

## Neo-Wahhabism as a Military Threat to the Caucasus Regional Security in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

*Vakhtang Maisaia*

As it is known, Wahhabism (al-Wahhabiya) was created in Saudi Arabia by Muhammad Ibn Abd Al-Wahhab – the Muslim Sunni theologian, who lived in the XVIII century in Saudi Arabia. It became the official ideology of this country. Over the past several decades the main and most important aim for them has been, and still is, to spread their religious ideology as far as it is possible. They have spent more than 89 billion dollars<sup>1</sup> on this over a two decade period of time. In comparison Soviet Russia spent 7 billion dollars on spreading communism during more than 7 decades. Saudi Arabia doesn't focus only on the countries where all kinds of Islam dominates, but also on the regions where there is political instability and poverty in general. An example is the North Caucasus, where in the early 1990s sheikhs, emissaries and preachers from Arabic countries tried to spread Islam across the whole region taking advantage of its unstable political situation. They wanted to create an Islamic state – an Islamic Caliphate “from sea to sea”.

Wahhabism played a big role in the region mentioned above. Wahhabism is divided into three types – classical, reformist and radical (Neo-Wahhabism) ones. Mainly, the most radical version of Wahhabism – Neo-Wahhabism, as spread in the republics of the North Caucasus region, main aim is purely political- to create a political state based on Islamic Sharia norms and traditions and to spread their religious trends as far as possible, by building mosques, giving brochures, missionary work and promoting so-called “Defensive” and “Offensive” Jihad warfare. It is interesting to stress that the groups practicing the Neo-Wahhabism religious trend and use it as an ideological precursor, are inclined toward military activity, like jihad - holy war. The spread of Neo-Wahhabism lead to a rift in the population. Neo-Wahhabist Muslims started to make public executions. Women were banned from wearing short sleeves and they were punished for that, they flogged people for drinking alcohol. The rest of Muslims were stunned by this. As a result the younger generation stopped respecting the elder one, because through Wahhabism the rest of Muslims neglected the real rules of Islam.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://modern diplomacy.eu/index.php?option=com\\_k2&view=item&id=889:a-caspian-quasi-khanate-daesh-wahhabism-and-the-geopolitics-of-distraction&Itemid=488](http://modern diplomacy.eu/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&id=889:a-caspian-quasi-khanate-daesh-wahhabism-and-the-geopolitics-of-distraction&Itemid=488).

When one is talking about Neo-Wahhabism (transforming into Islamic Integritism) and the threat emanated from the trend, one should think about radical militant fractions operating in the North Caucasus. Among them the most popular and applicable is “Islamic Caliphate” (ISIS) a mega-terrorist Jihadist organization in which the main ideology is also based on Neo-Wahhabism. The ISIS influences on the region via its cell, labeled as combat active cell – “Vilayat Kavkaz”, is manned by more than 500 Jihadists. Hence this factor is to be one of the challenges, including its military threat, to the regional security dimension affected later on by adopting the same provisions in the South Caucasus too.

During the period of being under the control of Soviet Russia, Caucasian republics weren’t able to legally practice Islam. Russia closed mosques and Islamic schools in an attempt to try to “overcome” Islam. Russia didn’t trust Muslims, which was evident in its army. Muslims were given guns when there was no other option, when it was necessary, but even if they had them they didn’t know how to use them. Russia didn’t want to teach them because they were afraid that Muslims could attack them. Muslims didn’t give up and organized informal meetings to practice their religion. Among the Caucasian people anti-Soviet and anti-communism sentiment increased and of course the desire for being able to express their religion in a legal way. After the collapse of the USSR the role of Islam increasingly grew and developed. There was a possibility of spreading Islam throughout the whole Caucasus. They started to legitimize and popularize the use of Islamic language in politics.

### **Neo-Wahhabism as a Political-Religious Doctrine**

In the nation-building process, which has been ongoing with sometimes more or sometimes less progress, it is necessary to identify in due course those geopolitical and geo-strategic challenges (including military threats), which have impeded the country’s progress in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. In this regard, together with other acute threats that Georgia faces today, political Islam and Islamic Fundamentalism related to it and the tendencies of intensification and expansion of radical extremists and the activities of its actors have become a very current issue. The issue of such ideological trends which have developed in some geographical areas has acquired special importance, both secretly (South Caucasus) and “openly” (North Caucasus). Naturally, to understand fully such a threat it is necessary to investigate and analyze its essential foundations, which have purely political and geopolitical significance. However, it should be noted that the main basis for political Islam and its forms (Fundamentalism, Islamism, Islamic Integritism) is the Puritan doctrine of Islam, which is given the name of **Salafiyyah** (from the Arabic “One Hundred - salafiyyahas - salikhun - the true ancestors or contemporaries and followers of the Prophet Muhammad). In general, Salafism was more a doctrine

of social readoption, and had little political significance<sup>2</sup>. In addition, Salapism emerged as an ideological movement in classical Islam together with formation of madhhabs (Islamic schools), in the VII–X centuries. As a result, a movement of Islamic Fundamentalism was born followed by the development of radical Islamic movements.

