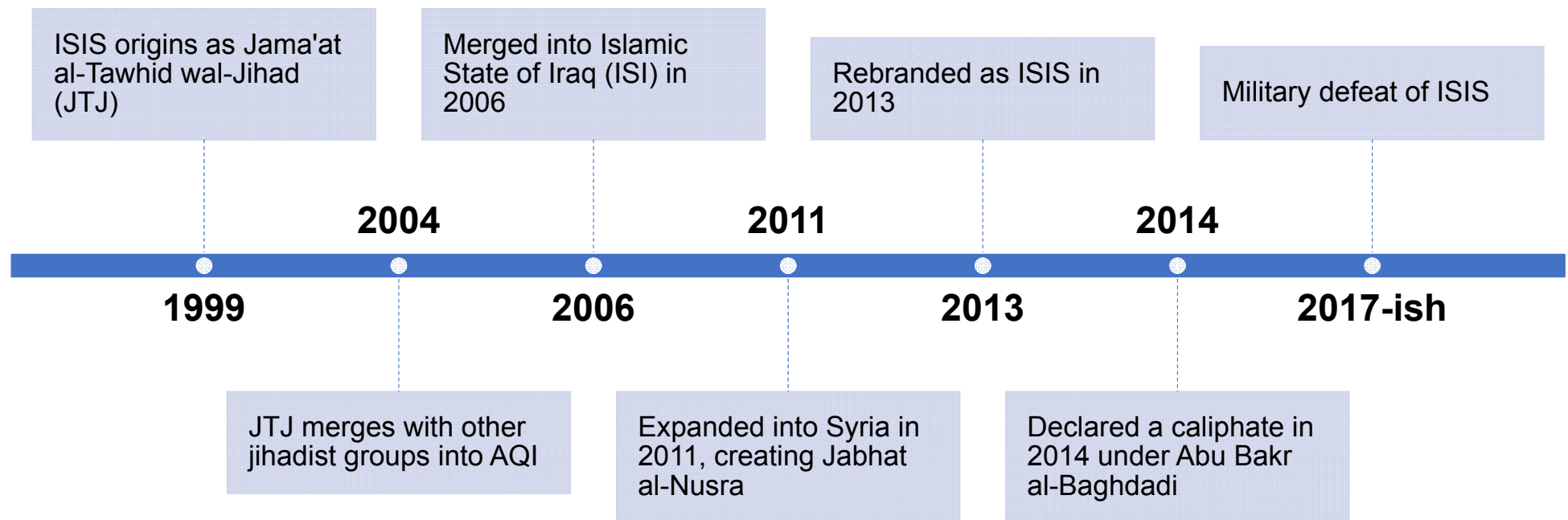




ISIS Governance

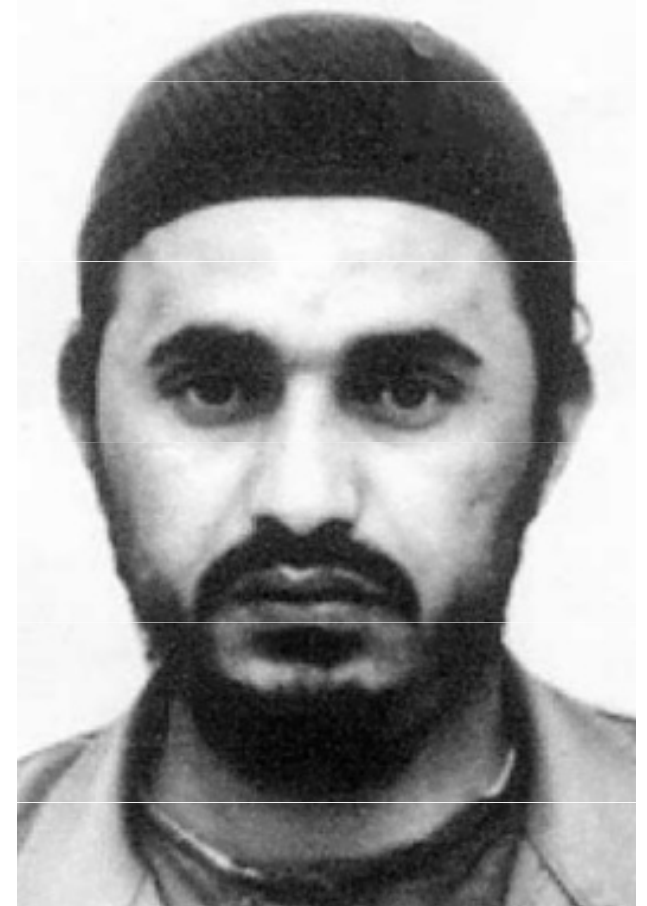
A Comprehensive Overview of the Islamic State's Rule and Administration

