**Conflict Group Answers**

**Terms:**

Extremism: the holding of extreme political or religious views; fanaticism.

Sharia Law: it is the legal framework within which the public and some private aspects of life are regulated for those living in a legal system based on Islam.

Jihadism: The view that violent struggle is necessary to eradicate obstacles to restoring God's rule on Earth and defending the Muslim community

Infidel: A person who does not believe in the “true religion.”

Sunni: one of the two main branches of Islam, commonly described as orthodox, and differing from Shia in its understanding of the Sunna and in its acceptance of the first three caliphs.

Shi’ite: an adherent of the Shia branch of Islam.

Guerilla Warfare: petty **warfare**, hit-and-run tactics, and mobility to fight a larger and less-mobile traditional military.

**ISIS:**

*Name Meaning: Islamic State in Iraq and Syria.*

*Location: The Middle East, Iraq and Syria.*

*Goal: Create a theocratic state, or a caliphate, in the Iraq and Syria, using their extreme form of Islam and expel foreign influence (western countries).*

*Techniques: ISIS is known for its vicious and cruel treatment of prisoners and those who disagree with them. Some methods they employ are kidnapping for ransom, beheading with a short blade, stoning, crucifixions, and rape.*

*Leader: Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi*

Current Status: Currently ISIS is considered to be the world’s wealthiest terrorist organization; the group is gaining ground in Syria and Iraq.

Why does ISIS use such vicious techniques?

**Boko Haram:**

*Name Meaning: “Western,” or “non-Islamic,” Education is a Sin.*

*Location: Nigeria, Africa*

*Goal: To overthrow the Nigerian government and create and Islamic theocracy, or caliphate.*

*Techniques: Boko Haram is infamously known for kidnapping 300 schoolgirls in 2014; they also utilize assassinations and bombings.*

*Leader: Abubakar Shekau*

*Current Status: Boko Haram is still active militarily, and they force people in conquered territory to convert to their strict form of Islam.*

Why would the leaders of Boko Haram refuse to release the 300 teenage girls they abducted?

**Al Qaeda:**

*Name Meaning: The Foundation*

*Location: Al Qaeda operates all over the globe, including countries in Africa, Europe, Asia, and the Middle East. The origins of Al Qaeda come from the Middle East.*

*Goal: Reconstruct the Muslim world in order to remove secularism (which means government without religion) and replace it with a Muslim theocracy; expel Western influences. They also strive to avenge the “wrongs committed by Christians and Jews against Muslims over the ages.”*

*Techniques: Al Qaeda is known for planning large-scale terrorist attacks all over the world, including bombing train stations and the 9/11 Terrorist attacks. It operates in individual groups, making it hard for outside countries to exterminate (get rid of).*

*Leader: Ayman al-Zawahiri*

*Current Status: Although Al-Qaeda suffered massive blows after the 9/11 Attacks, including the death of their long-time leader, Osama bin Laden, the group has recently become an umbrella operation for other groups, like ISIS and Boko Haram. (This means that Al-Qaeda helped form and continues to support like-minded terrorist organizations)*

Hypothesize what the wrongs committed by Christian and Jews are.

**Hezbollah:**

*Name Meaning: The Party of God*

*Location: Lebanon and Israel*

*Goal: To remove the Jewish presence, including its Western allies, from the Syro-Palistinian coast (Israel, Jordan, and Lebanon).*

*Techniques: Hezbollah is a highly militaristic organization that employs high-powered bombs, a structured military, and guerilla warfare.*

*Leader: Hassan Nasrallah*

*Current Status: Hezbollah is currently entangled in the civil war in Syria; however, it just released a statement that it would turn its attention back to Israel soon.*

Why does Hezbollah want to return Israel to Muslim control?

**Taliban:**

*Name: Seekers of Knowledge*

*Location: Pakistan and Afghanistan, the Middle East*

*Goal: To create a theocratic government based on their extreme views of Islam in Pakistan and Afghanistan and expel foreign influence.*

*Techniques: The Taliban was a major governing system in the Middle East for many years, encompassing many people under their control. They use fear, intimidation, and highly structured armies to maintain their power. They impose harsh laws in conquered territories.*

*Leader: Mullah Mohammed Omar*

*Current Status: After a massive earthquake in Pakistan, the Taliban has offered to provide relief efforts those in need. Currently the organization is trying to obtain the territory it lost during the American war on Terrorism.*

Why does the Taliban use harsh laws and supreme control to keep people submissive?