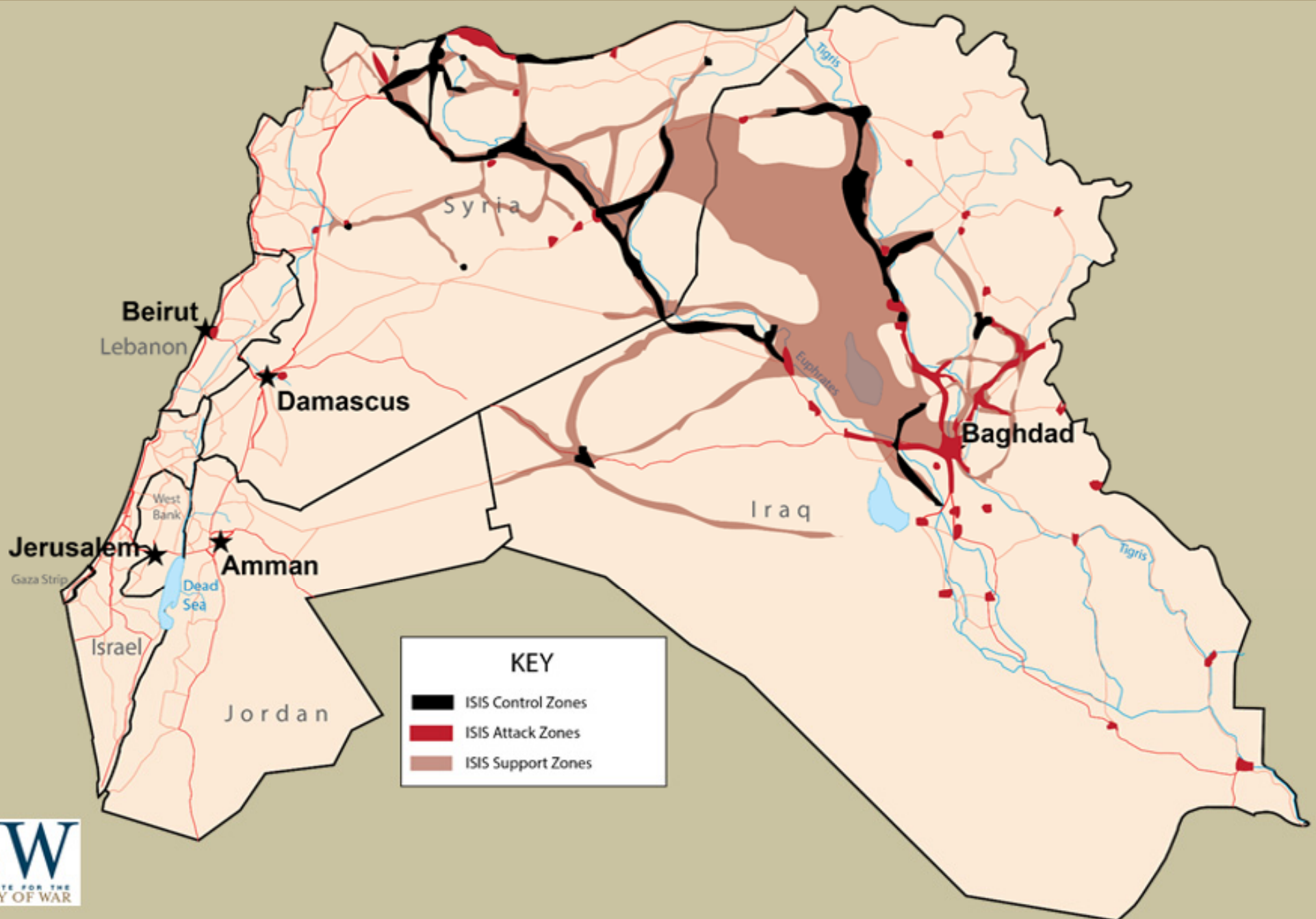
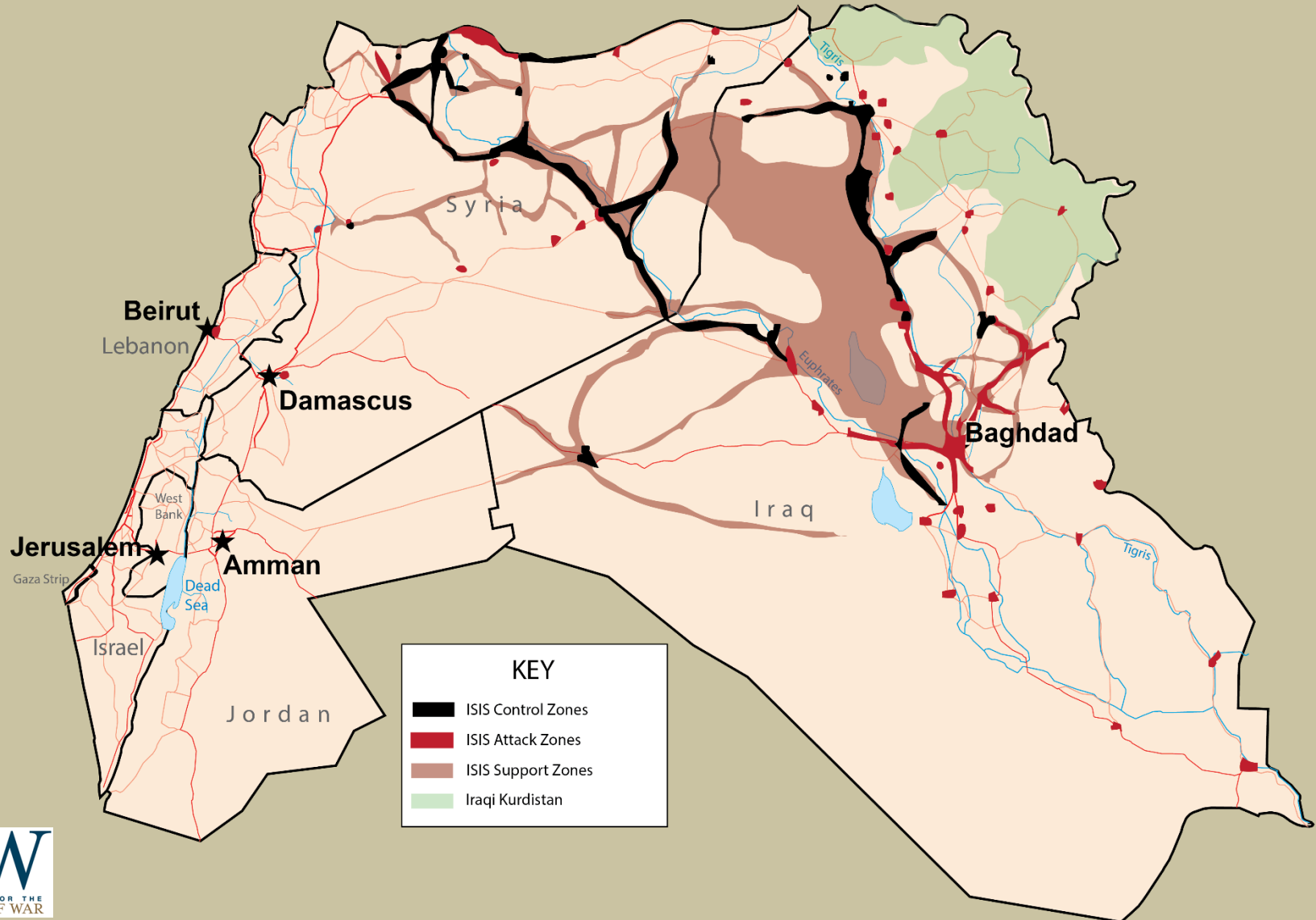