ISIS – Timeline



Abu Musab al-Zarqawi

- Jordanian militant influenced by Qutbism and Salafism
- Advocated sectarian violence and Takfir
- Played a key role in shaping ISIS ideology
- Killed in 2006 by a U.S. airstrike



Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi

- Ph.D. in Islamic Studies, rose through ISI ranks
- Declared caliph in 2014
- Ideologically rooted in Salafi Jihadism and Wahhabism
- Influenced by Sayyid Qutb's writings
- Called for global jihad and rejection of the West
- Promoted Takfir and strict Sharia
- Killed in a U.S. raid in 2019



Ideological Foundations of ISIS

„Abu Muhammad al-Maqdisi is the most influential living Jihadi Theorist,,

„By all measures, Maqdisi is the key contemporary ideologue in the Jihadi intellectual universe.”

→ But harsh criticism of ISIS

- Salafi jihadism
- Qutbism
- Wahhabism

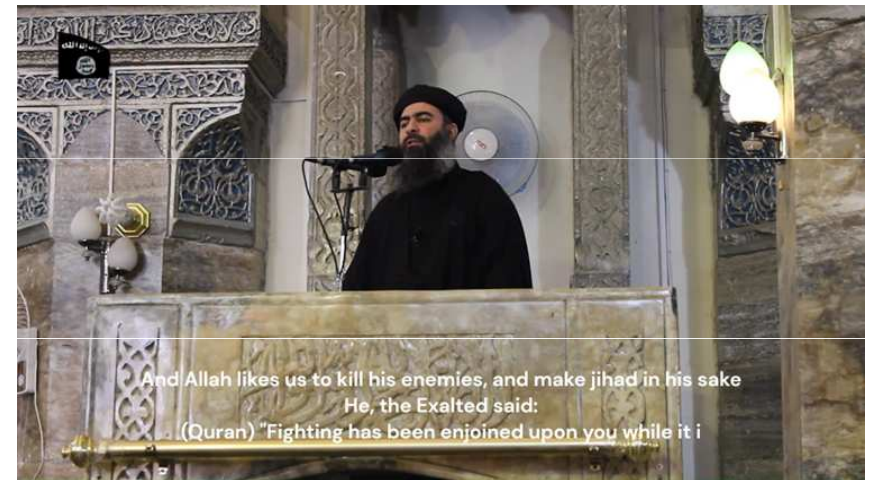
What is a Caliphate?

- Islamic state ruled by a caliph under Sharia law
- Seeks to unify Muslims globally
- Claims religious and political authority
- Baghdadi claimed leadership as caliph



