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OSINT and the fight against terrorism
Case study: *Dabiq* Magazine and *Rumiyah* Magazine

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Ph.D Thesis – Summary

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International dynamics requires a continuous analysis of aspects related to changes recorded by the international environment. In a world of complex interdependencies characterised by anarchism and by the multiplication of risks and vulnerabilities, intelligence communities face true challenges. Under the impact of globalization and the information explosion new disciplines of intelligence appear while the dangers and threats that glide on the society multiply. Terrorism is one of the greatest threats to present day international security which affects international order, economic, political and social life.

The goal of this thesis is to understand what are the most important changes that intelligence communities are facing at the beginning of the third millennium in order to analyze how these changes are reflected in the fight against terrorism with an emphasise of the role played by open sources.

The underlying *hypothesis* is that open sources issued by terrorist groups in the form of periodical publications are an important resource that intelligence services can use to better understand the dynamics of the group that promotes them.

In terms of *objectives*, the paper aims to demonstrate the important role intelligence obtained from open sources has in the process of preventing and fighting international terrorism. Furthermore, in order to demonstrate theoretical aspects, we aimed to conduct a case study through which to be able to prove the usefulness of terrorist publications as an open source in the activities of intelligence services. This was achieved by means of content analysis.

The methodology on which this work is built is an inductive one. Starting from particular cases, we propose to draw a general conclusion on the subject of the role that open sources have in the fight against terrorism. From a methodological point of view, certain parts of the paper (more precisely chapter IV) are the result of a qualitative analysis, which is based on the instrument of the thematic analysis of content. Starting from a series of premises, we have built an analysis grid and indicators that will be useful in validating or invalidating our hypothesis.

Chapter IV will gather the results of a qualitative analysis two terrorist publications that will demonstrate their usefulness for the intelligence services in the fight against this phenomenon. The publications that we will study are the result of the propaganda mechanism of the Islamic State. The investigation of the context was carried out by analyzing the relationship

between mass media and terrorism and a brief review of the organization's history. The generalizations that have been made are analytical and not statistical. From the perspective of categorization, our case study is *a case study focused on a social group.*

Regarding the instrument used, we built an *analysis grid*, a coding system through which we analyzed the publications of the terrorist group Islamic State: *Dabiq* and *Rumiyah* magazine. The analysis grid was the result of an intuitive, emergent strategy, based on a previous analysis of the two publications concerned. The issues of the magazine were analyzed from a thematic perspective, following three categories: the religious aspects, the issues related to the war and the governance of the Islamic Caliphate announced by the terrorist group in 2016. At this stage, previous knowledge related to editorial field of terrorist groups allowed us to organize data and generate categories.

From a *sampling* perspective, we analysed the fifteen issues of the *Dabiq* editorial project and thetwelve issues of *Rumiyah* magazine. The study of the organizational documents started from the following questions raised by Hammersley and Atkinson (1995): How the magazines are read? Who writes them? Who reads them? What are the results?

The work is *structure*d in two main parts and four chapters. The first part analyzes the evolutions that intelligence communities are facing at the beginning of the 21st century and the definition and conceptualization of the idea of Open Source Intelligence. The second part goes from general to specific and deals with the role that this type of intelligence has in preventing and combating terrorism, but also the way in which the openness to information can be exploited by terrorist groups. Each chapter has sections and subsections and presents elements that contribute to the testing of our research hypothesis.

Key words: terrorism, open sources, intelligence process, Islamic State.

CHAPTER I

(R)EVOLUTIONS WITHIN INTELLIGENCE SERVICES. INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITIES IN THE XXI CENTURY

Just like any other field, the intelligence service sector was also faced with challenges in adapting systems to the new phenomena and realities. The complexity of factors, threats and enemies has led intelligence services to reorganize themselves at the end of the Cold War. They were therefore faced with major changes in identifying, analyzing and managing data and information that can be transformed into strategic intelligence, operational or tactical intelligence but not only. Further on we will focus on some aspects that have contributed to the transformations that the information communities have experienced or are experiencing.

Globalization, Internet and the Revolution of Information. Seeing that technology and informational progress were always the ones who dictated the tendency of development which has to be followed by the field of intelligence (Dragos Dinu, Maria Daniela Bunoiu, 2010), the new century faced information services with a change that was to profoundly change the old paradigms they used to function in. Wanting to emphasise this, Robert D. Steele considered, while talking about the CIA that information services are in decline like a dinosaur, while the internet enforces itself as the future of civilisation (NATO Intelligence Reader). *The new paradigm of intelligence* is redesigned to answer new challenges and brings multiple changes compared to the Cold War period. Starting with the way in which change is seen in intelligence, we will focus our attention in the following pages on the main elements of the new paradigm of intelligence.