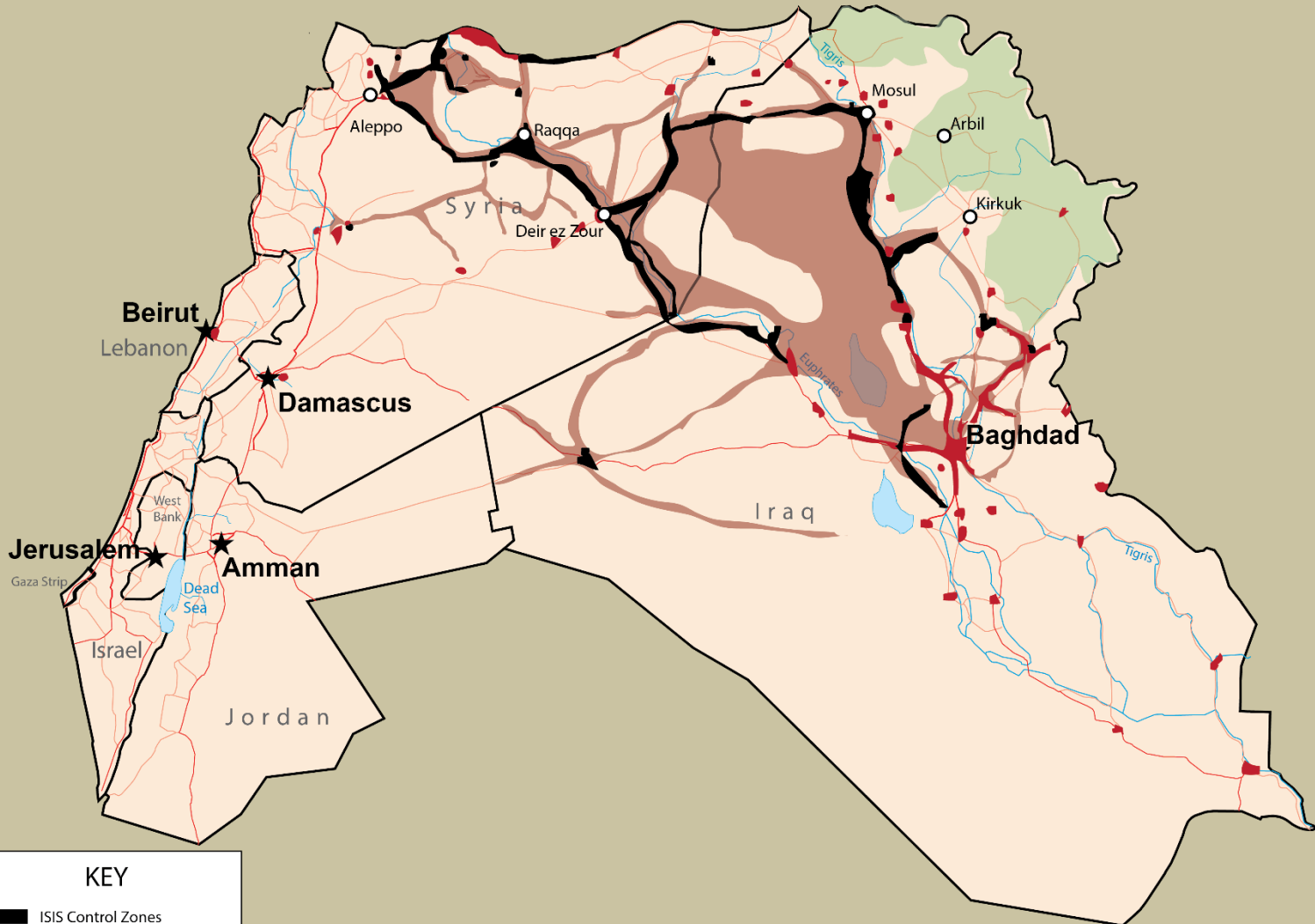
ISIS achieves visible and established control.







