

The Islamic State and Modern Insurgency
Michael A. Allen

Week 1

Osher Institute Short Course
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September 12th, 19th, and 26th
1:30-3:30pm

Course Plan

- Week 1: Foundations and mobilization
- Week 2: Strategy, tactics, and implications
- Week 3: Reactions, effects, and prospects

This Week's Plan

- Background on the Islamic State
 - History
 - Formation
 - The Islamic State as a way to understand contemporary theories of conflict
- Explanations for rebellion, civil war, and insurgency
 - Grievance
 - Greed
 - Opportunity
 - Synthesis of these models
- Questions and discussion

Supplemental Reading

This list, as well as the web-links for easy clicking, are available on my website, www.ma-allen.com under the ISIS tab or you can go there directly by typing in www.ma-allen.com/IslamicState. If you have trouble accessing the material, email me and I will remedy the situation.

Online Materials

- Pishedda, Constantino. 2015. "A provocative article says the Islamic State is a mystery. Heres why thats wrong." <https://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/monkey-cage/wp/2015/08/27/the-islamic-state-is-no-mystery/>
- Wood, Graem. 2015. "What ISIS really wants." <http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2015/03/what-isis-really-wants/384980/7>
- McCants, William. 2015. "The believer: How an introvert with a passion for religion and soccer became Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi Leader of the Islamic State." link: <http://www.brookings.edu/research/essays/2015/thebeliever>
- Ingram, Haroro. 2015. "What analysis of the Islamic States messaging keeps missing." <https://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/monkey-cage/wp/2015/10/14/what-analysis-of-the-islamic-states-messaging-keeps-missing/>
- Wilson, Lydia. 2015. "What I discovered from interviewing imprisoned ISIS fighters." <http://www.thenation.com/article/what-i-discovered-from-interviewing-isis-prisoners/>

Relevant Books

- Regan, Patrick. 2009. *Sixteen Million One: Understanding Civil War*. <http://www.amazon.com/Sixteen-Million-One-Understanding-International/dp/1594516200/>

This book is a great overview of some of the bigger concepts in political science and international relations as it relates to civil war, rebellion, and insurgency. It mixes some personal experiences and interviews by Regan with contemporary theory.

- Mason, David T. 2004. *Caught in the Crossfire: R3volution, Repression, and the Rational Peasant*. <http://www.amazon.com/Caught-Crossfire-Revolution-Repression-Rational/dp/0742525392/>

This book is denser than the Regan book, but does a solid job of going through the existing literature on the major theories of grievances, greed, and opportunity. Mason is mostly looking at peasant revolutions in Latin America and Africa, but the primary topics relate to what we are discussing in the course.