

ISIS THREAT IN THE BALKANS

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3 TERRORIST THREATS

- ▶ 1. Home-grown terrorists
- ▶ 2. ISIS recruits
- ▶ 3. Border crossings



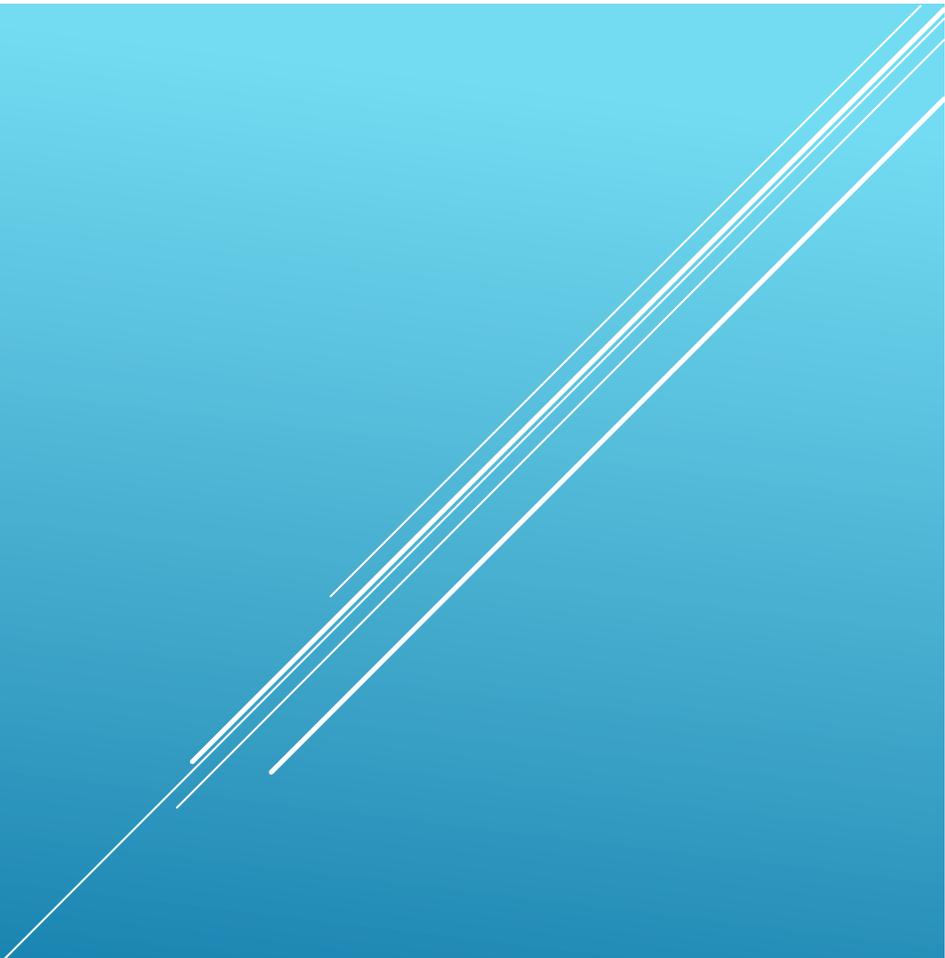


- ▶ Secondary sources (media, government documents)
- ▶ Google News, Lexis Nexis (Redundancy)
- ▶ Hierarchy of information on Internet
- ▶ Follow-up interviews to verify data and conclusions

METHODOLOGY

Government documents
Research-based articles
News media
Media blogs
Info sites
Wikipedia
Blogs

1. HOME GROWN TERRORISTS

The background is a blue gradient, transitioning from a lighter cyan at the top to a darker blue at the bottom. On the right side, there are several white, parallel diagonal lines that appear to be part of a larger graphic element or a stylized arrow pointing towards the top right.

- ▶ Liberal version of Islam evolved over centuries
- ▶ Few terrorist attacks in Balkans
- ▶ 2011 - US embassy in Sarajevo
 - ▶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HaNCIFqzkgM>
- ▶ 2012 – bus bombed in Bulgaria killing 7 Israelis
- ▶ Albanians, Kosovars, Macedonians recruited by ISIS
- ▶ Imams arrested in Kosovo

LITTLE RADICALISM IN BALKANS

Tanner, Marcus (2015, January 9). The Balkan Muslim 'Threat' has Never Materialised. Balkaninsight. <http://www.balkaninsight.com/en/article/the-balkan-muslim-threat-has-never-materialised>