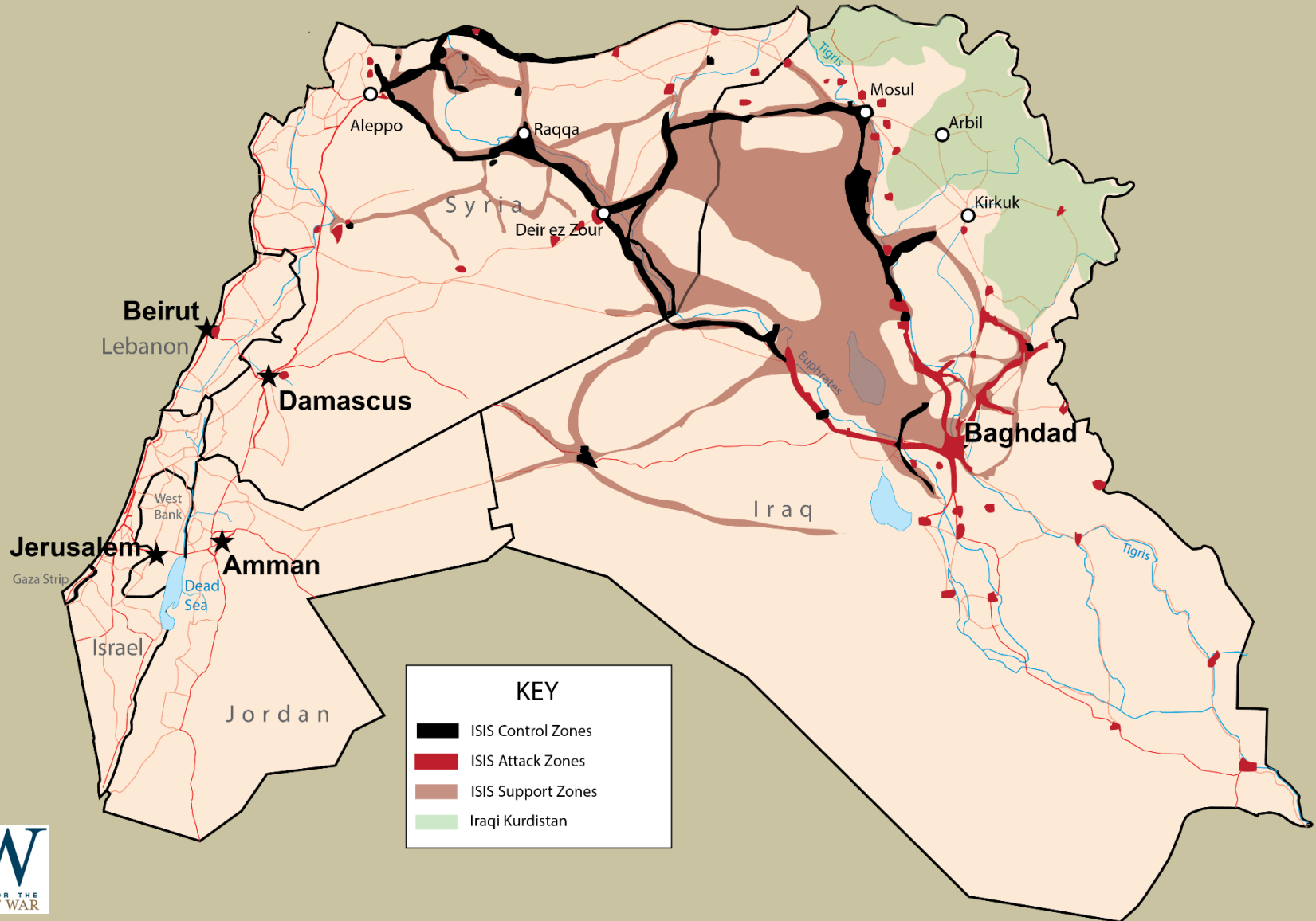
# ISIS SANCTUARY: SEPTEMBER 10, 2014



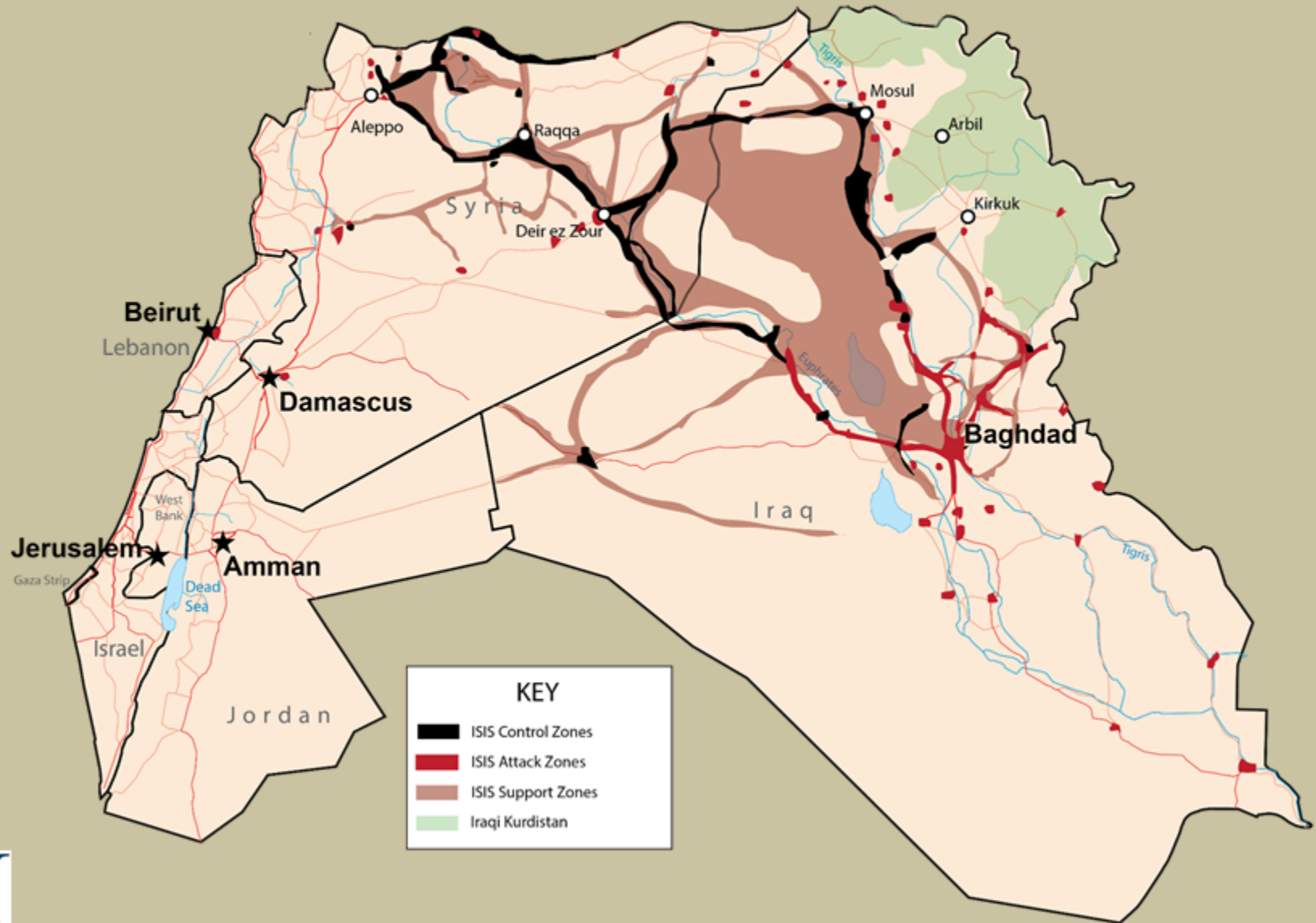
**KEY**

- ISIS Control Zones
- ISIS Attack Zones
- ISIS Support Zones
- Iraqi Kurdistan

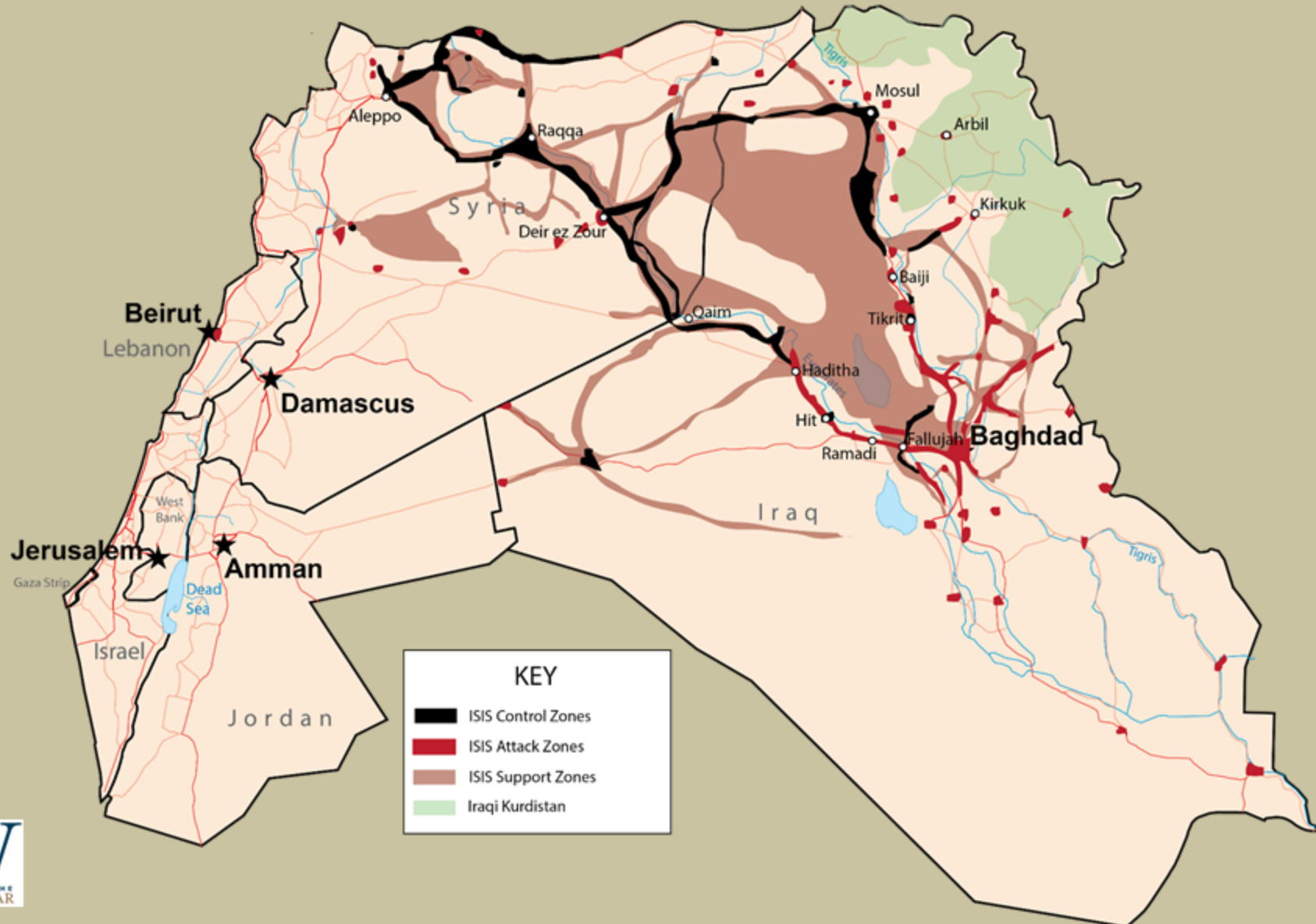


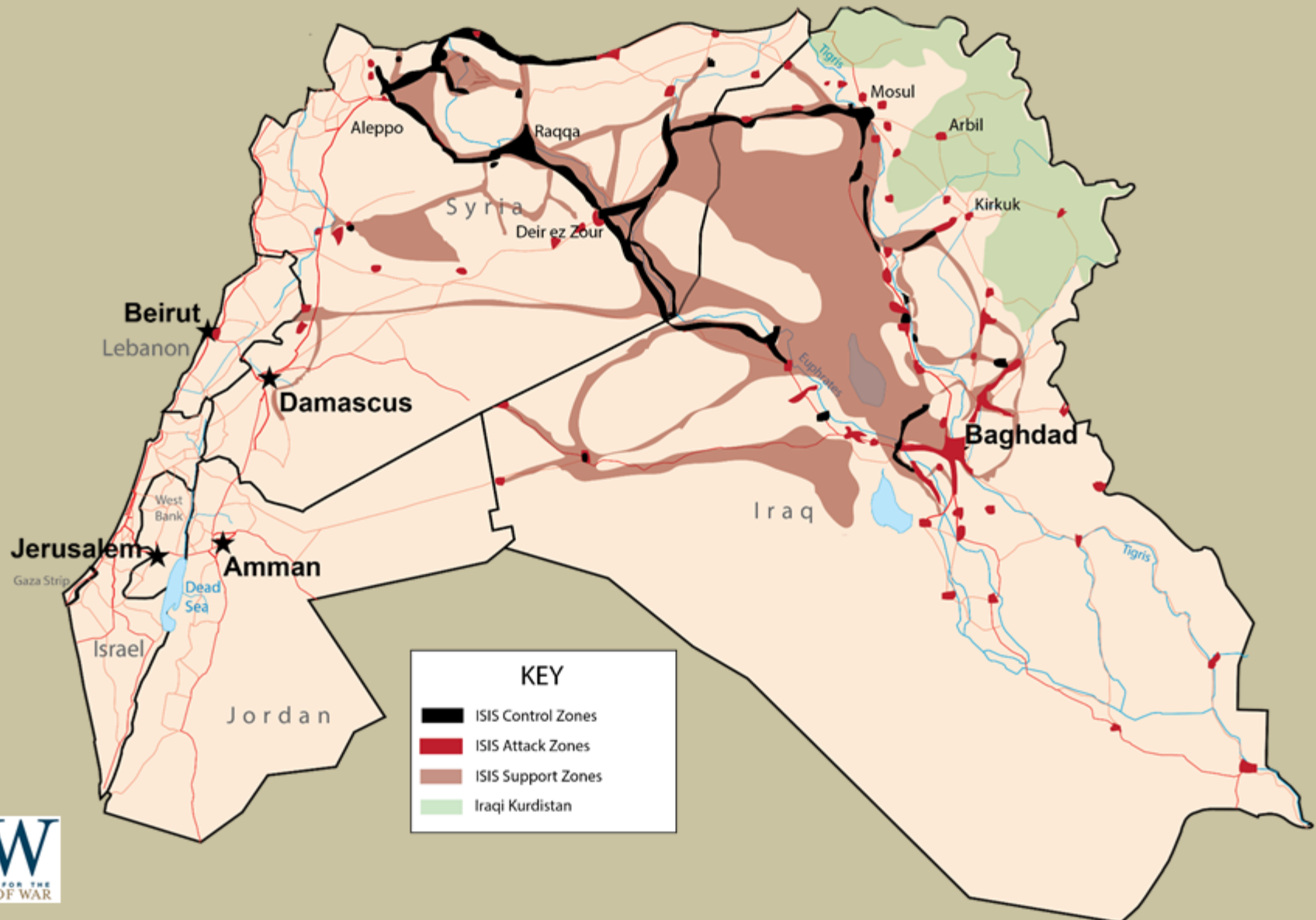


# ISIS SANCTUARY: NOVEMBER 20, 2014







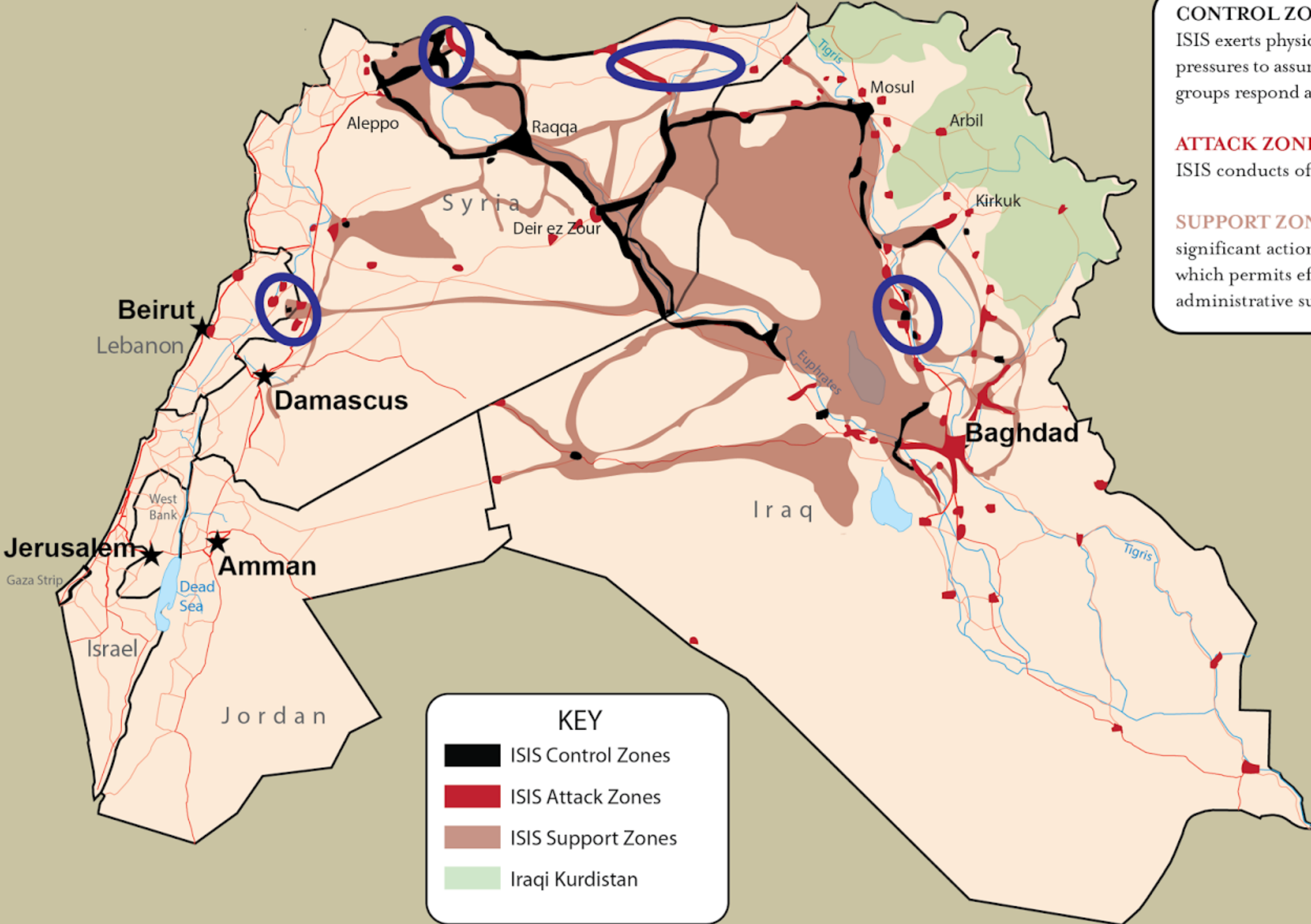


