

In addition to ISW's written products, our analysts are subject matter experts for the media on a constant basis. This new periodic publication collects these media appearances and use of our maps in one place. You can also follow ISW on Twitter @TheStudyofWar.

Jessica Lewis McFate

Director of Tradecraft and Innovation, ISW



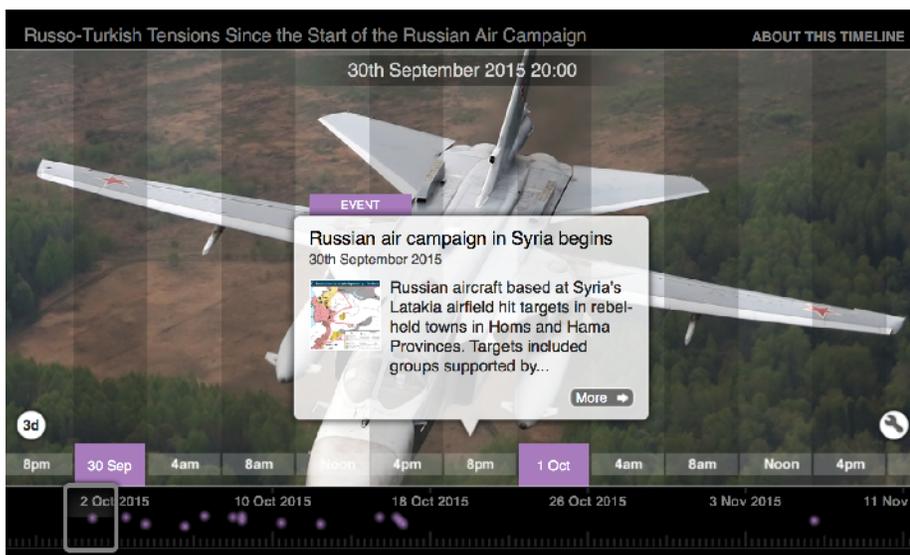
"If military operations to clear ISIS are successful and towns are retaken, what happens next? These are population centers, in the case of Sinjar, that were largely depopulated as ISIS was coming in, and in order to come back they need a number of things. I think, chiefly, security that is durable. But they also need running water and structures and other things that are probably no longer there. So reconstruction is a very serious issue also"



NPR Interview with Kelly McEvers

11/15/15

Interactive Timeline tracking Russo-Turkish tensions



Business Insider
11/25/15



Kimberly Kagan *President, ISW*





Christopher Harmer

Senior Naval Analyst

"Ten years ago, the People's Liberation Army Navy would never have publicly challenged the U.S. Navy, either with aggressive rhetoric, as Admiral Wu Shengli has done, or with aggressive tactical actions, as he is threatening to do."

11/02/2015

Voice of America



"Transoceanic cables are high-value targets ...The U.S. Navy is highly aware of the threat, has simulated the scenarios, understands the risks, but does not have the assets to mitigate the risks."

11/06/2015

Voice of America

"We either need to stay committed to that original premise that we're going to fix the nation-state system and rebuild those nation-states into friendly democracies or we have to come up with a new strategy that reflects the reality that the nation-state system in Syria is broken"

12/25/15

Voice of America

"You have to be deliberately ignorant of the nature of ISIS ... [and] of the limits of air power to advocate carpet bombing...But so-called carpet bombing really doesn't do anything except hit a bunch of civilians and maybe a few ISIS fighters... Carpet bombing only applies when you're trying to level entire cities or destroy civilian populations."

12/20/15

BusinessInsider



"What has most likely happened is that as soon as the Russians had enough forces in theater to start military operations, they did...The increase to 4,000 is simply the logistical tail to support the combat tooth."

11/04/2015

Reuters



"It wouldn't surprise me if you have hundreds of European fighters who have made multiple entrances or exits into Iraq and Syria without anybody knowing..It's a big, big problem, especially in the maritime domain."

11/18/15

U.S. News



"The ISF aren't doing house clearing. I don't think they have the depth, experience, or numbers to be able to consistently conduct clearance operations in contested, urban areas... It takes a long time and there are severe limitations with that kind of warfare."

12/30/15

The Daily Beast





Harleen Gambhir

Counter-terrorism Analyst

“[ISIS] has exported its brutality and military methods to groups in Libya, Egypt, Afghanistan and elsewhere.

Now it is using tactical skills acquired on Middle Eastern battlefields to provoke an anti-Muslim backlash that will generate even more recruits within Western societies. The United States and its allies must respond quickly to this threat.”