In the public consciousness, the religious movement of Wahhabism, which at the same time is a political and religious doctrine, has become associated with Islamic Fundamentalism. Islamic Fundamentalism is a so-called “Strategic defence concept” in order to protect oneself from foreign cultural - social and political - economic values (a model created by an American Islamic scholar, Carl Ernst). On the other hand, Islamic Fundamentalism has a more social basis. Islamic Fundamentalism began to spread in the Caucasus in the 1980s, when citizens of the Soviet Union and public organizations were given comparatively more rights. Islamic Fundamentalism automatically identified with Wahhabism, because they opposed an Islam saturated by existing in the region’s traditional and local rules and customs, opposing the government together with already existing spiritual divisions.

At the same time, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was exactly the factor which created the circumstances for calling revamped and revived orthodox Islam supporters in Central Asia (Uzbekistan, Tajikistan) and the Caucasus. “Wahhabism “, was the dominant form of Islam in Saudi Arabia based on the teachings of Muhammad ibn Abd - Al - Wahhab who lived in the second half of the XVIII century. However, the Wahhabis in the post-Soviet space that is in the Eurasian geopolitical area, called themselves the **Salafiyyahits**. In the present conditions, Islamic Fundamentalism acquired the form of a revolutionary–rebellious ideology, which took over the niche that previously was occupied by Marxism. In particular, an Islamic fundamentalist ideologist Heydar Jamal openly declared that in the present circumstances, when 1% of the planet’s population exploits the rest of the world, Islam comes not as a religion, or view within the frame of traditional secular opinions, but as a general political ideology that protects the poor and oppressed<sup>3</sup>. In this regard, ideological postulates of Islamic Fundamentalists (their ideas differ from the provisions of the classical Islamic concepts - Islamic socialism, pan Arabism, pan Turkism, and Shiite Islamic Fundamentalism etc.) are built on the principles of the Salafya doctrine. In addition, they envisage the formation of an integrated Islamic world Empire (hence the origin of the name - **Integrists**), in the form of an Islamic caliphate. Political scientific definition of the term “**Islamic Integrism**” (the term was introduced into

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<sup>2</sup> А. Малащенко, *Исламские Ориентиры Северного Кавказа*, Московский Центр Карнеги, Москва, 2001. с.71.

<sup>3</sup> Г.Джемаль, *Упущенная возможность на закате советской истории*, //НГ-Религии – 2000-28 июня.

the political vocabulary by Jangir Arasli, an Azerbaijanian expert of political Islam, and fighter against terrorism). It can be imagined in the following way – the aim of all Muslims is to be united in the entire political space - the Islamic Caliphate, or in a “unified Islamic empire” format. It is possible to form a kind of social - political order or institution based upon the traditional values and self-organized system.

### **Salafiyism - Fundamentalism - Islamism - Islamic Integrism (Neo-Wahhabism)**

The basic idea of Islamic Integrists is to spread their ideology throughout the Islamic world and to draft the basis of its constitutional legal, political and geo-strategic management. There already exists three projects for a unified Constitution, one in - Pakistan, second - Arabic, and third –Turkish. Such a threat already has settings of international importance. Even if we take Iraq, Afghanistan and Syria, which in the nearest future may become a geopolitical project for the realization of Political Islam, and which can conventionally be called a phenomenon of “Islamic Integrism”. In this case, “Islamic Integrism” is a collective term for militarized Islamist groups born from salafiyit ideas, which have specific geopolitical goals and objectives. For example, the principle of “**hizbah**” -(Arabic “to have a hope”, actually defines an Institution of an Islamic State, which restores public order), means forceful restoration of religious dogmas and postulates and the “**dava**” postulate (in Arabic “the proposal to give” that is the spread of the religion of Islam).