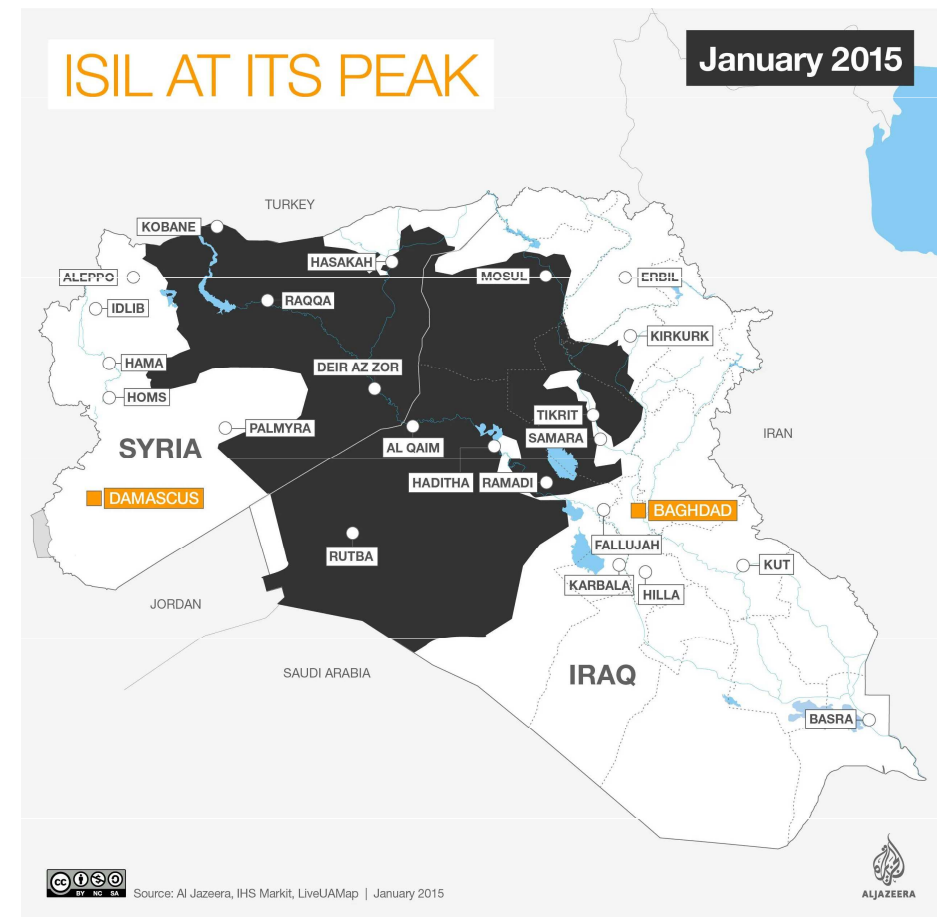
Establishment of the Caliphate

- Baghdadi appeared publicly in Mosul in 2014
- Proclaimed 'Islamic State' and urged Muslims to join
- Used media to enhance legitimacy
- Marked a key moment in jihadist history



Territorial Expansion

- Seized large parts of Iraq and Syria in 2014
- Raqqa and Mosul became strongholds
- Declared provincial affiliates globally
- Extended influence to Africa and Asia



ISIS Governance

„The Good, the Bad, and the Deadly“ (Iannaccone, Berman 2006)



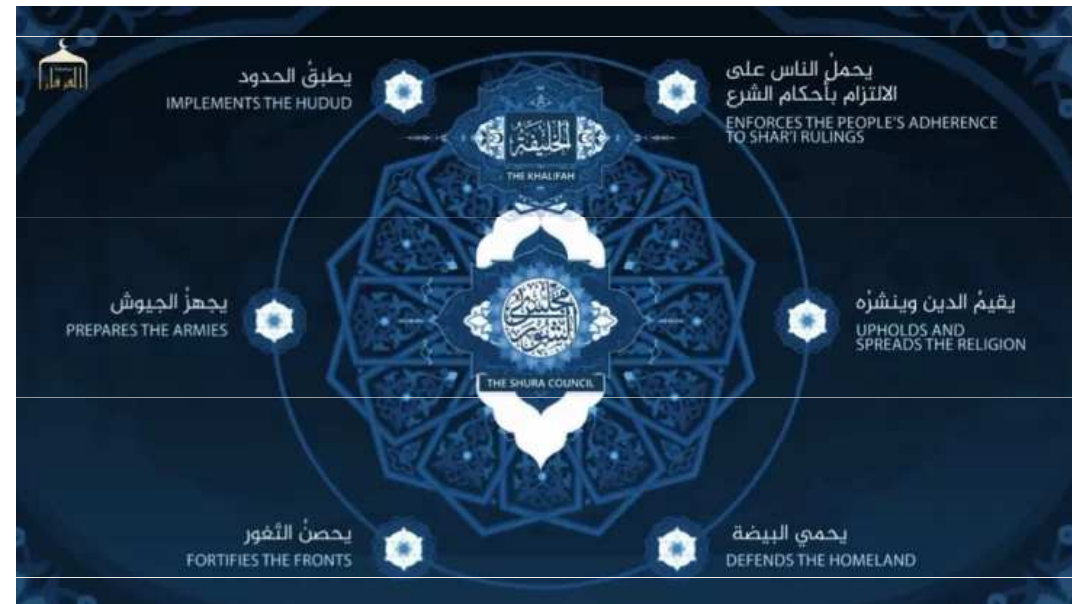
Healthcare and Welfare

- Established hospitals and clinics
- Provided aid to widows and orphans
- Distributed food and water
- Welfare system for fighters' families



Governance Structure

- Centralized leadership with Shura council
- Ministries for security, media, finance, education
- Local councils implemented policies
- Highly bureaucratic for a terror group