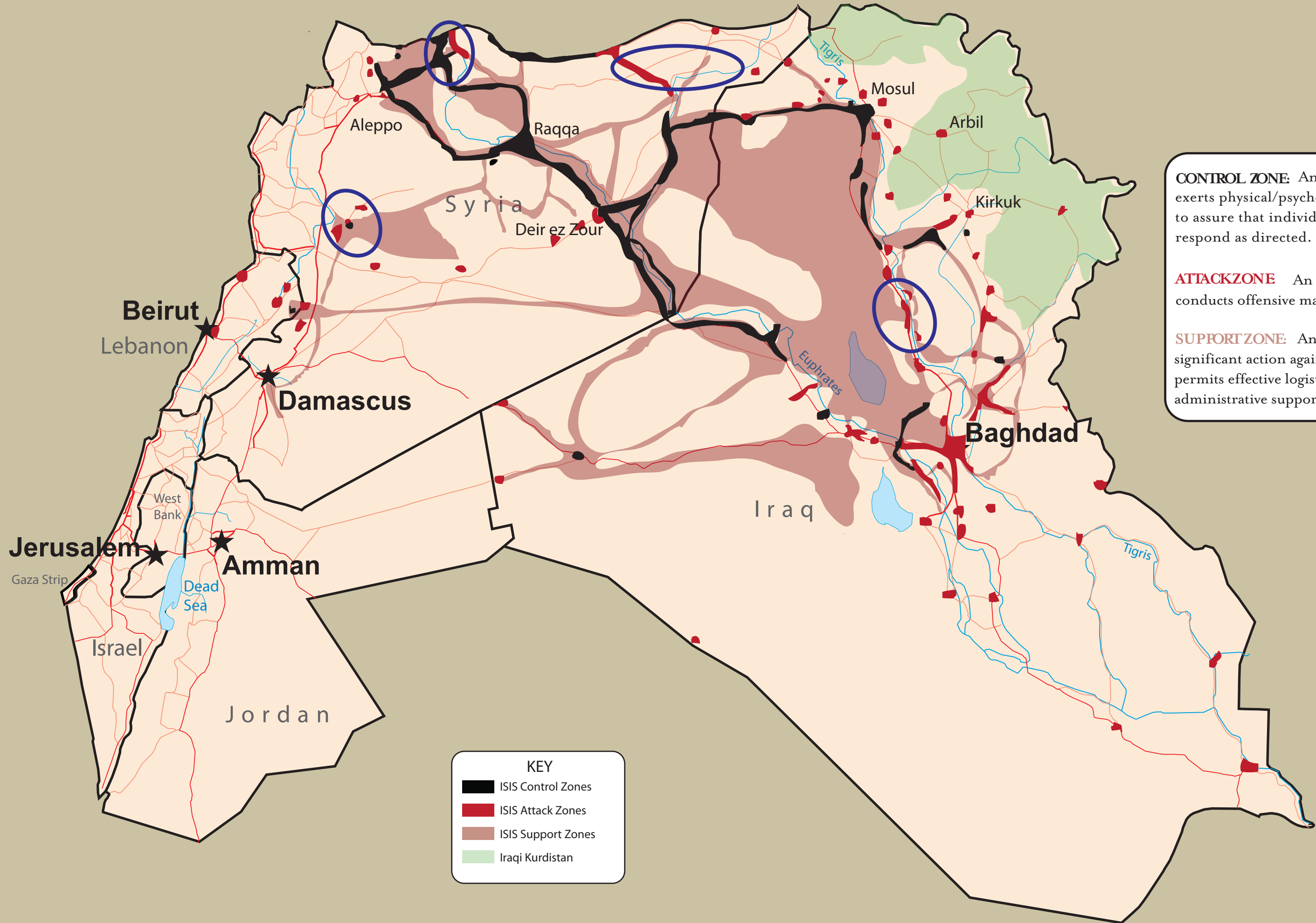


**CONTROL ZONE:** An area where ISIS exerts physical/psychological pressures to assure that individuals/groups respond as directed.

**ATTACK ZONE:** An area where ISIS conducts offensive maneuvers.

**SUPPORT ZONE:** An area free of significant action against ISIS and which permits effective logistics and administrative support of ISIS forces.





