The purpose of this study is to review the state of terrorism by the Islamic State (IS), purpose of terrorism, goal, origin, growth, operation, characteristics, combatants, weapons and finance, and analyze the IS' organized activities and prospects of terrorist activities to further learn about the level of its threat against Korea and Japan in Northeast Asia.

As a result of this study, the possibility of terrorism by the IS in Korea and Japan is as follows.

First, there are background factors, trigger factors, and opportunity factors, which influence the multicultural society of Korea and Japan, underprivileged class, and North Korean defectors. Due to the prejudice and discrimination practiced against the second generation immigrants of these classes, foreign workers may be deemed to have developed into terrorist forces by interacting with the propaganda of the IS through social media, etc. In addition, the underprivileged classes such as the homeless, disabled, runaway teens, and low income class may fall easily into the ideologies of the Islamic extremism in order to find a breakthrough amidst the discrimination and prejudice, according to the analysis.

Second, as for the trigger factors, if the US dispatches its troops to Iraq or Syria in order to destroy the IS, a public enemy, at the request of the US, those who fell under the radicalism would possibly lead terrorist attacks against western facilities across Korea and Japan, according to the analysis.

Third, as for the opportunity factors, the number of Internet users in Korea and Japan is continually increasing, and in the environment which is called a country of great strength in the IT, they may be used as a medium for praising jihad and propagating ideologies of extremism to those who are dissatisfied with the society or those affected by the Islamic fundamentalism, thereby facilitating radical behaviors, according to the analysis.

[Keywords] Northeast Asia Safety, National Security, Islamic State’s, Terrorism, Threat Analysis

1. Introduction

1.1. Purpose of study

In the international community, Al Qaeda and the Taliban had formed a center for terrorist organizations until 2012, but from 2013, the Islamic State’s brutal forms of terrorism and attacks have frequented, elevating the interest of the media and press and the US intelligence agencies. Following which, as the news of the IS strengthening its terrorist activities by expanding occupied territories spread further, the media’s attention has been drawing global attention. In addition, over 30,000 members, including foreign jihadists from over 100 countries, fought against the US led allied forces and have become a subject of interest and fear to the citizens of the world as they have committed brutal acts of terror such as beheading and burning individuals. In particular, the IS is propagating its extremist ideology by using social media and recruiting young people from across the world for their membership.
In order to eliminate such terrorist acts of the IS, the United Nations has adopted resolutions to cut off the IS’s funds, while the United States placed strategic weapons and special forces. Furthermore, Jordan and Saudi Arabia, among other nations, are participating as international allied forces, and are strengthening their efforts as an international community.

However, despite such efforts of the international community, the IS has expanded its territories in Syria and Iraq. In addition, they have formed an ‘IS forces belt’ from West Asia to North Africa, now threatening Europe.

Therefore, the purpose of this study is to assess the possibility of the IS’s terrorism and provide basic data for preparing international measures. In addition, the purpose is also to examine the characteristics of terrorism, including the origin of the IS, and based on which, assess the possibility of terrorism targeting Korea and Japan.

1.2. Previous studies

The Islamic State (IS), a terrorist organization formed in 1999, has recently armed itself with highly advanced weapons and a martyr’s oath. They have also expanded their forces to Iraq and Syria, as well as to West Asia and North Africa, by utilizing brutal terrorism and methods. Consequently, they have grown into the world’s third largest terrorist organization alongside Al Qaeda and Boko Haram, thereby becoming a subject of fear. As such, the IS has emerged as the central force of international terrorist organizations, which in turn is a great threat to the international community including Northeast Asia. However, since the identity of the IS is not well known, it is quite difficult to build effective and productive countermeasures.

Therefore, studies related to threats and responses by terrorist organizations across the globe have been conducted as illustrated in Table 1. However, there has been no direct study conducted on the threat of terrorism against Korea and Japan by the IS.