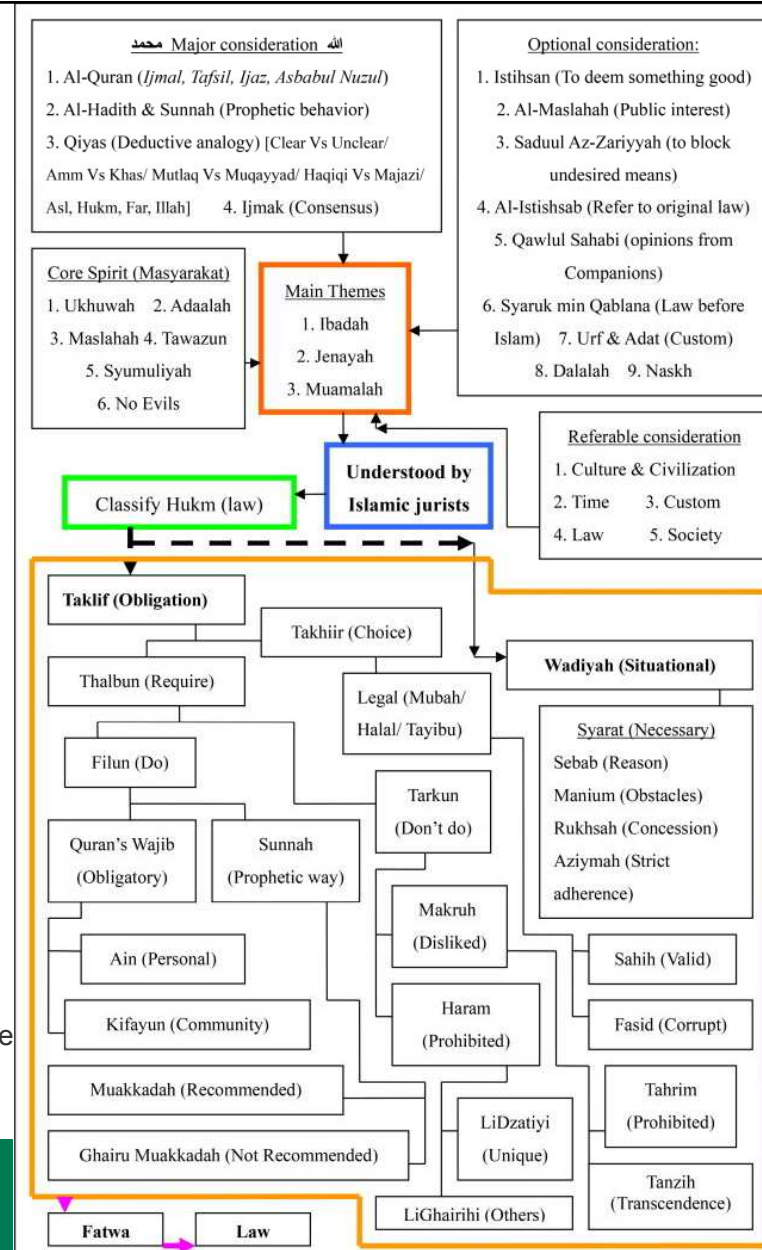
The Islamic State: How Its Leadership is Organized



ISIS Legal System

- Strict interpretation of Sharia law
- Harsh punishments: executions, amputations
- Courts for civilians and fighters
- Used fear and spectacle to maintain order

Chun-Leung, J. L., Mohd Nor, M. R., Mustaffa, K. A., & Isa, K. bin. (2024). Islamic law and its application as penal code by the Islamic State of Iraq and Sham (ISIS). *Cogent Arts & Humanities*, 11(1). <https://doi.org/10.1080/23311983.2024.2382519>



Social Norms Enforcement

- Dress codes and gender segregation
- Ban on music, smoking, and secular activities
- Mandatory prayers and fasting
- Religious police enforced morality



