3. Establishment of the security and recondition needed in order to protect weapons of mass destruction.

**What are Weapons of Mass Destruction?**

Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) are defined in US law (18 USC §2332a) as:

“(A) any destructive device as defined in section 921 of this title (i.e. explosive device); (B) any weapon that is designed or intended to cause death or serious bodily injury through the release, dissemination, or impact of toxic or poisonous chemicals, or their precursors; (C) any weapon involving a biological agent, toxin, or vector (as those terms are defined in section 178 of this title)(D) any weapon that is designed to release radiation or radioactivity at a level dangerous to human life.”[[1]](#footnote-1)

**Background information:**

Ever since 1946, the United Nations has been concerned about nuclear weapons threatening the international society. The united nations has agreed on several acts, now illegalizing nuclear weapons under water, in the atmosphere and space.

Today 26 nations processes WMDs today: [[2]](#footnote-2)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| I. 26 Countries' Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Programs |  |
| Country | Has Nuclear Weapons? | Has Biological Weapons? | Has Chemical Weapons? |
| 1. Algeria | Noa | Maybe - Research? | Maybe - Suspected |
| 2. China | Yes - NWS | Maybe - Likely | Maybe - Suspected |
| 4. Egypt | No - Ended | Maybe - Known R&DC | Maybe - Likely |
| 5. France | Yes - NWS | No - Ended | No - Ended |
| 6. India | Yes - Stockpile | No | Maybe - Has Had |
| 7. Indonesia | No | No | Maybe - Sought |
| 8. Iran | Maybe - Seeking | Maybe - Likely | Maybe - Has Had |
| 9. Iraq | No - Ended | No - Ended | No - Ended |
| 10. Israel | Yes - Stockpile | Maybe - Likely R&D | Maybe - Likely |
| 11. Kazakhstan | No - Ended (Soviet) | No | Maybe - Suspected |
| 12. Libya | No - Ended | No | No - Ended |
| 13. Myanmar | No | No | Maybe - Suspected |
| 14. North Korea | Yes - Stockpile | Maybe - Likely | Yes - Known |
| 15. Pakistan | Yes - Stockpile | Non | Maybe - Likely |
| 16. Russia | Yes - NWS | Maybe - Suspected | Yes - Known |
| 17. Saudi Arabia | No | No | Maybe - Suspected |
| 18. Serbia | No | No | No - Ended |
| 19. South Africa | No - Ended | No - Ended | Maybe - Suspected |
| 20. South Korea | No - Ended | No | Maybe - Suspected |
| 21. Sudan | No | No | Maybe - Suspected |
| 22. Syria | No | Maybe - Seeking | Yes - Known |
| 23. Taiwan | No - Ended | No | Maybe - Likely |
| 24. United Kingdom | Yes - NWS | No - Ended | No - Ended |
| 25. United States | Yes - NWS | No - Ended | Yes - Known |
| 26. Vietnam | No | No | Maybe - Likely |

**Current trouble:**

The unstable nature of some nations concerns many of the western countries. With ISIS still very powerful in the Syria and Iraq, with the Taliban still very powerful in Afghanistan, many nations have high concerns towards WMD falling in to the hands of uncontrollable groups.

**Syria**

Since the beginning of 2011, protests for democratic reform had been ongoing in various cities across Syria. The Assad regime’s violent crackdown on peaceful protesters in March 2011 led to many civilian deaths and injuries. Thousands of civilians were detained arbitrarily and there were credible reports of summary executions and torture. The actions of the Assad regime, including its alleged use of chemical weapons, led thousands of Syrians to flee to neighbouring countries resulting in a serious humanitarian crisis in the region.

Since 2013, the so-called Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) has been carrying out a campaign of unspeakable atrocities against civilians and all those who oppose it in areas under its control. ISIS has, for example, tortured and beheaded people, raped and sold women into slavery, slaughtered minorities and kidnapped innocent victims.