### Table 1. Main research.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Division</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jabareen (2015)</td>
<td>He argues that the IS requires a new understanding of the conceptual and tactical aspects of the territories and forces of the modern state. That is, their concept of force development may be shared with other political Islamic organizations, but their strategies and tactics are different, he says. In fact, the brutal tactics of the IS are not widely accepted by Muslim organizations across the world. However, their political concept is supported by Muslim societies. In particular, he argued that in modern countries, the difference between the IS and other terrorist organizations is that there are challenges posed in terms of the concept and strategy of territories and power[1].</td>
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<tr>
<td>Danieli (2014)</td>
<td>He argues that since the collapse of the former Soviet Union, the Central Asia of the Islamic region has become an important base for drug trafficking, and that a network is formed between crime organizations and terrorist organizations in regards to drug trafficking[2].</td>
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<tr>
<td>Levy &amp; Galili (2006)</td>
<td>He analyzes the general stock trading between 1998 and 2002 among the banking data collected from 300 large scale banking traders in Islamic countries. Consequently, he reveals that from an economic point of view, the threat of terrorism causes uncertainty and anxiety due to public fear and terrorism, and the spread of disorder. He also argues that terrorism has a negative impact on economic transactions by inducing negative emotions in the decision-making process of the individuals’ economic activities[3].</td>
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2. Current Status of the Islamic State

2.1. Goal
The basic idea which the IS pursues with priority is the Islamic extremism of Al Qaeda which originated from the ideologies of Muslim Brotherhood, which is an Islamic movement organization of strong political tendency, and jihadism of Sunni system which adheres to the global jihadist principles. They claim returning to the classical forms of Islam and criticize sultans in the aftermath of the Ottoman Empire for deviating from the pure form of Islam.

They treat those who do not sympathize with their belief oriented towards anti-Western ideologies and religious violence, which are characteristic of Islamic extremism, as traitors. Therefore, a group considered to have no pure Islamic identity, even if and when it is the same Sunni terrorist organization, is deemed to be an enemy.

The IS defined leader Abu Bakr Al Bagdadi as an absolute monarch who succeeded prophet Muhammad and Caliph, the leader of politics and religion. After which, they declared that Caliph would build a nation of Caliph under Shariah, the Islamic law, through an armed struggle. Consequently, terrorism has become a critical means of building a nation of Caliph.

2.2. Origin

The origin of the IS is the Jamayat Al Tawid Waljihad(JTJ), an armed group organized by Abu Musab Al Zarkawi, who isa Salafist Jihadist from Jordan in 1999. Inthe day of inception, they plundered foreign companies and relief organizations helping out with reconstruction in the postwar Iraq, and adopted aggressive and brutal tactics as the civil war in Iraq progressed. Since the United States intervened in the Iraq war in 2003, they not only militarily attached the US and allied forces but also kidnapped hostages and disseminated videos of them beheading the hostages while committing suicide bombings against unarmed citizens.

As such, while expanding their forces with aggressive tactics in Iraq, they met and vowed their allegiance to Osama Bin Laden, who is a leader of Al Qaeda and instigator of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, in 2004, and while receiving his support, they leveled up their organization to the next level, further to changing their name to “Al Qaeda Iraq Branch(AQI).” That is, the ISI had received transfer of conventional terrorist skills such as bombing attacks from Al Qaeda, but they lacked traditional military tactical capabilities. Amidst which, they recruited Husseinwarlords into their organization since they experienced chemical warfare against Iran in 1980 through 1988, transforming their organization like regular armed forces. In addition, they have expanded their forces by dispatching experienced terrorist resources, such as those experienced in guerrilla warfares and armed attacks, to Syria undergoing civil war, and supporting the ISI with favorable armed organizations.

In April 2013, Abu Bakr Al Bagdadi changed the ISI’s name to “The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant(ISIL)” or “The Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham(ISIS).” Following which, they declared that they will organize and integrate with Jabat Al Nusura, which is active in Syria. However, Al Qaeda leader Aiman Al Zawahiri opposed this declaration, while strengthening the support for Jabat Al Nusura. Thereafter, Al Jawarani, leader of the same organization, vowed solidarity with Al Qaeda, thereby developing into a situation where Al Bagdadi fights against Al Qaeda and Jabat Al Nusura. Accordingly, Al Qaeda officially declared an end to its relationship with the ISIL on February 3, 2014[4].

