이슬람국가(IS)와 알-카에다의 이념적 그리고 전략적 차이*

서 정 민**

--- 목차 ---

Ⅰ. 들어가는 말
Ⅱ. 이슬람국가의 부상과 그 이념
Ⅲ. 칼리파 국가 건설
Ⅳ. 알-카에다와 IS의 이념 및 전략적 차이
Ⅴ. 맺음말

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Ideological and Strategic Difference between Islamic State and al-Qaeda

Seo, Jeongmin Seo
Hankuk University of Foreign Studies

The ‘establishment’ of Khalifa system by Islamic State (IS) will generate long-term instability in the Middle East. IS is an Sunni extremist organization which has a clear difference with the conventional Jihadist groups like al-Qaeda. IS and other Islamist groups have a similar ultimate goal of building an Islamic state, but they have different strategies and methodologies. The major targets of Osama bin Laden’s al-Qaeda is ‘far enemy,’ i.e., the West led by the US and Israel, IS has prioritize ‘near enemy’ rather than ‘far enemy’ cleansing the Muslim community. While Al-Qaeda seeks a ‘defensive jihad’ to protect the Islamic world from the threat posed the West, IS has combined the ‘defensive’ with ‘offensive jihad.’ IS has resorted to a strategy of building Islamic state to remove non-Islamic elements in the Middle East.

This study explores how much ideology and strategy between al-Qaeda and IS are different. Despite the fact that the two radical Islamist organizations have utilized the religion of Islam to justify their activities and atrocities, this research assumes that IS, which declared