Fears that action of radicals could lead to terrorism

Flags flying in Bosnian community of ultra-conservative Muslims linked to recruiting in Syria and Iraq

Read more here: <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/nation-world/world/article24783928.html#storylink=cpy>

Fears that assault on traditional Islam will intensify and Bosnia and Kosovo will become pathways to the West for deeply radicalized jihadis

Read more here: <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/nation-world/world/article24783928.html#storylink=cpy>

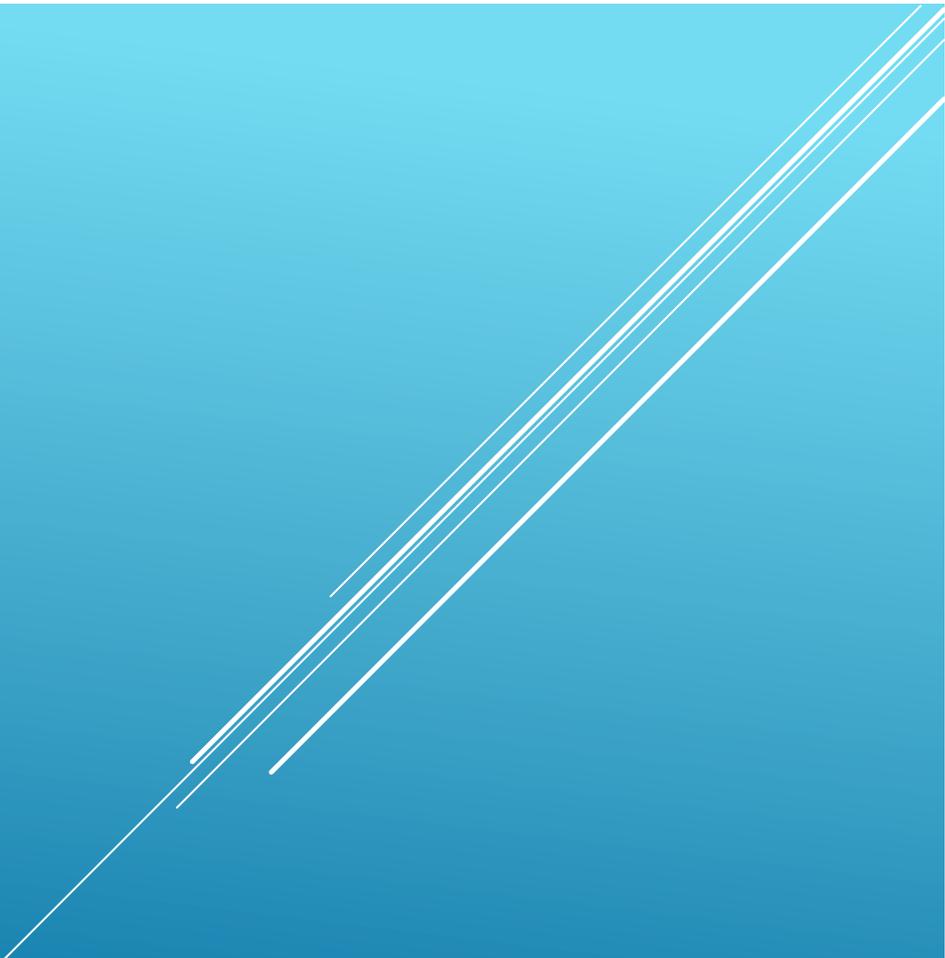
Landay, Jonathan S. (2015, May 1). Extremists worry the Balkans, Europe's Muslim heartland. <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/nation-world/world/article24783928.html>

Bosnia will take part in an international summit on violent extremism in the US in September 2015.

- Dragan Mektic, Minister of Security, said:
 - Foreign investors should not be worried
 - No armed militant camps in the country and
 - Of 130 Bosnians who went to Syria
 - 43 killed
 - 50 returned home.
 - 19 on trial
 - Latal, Srecko. (2015, Sept. 7). Bosnia Promises United Stance at Anti-ISIS Summit. BalkanInsight. <http://www.balkaninsight.com/en/article/bosnia-prepares-extraordinary-joint-position-for-anti-isis-summit-09-07-2015>



2. ISIS RECRUITS



Country	ISIS Recruits	Population (millions)	% Muslim
Albania	90	2.8	58.8%
Bosnia and Herzegovina	340	3.8	45%
Bulgaria	1	7.8	10%
Croatia	-	4.3	1.5%
Greece	-	11.0	1.0%
Kosovo	150	1.7	95.6%
Macedonia	12	2.0	33.3%
Montenegro	-	.6	19%
Romania	-	.8	2.2%
Serbia	70	7.2	3%
Slovenia	-	2.0	2.2%
European Turkey (Total 77.7 million)	1000	10	99.8%
TOTAL	1,663	54	31%