It is more difficult for **changes in the field of intelligence** occur than in any other field. This is related to the conservatism that characterizes this field and to the nature of the work the intelligence communities do. The need for stability is a constant and the anxiety change can caused, can endanger the state of safety and security (Ionel Nițu, 2012). Any distraction can be fatal. The new paradigm according to which intelligence communities and services must function needs to be one of transformations adapted to the needs. Change must be treated as an opportunity and not as a burden, this being the only way its success cannot be challenged.

Reforms must be constant, sustained and continuous, and any factor that is a hindrance must be removed. Conservatism must continue to exist in order to balance the momentum that reforms or revolutions may have.

The culture of secrecy. Nowadays, governments no longer have the monopoly of collection, which means that under the influence of the Internet and the explosion of information, by the time governments acquire valuable information, this information can pass through multiple networks, commercial satellites, databases or social networks - open, free, uncontrolled or unclassified environments. When security breaches occur, it is not about one or two pieces of information that was leaked but about a huge volume of information with major implications not only on the security of a state but one that produces individual damages. Referring to the culture of secrecy and the way it evolved, specialists like RAND Corporation, Richard S. Girven, Sina Beaghle and Cortney Wienbaum, consider that intelligence societies undergo nowadays three fundamental changes: the ubiquity of unclassified information, the multiplication of risks and threats, the need for transparency.

Need to know vs. need to share vs. responsibility to provide. The *need to share* principle is raised to another level within the American intelligence agency where information strategy states a new work principle – *the responsibility to provide (*Intelligence Community Directive Number 501, 2009*)*. Intelligence sharing therefore proposes a collaborative culture paradigm which is to create trusted networks for trusted information to circulate in (Security and intelligence, 2013). Creating this network involves a common operational culture with common goals. Cooperation and collaboration between intelligence services is based on "working together", on protocols and on direct interactions between partners.

New intelligence disciplines. Along with other INTs: HUMINT, IMINT, MASINT, SIGINT new forms, OSINT and SOCMINT complete the activity of the information community and make it efficient. To these other forms are constantly added, that only connect the information communities to the changes that occur in societies.

The new analyst and the new intelligence consumer. Intelligence communities will have to also manage problems related to the way in which the new analyst or the new operative agent will function inside the system both from an administrative perspective and from the perspective of professionalism and efficiency. Apart from that, they will have to adapt to the new consumer profile which is being shaped in this generation shift.

The structure of the intelligence services. The new paradigm promoted by information systems is the "diamond paradigm", different from the linear one in which the consumer, the analyst and the information gatherer are given the possibility to talk directly with one another (Tovey, 2008).

Private Intelligence. The competition between private and public intelligence environments is a clear example of the deepening of the globalisation and liberalisation process and an important element generating constructive competition.

Intelligence Services in the Social Media era. The advantages and disadvantages of social media must be integrated into information services activity as a natural path to development and improvement. *Intelligence Services and Civil Society, interinstitutional relations and mass media- civil society plays* an ever more important and complex role in relation to the institutional activity of security organizations; *interinstitutional relations*-increasing cooperation with other public order and national security institutions; cooperation with private companies with similar activity, allowing the executive and the legislature to investigate their activity.

Intelligence Communities in the face of new risks and threats. *Cyber Threats*- The effects they may have on communications systems, critical infrastructure, banking and financial institutions, or governmental bodies can be devastating; *Terrorism*- Being a cross-border phenomenon, information communities need to rely on the *need to share* principle, to intensify cooperation between them, this being the simplest method for preventing and fighting such deeds. *Transnational organized crime networks* - are an important chapter in the security agenda of states and in their security or defence strategies; *The proliferation of weapons of mass destruction* is a phenomenon that can generate serious threats and dangers to international security, especially if it comes to using this category of weapons in an irrational manner; *The fake-news phenomenon*- Beyond the obstacles they have to overcome in their day-to-day work, the task of intelligence services also includes fighting these phenomena that can cause social, economic or political imbalance.

The globalized world becomes more complex, more interdependent, and sometimes less safe. In the context of opening borders, removing trade and financial barriers, asymmetric risks and threats are becoming more and more difficult to control. Communities are therefore faced

with new enemies with whom they must learn to interact and whom they have to fight. The various forms of organized crime, terrorist manifestations - the "bad kids" of the globalization process, cyber threats - become main points on the agenda of information communities all over the world.

