Abstract

The goal of this bachelor's thesis is to introduce Boko Haram through its genesis and evolution and to identify formative moments in its history. Corruption, bad economic planning and a colonial legacy are often presented as the main reasons for the creation and popularity of Boko Haram. This bachelor's thesis provides a summary of the relevant literature that deals with these factors and with Boko Haram more broadly. It also focuses on the leaders of Boko Haram and their influence on the evolution of the organization, something that is rarely emphasized. The bachelor's thesis comes to the conclusion that although all of the above mentioned factors played a role in the evolution of Boko Haram, it was precisely the leaders of the group, who, during important moments, steered their the group in a certain direction and thus had a significant influence on its further evolution.

Keywords:

Boko Haram, terrorism, salafism, jihadism