The ISIL declared on June 29, 2014 on the establishment of an Islamic state which was ruled by Caliph, the chief ruler of the Islamic state in the past, while claiming that they take over the territories traversing from the north of Syria to the east of Iraq and that Abu Bakr Al Bagdadi, their leader, is the newly born Caliph. Al Bagdadi, who was succeeded as the leader of Islamic state, claimed that Muslims around the world must swear allegiance to him since he is the sole ruler of all Muslims and is the new Caliph, and that the IS is the only Muslim nation.

They also removed the name of the specific area called Iraq and Levant from the organization’s name of ISIL and renamed it as the “Islamic State(IS)” in terms of covering the
entire Islamic community. The change in the name to the Islamic State implies that this terrorist organization is virtually dominant, and that all areas of military, religious, and political influences are the Islamic State in possession of the only legitimacy of the Caliph. It also means that it is the only political authority which represents all Muslims, and at the same time, is the most prestigious authority and control tower within the Islamic extremist terrorist forces.

2.3. Growth

As for Al Qaeda Iraq (AQI), “Abu Omar Al Bagdadi” of Iraq and “Abu Ayub Al Masri” of Egypt emerged as the leaders as Al Jarkawi died on June 7, 2006 during the US’s air strike. They changed the name of “Al Qaeda Iraq” to the Islamic State of Iraq (ISI), forming forces in thousands of members at that time. However, the ISI lost support from Iraqi citizens as a result of their indiscriminate killings and suicide bombings targeting the Iraqi citizens which persisted until 2007, and as the forces largely weakened by the US’s continued attacks and pacification activities, “Abu Omar Al Bagdadi” and “Abu Ayub Al Masri,” who played the roles of leaders, died during a joint air strike by the Iraqi and US forces in 2010.

The position of leader which became vacant due to the death of both leaders was taken over by “Abu Bakr Al Bagdadi,” the leader as of May 2010. Abu Bakr Al Bagdadi, who was once arrested by the US forces in the south of Iraq and was detained for 4 years in prison, constructed a network and refined ideologies. After being released from the prison, he attacked the prison in Iraq and pulled together the prisoners, then designated information agency and military officers from the Saddam Hussein regime for over a third of the high ranking positions for the ISI, among other initiatives for expansion. And in an attempt to form a terrorist organization linked to the Syria’s civil war, he sent extensively experienced terrorist resources, such as those experienced in guerrilla warfares and armed attacks, to Syria, thereby expanding its forces by providing support of a favorable armed organizations to the ISI. That is, Al Bagdadi, along with “Abu Muhammad Al Jawrani,” an officer within the same organization for organized terrorist activities in Syria, selected those who are good with guerrilla warfares from among the ISI members and dispatched them to Syria, while organizing a terrorist organization called “Jabat Al Nusura” and providing financial support.

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They also removed the name of the specific area called Iraq and Levant from the organization’s name of “ISIL” and renamed it as the “Islamic State(IS)” in terms of covering the entire Islamic community. The change in the name to the Islamic State implies that this terrorist organization is virtually dominant, and that all areas of military, religious, and political influences are the Islamic State in possession of the only legitimacy of the Caliph. It also means that it is the only political authority which represents all Muslims, and at the same time, is the most prestigious authority and control tower within the Islamic extremist terrorist forces.