**CONTROL ZONE:** An area where ISIS exerts physical/psychological pressure to assure that individuals/groups respond as directed.

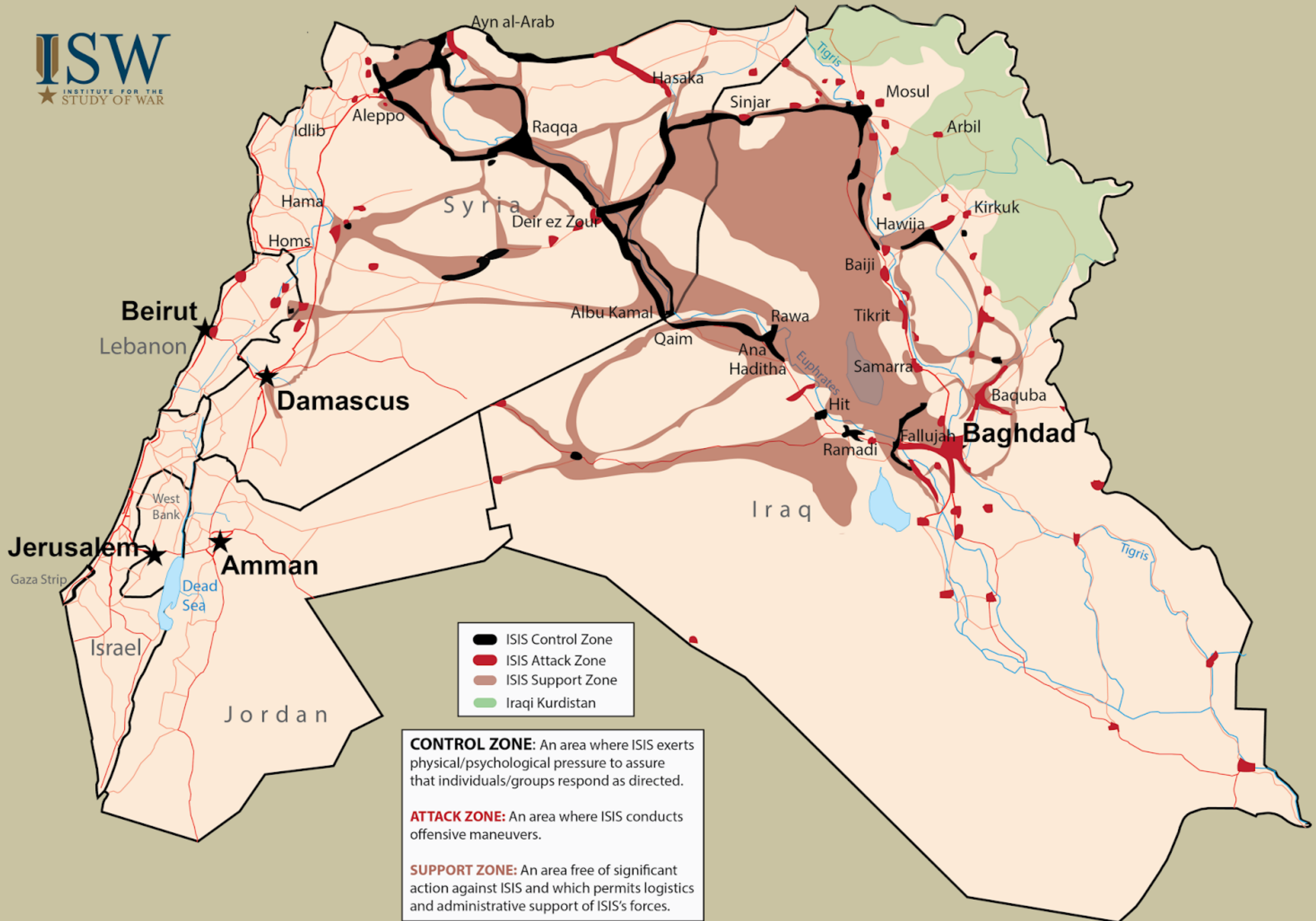
**ATTACKZONE** An area where ISIS conducts offensive maneuvers

**SUPPORTZONE:** An area free of significant action against ISIS and which permits effective logistics and administrative support of ISIS forces.

