

# THE RISE AND FALL OF ISIS

**1999**

Al-Zarqawi founded Jama'at al-Tawhid wal-Jihad

**2003**

U.S. invasion of Iraq, fall of Saddam Hussein

**2004**

Zarqawi pledged allegiance to Osama bin Laden and renamed the group Al-Qaeda in Iraq

**2013**

AQI invaded eastern Syria, taking advantage of the chaos caused by the Syrian revolution

**2010**

Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi became leader of the group

**2006**

Zarqawi was killed, and AQI was renamed the Islamic State in Iraq

**2014**

ISIS captured Raqqa and Mosul and committed the Sinjar genocide. Al-Baghdadi declared the caliphate in Mosul

**2015**

IS continued to gain territory and began its wave of attacks across Europe

**2016**

Attacks in Brussels, Nice and Istanbul

**2019**

The final stronghold in Baghouz fell, and al-Baghdadi was killed by U.S. forces

**2017**

IS lost Mosul and Raqqa

**2022**

Two successor caliphs were killed in the same year

**2025**

The Islamic State persists as a guerrilla insurgency (estimated 1,500 to 3,000 fighters) and continues to carry out attacks, such as the attack on Saint Eli Church in Damascus.