2.4. Organization & operation

The organizational structure of the IS has not been announced as of yet, but based on the data released by intelligence agencies of the west and the media and press, Abu Bakr Al Bagdadi, the chief leader, has 4 committees and 7 direct departments organized underneath him. The committees include Public Relations Committee responsible for the production of video and webzines, Advisory Committee for providing advices, a 12 Person Committee for Syria, and a 12 Person Committee for Iraq. The departments are also classified into finance, planning, military, legal, support, religious police, and intelligence departments. Underneath the core organization, emir is ensured with autonomy for governing each local government, and they have...
independent military organizations that govern their regions. And Bagdadi, who calls himself “Caliph (Islamic leader),” maintains the power through religious authority while maintaining an internal organization which can dominate the lower organization. These two are the most important means for maintaining power[6].

Another organization and operation is that a broader base is secured and administrative system is formed. Unlike other terrorist organizations, the IS has the characteristics of having a broad base and a state like structure which they dominate. Despite over 2,000 air strikes by the US and other international allied forces since August last year, they are dominating over major cities such as Laka, Syria, which they claim as the capital, and Mosul, second largest city of Iraq, as well as a vast area spanning 55,000 square kilometers, including oil fields, major roads, and borders. The Iraqi government’s ground forces and the Kurdish autonomous government’s Pesimirga took away 700 square kilometers of territories, including as many as 200 oil and natural gas facilities, amidst the air strikes by the international allied forces, but the region dominated has become even wider now. Unlike Al Qaeda, which had no separate territories besides training camps and caves in Afghanistan, it is clearly different from Al Qaeda which did not have a regional base and commanded and supported all regional forces via cyber space.

Meanwhile, the IS is evolving into a state system which maintains administrative system and utilizes the existing bureaucratic structure while dominating Iraq and Syria. That is, they collect tributes from ordinary residents, pay salaries to teachers, and operates religious police to maintain actual military troops and security. And as an intelligence agency, they operate the “Al Kansa” brigade, consisted of women who spy on the residents with their faces covered with black niqab.

2.5. Characteristics

The IS is demonstrating brutal and malicious forms of terrorism which even other Islamic terrorist organizations such as Al Qaeda are trouble coping with. The brutality can be found in terrorist techniques and the selection of terrorist targets. First, terrorist and execution methods use cruelty, such as burning, beheading, family killing by instigating a young boy, and throwing off from a tall building. They executed 13 juveniles for watching AFC Asian Cup soccer games. They beheaded countless people including US journalist Foley and Christian Jadis, with a dagger rather than a long sword to ensure sustained pain and suffering, which they disclosed via YouTube and played the heads of the beheaded like soccer balls. They even held guns in the hands of young boys and threatened and conciliated them to kill hostages. They also employ brutal methods such as throwing people off from tall buildings, stoning people if they don’t die from being thrown off from tall buildings, executing young kids for looking after doves during the prayer time, burying hostages alive or extracting organs for purchase and sales.

The selection of terrorist and execution targets is also appalling. They executed approximately 100 foreigner members who disliked the organization and operation of the IS and escaped. In February, they beheaded 21 Coptic Egyptians, and in April, they beheaded or shot 21 Ethiopian Christians. And they instigated killing of families or children while executing homosexuals, reaching the highest forms of brutality of terror and execution.

2.6. The IS’ combatants

The number of members comprising the IS is estimated to be around 30,000, of which approximately 43%, or 13,000, are foreigners from 81 countries. There are cases in which foreign participants are paid over $400 per month, which is an income equivalent to or above the middle class in Jordan, and cars and houses are assigned for them to live in urban areas. There are also some cases where 6,300 new foreigners are recruited per month. Considering the financial strength of the IS, the foreigners’ joining the IS is expected to continue for a while, while there may be some difference according to times[7].
In particular, the Iraqi government forces and the US and other international allied forces have faced many difficulties in their operations because of the large resistance by the foreigner members who are ideologically oriented with extreme Islamism during the IS combat campaign. During an interview with German Spiegel, Iraqi Prime Minister Haidar Al Abadi said, “The IS members, who are former Iraqisoldiers, would mostly run away immediately when the government forces would move forward, but the foreigner members injected with ideologies have firms resisted,” and that there is no way of defeating them if foreigner members are consistently recruited by the IS[8].