"The Islamic State's Trap for Europe"

The Washington Post Op-Ed

11/16/2015

The Washington Post

"There's a desire to choose military options that seem like they're high impact—but they actually aren't...The only way to be sure of that in Iraq and Syria is a stable government that can ensure ISIS's defeat."

Politico

11/16/2015

“ISIS has written about its strategy to polarize the West through terror attacks. It wants to make European states and societies suspicious of their Muslim communities.”

MSNBC Live with Kate Snow

11/16/2015




"[ISIS is] fostering affiliates in Muslim-majority areas and directing and inspiring terror attacks in the wider world. And for the U.S., this means that defeating ISIL will require not just combatting the group in Iraq and Syria, and countering its messaging and recruitment of foreign fighters. It also will require serious attention to ISIL's growing affiliates in other nations."

Politico Op-Ed

12/14/15

"[ISIS's] goal is that through these regional affiliates and through efforts to create chaos in the wider world, the organization will be able to expand, and perhaps incite a global apocalyptic war."

New York Times

11/09/2015

"U.N. member nations can likely make some progress by devoting resources to the finances issue,...But at the end of the day you can't fully solve it without destroying all underground criminal networks, which is nearly impossible"

CNN Money

12/ 17/15

"ISIS's most valuable asset and center of gravity is the terrain it holds in Iraq and Syria. Taking that territory away... is the most vital thing we can do"

CNN Money

12/09/15





Jennifer Cafarella

Syria Analyst, Evans Hanson Fellow

"The Myth of Partnering with Assad, Russia, and Iran Against ISIS"

"The U.S. and its allies must resist drifting into a flawed partnership with Russia and Iran in Syria in order to defeat ISIS....An alignment with Russia risks subordinating U.S. policy to global Russian objectives while simultaneously failing to defeat ISIS. U.S. policy makers must avoid falling into the trap Russia is setting."

"Nusra prioritizes getting women out of prison because, in part, it generates local support in Syria"

The Daily Beast

12/01/15

THE DAILY BEAST

"A Political Settlement in Syria?"

"America and its allies must set conditions to maximize the likelihood of success in negotiations, paramount among which is containing and degrading Jabhat al-Nusra's influence in rebel-held Syria, as well as the military power of ISIS. The diplomatic track must be a partner and beneficiary of a sound military effort. It cannot be a substitute."

The Cipher Brief

THE CIPHER
BRIEF



The Hill Op-Ed

12/07/15

"From the perspective of disrupting ISIS lines of communication from Raqqa into Mosul, it would be a big step forward. I think it will be a difficult fight, but the Iraqi peshmerga has had a lot of success against ISIS so far."

International Business Times

11/13/15

"Syrian rebels have been through this charade before and are unlikely to come to the negotiating table in significant numbers...To be honest with you, I think we'd have to scrap the entire current framework."

NPR Here and Now

12/08/15





Patrick Martin

Iraq Analyst

"The Sinjar operation strengthens Barzani vis-a-vis his political opponents. He can take credit for launching the operation."

Agence French Presse

11/14/15

"The Iraqi state faces a grave challenge. The budget crisis makes the *status quo* intractable"

The Telegraph

11/11/15

The Telegraph

"ISIS remains capable of launching attacks across Iraq without Ramadi, which is more significant for the Iraqi security forces and the Iraqi government than it ever was for ISIS."

NDTV

12/29/15



"We know they [ISIS] are pursuing chemical weapons, but we haven't seen anything beyond mustard and chlorine. They don't deploy it on wide scales. Their delivery systems aren't that sophisticated...Mosul [seized by ISIS in June 2014] has a university and that theoretically has the lab facilities to deal with this. The difficulty they may face is in obtaining the raw materials."

