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## **THE ISLAMIC STATE AS A POLITICAL AND SOCIAL PROBLEM OF A GLOBAL NATURE**

The armed formations of the Islamic State began fighting on the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic and in Iraq, relying on the spread of their ideas in the Islamic world as a whole. Researchers from the outset of the conflict define it as a brutal, encompassing enormous power for the region, both human and financial, as a conflict that has an unacceptable frivolity. At the same time, it must not be forgotten that military conflicts for Syria and Iraq have been a terrible reality for many years, and that the development and initial success of the Islamic State are a direct consequence of past military conflicts.

A striking example is Iraq, which is in a state of constant armed conflicts with short interruptions from 1980 till today. Their causes serve as a political struggle, as well as centuries-old clashes between supporters of two major trends in Islam - Shiism and Sunni. First of all, we must mention the brutal war with Iran (and Kurds), which is statistically based on the number of victims (85,000) [4, c. 13], belongs to one of the bloodiest in the twentieth century. Among other things we should mention the use of chemical weapons against both armed formations and civilians, ending in 1988. The next was the attack on Kuwait (1990), the war with Arab coalition, the United States, Kurds and Shiites (1991); blockade along with coalition attacks in the coming years, finally the invasion of Iraq by the US armed forces and coalition (2003) and years of conflict with the character of the civil war with the involvement

of post-Saddam armed groups, Sunni, Shiite and armed forces, and the coalition. Only since 2003 135-155 thousand people were killed in Iraq [4, c. 27]. In 2007, according to statistics, about 2 million people became refugees.

A similar situation is observed in Syria. Staying in a state of frozen conflict with Israel, and from time to time being the main actor of the Lebanese conflict, Syria itself was in a state of civil war in the spring of 2011. During the bloody civil war there was ethnic and religious cleansing, massive human rights were violated, and the use of chemical weapons took place. By March 2015, 215,000 people had become the victims of the conflict half of which were peaceful residents. The number of refugee reaches 4 million people [3, c.140]. The Middle East is unchanged in the main ideological, social and financial center of terrorism, and the military conflicts in Iraq and Syria simply drowned the status of Afghanistan as the main front and platform for the exchange of jihadist experiences and permanent opportunity to take part in the "sacred" war against the infidels [2, c. 46]. This position has been maintained by Afghanistan since the late 1970s, where the struggle against the Soviet troops attracted many adventurers and extremists from the entire Islamic world in seeking fame and securing their own religious aspirations. Taking into account the million Arab diaspora in Europe, some researchers believe it is possible to transfer the critical situation from the Middle East to a new region that has already become an arena of terrorist acts. It should be noted that the already long-lasting struggle of the coalition of many countries with the Islamic State did not lead to its complete collapse and destruction. Moreover, this conflict did not quickly give the expected effect of defeat. Therefore, the question arises - is the Islamic State in general able to radically weaken the terrorist threat? Finally, we can conclude that the Islamic State is a very unique terrorist organization in our time. Its ideology and the methodological approach of the leaders promote the spread of radical Islam ideas among many followers around the world. In total, reaching more than 250,000 active members, Islamic State has become a unifying factor for Salafist jihadism at the global level. Applying the accumulated experiences of various terrorist organizations over decades, it has succeeded in the Middle East and has been appalled by terrible terrorist acts in some

European countries, posing a threat to the collective security of formerly peaceful regions of the world.

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