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**SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES, ARTS AND
HUMANITIES**

**DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY, POLITICS AND
INTERNATIONAL STUDIES**

**THE KURDS AND THEIR ARMED STRUGGLE
AGAINST ISLAMIC STATE**

(HALKAWT KAMAL KAREEM)

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**This thesis was submitted for distance acquisition of a
postgraduate degree in International Relations, Strategy
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(HALKAWT KAMAL KAREEM)

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Abstract

The main focus of the present research study has been on analysing Kurds and their armed struggle against Islamic State. The first chapter of the research study has outlined the background of Iraqi Kurdistan and their struggle against ISIS. Following that, the identified research problem has also paved the path for outlining research aim and objectives.

The second chapter of the research has critically conducted literature study by drawing different views from the scholarly articles on the armed struggle of Kurds and the role of Peshmerga in Iraqi Kurdistan region against Islamic State. The literature findings have also emphasised on the political stance of Kurdistan and reunion of major ruling parties KDP and PUK during this war.

The third chapter of the study has considered undertaking the proper outline of research methodology based on which the research study as a whole would be conducted. It has been observed that the research has undertaken secondary qualitative research method focusing on the case scenario of Kurdistan and their battle against ISIS alongside major role played by Peshmerga. Furthermore, the fourth chapter of the research study is observed to be outlining the research findings by conducting the secondary research. The findings have focused on role of Peshmerga forces in Iraqi Kurdistan alongside the challenges faced by them and the way they have emerged as strong armed force in Iraqi Kurdistan region.

The fifth chapter of the research study is further seen to have focused upon discussion on the key research findings. That has further reflected that socio-economic challenges as well as humanitarian crisis as well as security concern. However, the collaboration between the political forces alongside support from U.S have strengthened Peshmerga's role in the Iraqi Kurdistan region against Islamic State.

The last chapter has been drawn upon the conclusion that has further seen that all the objectives of the research study have been met successfully. The research findings as well as the literatures have further supported in attainment of the research objectives to properly and rationally execute the complete research work.

Keywords: *Peshmerga; ISIS; Kurdistan region; KDP; PUK*