NBC News

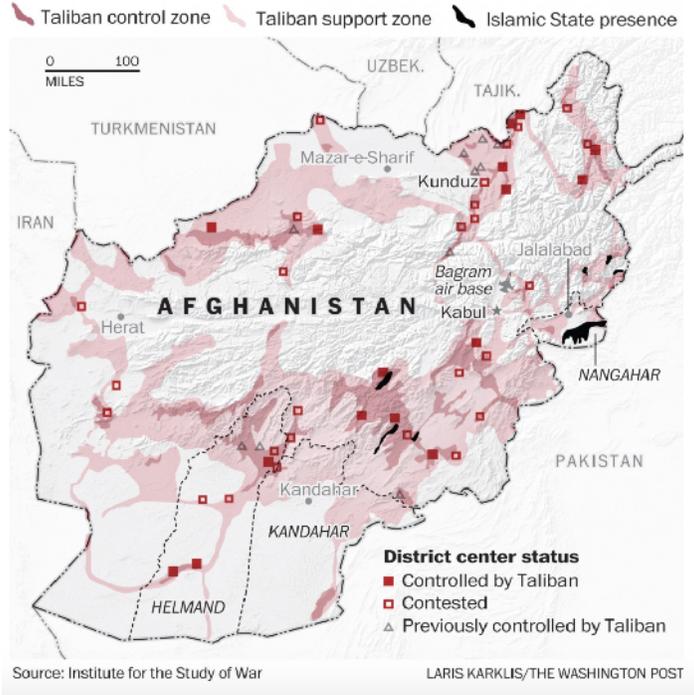
11/19/15



ISW Maps in the News

In addition to our analysts' expertise, ISW's maps continue to be utilized by major news sources as a crucial visual complement to breaking news stories and cutting edge analysis.

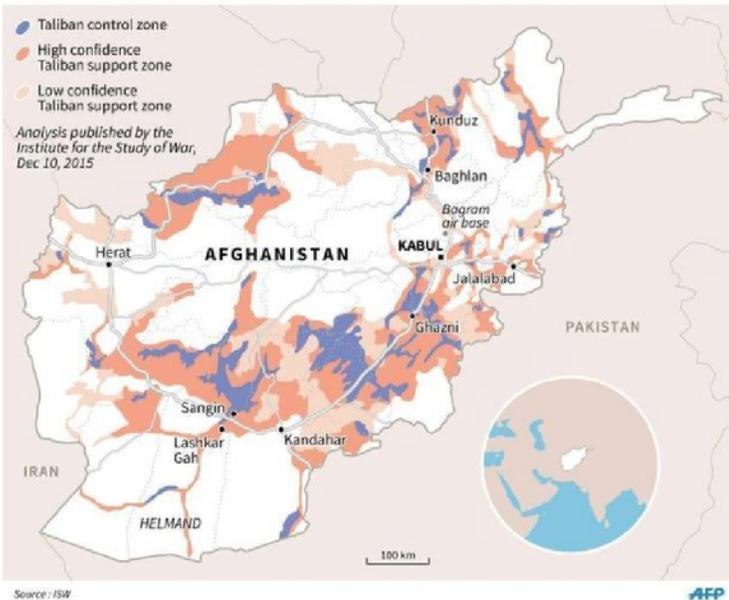
Taliban and Islamic State presence in Afghanistan



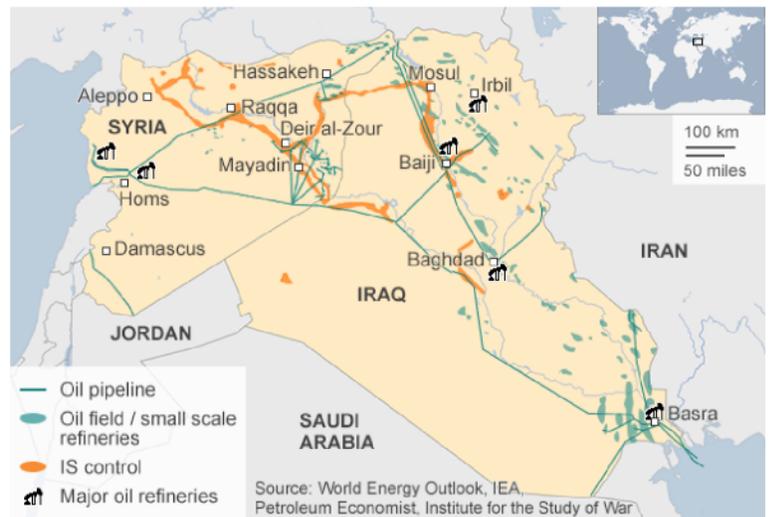
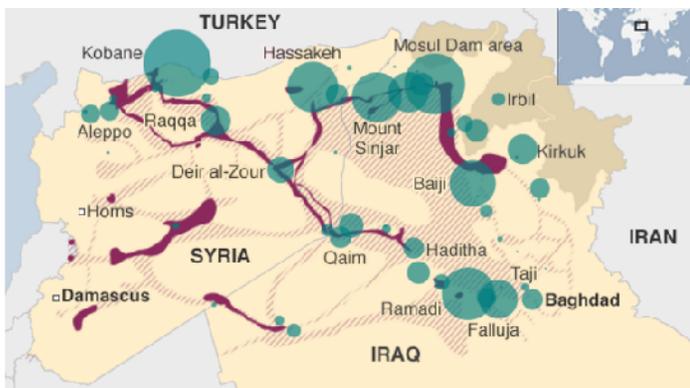
The Washington Post

