

## ISIS – Another Threat in the Middle East\*

Mihai Sebastian Chihaiia \*\*

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**Abstract:** *The Iraqi state has been at the forefront of continuous conflict for the past 11 years. The American intervention toppled Saddam Hussein's government and the reconstruction process began afterwards. However, the insecurity and instability sphere that was created gave birth to an asymmetric conflict between several groups and the western coalition. This insurgency took a turn for the worse in 2011 when the coalition retreated from Iraq. This functioned as a catalyst to the growth of a different rebel organization: the Islamic State. After adopting the name ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and Syria) in 2012, it raised the stakes by spreading to Syria and further on gaining power and strength leading to the proclamation of the Caliphate in June 2014.*

*On one hand, the paper aims to give an overview of the methods that can be used to counter ISIS. The goal is not to give a description of the organization and its history but to open a debate over the policies and instruments that can best be used to contain and eventually eliminate it without leaving fertile ground for the occurrence of other jihadist groups. On the other hand, the article tries to outline differences in the approaches some actors have over ISIS. At the same time, diverging interests stand out in the Middle East, a region always characterized by turmoil. The paper discusses several strategies to combat the insurgent group. Among them, there is special emphasis on cutting ISIS incomes (including its financial resources), reducing its mobility, eliminating the leadership of the organization, countering its influence on social media platforms and last but not least, stabilizing Iraq and Syria. The main questions that are left can be summarized as follows: what will happen next and is there any hope for stability in the Middle East?*

**Keywords:** *insurgency, regional security, terrorism, Middle East, ISIS.*

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\* Paper presented at the World Congress of the International Association for Political Science Students (IAPSS), London, April 2015.

\*\* Delegations Coordinator, International Association for Political Science Students (IAPSS), Academic Department, Leiden, The Netherlands.