Naturally, some of the foreigner members who joined the IS desired to return to their homes, but they have their passports and identification cards taken away from the point of entry, and if caught on the run, they are executed[9].

The IS is ideologically pursuing the Islamic extremism of Al Qaeda, which began from the ideology of the Muslim Brotherhood. They have an ideological character which treats any anti-western ideology that is characteristic of Islamic extremism and religious violence, and deems any person or organization which does not sympathize with their beliefs as traitor, even if it is the same Sunni terrorist organization. Their members are also estimated to be between 20,000 and 30,000, primarily active in Iraq and Syria, and are also known to a total of 15,000 foreigner members including 5,441 from Africa and the Middle East, 4,435 from Europe, and 410 from Asia.

2.7. The IS’s weapons

The IS possesses and utilizes various weapons as a means of attack, including organized members, rifles, tanks and armed helicopters. The IS, which has the same military equipments as competitively as the government forces after taking over military bases in Iraq and Syria, is using US made Humvees and howitzers as well as M16 rifles, Korean made K-2C rifles, M60 machine guns, M240 machine guns, and RPG-7s, while possessing 30 North Korean made T-55 tanks and 10 T-72 tanks, as per the experts’ estimation. When they took over Mosul International Airport in June 2014, they were said to have seized a large number of UH-60 Black Hawks, attack helicopters inside the hangar, and cargo aircrafts.

2.8. The IS’s finances

The IS is a most financially well to do terrorist organization across the world, even if there is an attack by allied forces, including Iraq and the US, and there is no lack of funds to buy anything. They have accumulated up to $500 million in assets through various ways, including donations from Sunni region's financiers, tax collection, weapons trafficking, bank robbery, burglary, and hostage ransom in the occupied territories, and the occupation of the Mosul region, which is the second largest city of Iraq, channelled $429 million via its central bank along with other bank robberies in the Mosul region amounts to $1.5 billion with cash and weapons combined, including the cash and gold stolen from the banks.

Therefore, the IS is a generous organization which is able to pay the warriors $400 to 500 dollars per month, which is much more than the salaries of Iraqi public servants. According to the data of “Financial Times,” donations are made by and from Sunni region’s financiers such as Kuwait, and they have accumulated assets in the occupied territories via tax collection, weapons trafficking, robbery, and ransom demand for hostage, etc., amounting to $8 million of monthly income and up to $500 million in assets[10].

Reviewing more specifically as to how the funds are secured for the IS, unlike other terrorist organizations such as Al Qaeda receiving funds from financiers of the Gulf region, including Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, they secure funds on their own, which are minimal when compared to the total resources when and if donations are taken. Their main source of income is oil produced from the oil fields in western Iraq and eastern Syria, which they have dominated, yielding a daily income of $2 million. The IS trades with people from the
very same countries which are fighting to drive them out, and the heavy oil is traded at the Iraqi borders with merchants doing business at an average price of $26 to $35 per barrel, or new oil refineries financed by Turkish, Lebanese and Iraqi businessmen. And in the global markets, diesel priced higher are sold up to $60 per barrel. The smuggling process is so complicated, so it is said to be sold at a much higher price outside the Syrian and Iraqi borders.

In addition, they are collecting taxes from over 8 million residents in the IS dominated region and are raising capital through the massive and legal black market created by dominating oil, wheat and ancient relics trading markets in the territories they occupy. Furthermore, the cost of the release of hostages is also supplementing the funds, and the UN estimates that the hostages’ ransom as income for the IS amounts to $35 to $45 million per year.

As such, the IS has a distinct feature from other extremist terrorist organizations in that it has been able to expand its forces by purchasing weapons and recruiting members desired with the sufficient funds and the continued financing routes. Until June 2013, they made a base out of a small Syrian town of Raqqa, but by June 2014, they took over the second largest city of Mosul in Iraq, taking 6 to 8 million citizens under their governance, which originated from sufficient finances for managing approximately 30,000 members.