12/07/15

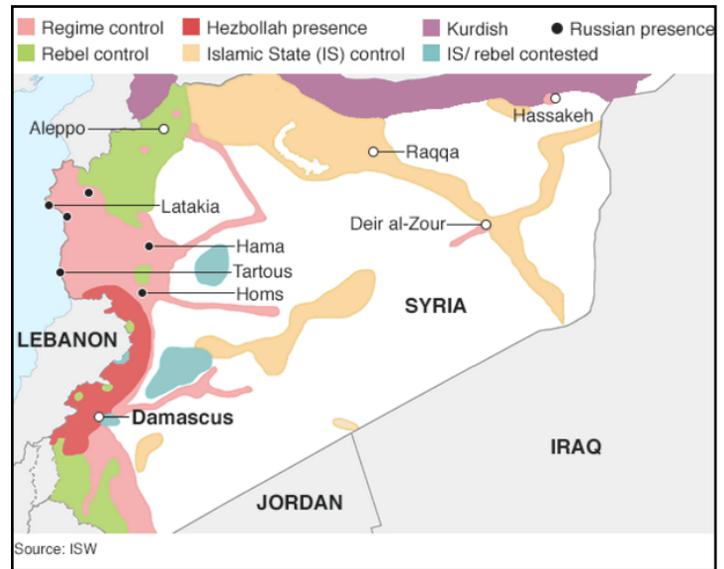
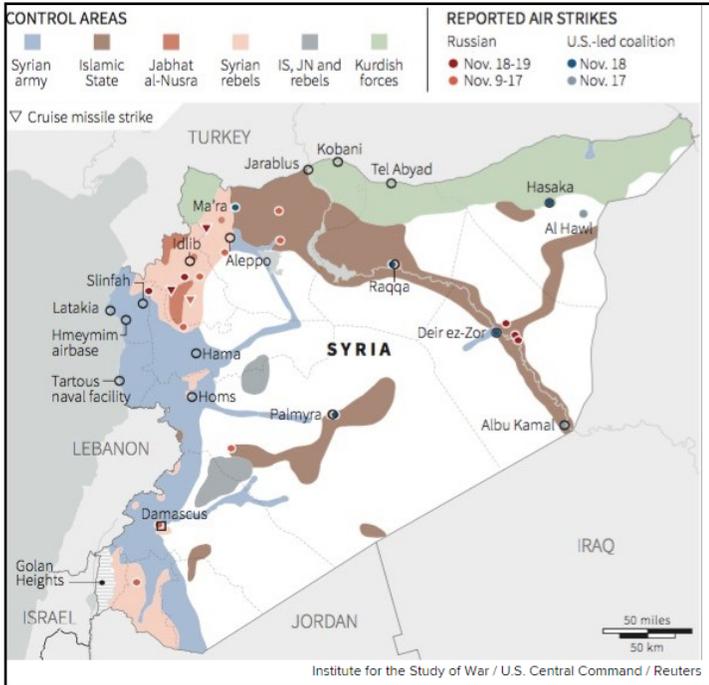
Taliban in Afghanistan