On the basis of these three geopolitical spaces (**Middle East - Caucasus - Euro /Euro-Atlantic area**) there may emerge a „United Islamic Caliphate.” Relevant agencies of the corresponding States have already discussed the issues of this danger, the threat of Islamization in the European Union and post-Soviet space that has nothing to do with the classical dogmas of Islam. For example, let us take the case of Albania and Bosnia Herzegovina. The basis of it is a factor of the spreading of a Trans–national terrorism on a European scale, which can lead to a powerful new wave of political violence. Greater than the one observed between 2004-2007 in an EU format (official information only from Bosnia and Herzegovina recorded 140 migrants in Syria, while the number of Albanians has reached several thousands).

### **The Military Risk of Islamic Integrism (Neo-Wahhabism) for the Caucasus (Georgia) and Middle Eastern (Syria) Regions**

The “Caucasian” features and accents intersect with the Syrian war in a very interesting way. Taking into account the fact that in its time the Syrian factor, or more precisely, Moscow and Damascus strategic cooperation played a significant role in the early 1990s inelaboration of a so called “Caucasian “ policy by the government of the Russian Federation (for example, Syrian military intelligence involvement in the 1992-1993 war in Abkhazia, Yevgeny Primakov’s personal contacts with the lead-

ers of the Assad regime, active participation of a Syrian advisory group in Akhmad and Ramzan Kadyrov's administration - led by a Ziad Zibsabi, etc).

The mentioned matter is a subject of a separate discussion. This time it is interesting to pay attention to the fact that according to the present data, now hundreds, or thousands of mercenaries from the Caucasus region and ideologically motivated Islamist Integrists have been involved in a local war in Syria. Most likely, the common slogan of Caucasian Islamic Integrists would be "All Caucasian Islamists united in Syria!"

As early as June 2013 in the Caucasus area, including the South Caucasus region, active "Caucasus Islamic Emirate" commander Doku Umarov, (killed in February 2014), in one of his video speeches directly stated that the Caucasian mujahidin fighters had joined the global Jihad, or they had joined "Al - Qaeda" the international terrorist network. Therefore, it should not be surprising that in Syria there appeared Islamic militants of Caucasian origin, who had joined Islamic Resistance Front military forces in Syria, where there are now united over 10 to 70 thousand fighters and about 21 internationally active Islamist groups, (including "Al - Qaeda", "The Muslims Brothers", "Islamic states of Iraq and Syria", "Tekhriki - Taliban Pakistan", "Jabkhatan - Nusra," etc.) By the way, deployment of Caucasian Islamists to the Middle East region and Syria was carried out by Doku Umarov's brother - Isa Umarov, who, along with his brother Akhmad Umarov, had appeared in the summer of 2012, in the so-called "Lopota operation" in the process of preparation and Movladi Udugov, who represented the head of the news department of the "Islamic Emirate of the Caucasus," and is now located in the capital of Qatar, Doha (he currently functions as the head of the "Informational - analytical center" of the Caucasus Emirate Abroad). The numbers of Islamic groups operating in Syria, where there are several activities of the Caucasian mujahidins, is not large, but quite influential and has high military potential. This is caused by the fact that Circassian or Caucasian Muhajirs or Circassian-Vainakh Diaspora in Syria is a quite large part of the population, including from the ethnic population of Abkhazian origin too. They are distinguished in the following groups:

- *Iraq and Syria (Shami) Islamic state*
- *Jeish - Al - mukhajirinval - ansar (Muhajir Free Army)*
- *Jabkhat Al - Nusra (Nusra Front) - was established on January 23, 2013, and is the "Al - Qaeda" battery group in Syria*
- *Abu Haniffjamaat*
- *Kataib Al Muhajirin*

The United Islamic Front operating in Syria uses a three-stage unit principle: Brigade - battalion - squad (a brigade consists of 5-6 battalions, where each battalion is 250-900 fighters). Even the Islamist fighting hierarchical model is constructed as follows: leadership - military group - ideological - religious secondary heads (com-

missars) - auxiliary staff. The abovementioned structure of the model accurately reflects a classic terrorist organization: leadership - active personnel - active supporters – passive supporters. In addition, warlords of Islamic groups should be considered separately, who have huge influence and high status as military-political leaders in the Syrian conflict. Among them are the following three field commanders or the emirs:

- ⇒ *Amir Abu Omar al - Shishani (alleged real name Tarkhan Batirashvili) - of Kist origin, who represents the commander in chief of the Northern Front of "Islamic State of Iraq and Syria" and is responsible for the conduct of combat operations in Aleppo and Damascus. His group consists of about 2-5 thousand warriors;*
- ⇒ *Amir Abu al - Banati - originally from Dagestan (full name unknown), had previously served in the Dagestan police special unit, then took the side of the "Dagestan Jamaat" and fought in the North Caucasus, then by the Management of the Caucasus "Islamic Emirate" was sent to Syria on a mission. He is one of the leaders of the "Muhajirs Free Army ". Under his command are about 2000 fighters;*
- ⇒ *Amir Seifula-Shishani- Chechen origin (tentative name Saidulaev). He was one of the founders and leading field commanders of the "Islamic Emirate of the Caucasus ". In 2007, he announced the foundation of an Islamist group. He is a "Free Muhajir Army" Special Forces Brigade commander (with an approximate number of 2500 fighters). Relations between the three field commanders are not so easy, but they are strategic allies and have close ties to the "Islamic Emirate of the Caucasus." Amir Abu Omar al - Shishan was recently accused by other leaders of treason and betraying the so-called "Lopota Operation" Islamist fighters in Georgia in 2012.*

This is a very interesting set of circumstances, as we can conclude that the warriors fighting in Syria were involved in the operations, and it seems that one of its main goals was aimed at cutting the so-called "Transit corridor" through the North Caucasus and the Middle East region (finally Syria). It sounds logical that according to the conclusion reached by a special investigation commission of the London based "Ichkeria - the Chechen Republic" government (headed by Akhmed Zakayev), Russian security services managed to successfully disrupt the operation with the help of the Minister of Domestic Affairs of Georgia, Ivane Merabishvili. However, they managed to block temporarily the transit corridor. The revival of the functioning of the "corridor" soon became reopened again and provided operative-military support to "Al - Qaida" and "Taliban" strategic plans toward the direction of Syria. In addition in Syria there were fixed warlords of Georgian origin (mainly Kist ethnic origin): Abu-Al-Valid (Muslim Margoshvili), Salahudin (presumably his surname is Turkoshvili, but his first name is unknown), Abu-Khamza (of Kist ethnic origin, his name Rustam, commander of the so-called "Lopota Islamist squad" in 2012), Amir Seifula (Ruslan Machalikashvili, killed during fighting in Aleppo, January 2014). Under their direct command are about 600 fighters. Therefore, in case

they return to their homeland, Georgia may face new challenges and the problems of political Islam will become even more urgent.

### **DAESH's "Caucasus Strategy" in Action and How it Probably Works**

As it is known, in 2015 the Islamic Caliphate/DAESH political leadership decided to establish a new province in the Caucasus. Islamic State spokesman Abu Muhamed Al Adnan had said, as reported in France Presse, "We congratulate the soldiers of Islamic State, as they have just sworn an oath to the Caliph in the Caucasus. Abu Muhamed Al Chadad will be the leader of the Caucasus"<sup>4</sup>. But after that the Syrian conflict became more intense due to the pro-Russian military alliance which started its attrition in December of 2015 to annihilate both "Jabhat al-Nusra" and DAESH forces, the latter's further promotion of its agenda in the North Caucasus region diminished steadily. However, local DAESH pledged guerrilla Jihadists are being kept on in their struggle against Russian Federal Armed Forces and special para-military formations.

The Islamic Caliphate/DAESH has elaborated a "Caucasian Strategy for Waging Jihad". Moreover, the DAESH rise of social media as a somekind „soft power" for far-reaching manifestations of the digital computing and communication revolution that marked the beginning of the post-industrial era<sup>5</sup>. This was drawn up between July and October 2014 and is coordinated by a specific warlord, most probably the North Caucasus jihadist "Black Ahmad", who is very well known in Georgia. A Key Mentor (Amir Supyan, another very well-known North Caucasus warlord) who coordinates the pursuit of this strategy and its accompanying operational plan at regional level. Approximately \$50-70 million has been allocated for this purpose by the IS authorities. These funds are supposed to be forwarded to the "Caucasus Islamic Emirate" (the radical Islamist organization operating in the North Caucasus region) and its leaders, but there have been problems delivering them, which have therefore damaged the formerly much closer relations between the IS and the Emirate leadership, providing a further threat to Georgia and other regional countries.

It is now believed that the number of persons of Georgian origin serving in IS units has increased from around 200 to perhaps 350/400, but the true number is likely to be higher than can ever be verified. According to some sources, in 2014 there were 200 local Jihadists who supported the ISIS ideology in various parts of Georgia, and around 44 were fighting in Syria and Iraq, but this number had certainly

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<sup>4</sup> H. Gambhir, *ISIS Declares Governorate in Russia's North Caucasus Region*, Institute for the Study of War, June 23, 2015 electronic version - <http://understandingwar.org/backgrounders/isis-declares-governorate-russia%E2%80%99s-north-caucasus-region>.