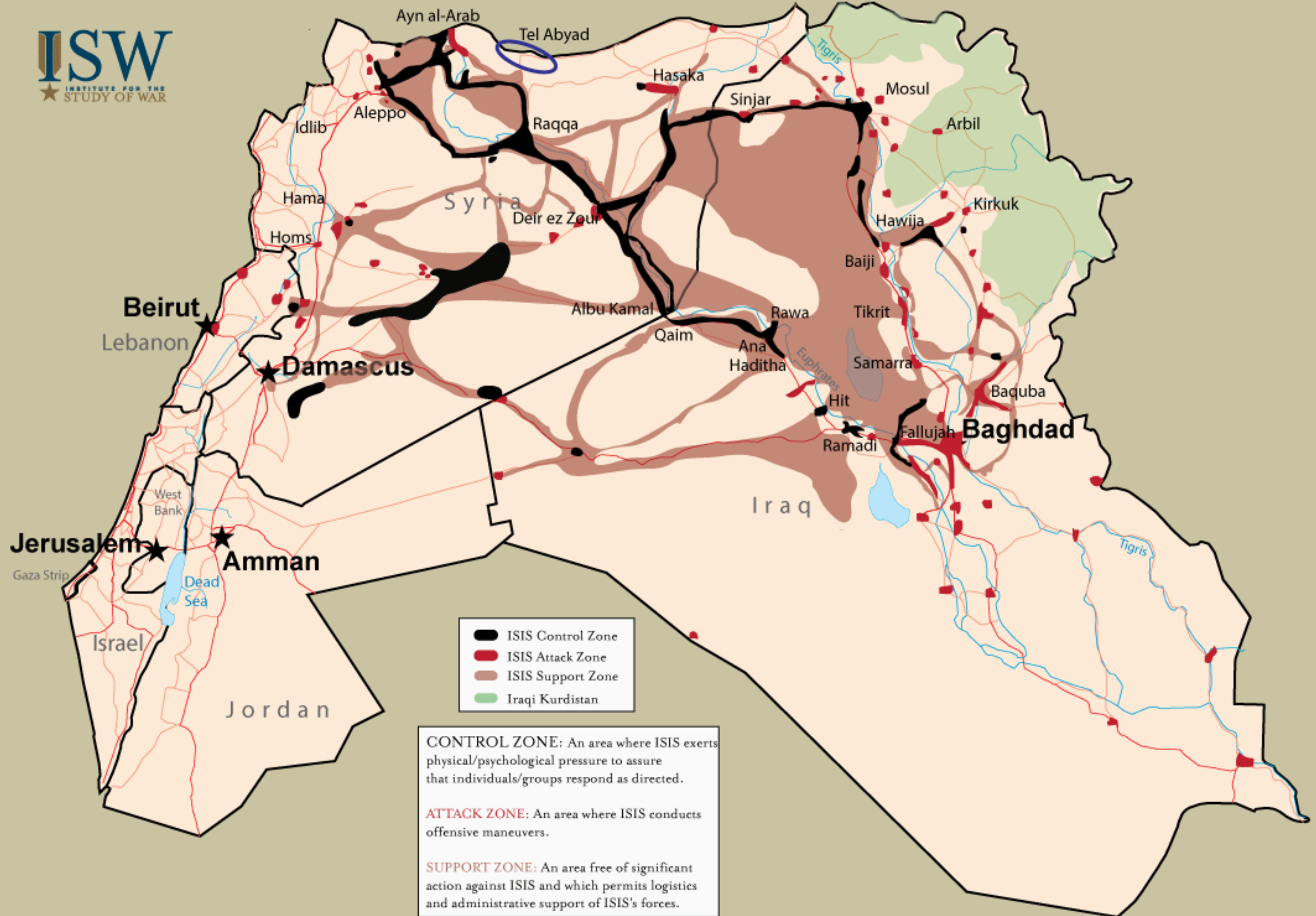
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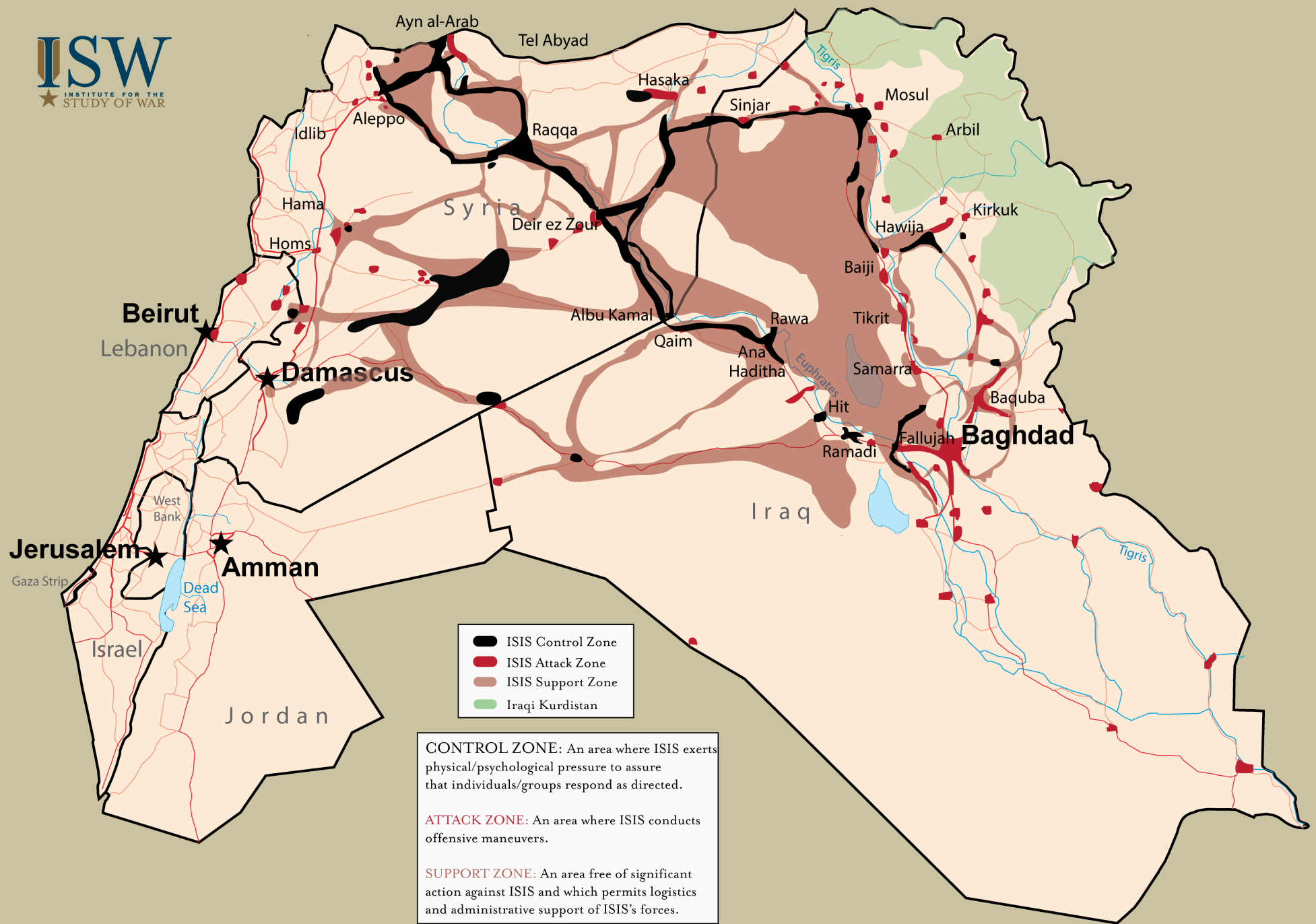
- ISIS Control Zones
- ISIS Attack Zones
- ISIS Support Zones
- Iraqi Kurdistan