12/12/15



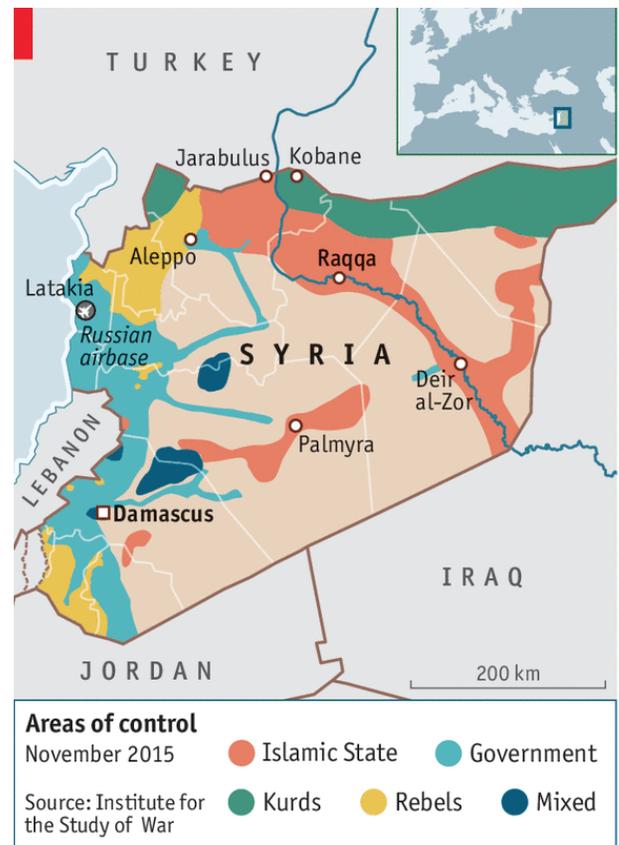
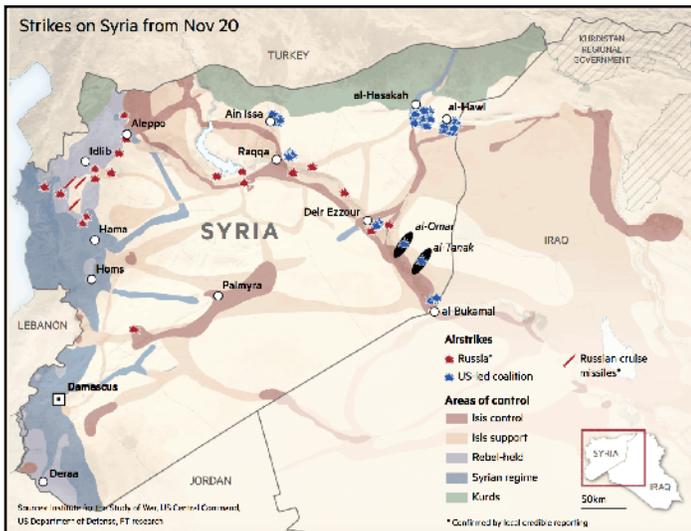
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12/01/15

The Atlantic

11/25/15



FT FINANCIAL TIMES

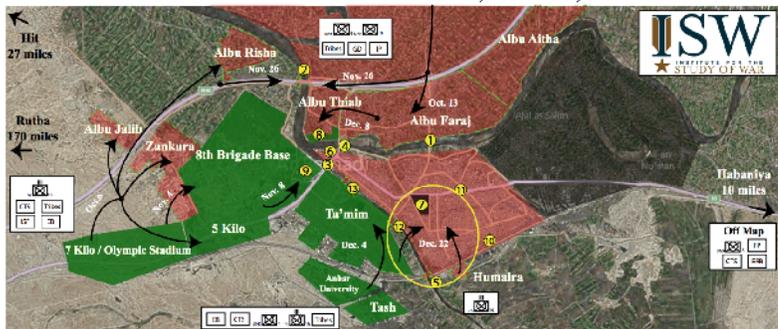
12/11/15

The Economist

12/05/15

Economist.com

CONTROL MAP OF RAMADI, DEC 22, 2015



Key Infrastructure and Important Locations

- Albu Faraj Bridge
- Palatine Bridge
- Ramsdi Barrage
- Justice Compound
- Government Complex
- Albu Operations Command HQ
- Grand Mosque
- Class Factory
- Albu Risha
- Ramsdi Train Station
- Contested
- ISF / Tribal Fighter control
- Contested

Formations Key

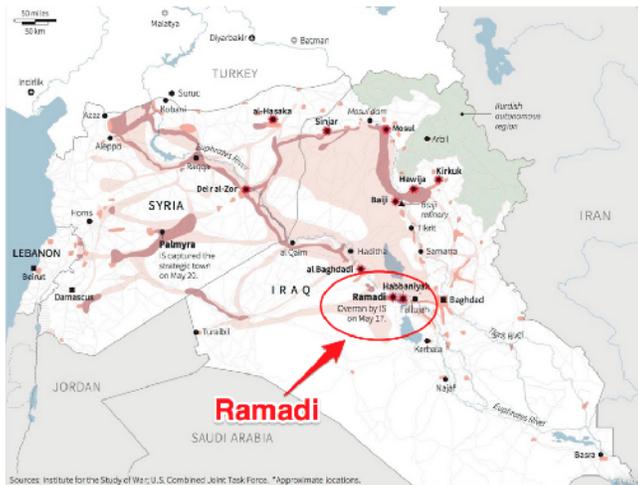
- Counter-Terrorism Service
- Unidentified Iraqi Security Forces
- Emergency Battalions
- Federal Police
- Emergency Response Brigades
- Iraqi Police
- Tribal Fighters
- CTB Golden Division
- Mechanized Infantry
- Regiment
- Unknown Brigade Number

Area Status Legend:

- Downtown Ramsdi
- Contested, ISF present
- ISF / Tribal Fighter control
- Contested

Areas circled in yellow indicate areas whose status has recently changed as a result of the most recent advances. Numbers and letters in yellow indicate key infrastructure and buildings. Habbaniya is the primary base for Anbar Operations Command in the vicinity of Ramsdi and is located east of Ramsdi.