3. Prospects of the Islamic State’s Organized Activities

3.1. Intensified struggle for leadership by the IS and Al Qaeda

The IS announced integration with Al Nusra organization, which is one connected with Al Qaeda within Syria, in April, at which point the tension between the IS and Al Qaeda brought about by the attempts to expand forces rendered separation from Al Qaeda eventually in February of last year. After which, both organizations are increasingly fighting over leadership within the extremist Islamic terrorist organizations.

Al Qaeda, which has been forming the center of international terrorist organizations and expanding forces all corners of the globe since the IS declared the establishment of Caliphate last year and required loyalty oaths from Boko Haram, was hit hard in terms of their presence and leadership due to the activities in and after 2013. However, conflicts are intensifying as they still desire to lead the reorganization of the new world order by the construction of Islamic state. It is conceivable that the IS will continue to expand its forces through the means of securing funds and social media tactics, and the trend of Al Qaeda being cornered will likely continue for a while. However, in the mid- to long-term, most of the IS’s home base and many of the foreign members are expected to escape since the efforts of the Iraqi and international allied forces against the IS are increasingly strengthening. Therefore, in the short term, the struggle for leadership between Al Qaeda and the IS will intensify, but over time, the IS is likely to weaken in the form of instructing organizational members and forces for loyalty oaths via social media by making a base out of some of mountainous regions to which access is not readily available by the government forces, thereby weakening the struggle for leadership against Al Qaeda.

3.2. Increased use of social media by terrorist activities

The IS is distinguished from other terrorist organizations for using social media to develop active and differentiated propaganda activities. Before the IS began using social media, it was not uncommon for other terrorist organizations to use social media for their propaganda activities. However, the IS is distinguished in that it induces the IS support by maximizing the propagation effect by using evolved methods enabling real-time interactive communication with terrorists and the IS interested people on the battlefield. By installing mobile applications on social media Twitter or smartphones, they enable mentoring connection by and among terrorists and
“wannabe terrorists” and even curious young people approaching the battlefield, thereby inducing a large number of juveniles and young people from many European and non-Middle Eastern countries to come and visit Iraq and Syria for the terrorist battlefields. This may be said to be a strategic change which could be evaluated as a paradigm shift which does not depend on the structure of terrorist organizations in the model of terrorist organization centric propaganda which Al Qaeda has used.

Currently, the most popularly used social media by the IS is Twitter, yet it also uses a variety of online communication outlets such as Quitter, Diaspora, Frendika, Instagram, Skype and Facebook, as well as mobile applications such as Kik, Ask.fm and Surespot. Kim, who joined the IS at the age of 18, was also investigated to have used Surespot. It is known to be the most frequently used program along with Kik by the IS since the conversational details are not left behind on the server and the caller can be deleted any time. Just as 6 Indian Muslim adolescents went over to Iraq and were directly deployed in the battlefields of the IS, there are many cases in which deployments are made as per instigation activities for promotion made via social media by the IS.

Moving forward, as the information society advances, the number of users of social media will likely grow due to the increased Internet users and smartphone users. It is also foreseeable that the terrorists will spread the ideology of Islamic extremism, recruit members, and execute terrorist attacks while the use of social media in terrorism activities will grow because of their availability. Knowing the importance of social media, the IS anticipates that the number of Internet users will reach 3 billion, or 42.4% of the world’s population as of the end of 2014, and 3.6 billion, or 48.2% of the world’s population as of 2018. In addition, users of smartphones are expected to triple from 1.9 billion in 2013 to 5.6 billion in 2019, where the use is likely to be even more active in the propagation of radical Islamic fundamentalism, recruitment of sympathizers, and terrorist attack instructions.

In particular, the IS is able to carry out its propagation activities beyond time and space based on the rapidly developing IT environment today, so there is no need to take risk by infiltrating the mosque to recruit members, and also train and instruct on ideologies and terrorist attacks, making the use even greater.

4. Prospects of the Islamic State’s Terrorist Activities

Despite the direct and indirect efforts made by 44 governments including the Iraqi government and the United States to destroy the IS, the IS’s terrorist threats are likely to persist for at least several years for the following reasons.