<sup>5</sup> Special Report: "The Social Media Revolution: Political and Security Implications" by the Committee on the Civil Dimension of Security, NATO Parliamentary Assembly, 064 CDS DG 17 E, 13 April, 2017, p. 1-2, Tbilisi, Georgia.

increased several times over<sup>6</sup>. A time has come to describe in detail why the process by which Georgians are recruited for terrorist activity by their own government is important. It consists of the following specific steps:

**Ideological motivation** – given in the local Mosques controlled by the Jihadists (mainly the Salafi organization), which provide an introduction to Jihadist theology;

**Recruitment** – the local Jihadist community leader, the Jamaat or Jamu, signs up the faithful for the Global Jihad;

**Submitting official documents** - most of these are forged, and there can be several bundles of documents;

**Providing financial support** – at least \$200-300 to travel through Georgia and at least \$500 to travel to Turkey, this fee including the bribe which will probably be necessary for crossing the Turkey-Syria border and reaching the ultimate destination<sup>7</sup>;

**Allocating a local conductor and supervisor** – these are local dignitaries from the transit areas which the recruit is passing through, associates of the Jihadist National Network (also operating underground). The actual supervisor will be a medium level leader who has direct links with associates in Turkey and the territories controlled by the Islamic Caliphate;

**Briefing** – the recruit is given the necessary information to adapt to his life in Syria, presumably in a trans-shipment camp where he will be held for at least 14 days in isolation and then begin 1-3 months of ideological and military training. These camps are doubtless controlled at the highest level, and all the training and future deployment planned in advance.

This is how the Jihadist military strategy works in the case of this specific region and how the Jihadists are probing their combat tactics in real life.

## Conclusion

In connection with the topic, all of sudden, the situation in Iraq is deteriorating. Local and foreign Islamist fighters have attacked the “heart” of Iraq – the key cities of Mosul and Tikrit - seized them in one blow. Pro-“Al-Qaida” forces are clearly conducting co-ordinated actions in the Central Asia-Middle East-Caucasus geopolitical triangle, as the Pakistani “Taliban” (several strikes on Karachi airport), Afghan “Taliban” (several acts of sabotage in Kabul and Kandahar which have killed five American servicemen and hundreds of civilians) and the Caucasus Islamic Emirate (the slaughter of several Russian Federal Force units). These centrally-planned operations are designed to create a base for the further expansion of radical Islamist ideology and fulfil a common geopolitical goal – the imposition of Sharia Law across the triangular area and the establishment of a cluster of Islamic Caliphate State administrations.

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<sup>6</sup> See in details - <http://journal-neo.org/2016/02/04/georgia-s-pankisi-gorge-in-the-news-again-still-too-many-awkward-questions/>.

<sup>7</sup> An interview with local Jamaat member in Pankisi Gorge, Georgia on 23 July of 2015.



This very new and fresh geostrategy, which is being furthered by a range of “Al-Qaida”-led Islamic militant groups – like Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS), the Caucasus Islamic Emirate and Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, the entity run by the local and Pakistani “Taliban” has the following aims:

- ⇒ To deplete the NATO Coalition and American military capabilities whenever possible and also damage Russian and Chinese military potentials;
- ⇒ To create precursors to the long-dreamed “Global Caliphate”;
- ⇒ To start a “Global Jihad”, which is already capable of being conducted, in any areas where Muslims reside and create a material support structure for the promulgation of ongoing Islamic warfare which would have a disruptive effect on global security in the mid-to long term;
- ⇒ To demonstrate the strength of adherence to “Al-Qaida’s” central leadership and help that leadership wage Global Jihad by proxy in any place there is a sufficiently strong Islamic community;
- ⇒ To mobilize a new type of so-called “forth-generation of Al-Qaida Jihadists” who are more motivated, ideologically trained and well-targeted than previous militants. In this context we should note that the conflicts in Syria and Iraq have mobilized and brought into the triangle unprecedented numbers of violent jihad-ists, far exceeding those active in Chechnya, Afghanistan, Iraq and in Yemen. The Fourth-Generation Jihadists derive from Eurasian and Euro-Atlantic countries and have contributed much to consolidating the Islamic militant forces in various regions;
- ⇒ To spread the “Levant war” beyond the Middle East and promote the “Global Caliphate” doctrine in other areas, principally Africa (not only in Sub-Saharan Africa but also in the Central African region, notably Central African Republic, where the “Al-Qaida”-run “Seleka” movement is fighting the EU-led peacekeeping forces which 160 Georgians have recently been sent to reinforce);
- ⇒ To create a new type of well-armed “Field Armies” for Global Jihad – contemporary “Islamic Clusters” with increased organizational cohesion, tactical skills, sophistication and combat expertise. These forces have obtained modern weapons and equipment such as man-portable air-defence and anti-tank guided missile systems, communication, possible elements of weapons of mass destruction – for instance, a “dirty nuclear bomb”, cyber and informational technologies as well as strike and assault weaponry systems. It is known that ISIS militants have seized modern combat American weapon systems, including 8 combat “Black Hawk” helicopters, Hammer military command vehicles, caches of assault rifles and machinery guns, etc.,