CHAPTER II

OSINT. RETHINKING OPEN SOURCES

All analysts and specialist in the academic world and the intelligence community agree that the revolution of open sources or their rethinking is the result of three main factors without which dialogue between them could not take place. Open Source Intelligence is an institutionalised reality nowadays.

OSINT- definition and conceptualization. The importance of this new type of INT is justified as well by the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), to which open sources are a vital component of its strategic vision.

OSINT. History. The evolution of OSINT went along with the technological developments in the field of telecommunications. The revolution created by the fact that radio became popular was initially glimpsed by the academic world. The Foreign Broadcast Monitoring Service (FBMS) was created in 1941, with the purpose of monitoring radio stations of belligerent states in order to obtain a strategic advantage. The Cold War Period was the golden age of the department. With the end of the conflict the American intelligence community was faced with new realities that required change. In 1992 the *Intelligence Reorganization Act* was adopted, a legislative document that brings a moderate reform to the US intelligence environment. Hamilton Bean in his work *No more secrets-Open Source Information in the reshaping of U.S Intelligence* concludes that that the historical evolution of open sources and their institutionalization was influenced by institutional instability and especially by periods characterized by the need for urgent transformation.

Categories of open sources. Books and other open source hardcopies, to which grey literature is added, broadcast open sources, digital open sources. Different types of social

media transform the individual from an information consumer into a generator of information and content, which is vital to the OSINT.

The OSINT intelligence cycle. The intelligence cycle starts in OSINT, as is the case for other INTs with collecting information in three steps: passive collecting, semi-passive collecting, and active collecting. Processing can have many shapes, including their translation and compilation. The exploitation and analysis process face great challenges: from the lack of a clear methodology, to the abundance of information, from distorted (fake) information to incomplete analysis. The dissemination component takes many shapes, from reports to books, to video or graphic elements.

The usefulness of OSINT. Due to the "tsunami" of information, open source analysis offers historical content, cultural insight and knowledge, which is particularly important for acquiring and maintaining a strategic advantage. OSINT can prove its advantage compared to other intelligence types in moments of crisis. The analysis of information obtained from open sources can prove easier, since it facilitates multisource analysis, and the sourcing and analysis time is often much shorter.

OSINT Challenges. Analysis and the outcome of intelligence process must face, almost always, the obsession of classification, and overload problems can emerge, filtering useful information becomes more difficult.

OSINT producers - Government Organizations are the most performing and entitled institution to deal with issuing OSINT; to these, private intelligence organisations are added. **OSINT Consumers** can be governments, mainly military departments or ministries which use OSINT to counter terrorism or cyber attacks, public order and security institutions (police, gendarmerie, various judicial bodies, etc.) or even large corporations, terrorist organizations or organized crime groups, responsible citizens. *The Role OSINT plays in Intelligence Communities-* its supporters see OSINT as a facilitator, a partner, an assistant for other INTs, which need to be integrated into the system.

Forecasts referring to the usefulness of OSINT in within the information communities are favourable. Experts and supporters believe that its role will be increasingly vital to any

community, together with other INTs, OSINT may contribute to the development of information services that will fit into postmodern patterns.

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CHAPTER III

OSINT IN PREVENTING AND FIGHTING TERRORISM

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Terrorism is today one of the biggest issues on the international security agenda. The fight against this threat is built on information coming from both classified sources and open sources. Rethinking the role of the latter has also led to changes in the way information related to preventing and fighting terrorism is collected and analyzed.

Terrorism. Conceptualization. The impact of terrorism is costly, both in terms of the material damage it causes, and especially due to the social and political instability it spreads on the level of societies. A proof of the ability of terrorism to change societies is the migratory phenomenon of MENA refugees in the past years.

Historical perspectives and evolutions of terrorism. In recent decades, terrorist activities manifested themselves both in Western states and strengthened democracies and in other areas recognized for social tensions or frozen conflicts as well. Only in Europe many forms of terrorism can be identified and found under many groups. Terrorism produces a "climate of fear" and does not take into account a certain target. Moreover, terrorist activity is not limited to immediate effects, but to a much wider and longer campaign; terrorist activity needs to be expressed towards "symbolic elements", it needs to be perceived as illegal and contrary to the rules in force and the terrorist act needs to influence political behaviour. Defining terrorism based on these criteria is not so easy, because the word "terrorism" has come to be used in many contexts, not all of which characterize its particularities. Moreover, the definitions have changed from one period to another, depending on how it evolves and changes its dimensions.