First, the continuity of a terrorist organization called the IS, which is out of control, originated from the sectarian conflicts from within Islam and the characteristics of religion. Just as there is a continuing suspicion that Saudi Arabian royalty and Qatari royalty of Sunni faction siding with the IS are financing the IS to overthrow the Al Asad regime of Syria, a rival Shiite state despite their denial, the IS could survive longer since it could receive support from the Sunni faction even amidst the sectarian conflict. And the sectarian conflict takes on the characteristics of religious beliefs, and so, compromise cannot be reasonably made, whereby the IS’s threat will ultimately continue.

Second, in the case of Iraq and Syria, which are the bases for the IS, civil wars are continuing, and the corruption of government officials is also continuing. Consequently, the IS’s terrorist activities will continue until Iraq and Syrian governments are properly established. Third, there is no big issue in financing, which is an essential element in maintaining terrorist organizations, and it is possible to use social media, which is a major means of recruiting new jihadist members and managing the organization. In particular, social media can be used to attract the IS members and induce solidarity, as well as attract foreigners to participate in terrorist activities. However, if the IS’s proliferation continues and the adverse
influence on the international community becomes very serious with brutal terrorism, the next president of the United States will not be able to postpone deploying the ground forces, and it is expected that the IS will eventually be destroyed with the US led allied forces making entry in several years.

5. The Islamic State’s Terrorism and the Threat Against Korea and Japan

It is quite true that the IS targets western countries such as the United States to wage its terrorist attacks, but has not directly mentioned that they will attack the Northeast Asian countries. However, the possibility of terrorist attacks against Korea is likely to increase due to the fact that Korea and Japan are allied countries of the United States, and they are indirectly participating in the war against the IS.

First, Korea and Japan do not provide military support to the US led IS attacks, but they are classified as humanitarian aid providing countries providing support for materials, so the IS’s terrorist attacks may be possible. Such a possibility is well read in the fact that the IS, in its video message addressed to the US and allies, showing a scene in which the British Prime Minister Cameron promised cooperation with the Iraqi government, claimed to pay for the promise by beheading Heinz, a British citizen, and beheading 2 Japanese hostages immediately after the Japanese Prime Minister Abe announced that they will provide $200 million of support for the cost of countermeasure against the IS during his visit to the Middle East.

Second, Korea and Japan are very close to the United States, which the a main enemy prescribed by the IS. The relationship between Korea and the United States, which has maintained political, economic, and military friendly relationships over such a long period of time, can be a source of making Korea and Japan targets for terrorist attacks at any time. The fact that the IS terrorists shot 2 security guards by firing guns towards the Korean embassy in Libya on April 20th gave rises to an observation that, where there are no major terrorist targets in the region, it was because Korea maintained a most friendly policy towards the west among the countries remaining.

Lastly, it is the possibility of terrorist attacks due to the expansion of the world’s best IT environment and the underprivileged classes. In Korea, 40 million people, or 80% of the total population of 52 million in 2019, use the Internet and smartphones, making a strong IT country. One out of 10 married couples are married internationally, the number of North Korean defectors is approaching 30,000, and the underprivileged people living below the minimum cost of living are over 500,000. Amidst such realities, people suffering from the difficulties in language and communication, difficulty with finding job, and contempt and poverty of the mainstream society are easily susceptible to the ideologies of the IS for the latent complaints, ultimately leading to terrorist attacks[11].

6. Discussion & Conclusion

In order to provide basic data for effective countermeasures against the IS’s terrorist threats, this study accurately identified the realities of the IS’s terrorist threats, forecasted future developments, and the results of discussing and analyzing the countermeasures are as follows.

The possibility of terrorist attacks by the IS in Korea and Japan may be caused by followers or follower organizations who have been ritualized by the radicalism of the IS, but direct terrorist attacks by the IS members are unlikely. Hereinbelow, in regards to the said possibility, we intend to classify and analyze background factors, trigger factors, and opportunity factors, which are motivation factors for homegrown terrorism of Precht discussed in advance.