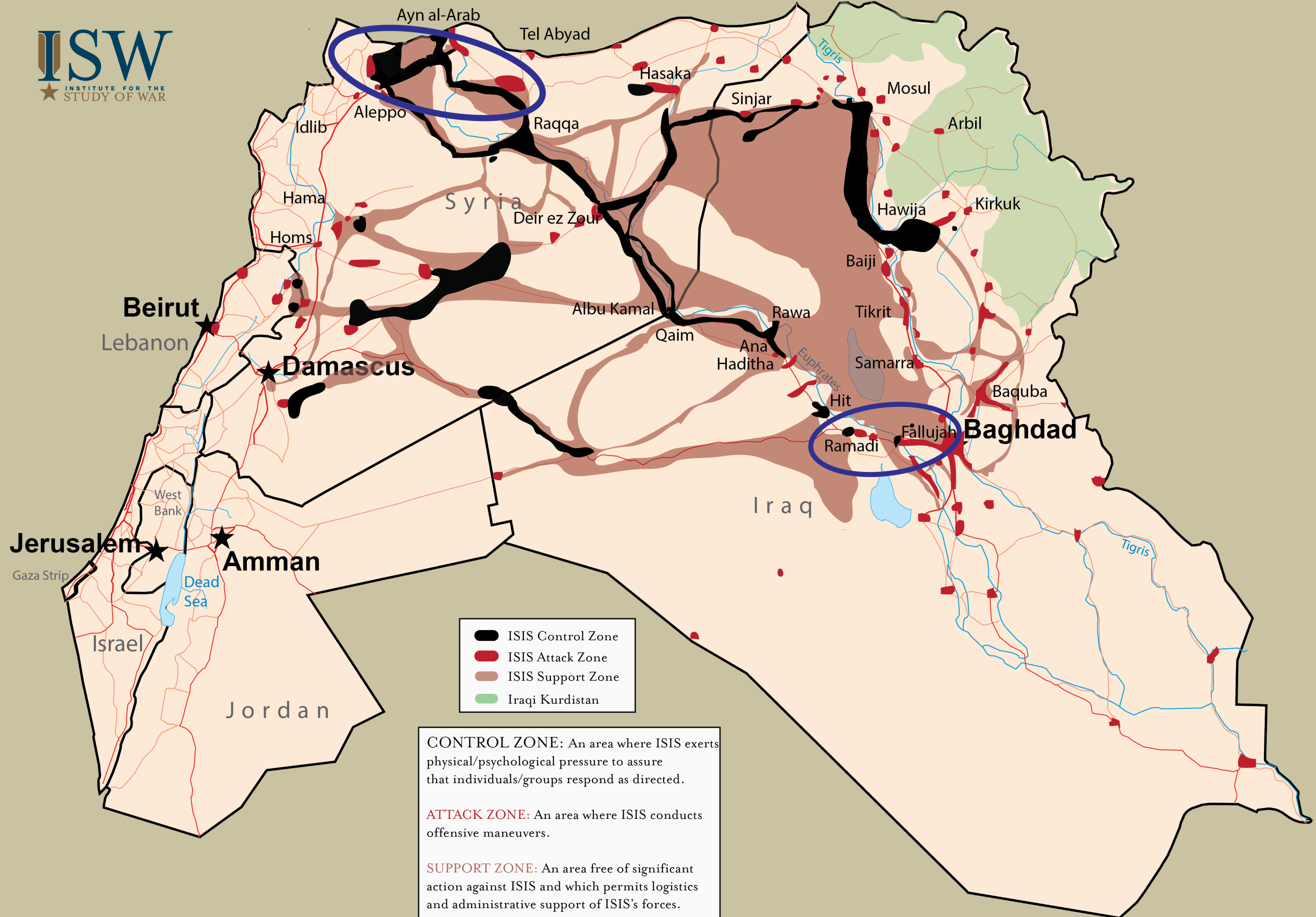




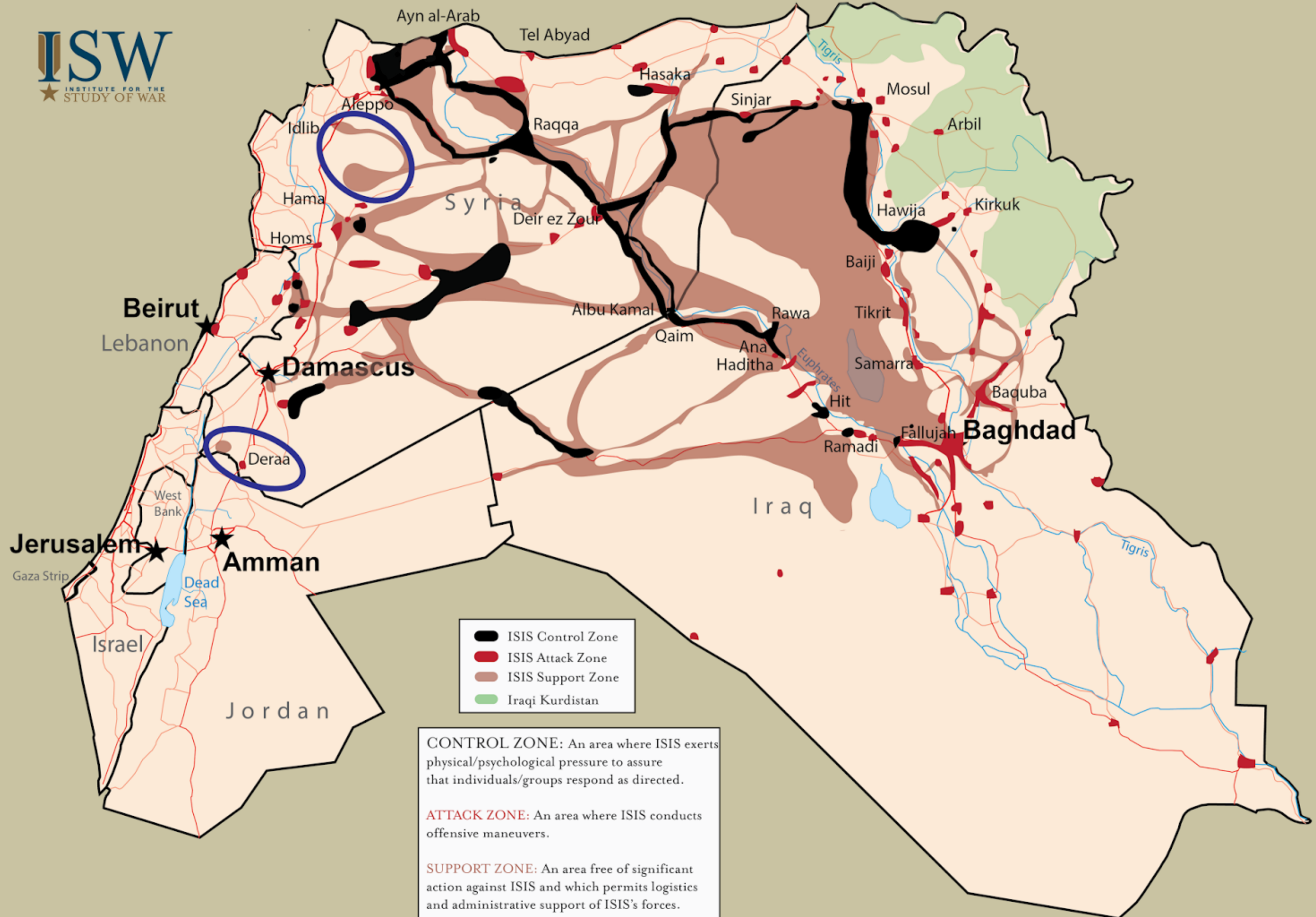












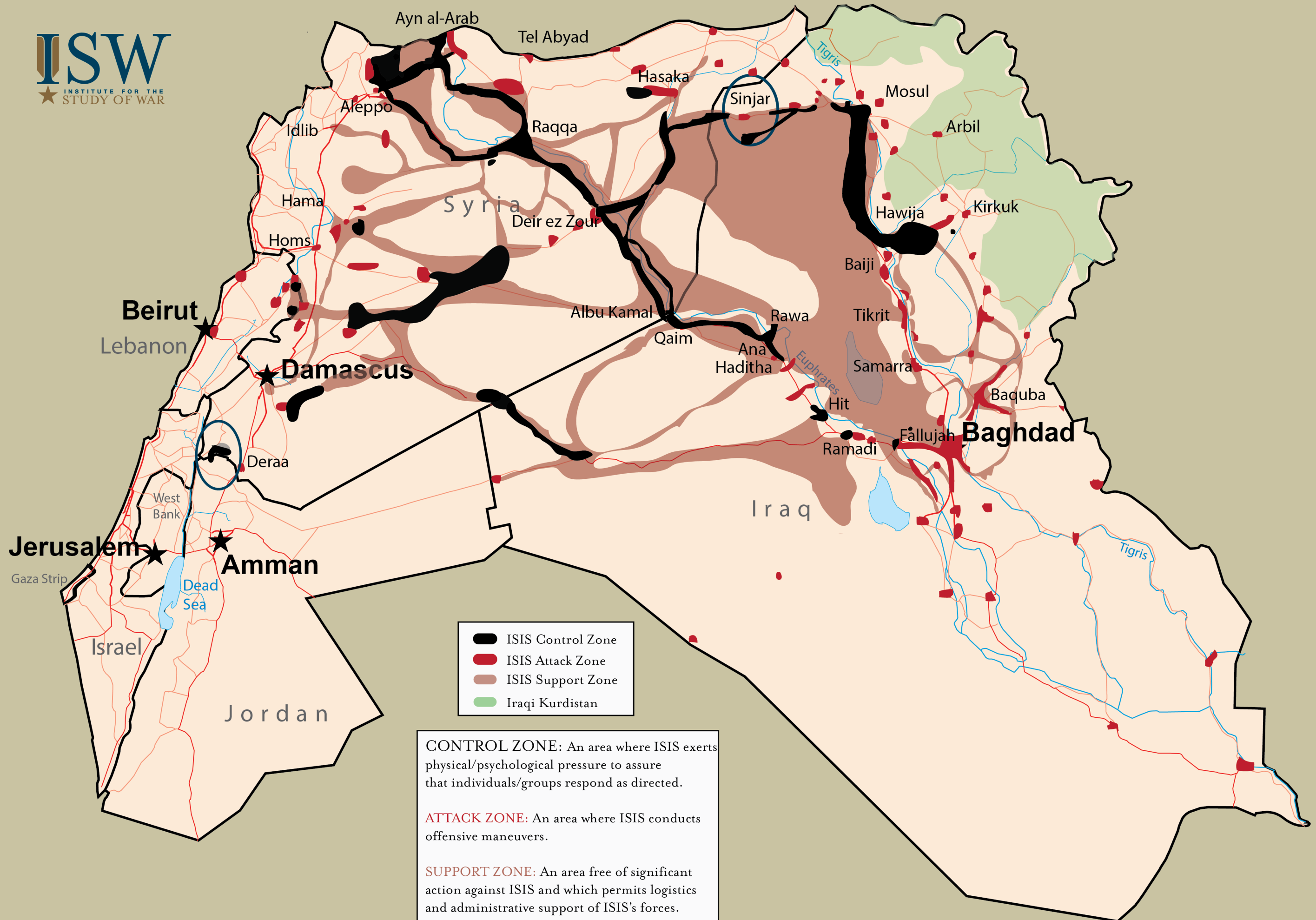
- ISIS Control Zone
- ISIS Attack Zone
- ISIS Support Zone
- Iraqi Kurdistan

**CONTROL ZONE:** An area where ISIS exerts physical/psychological pressure to assure that individuals/groups respond as directed.