Content by: Patrick Martin and ISW Iraq Team
Graphics by: Patrick Martin
Last Update for: 12/22/15

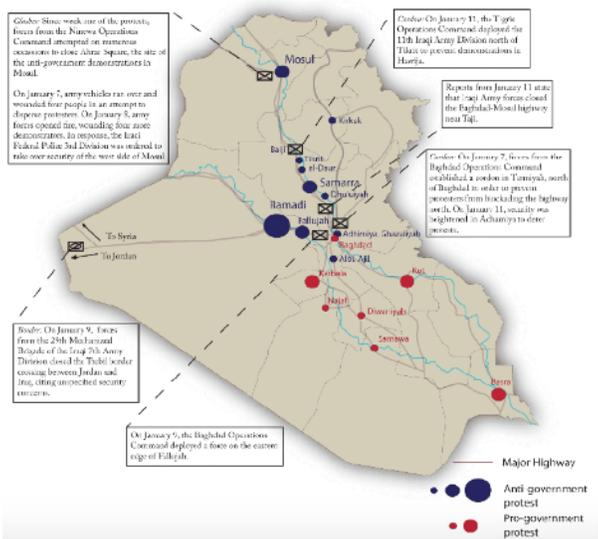


12/27/15

The Washington Post

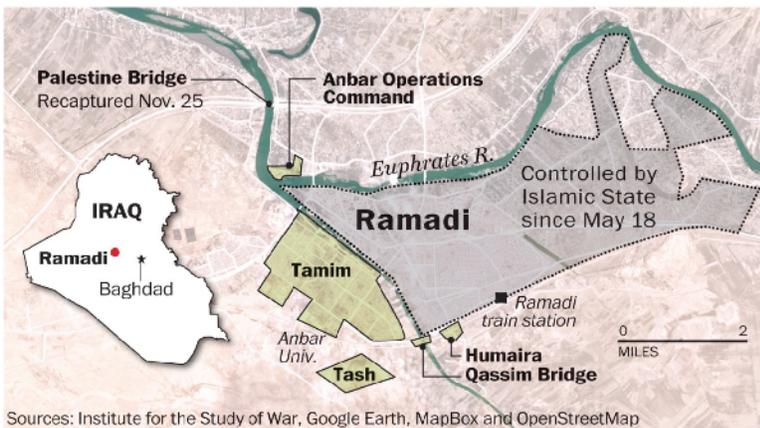
Protests in Iraq
Week 3: January 5 - January 11, 2013

Overview: As anti-government protests continued in Anbar, Ninewa, and Salah ad-Din, pro-government counter-protests were held in the southern cities of Karbala, Kut, Dwanayyah, Samawa, Najaf, and Basra. Additional military cordons were established in Anbar, Baghdad, Salah ad-Din, and Ninewa to contain the anti-government demonstrations.



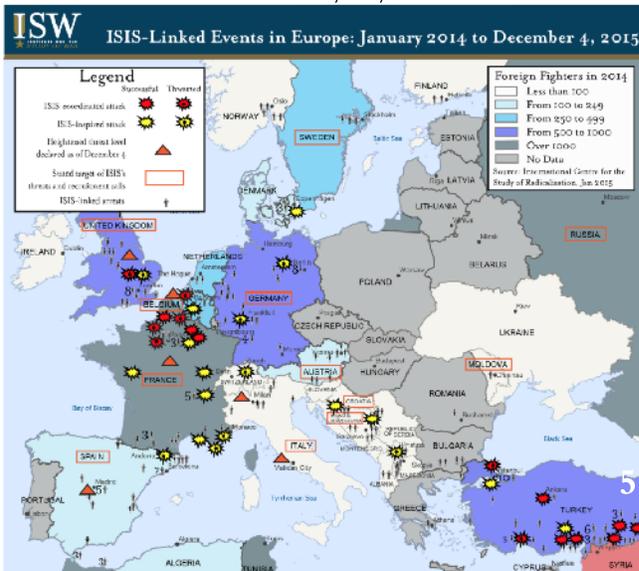
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Areas seized by Iraqi forces since Dec. 8