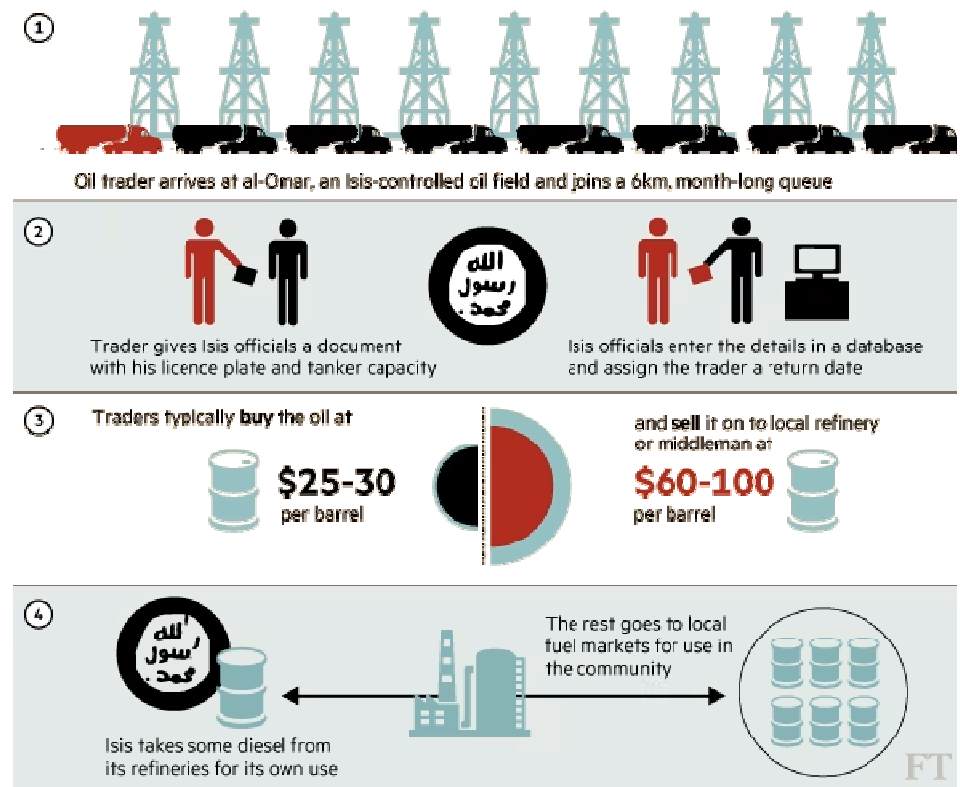
Crime	Punishment
Casting insult on Allah/ The Divine (Sabb Allah ﺳﺒّ ﺍﻟﻠﻪ)	Death
Casting insult on the Messenger (Sabb Ar-Rasul ﺳﺒّ ﺍﻟﺮﺳﻮﻝ)	Death, even after repentance
Insulting the faith	Death
Adultery (Zina)	Stoning to death for the married, and 100 lashes and general expulsion for the unmarried
Homosexuality	Death
Theft (Sariqah)	Mutilation of the hand
Drinking Alcohol (Syurb Al-Khamr ﺷﺮﺏ ﺍﻟﺨﻤﺮ)	80 lashes
Masturbation	80 lashes
Spying for the infidels	Death
Apostasy (Irtidad/ Riddah)	Death
Banditry (Hirabah)	1. For killing and stealing money, death and then crucifixion 2. For killing: death 3. For stealing money, mutilation of the right hand and then left foot 4. Scaring people, expulsion from the land

Chun-Leung, J. L., Mohd Nor, M. R., Mustaffa, K. A., & Isa, K. bin.
 (2024). Islamic law and its application as penal code by the Islamic State
 of Iraq and Sham (ISIS). *Cogent Arts & Humanities*, 11(1).
<https://doi.org/10.1080/23311983.2024.2382519>

Economic Policies

- Revenue from oil, taxation, and extortion
- Controlled agriculture and trade
- Enforced zakat and jizya taxes
- Prohibited interest-based finance

Isis oil: from well to market



Education System

- Focused on Islamic studies and Arabic
- Secular subjects removed
- Military training included
- Girls' education severely restricted

Media and Propaganda

- Sophisticated use of social media
- Promoted governance successes
- Recruitment videos and online magazines
- Framed brutality as divine justice