Types of terrorism. The classification of terrorist typologies allows for a better understanding of the motivations and purposes underlying terrorist activity. Thus, with different motivations and goals, different types of terrorism are born: international and domestic terrorism, urban and rural terrorism, actor centred terrorism, individual and group, method and means focused terrorism, cyber terrorism, suicidal terrorism, ideological terrorism, ideological terrorism of a religious type. The typologies presented are established and confirmed both in the practical

environment, on the level of secret services or in international institutions and organizations, as well as in the research and academic environment. These sectors work together, precisely to achieve the best criteria for defining and characterizing the phenomena surrounding us.

Internet and social media: the new terrorist „playground". Most social network members use it as a space for communication as a means of meeting and connecting with individuals who share the same ideas, as a means of relaxation or as a tool for promoting a business. For terrorists, social networks are the most attractive and challenging *playground*. By observing the influence, they have on the lives of the individuals who use it, terrorists built themselves a *battlefront* on Facebook, a battlefront which they exploit in various ways. The fact that their strategies target the use of social networks such as Facebook is a natural step, a natural updating of the used tactics and tools. In the end, terrorist groups are not static entities; they are organic entities that adapt to the changes that occur in societies. In addition to social networks, the internet offers many more benefits to terrorist groups. Beyond the facilitated communication, the ease with which they can recruit followers around their idea, terrorist groups use the internet for more practical matters. The procurement of weapons or ammunition and strategic communication is mostly done through the dark web, the dark side of the internet which they can access with no restrains.

Radicalisation. The causes of the radicalisation process and the psychological processes occurring within this transformation are complex and involve both social, psychological components and aspects related to economic, political or medical contexts. One thing is clear: radicalization occurs today faster than ever, in an uncontrollable and worryingly efficient manner.

Intelligence services and the prevention and fighting of terrorism. Gathering information is a key element in preventing and fighting terrorism. Information services around the world are meant to provide policy makers with objective, relevant and anticipatory evaluations to be used as a tool for clarifying and optimizing political decisions (Tănase, 2009). International terrorism is, without a doubt, one of the strongest threats to international security. The transnational character of the threat, the technological advances that humanity encounters constitute mobilizing factors in diversifying intelligence activities.

Open Source Intelligence as a tool for preventing and fighting terrorism. Open sources, regardless of their type, but mostly digital ones, play an increasingly important role and

contribute to supporting agencies responsible for national security in their endeavour to determine the characteristics, motives and intentions of terrorist groups (Will, 2011). Information identified in various types of open sources is useful in the advanced and detailed knowledge of terrorist groups (leaders or other prominent figures but also tactical behaviours) which is a very important component in planning the prevention process. The motivations they express in a more direct or indirect manner can provide a useful contribution to strategic intelligence as well as to operational or even tactical elements.

Even if the analyst sometimes looks for the needle in the haystack or finds it impossible to discern the truth from fake news, the process of gathering, analysing and dissemination of open sources in preventing and fighting terrorism is essential and must not be neglected. OSINT often manages to fill in the gap and to create connections which allow the analysts to better understand fragmented information.

Open Source Analysis proves useful in many ways. Much of the benefits that open source analysis bring to intelligence communities are linked more to the prevention than to the fight against terrorism. Through OSINT real-time information is provided and intelligence services are able to keep up to date with ideological tendencies and to create an "x-ray" of eventual intentions. Open Source Analysis identifies leaders and network members, strategic changes and tactical behaviours of terrorist groups. OSINT is a strategic intelligence source as well as a tactical one, often proving itself vital in the early identification of radicalization processes.

CHAPTER IV
TERRORIST PUBLICATIONS AS OPEN SOURCES.
CASE STUDY: ISIS AND THE PUBLICATIONS DABIQ AND RUMIYAH

Starting from the scrutiny of the relationship between the mass media and the terrorist groups and reviewing other terrorist publications, we intended to conduct a concrete research based on publication issued by ISIS, more specifically Dabiq and the publication that continues the *Dabiq* magazine – the *Rumiyah* magazine. The methodology according to which our analysis

was conducted belongs to qualitative research and is based on the content analysis tool, more specifically on thematic analysis.

