

ABSTRACT

Analysis of ISIS's Insurgency through the theory of Revolutionary Warfare, by Amerigo Piunti. Ever since the collapse of the brutal Ba'athist regime of Saddam Hussein, the Sunnis of Iraq were struggling as a minority in a nation governed by Shia. The government of Baghdad was constantly ignoring Sunni's grievances, and for many experts, this aspect was a driving point that led to the establishment of the IS Caliphate. Contrary to popular belief, the so-called Islamic State appeared only for the first time in October 2006. Abū Mus'ab al-Zarqāwī was the founder and first tenacious leader of the special detachment called "Al-Qaeda in Iraq." This group later on mutated itself into the notorious Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, and it obtained support from international sympathizers and local citizens. The terror group successfully recruited local tribes, experienced fighters and leaders, previous members of the Baathist regime, and it even cooperated with other Jihadists groups. The terror group itself also heavily relied on the spread of Jihadist-Salafist propaganda and eventually created an urgent need for a drastic change in society. The group then expanded its insurgency activities towards Syria, and after only eight years of fighting, it successfully covered each of the necessary stages to establish the well-known Caliphate.

To critically analyze the impressive IS insurgency process and potentially develop new ways to address this type of warfare, this paper focused on a comparative analysis based on the theory of Revolutionary Warfare. The framework of the research paper suggests that there is a whole level of adherence between the IS strategy and Mao's theory, which means that this approach can be applied to find more effective counterinsurgency methods against Daesh. This research recommends that the outcome of the conflict would have been better with a more significant focus on crucial aspects such as the Sunni grievances, the military unsuitability, the weak border security, the social and economic deployment, and much more.