The Global Jihad is led by the well-known field Islamic warlord Abu Omar al-Shishani who is Chief in Commander of the ISIS forces but actually Georgian, his original name being Tarkhan Batirashvili. He was previously a sergeant in the

Georgian Armed Forces but purged by the previous authoritarian regime of Mikhail Saakashvili. Five other key warlords in the Middle East, particularly in Syria and in Iraq, have Georgian roots and more than 20 have Caucasus origin. This fact can lead us to conclude that after establishing strongholds in Iraq, Syria and Lebanon the next stop will be the Caucasus region, whether north or south and the Global Jihad will be conducted here and then spread into Central Asia. Very soon Georgia will witness the “Islamic Jihad” taking place on its territory, and how well the Georgian public and government are equipped to address this challenge is highly uncertain.

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## Neo-wahabizm jako zagrożenie militarne dla bezpieczeństwa regionalnego Kaukazu w XXI wieku

*Vakhtang Maisaia*

Wahabizm został stworzony przez Muhammada Ibn Abd Al-Wahhaba – sunnickiego teologa islamskiego, który żył w XVIII wieku w Arabii Saudyjskiej. Wkrótce stał się oficjalną ideologią tego kraju, który przez ostatnie kilka dekad za główny cel stawiał sobie szerzenie swojej ideologii religijnej możliwie jak najdalej. Arabia Saudyjska nie skupiała się wyłącznie na krajach gdzie dominowały różne rodzaje islamu, ale również na regionach gdzie panowała niestabilność i bieda. Przykładem jest Północny Kaukaz, gdzie na początku lat 1990 szejkowie, kaznodzieje i wysłannicy z krajów arabskich głosili i popularyzowali islam. Ich celem było powstanie państwa islamskiego – Islamskiego Kalifatu „od morza do morza”.

Obecnie mamy do czynienia z tzw. Neo-wahabizmem, którego efektem jest działanie niezwykle niebezpiecznych grup terrorystycznych już nie tylko na Kaukazie Północnym, ale również Południowym. Kiedy region znajdował się pod kontrolą sowieckiej Rosji, praktykowanie islamu było zabronione.

## Нео-ваххабизм как военная угроза региональной безопасности Кавказа в XXI веке

*Вахтанг Майсая*

Ваххабизм был создан Мухаммедом ибн Абд аль-Ваххабом - суннитским исламским теологом, который жил в восемнадцатом веке в Саудовском государстве. Ваххабизм стал официальной идеологией этого государства. В течение последних нескольких десятилетий Саудовская Аравия преследовала цель максимально расширить свою религиозную идеологию. Власти Саудовской Аравии фокусировались не только на странах с доминированием различных течений ислама, но также на регионах, где преобладали нестабильность и нищета. Примером этого может служить Северный Кавказ, где в начале 1990-х годов шейхи и проповедники из арабских стран популяризировали ислам. Их целью было создание исламского государства - Исламского Халифата «от моря до моря».

В настоящее время мы имеем дело с так называемым нео-ваххабизмом, который проявляется в деятельности чрезвычайно опасных террористических групп не только на Северном, но

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Po upadku Związku Radzieckiego rola islamu wzrasta. Autor ukazuje potencjalne zagrożenia militarne dla Kaukazu wynikające z obecności i aktywności grup neo-wahabistycznych.

и на Южном Кавказе. Когда регион входил в состав Советского Союза, практика ислама была там запрещена. После распада Советского государства роль ислама возросла. Автор показывает возможные военные угрозы для Кавказа исходящие от деятельности нео-ваххабистских групп.