Since the start of the Syrian uprising, Canada has worked to support the Syrian people. We have been active in calling on the international community to come together and defend the rights of the Syrian people to determine their own future and have contributed to international efforts to mitigate security threats (e.g., support for the destruction of Syria’s declared chemical weapons). Canada is also at the forefront of international efforts to address the significant security threat posed by ISIS, as well as the humanitarian and political challenges it has created.[[3]](#footnote-3)

**Iraq:**

Iraq, in an area once home to some of the earliest civilisations, became a battleground for competing forces after the US-led ousting of President Saddam Hussein in 2003. The majority Shia population, which had been excluded from power, was initially jubilant at the 2003 campaign to remove Saddam Hussein/

But optimism gradually gave way to despair as insurgent groups - mainly drawn from embittered Sunnis, dismissed army officers and supporters of the former regime - began an increasingly bloody campaign of bomb attacks.

The insurgents - with al-Qaeda in Iraq among the most violent - targeted civilians as well as security forces, at times killing hundreds of people in one day.

The conflict acquired a marked sectarian aspect in 2006-7 when Shia militant groups struck back with a campaign of kidnappings and killings.

The transfer of power to an interim government in June 2004 and, seven months later, the first multi-party elections in 50 years, which brought an overwhelmingly Shia-dominated coalition to power, failed to stem the violence.

By 2008, however, a "surge" in US troop levels to confront the rebels, the co-opting of moderate Sunni tribesmen in the struggle against militants, and an improving Iraqi army succeeded in turning the situation around.

In June 2009 US troops withdrew from Iraq's towns and cities, and the last remaining US forces left the country at the end of 2011. But the Shia-led government of Nouri al-Maliki failed to unite Iraq's various communities and from 2013 faced a rapidly-rising tide of extreme Sunni rebellion in Anbar Province.

By early 2014, Sunni rebels led by the extreme jihadist group calling itself Islamic State (IS) had established strongholds in the mainly Sunni Anbar Province.

Army resistance quickly melted away, and within months, IS fighters had begun to move into central and northern Iraq, threatening the unity of the state.

A US-led coalition of regional and Western powers responded with a campaign of air strikes, as the Iraqi government attempted to group.

After elections in 2014, Shia-dominated government of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki with replaced the less divisive figure of Haider al-Abadi and a new broad-based government including Sunni Arabs and Kurds in September 2014.

The Shia-led governments that have held power since then have struggled to maintain order, and the country has enjoyed only brief periods of respite from high levels of sectarian violence.[[4]](#footnote-4)

Islamic State stands with al-Qaeda as one of the most dangerous jihadist groups, after its gains in Syria and Iraq.

Under its former name Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Isis), it was formed in April 2013, growing out of al-Qaeda in Iraq (AQI).

It has since been disavowed by al-Qaeda, but has become one of the main jihadist groups fighting government forces in Syria and Iraq.

The group has seen considerable military success. In March 2013, it took over the Syrian city of Raqqa - the first provincial capital to fall under rebel control.

In January 2014, it capitalised on growing tension between Iraq's Sunni minority and Shia-led government by taking control of the predominantly Sunni city of Fallujah, in the western province of Anbar.

It also seized large sections of the provincial capital, Ramadi, and has a presence in a number of towns near the Turkish and Syrian borders.

The group has gained a reputation for [brutal rule](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-25440381) in the areas that it controls.[[5]](#footnote-5)

# Related Links:

<http://www.un.org>

<http://www.un.org/en/ga/first/index.shtml>

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world/middle_east>

<https://www.fbi.gov/about-us/investigate/terrorism/wmd/wmd_faqs>

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>

<http://securitymiddleeast.com/about/>

<http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/un-documents/syria/>

<http://www.casi.org.uk/info/scriraq.html>

<http://www.un.org/en/sc/1540/>

<http://www.un.org/disarmament/WMD/Nuclear/>

1. https://www.fbi.gov/about-us/investigate/terrorism/wmd/wmd\_faqs [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. http://usiraq.procon.org/view.resource.php?resourceID=000678 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. http://www.international.gc.ca/international/syria-syrie.aspx?lang=eng [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-14542954 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-24179084> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)