Summary of ISIS Rule

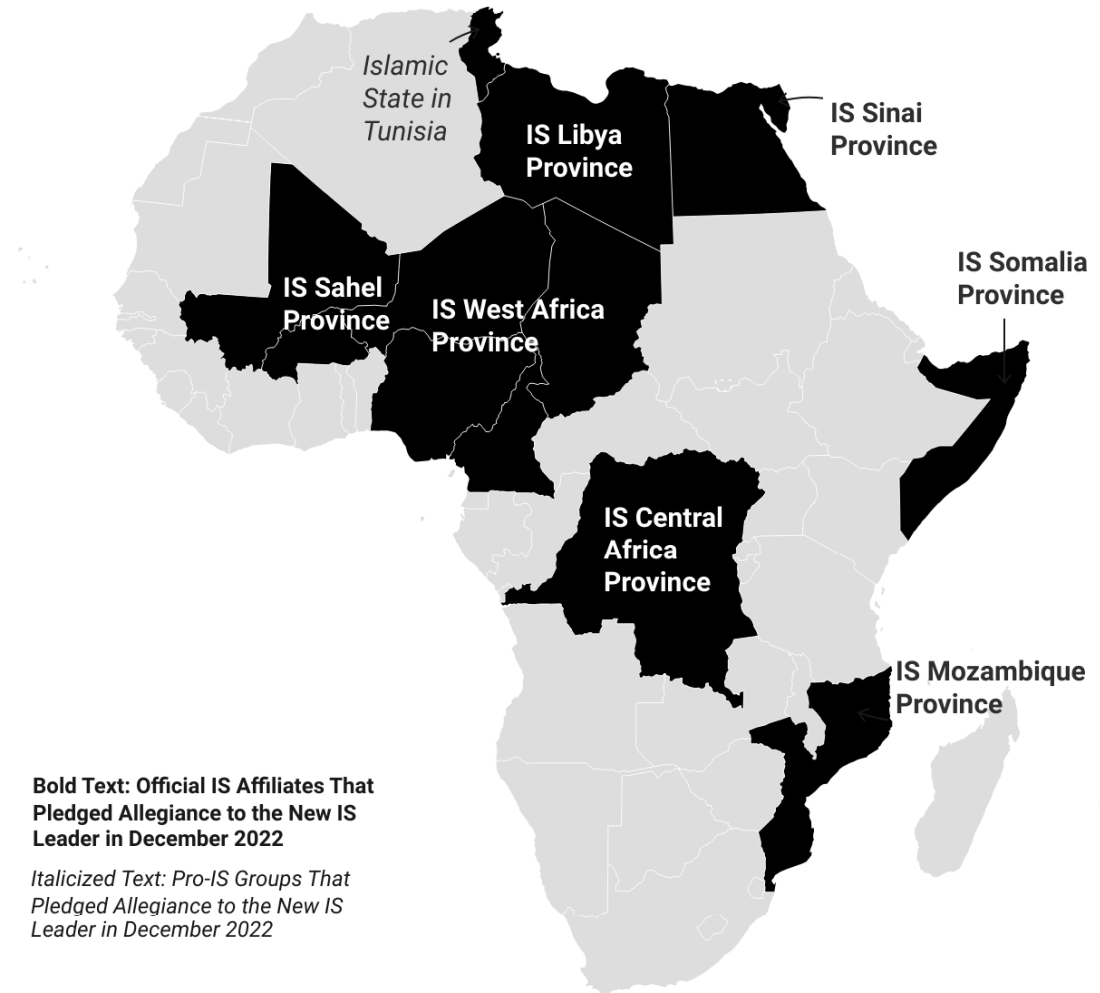
- Extreme brutality and human rights abuses
- Suppression of women and minorities
- Public executions and sexual slavery
- Widespread international condemnation



Downfall and Resurgence

Islamic State Affiliates and Pro-Islamic State Groups in Africa Pledge Allegiance to a New Leader: December 2022