6.1. Background factors

The background factors are multi-cultural society, underprivileged classes, and North Korean defectors, among others. There are
many positive aspects, such as supplementing the lack of labor force, but they struggle with prejudice and discrimination against the naturalized citizens and second generation immigrants. Therefore, second generation foreigner middle school students who are emotionally sensitive and foreigner workers who believe that they have been discriminated could develop into terrorist forces by coming in touch with the propaganda of the IS through social media, among others.

In addition, the underprivileged classes refer to those who are disadvantaged or discriminated against across the political, economic, social and cultural areas such as the homeless, physically and mentally challenged, runaway juveniles, and low income people who are unable to sustain their livelihood. The underprivileged classes living in an environment with poor living standards have the possibility to easily fall for the ideologies of Islamic extremism in search of breakthroughs in the middle of discrimination and prejudice.

6.2. Trigger factors

Trigger factors are decision to re-deploy forces to Iraq, amendment of tax laws favorable to large corporations, and news articles and broadcasts stimulating the second generations of multi-cultural families and the underprivileged classes. If the forces are deployed to Iraq or Syria at the request of the US, or to destroy the public enemy of the IS, it is not impossible for the people soaked in the radicalism to cause terrorist attacks against western facilities located within Korea.

6.3. Opportunity factors

While there are no cases which have caused any large issues in terms of opportunity factors, the increase of Muslim population and mosques have made it impossible to preclude the possibility of those marginalized by the polarization of wealth and value being used as venues to pursue radical ideologies. In addition, Korea and Japan are seeing rises in the number of Internet users, and in this strong IT country, they may be used as media to praise jihad and for the propagation of radical ideologies to those attached to the Islamic fundamentalism and even those having complaints against the society, ultimately operating as opportunity factors facilitating radical acts.

As such, in Korea and Japan there are increasing numbers of multi-cultural families, foreign workers, North Korean defectors, and the underprivileged who feel prejudice, discrimination and relative deprivation, and as members of the international community, Korea and Japan are directly or indirectly participating in destroying the IS, causing terrorist attacks, while opportunity factors are present including the growth of the social media and their users, and the Internet base used by 82% of the population, and so the possibility of terrorist attacks taking place by the IS follower forces is foreseeable.

6.4. Conclusion

Meanwhile, the possibility of direct attacks being made by the IS members in Korea and Japan does not seem to be so high. This is because it is not easy for the IS to attack Korea and Japan, which are far and away from the neighboring countries such as Jordan even while they are focusing their terrorist forces on fighting against international allied forces including the US in Iraq and Syria. Another reason is, they are expanding their forces in the adjoining Middle East and Africa, centered on Iraq and Syria, which are still the base for the construction of their Islamic empire, so it is not a reasonable choice to strategically disperse their forces as far as Korea and Japan. However, the possibility for terrorist attacks may increase if Korea and Japan maintain a relationship of conflict against the IS by participating in anti-terrorist wars. They could utilize Koreans and Japanese who already are involved with the IS to secretly enter Korea and Japan to wage terrorist attacks. The direct terrorist attacks by the IS are likely to vary depending on the responses made by Korea and Japan moving forward.

In addition, the IS announced the goal of establishing a state of Caliph, and has undertaken the most terrorist attacks second to the Taliban with sufficient funds secured by oil
trafficking in their occupied territories, 30,000 members including jihadists from 100 some countries, and highly advanced weapons including rocket launchers. Based on such an analysis, we have assessed the forms of future terrorist attacks by the IS, and consequently, their terrorist threats are likely to continue for several years, and the fight over leadership between the IS and Al Qaeda will be intensified, and the Islamic fundamentalism will expand. On top of the increased use of social media for maximizing terrorist effects, recruiting and consolidating organizational members, Korea and Japan are expected to become more likely to become targets for terrorist attacks.

7. References

7.1. Journal articles


7.2. Books


7.3. Additional references