Terrorism and mass-media. The relationship between mass-media and terrorism can be easily explained: terrorism needs advertising and mass-media needs an audience. Mass media is used by terrorists to amplify the impact of terror among ordinary people. By torturing hostages, hijacking airplanes, and staging terrorist attacks, terrorists will try to make those who receive information from the media feel insecure; they will destabilize the peaceful climate of a particular community, and question the state's ability to ensure the security of its own citizens. Terrorist can use mass media in more than one way: as a method of intimidation and threat, as a generator of chaos, shock and terror, a form of negotiation, propaganda, as a bullhorn for victorious ads. Topics related to terrorist attacks and the activities of terrorist groups are undoubtedly an inexhaustible source of audience for the media that must exist in a competitive environment.

Terrorist magazines. Terrorist advertising is a reality, and in the past few years it became a constant for the natural build of terrorist groups. Al Qaeda, Hamas or the newer terrorist group, ISIS, they all developed media departments within themselves, who are in charge with editing and disseminating publications similar to the famous western publishing hits. If westerners are used to reading *Foreign Policy* or *Cosmopolitan,* for the individual who keeps in touch with terrorist groups, the *Inspire* magazine, the *Azan* magazine or the *Dabiq* publication become compulsory readings.

Case study: Dabiq and Rumiyah – a useful open source in the fight against terrorism. The main reasoning on which our case study is based starts from the premise that the analysis of ISIS terrorist publications is an important element in the planning and implementation of anti-terrorist strategies regarding the organisation. In order to deal with an opponent and to defeat it, it is especially important to know it and the best way to get to know your opponent is to look at what he says and how it relates to its own person / entity. We therefore start from the premise that ISIS magazines are an easily accessible open source that allows intelligence services or the person who analyses them to understand the terrorist group in a detailed and organized manner.

Considering the proposed research hypothesis, the general purpose of this case study is the analysis of terrorist publications using the content analysis tool, more specifically the

thematic analysis. Speciality literature related to the publishing activity of ISIS is quite limited. Studies concerning this aspect are scare. Among the most important articles that analyse the issue at hand a memorable mention is the work of Charlie Winter, *Documenting the virtual Caliphate* a complex analysis of the most important aspects that the marketing department of the group is trying to promote in relation to the Islamic Caliphate.

From a *methodological* point of view, our approach is based on a qualitative and subjective analysis carried out by means of documentary analysis, more specifically, by means of thematic analysis. The ideas and conclusions to be discussed in the next section are the result of the analysis of the 15 issues of the Dabiq magazine and the 12 issues of the Rumiyah magazine.

As far as the working *instrument* is concerned, we have constructed a systematic, objective and coherent analysis grid through which we have structured and consistently recorded the substantive articles of the two publications. In this approach, we started from the premise that the background articles (the editorials), are the ones that present the central idea of the number and therefore the most suggestive in understanding the general message. This preliminary quantitative approach proved legitimate for the confirmation of the priority themes promoted by the two magazines that are the subject of qualitative content analysis, respectively the Holy War (Jihad) and the Governance of the Caliphate. Therefore, the recording unit used is the theme.

The presentation of the magazines made up the aspects related to their names and the philosophy behind them, while the device elements considered the type of publications, the corpus, the periodicity, the format, the page layout, illustration, structure, genres used and the authors. Both publications are religious propaganda. They use symbols, an allegorical language rich in religious images and quotes, and aim to manipulate the attitudes of readers. From the perspective of appearance, both publications have a modern look, like Western publications.

The Dabiq magazine. From the perspective of ideology, the magazine promotes the Salafi ideology centred on the idea that the ideal Muslim was the one who lived in the time of the Prophet Muhammad. The behaviour of the modern individual must therefore be the same as that of the individual who lived in the times of the Prophet. Their ideology is a conservative, puritan, one which interprets the Koran in a fundamentalist manner.

The magazine explains that the Islamic State is not just a state from the perspective of its name but also a physical, geographical and institutional reality. The editorial in the first issue of the magazine and the first articles explains to the reader that ISIS ceases to represent a terrorist

group of composed of cells but is instead a real state actor which has to be recognised as such: *ISIS no longer exists in small cells that can be neutralized by missiles or small groups of commandos. IS is now a real and unrecognized state actor;*

The Governance of the Caliphate. The state is one of equality and non-discrimination, presented in contrast to the racial crimes promoted by the United States: *the Islamic State is a state where the Arab and the non-Arab, the white man and the black man, the eastern and the westerner are all brothers.* Their open nature and integration speech presents the Islamic State as a place for everyone, a place where normality rules and the promoted politics is a moral one which brings justice to the wronged.

