the cadres which work as a mafia-like mind group and institutionalized illegal work.

Among all the modern terror groups, ISIS appears to have set up an administration that is very advanced and practical. As per its logic, the military operation must go hand in hand with a political reform in both Iraq and Syria. This would constrict the Iranian role and restore the rights and fair political representation of Sunni in governance.