ISIS FIGHTERS FROM THE BALKANS

WHY YOUNG PEOPLE JOIN ISIS

- ▶ **Generational divide between ISIS and the older and now-diminished al-Qaeda.**
- ▶ **Seeking a greater purpose and meaning**
- ▶ **Savvy, unerringly millennial social media**
- ▶ **Portray life as warm and important**
- ▶ **Money and manpower breed success**



▶ *“Al-Qaeda’s greatest achievement was the 9/11 attacks, but that was 13 years ago,” wrote Haverford associate professor Barak Mendelsohn in Foreign Affairs. “Many of today’s jihadis were young children at the time,” and don’t have much loyalty to the aging movement.*

McCoy, Terrence. (2014, June 17). How ISIS and other jihadists persuaded thousands of Westerners to fight their war of extremism. The Washington Post. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/morning-mix/wp/2014/06/17/how-isis-persuaded-thousands-of-westerners-to-fight-its-war-of-extremism/>

HOW ISIS IS RECRUITING WOMEN

- ▶ **Social-media campaigns promise**
 - ▶ devout jihadist husbands,
 - ▶ a home in a true Islamic state and
 - ▶ Devote lives to their religion and their God.
- ▶ **Serve necessary for a state to function**
- ▶ **2014 – 30 European women**
- ▶ **2015 – 100 foreign women**



Baker, Aryn. (2014, Sept. 6). How ISIS Is Recruiting Women From Around the World Time Magazine. Retrieved from <http://time.com/3276567/how-isis-is-recruiting-women-from-around-the-world/>

SUSPECTED NATIONALITY/ORIGIN*

ISD tracks more than 100 foreign female ISIS recruits.

The data is incomplete but offers a glimpse of the nationalities and ages of some of the women who have joined the militant group.

- 5**
American
- 3**
Australian
- 1**
Canadian
- 1**
South African
- 1**
Malaysian



SUSPECTED AGE*



SOURCE: Institute for Strategic Dialogue, May 2015

*Figure not known for all women tracked

- ▶ The Turkish newspaper Hürriyet investigated how ISIS recruits members in Turkey.
- ▶ *Most recruits were apparently recovering drug addicts, or had some psychological problem, or big family troubles that they were already looking for something else to be a part of.*
- ▶ Target poor neighborhoods, join religious foundations, show themselves as **pretty nice people**
- ▶ *Paid off the debts and pay salary*
- ▶ *Recruit teenagers.*



ISIS RECRUITMENT IN TURKEY

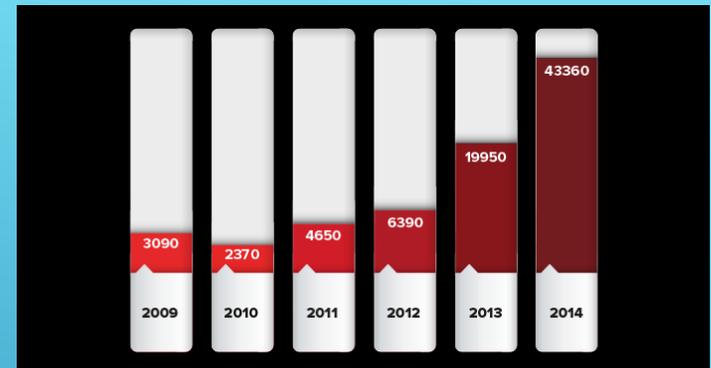
Bora Güler. (2014, Oct. 28). How are young Muslims recruited to ISIS in Europe? Recruited from <https://www.quora.com/How-are-young-Muslims-recruited-to-ISIS-in-Europe>

- EU's Schengen System - open borders for cooperation and commerce – creates security and immigration problems
 - EU Directive 2001/51/EC – cost of return paid by airlines
- Australia's offshore approach to deal with migrants and asylum seekers
- Israel's use of fences and technology
 - Morag, Nadav. (2015). Border Management: International Experiences. In Siedschlag, A. *Cross-Disciplinary Perspectives on Homeland and Civil Security*. New York: Peter Lang (pp. 36-52).