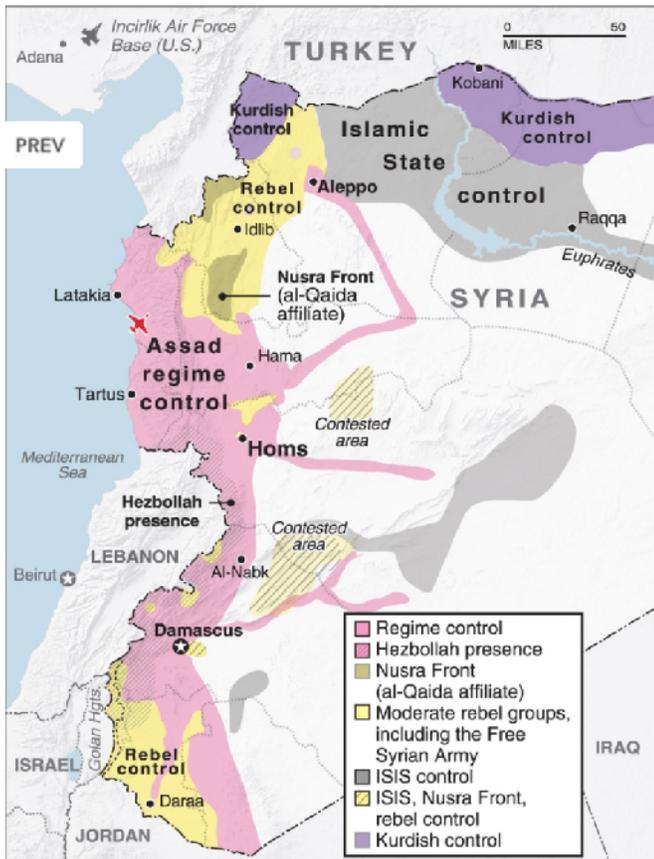


Sources: Institute for the Study of War, Google Earth, MapBox and OpenStreetMap
LARIK KARKLIS/THE WASHINGTON POST

12/14/15



12/17/15



The  **INDEPENDENT**

12/27/15

STARS  AND STRIPES.