War. Brutality is one of the most common themes in the terrorist magazine issues. Promoted in order to attract sympathizers, to cultivate the idea of the triumph of the Caliphate army, the theme of brutality appears throughout the magazine in various forms. Whether we are talking about the famous kidnapping and decapitations of European journalists, or about simple gory images, the Caliphate army made up of local soldiers or of soldiers returning to fight for the cause of the Islamic State is portrayed as an ever-victorious army. Soldiers are always in battle and always victorious. They are the ones that ruin the legimacy of the enemies and the ones who eliminate them.

Other considerations. From a visual perspective, the magazine is particularly well-made. Its graphics are as modern and as Western as possible. The real and uncensored images which abound in the magazine's issues present the portraits of the leaders, of the heroes that the state has, but also the violence and disasters imposed by the conquest of the new territories. Brutality is the key word. In the same way Al Qaeda's magazine (Inspire), the Dabiq magazine contains sections dedicated to ant-western propaganda. The reader is kept up to date with the organization's attitude towards western infidels, crusaders. The section entitled "In the words of the enemy" presents important figures of the international political stage that need to be eliminated using violent means.

The Rumiyah magazine. The first issue of the second publishing project of ISIS, the Rumiyah magazine, appears in the online space in an interesting geopolitical context. The years previous to 2016 were a moment of territorial expansion and extraordinary takeoff for the terrorist organisation. Unfortunately for them, international coalitions have managed to recover many of these territories. One of them was the city of Dabiq, in October 2016, a city very

important from a symbolic point of view to the terrorist organization. Not only was the name of the city the name of the successful editorial project, but this city was the place where Allah's brave crusaders and courageous troops were to meet for the last battle that would conclude in their vision with the triumph of Islam. The loss of control over the city of Dabiq meant for ISIS that the Islamic Armageddon they imagined was to be postponed, the end of the Dabiq editorial project that had no solid base anymore and the start of a new terrorist publication, the Rumiyah magazine.

The Rumiyah magazine is therefore the replacer and continuator of Dabiq. The magazine appears within the frames of the Himmah Publication and is available online since the end of 2016. It can be read in several languages: English, French, German, Russian or even Indonesian.

Placed in front of an intelligence analyst, terrorist publications represent a gold mine which can complete by means of intelligence collected on the field, the vision related to the terrorist organization. The careful analysis of the magazine's issues creates a general image related to the evolution of the terrorist group and its future strategy. Open source intelligence becomes at this point an important element in understanding the ideology promoted by the group. The magazine's analysis will not only reveal the religious elements that the Islamic State is building, but also the plans and administrative progress of the organization or the state.

FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

The globalized world becomes more complex, more interdependent, and sometimes more unsafe. In the context of opening borders, of the removal of trade and financial barriers, asymmetric risks and threats are becoming more and more difficult to control. Communities are therefore facing new enemies with whom they must learn to interact and whom they need to fight. The various forms of organized crime, terrorist manifestations - the "bad kids" of the globalization process, cyber threats, become main points on the agenda of information communities worldwide.

Developed within the American information community, the open source culture became part of every modern information service. Intelligence services be they civil or military have seen the utility of those sources and started to use them more often. OSINT

offers fast and low-cost access to a vast field of information which can prove their strategic, operational and tactical utility and can be the starting point for another intelligence cycle, offers a framework for expanding already acquired information contributing to an overall picture. At the same time, OSINT is used as a secret information validation frame and as an early warning system for certain risks.

Without underestimating the role of the other intelligence disciplines, we can say that OSINT is becoming increasingly relevant in preventing and combating terrorism, and the benefits that it brings under this magnifying glass are becoming more and more obvious. Analyzing and collecting data from open sources, regardless of their typology, must become an integrated element of the fight against this phenomenon, and the low level of data classification provides a good context for increasing the cooperation between intelligence services and perhaps another won battle for the Global War on Terrorism.

Moreover, an exhaustive analysis could explain the mechanisms of radicalization and propaganda that the terrorist group uses in order to attract new followers and tracking the way the magazine spreads online can stop or spot potential individuals who are prone to such phenomena. All the conclusions an intelligence analyst can come to by analysing Dabiq can be turned into tactical, operational and strategic strategies that can help fight the terrorist phenomenon. That is why we believe that both *Dabiq* and *Rumiyah* can useful in the fight against terrorism.