3. BORDER CROSSINGS

WESTERN BALKAN ROUTE

- ▶ **2012 - 33 000 asylum applications from visa-exempt countries of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia and Macedonia, or 53% more than in 2011, 12% of the total in EU.**
- ▶ **2013 - 20 000 migrants illegally crossed the Hungarian-Serbian from Kosovo, Serbia but also Pakistani, Afghan, Algerian Moroccan who had been living in Greece.**
- ▶ **2014 - secondary route via Turkey. Kosovars crossed the Serbian-Hungarian border illegally, proceed mainly to Austria and Germany.**
 - ▶ Frontex. (2015). Western Balkan Route. <http://frontex.europa.eu/trends-and-routes/western-balkan-route/>



Eastern Mediterranean and Western Balkan routes



Observer Graphics

Sources: IOM, Frontex, Eurpol

How many people are on the move?

- The 350,000 total detected so far this year at EU's borders, compared with 280,000 migrants in 2014.
- 230,000 who arrived in Greece and nearly 115,000 in Italy. About 2,100 arrived in Spain.
- More than 2,600 migrants have drowned.



BBC. (2015, Sept. 1). Why is EU struggling with migrants and asylum? <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-24583286>



Unrest on the Greece-Macedonia border as migrants tried to head north. AP

Syrians pay \$1,000 (£649) for dinghy from Turkey to Greek islands, typically Kos. In Macedonia 3000 migrants a day pay \$500 for 10-day off-road route to Serbia.

Townsend, Mark. (2015, Aug 30). The Balkans are now the centre of Europe's people smuggling web. The Guardian. <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/aug/30/balkans-now-centre-of-europes-people-smuggling-web>

Asylum recognition rates

Refugees and migrants to Europe



Source: Eurostat; UNHCR

Economist.com

United Nations' figures show **women outnumber men**, and children 11 years old and younger, male and female, account for 38.5 percent of all refugees.

Stretching Facts on Syrian Refugees. (2015, Sept. 15). <http://www.factcheck.org/2015/09/stretching-facts-on-syrian-refugees/>

Upper middle class, well-educated backgrounds.

McHugh, Jess. (2015, Sept. 9). Europe Refugee Crisis Facts: Wealthy, Educated Syrians Risking Lives To Leave War. <http://www.ibtimes.com/europe-refugee-crisis-facts-wealthy-educated-syrians-risking-lives-leave-war-2089018>

Estimates 70% young men of military age.

VIKTOR ORBÁN, Hungary's prime minister, says the "overwhelming majority" of migrants in Europe are not refugees but are merely **seeking a better life**. Robert Fico, his Slovak counterpart, says up to 95% are economic migrants. The UNHCR says that Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq account for nine in ten of the quarter-million-odd migrants detected arriving in Greece this year.

(2015, Sept. 7). How many migrants to Europe are refugees? The Economist. <http://www.economist.com/blogs/economist-explains/2015/09/economist-explains-4>

Video shows Syrian refugees shouting pro-Islamic State chants on a train from Hungary to Germany.

“May Allah make orphans out of their children” cries out the man in the train while the crowd say “Amen”.

“May Allah make it difficult on their women”.

“Allah give victory to Islam everywhere”.

“Allah give victory to our brethren in Palestine”.

“Allahu Akbar, Alahu Akbar ... there is no god but Allah and the martyr is beloved by Allah”.

70 % young men of
Military age



A Polish blogger named Kamil Bulonis witnessed refugee chaos at the Italian–Austrian border. He described how the Muslims attacked his bus and covered it in feces, and how they turned over cars of people trying to give them aid. ~~never in my short life had I an opportunity to see such scenes and I feel that this is just the beginning.”~~

Video: New 'Syrian' Immigrants in Europe Chant "Allah give victory to Islam" (2015, Sept. 9). <http://conservativepapers.com/news/2015/09/09/video-new-syrian-immigrants-in-europe-chant-allah-give-victory-to-islam/>



ISIS Flag Among Refugees in Germany Fighting the Police

ISIS Fighters Among Refugees

A Syrian operative claimed more than 4,000 covert ISIS gunmen had been smuggled into western nations – hidden amongst innocent refugees.

Brown, Aaron. (2015, Sept. 10) Islamic State reveals it has smuggled THOUSANDS of extremists into Europe. The Daily Express. <http://www.express.co.uk/news/world/555434/Islamic-State-ISIS-Smuggler-THOUSANDS-Extremists-into-Europe-Refugees>

Nigel Farage, leader of the right-wing UK Independence Party, said there was a “very genuine fear” that extremists were exploiting the crisis to enter Europe, and he warned his compatriots not to “allow our compassion to imperil our safety.”