12/14/15

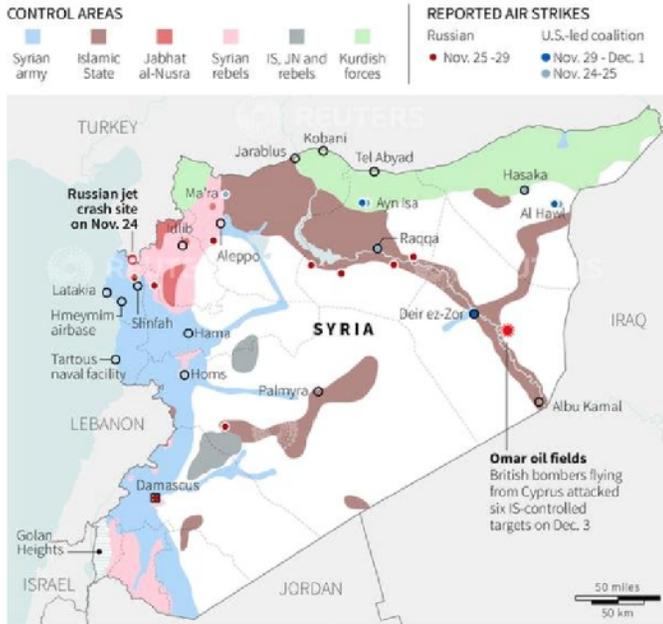

Voice of America

11/13/15



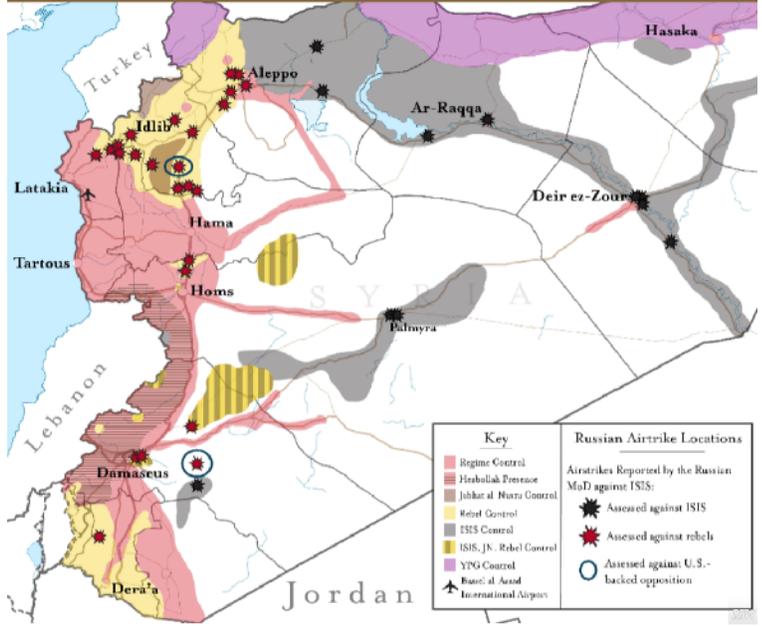
Air strikes in Syria

Declared targets of Russia and the U.S.-led coalition's bombing campaigns in Syria.

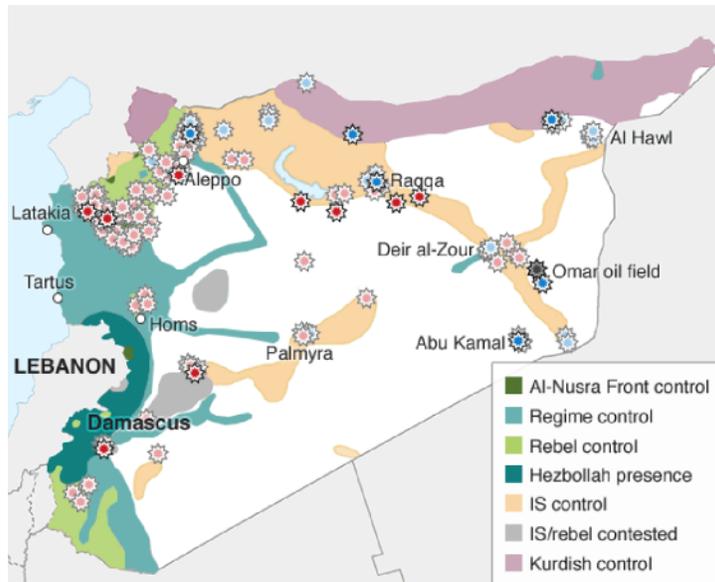


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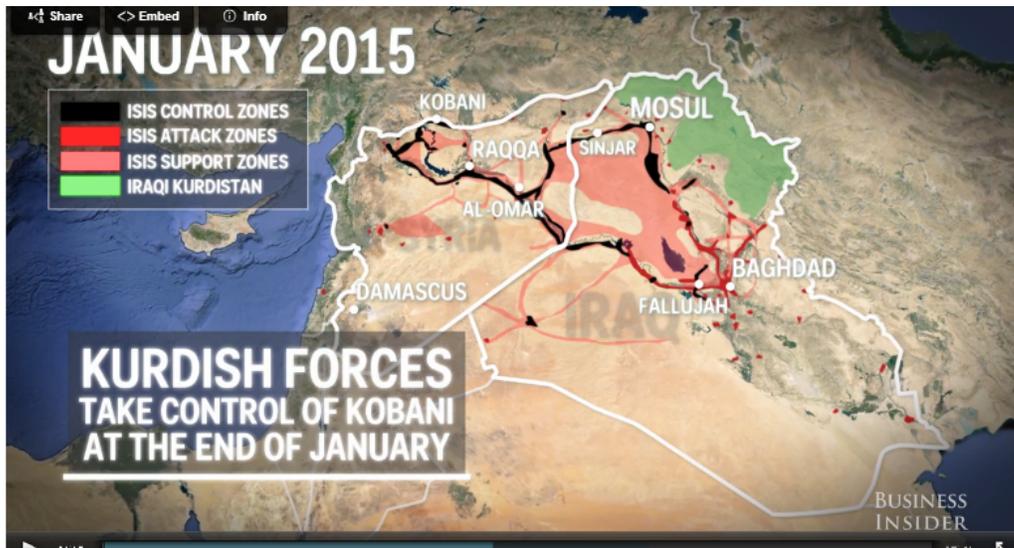
ISW Russian Ministry of Defense Reported Airstrikes against "ISIS" in Syria: September 30 - November 19, 2015



11/30/15



12/04/15



Animated map using ISW ISIS Sanctuary Maps

Business Insider 11/24/2015

More of ISW in the News

International Business Times

11/16/2015

International Business Times

11/02/2015

Al-Ahram Weekly

11/28/15

BBC

12/04/2015

International Business Times

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Al - Jazeera

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