■ Countries Where IS Operates

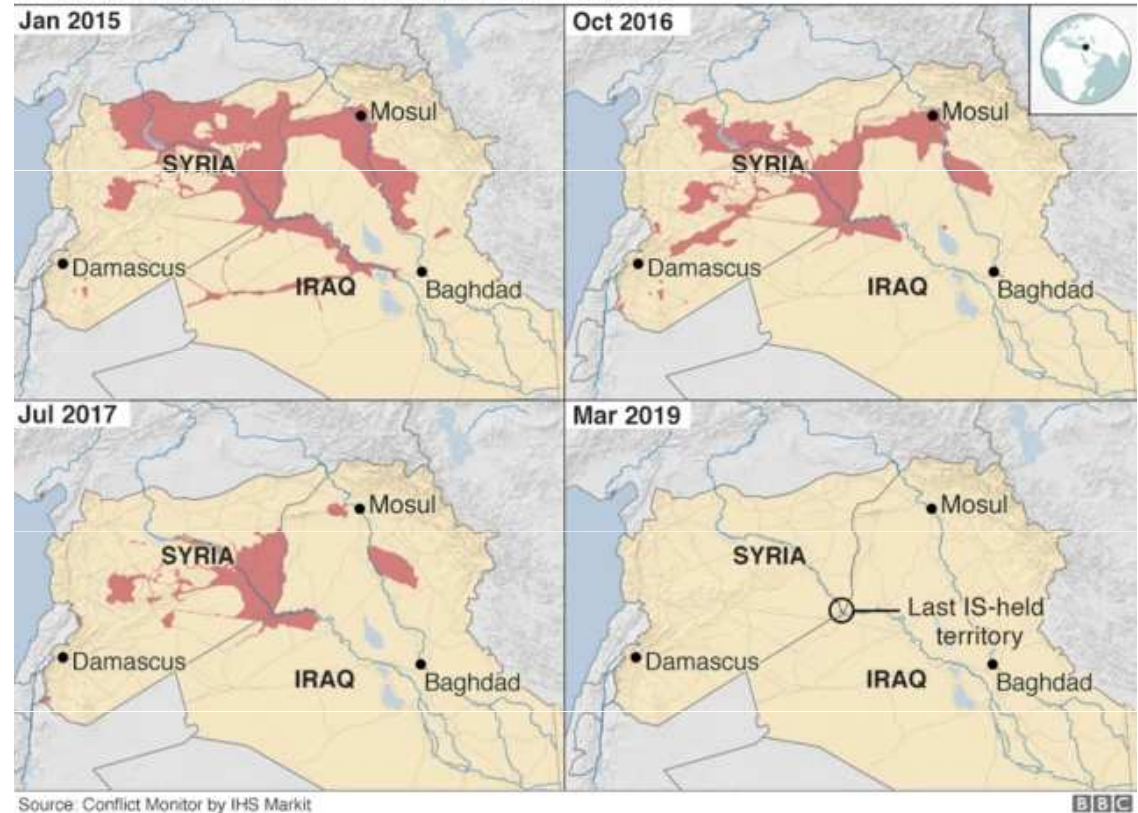


Map: Critical Threats Project • Source: Kathryn Tyson, Critical Threats Project at the American Enterprise Institute • Created with Datawrapper

Military Decline

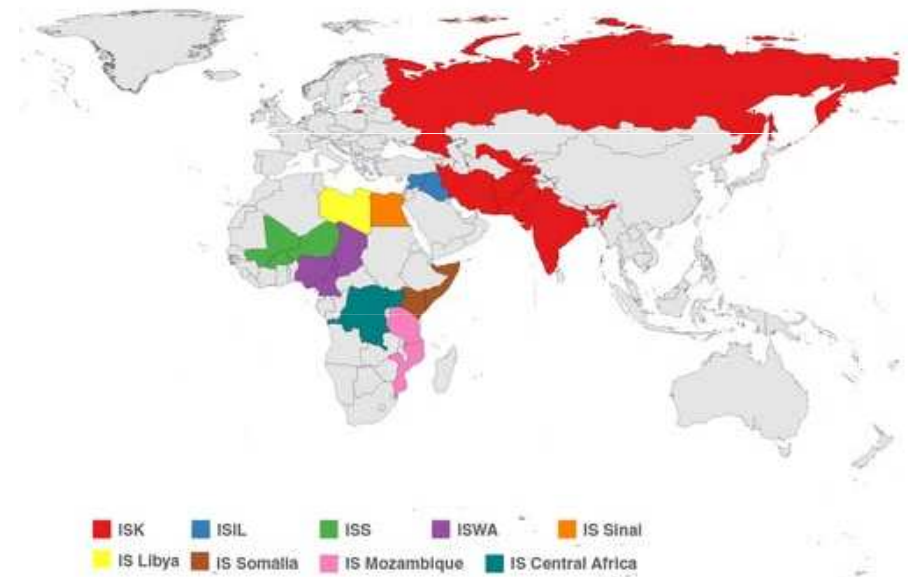
- 2015: Coalition forces push back
- Loss of Raqqa and Mosul by 2017
- Baghdadi's death in 2019
- ISIS caliphate dismantled