Kaplan, Michael. (2015, Sept. 7). Refugee Crisis: ISIS Fighters In Europe? Islamic State Extremists Exploit Refugee Flow, Waiting To Launch Attacks, Militant Operative Says. International Business Times. <http://www.ibtimes.com/refugee-crisis-isis-fighters-europe-islamic-state-extremists-exploit-refugee-flow-2085787>

The cost of running a war; ISIS making money from migrants

ISIS needs \$523.5 million to \$815.3 million a year to pay 30 – 40,000 fighters, run social services, and buy weapons and ammunition.

Sources:

- Oil revenues - \$1 -2 million per day
- Taxing antiquities smugglers - \$22 million to \$55 million
- Tax on small business and residents - \$168 million to \$228 million a month
- Smuggling migrants and refugees

Walt, Vivienne. (2015, May 13). ISIS Makes a Fortune From Smuggling Migrants Says Report. Time Magazine. <http://time.com/3857121/isis-smuggling/>



Smugglers get **\$800 to \$1,000 to reach Libya**, and **\$1,500 to \$1,900 to cross the Mediterranean** to Europe.

What is responsible for the refugee crisis?



Arab Spring began in 2011 as a series of peaceful, pro-democracy movements across the Middle East, but it led to terrible wars in Libya and Syria.

Fisher, Max & Amanda Taub. (2015, Sept. 9). The refugee crisis: 9 questions you were too embarrassed to ask. <http://www.vox.com/2015/9/9/9290985/refugee-crisis-europe-syrian>

Syria's Information Minister Omran al-Zoubi said Europe should bear full responsibility for the crisis, adding that most Syrians who had left were fleeing areas held by the government's rivals, including Islamic State (IS). He criticized European countries for sending "terrorists" to his country, referring to the thousands of Europeans who have travelled to Syria and Iraq to fight with IS.

According to Human Rights Watch, Syria's bloody armed conflict has led to a humanitarian crisis with millions internally displaced or seeking refuge in neighboring countries.

The government and pro-government militias have attacked heavily populated areas, killing civilians with indiscriminate weapons such as cluster munitions and barrel bombs. Government forces have also arbitrarily arrested, forcibly disappeared, and tortured people, many of whom died in detention. Non-state armed groups opposing the government have also carried out serious abuses including deliberate and indiscriminate attacks on civilians, use of child soldiers, kidnapping, and torture in detention. Extremist groups Islamic State, also known as ISIS, and Jabhat al-Nusra, Al-Qaeda's affiliate in Syria, are responsible for systematic and widespread abuses.

'ISIS Recruits' Shout 'Allahu Akbar' in Germany Refugee Trains. (2015, Sept. 13). <http://heavy.com/news/2015/09/new-isis-video-syria-syrian-refugees-isis-islamic-state-militants-soldiers-terrorists-chant-allahu-akbar-threaten-europe-europeans-youtube-video/>



CONCLUSIONS

- ▶ Hungary border closure will mean more migrants staying in Balkans causing a humanitarian and security crisis.
- ▶ While Balkans have not seen a lot of terrorism, large migrant populations may cause greater radicalization, imported to EU.
- ▶ Increased crime among gangs that transport and smuggle migrants.
- ▶ Increased migration leads to a greater opportunities for ISIS and other terrorist organizations in the Balkans and EU.
- ▶ Europe needs to deal with the source of the problem rather than the results.

- ▶ **Wahhabism** (Arabic: *وهابية*, *Wahhābiya(h)*) or **Wahhabi mission**^[1] (*/wəˈhɑːbi, wɑː-/*;^[2] Arabic: *الدعوة الوهابية*, *ad-Da'wa al-Wahhābiya(h)*) is a religious movement or branch of Sunni Islam.^{[3][4][5][6]} It has been variously described as "orthodox", "ultraconservative",^[7] and "austere."^[3] Critics say that Wahhabism's rigidity has led it to misinterpret and distort Islam, pointing to extremists such as Osama bin Laden's Al Qaeda network and the Taliban. The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) also draws on Wahhabism for its ideology.^[8] Wahhabism's explosive growth began in the 1970s when Saudi charities started funding Wahhabi schools (madrasas) and mosques from Islamabad to Culver City, California. It has been described as "fundamentalist",^[9] and "puritanical"^[10] or "puritan".^[11] It has also been described as an Islamic "reform movement" to restore "pure monotheistic worship" (tawhid), by scholars and advocates^[12] and as an "extremist pseudo-Sunni movement" by opponents.^[13] Adherents often object to the terms "Wahhabi" and "Wahhabism" as derogatory, and prefer to be called Salafi or Muwahhid.^{[14][15][16]}

WAHABISM