

# THE COMPETITION FOR JIHADIST HEGEMONY IN AFGHANISTAN

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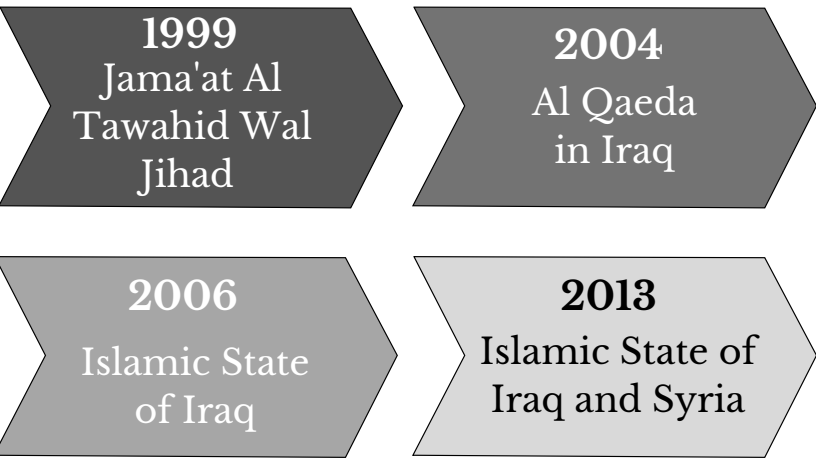
Final Degree Project  
UAB

2021-2022

## INTRODUCTION

- This work analyzes the competition for the jihadist hegemony in Afghanistan between Al Qaeda and ISIS, following the withdrawal of the American troops in 2021.
- Such competition will be analyzed from the resources available by each terrorist organization.
- An intelligence analysis will be drafted, applying the analysis techniques established by the US Intelligence Community Directive 203 (ICD 203)

## FROM AL QAEDA TO ISIS



**HYPOTHESIS** *"ISIS is the dominant terrorist organization in Afghanistan due to the general decline experienced by Al Qaeda"*

## THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

| The Sociology of Power   | Intelligence Directive Community 203                       |                  |          |                           |        |                |                     |
|--|--|------------------|----------|---------------------------|--------|----------------|---------------------|
| Al Qaeda and ISIS, as elites, compete for the differential accumulation of power | Establishes a common language for the likelihood of events |                  |          |                           |        |                |                     |
|  | almost<br>no chance  | very<br>unlikely | unlikely | roughly<br>even<br>chance | likely | very<br>likely | almost<br>certainly |

## RESOURCES

| Type of Resource  | Al Qaeda | ISIS |
|---|----------|------|
| Allegiance of other terrorist organizations                           | ✓        | ✓    |
| Control of primary resources such as oil, gas, or minerals extraction | ✓        | ✓    |
| Relationship with the Afghan Taliban                                  | ✓        | ✗    |
| Other (illicit taxes, extortion, looting, trafficking, kidnapping)    | ✓        | ✓    |

## SECURITY ANALYSIS

- Al Qaeda will **very likely** dominate the jihadist movement in Afghanistan due to the return of the Taliban to the country.
- With the Taliban's support, Al Qaeda will **likely** increase the exploitation of Afghan resources to finance its terrorist actions.
- Such resources will **very likely** increase Al Qaeda's chances of developing terrorist attacks, **almost certainly** endangering Afghan citizens' security.
- ISIS will **very likely** increase its terrorist activity in Afghanistan to destabilize the Taliban rule and Al Qaeda, with attacks in big cities such as Kabul.
- Al Qaeda and ISIS will **very likely** increase targeting European countries to show other world powers their jihadist dominance.

## CONCLUSIONS

- The hypothesis presented is not corroborated: ISIS is not the predominant terrorist organization in Afghanistan.
- Al Qaeda will dominate jihadism in Afghanistan due to its relationship with the Afghan Taliban government.
- The counterterrorism measures will unlikely be efficient to reach a ceasefire between ISIS and Al Qaeda since the structural causes of the jihadist terrorism rise will not be solved.