

The Jihadi Threat: ISIS, Al Qaeda and Beyond

by [Aaron Y. Zelin \(/experts/aaron-y-zelin\)](#)

Dec 12, 2016

ABOUT THE AUTHORS



[Aaron Y. Zelin \(/experts/aaron-y-zelin\)](#)

Aaron Y. Zelin is the Richard Borow Fellow at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy where his research focuses on Sunni Arab jihadi groups in North Africa and Syria as well as the trend of foreign fighting and online jihadism.



Articles & Testimony

Although the two groups remain rivals, their activities in the Middle East and abroad have complementary effects, whether in the form of recruiting disillusioned youths, undermining the regional state system, normalizing support for violent jihad, or other threatening developments.

The West failed to predict the emergence of Al Qaeda in new forms across the Middle East and North Africa. It was blindsided by the Islamic State's sweep across Syria and Iraq, which at least temporarily changed the map of the Middle East. Both movements have skillfully continued to evolve and proliferate -- and surprise. What's next? In a new report published by the U.S. Institute of Peace, twenty experts from think tanks and universities across the United States -- including Aaron Zelin of The Washington Institute -- explore the world's deadliest movements, their strategies, the future scenarios, and policy considerations.

[Download the full report from the USIP website. \(http://www.usip.org/publications/2016/12/06/the-jihadi-threat-isis-al-qaeda-and-beyond\)](http://www.usip.org/publications/2016/12/06/the-jihadi-threat-isis-al-qaeda-and-beyond) ❖

U.S. Institute of Peace

RECOMMENDED



ARTICLES & TESTIMONY

How to Make Russia Pay in Ukraine: Study Syria

Feb 15, 2022

◆
Anna Borshchevskaya
(/policy-analysis/how-make-russia-pay-ukraine-study-syria)



BRIEF ANALYSIS

Bennett's Bahrain Visit Further Invigorates Israel-Gulf Diplomacy

Feb 14, 2022

◆
Simon Henderson
(/policy-analysis/bennetts-bahrain-visit-further-invigorates-israel-gulf-diplomacy)



BRIEF ANALYSIS

Libya's Renewed Legitimacy Crisis

Feb 14, 2022

◆
Ben Fishman
(/policy-analysis/libyas-renewed-legitimacy-crisis)

TOPICS

Democracy & Reform (/policy-analysis/democracy-reform)

Terrorism (/policy-analysis/terrorism)