How the area under IS control has shrunk



Global Impact

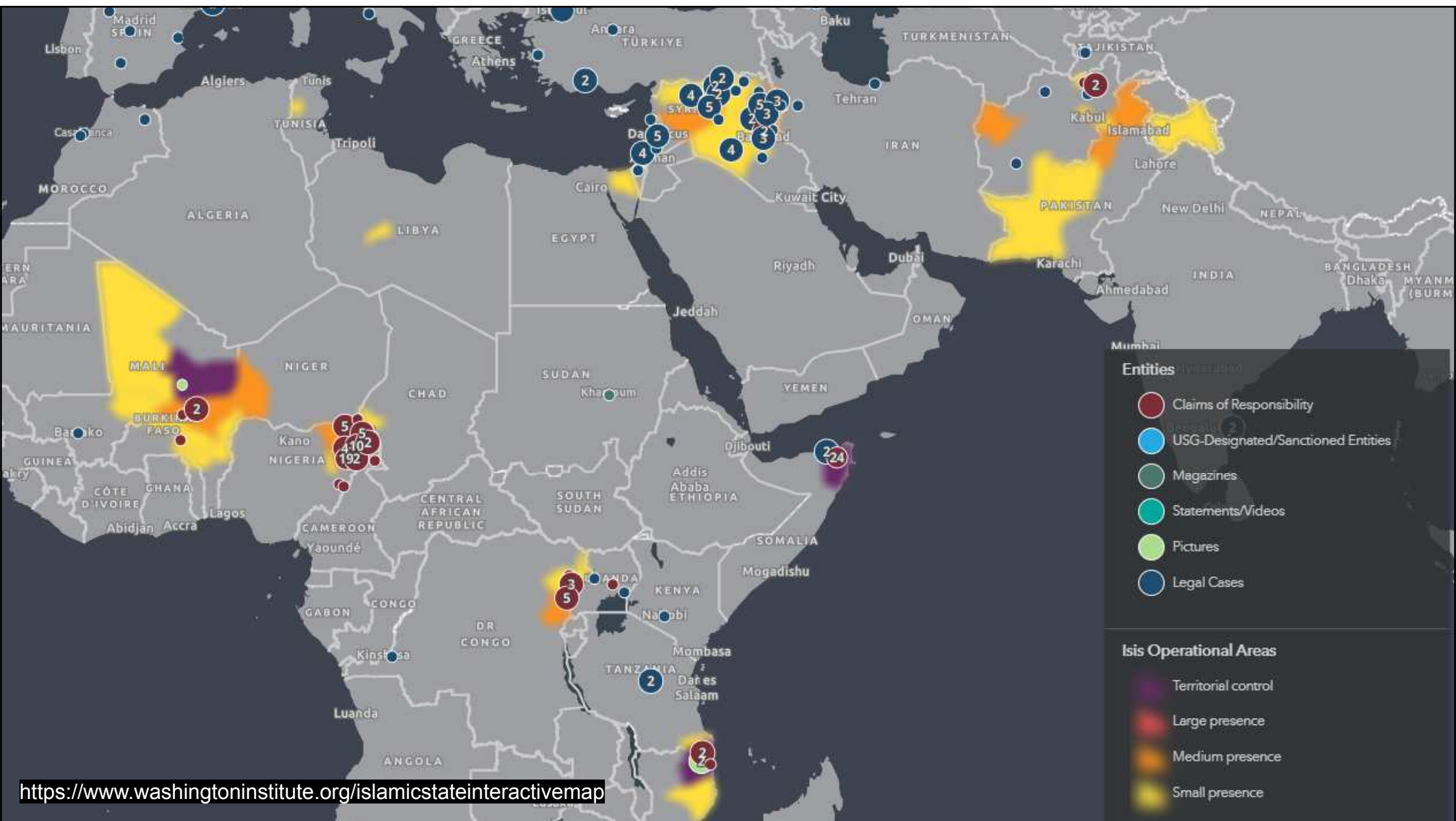
- Inspired attacks worldwide
- Affiliates in Libya, Nigeria, Philippines
- Drew tens of thousands of foreign fighters
- Challenged global counterterrorism



Source: IEP Calculations

Global Terrorism Index 2025

IEP Institute for
Economics
& Peace

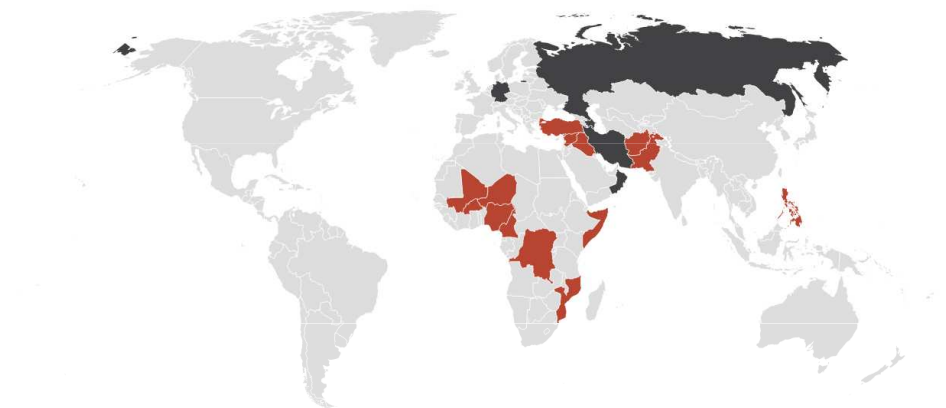


Post-Caliphate Resilience

- Regrouped in rural Iraq and Syria
- Continued asymmetric warfare
- Persistent online propaganda
- New affiliates in Africa and Central Asia

Islamic State Attack Claims in 2024

■ Countries Where IS Provinces Have Claimed an Attack ■ Countries Where IS Has Claimed an Attack



Map: Liam Karr, Critical Threats Project at the American Enterprise Institute • Source: Aaron Y. Zelin, Washington Institute for Near East Policy, Islamic State Worldwide Activity Map • Created with Datawrapper

Conclusion

- ISIS governance blended ideology and pragmatism
- Maintained order through fear and services
- Exploited power vacuums and sectarianism
- Legacy continues through affiliates and ideology

M U N I
F S S

Thank you for attention!