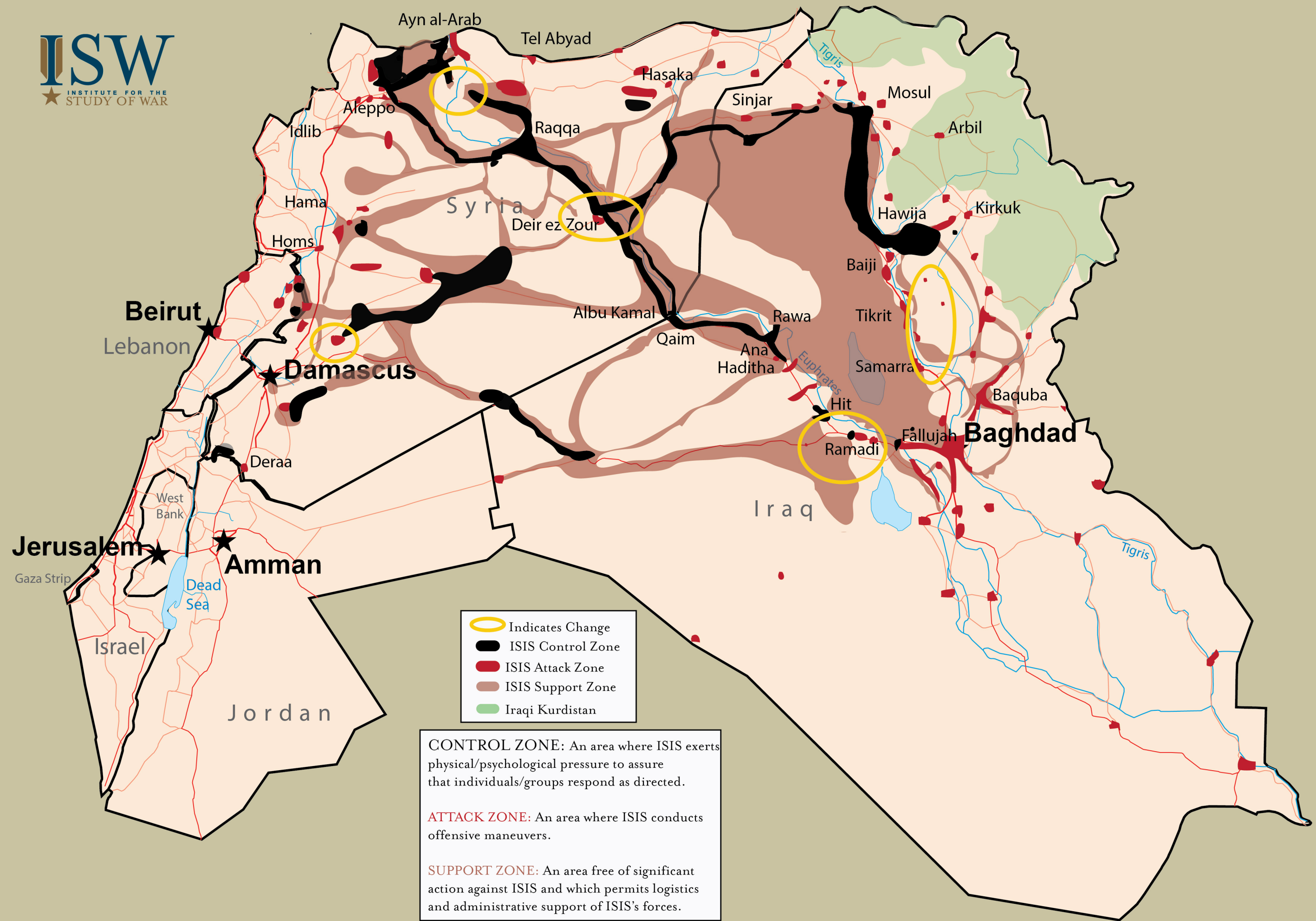
**ATTACK ZONE:** An area where ISIS conducts offensive maneuvers.






**SUPPORT ZONE:** An area free of significant action against ISIS and which permits logistics and administrative support of ISIS's forces.









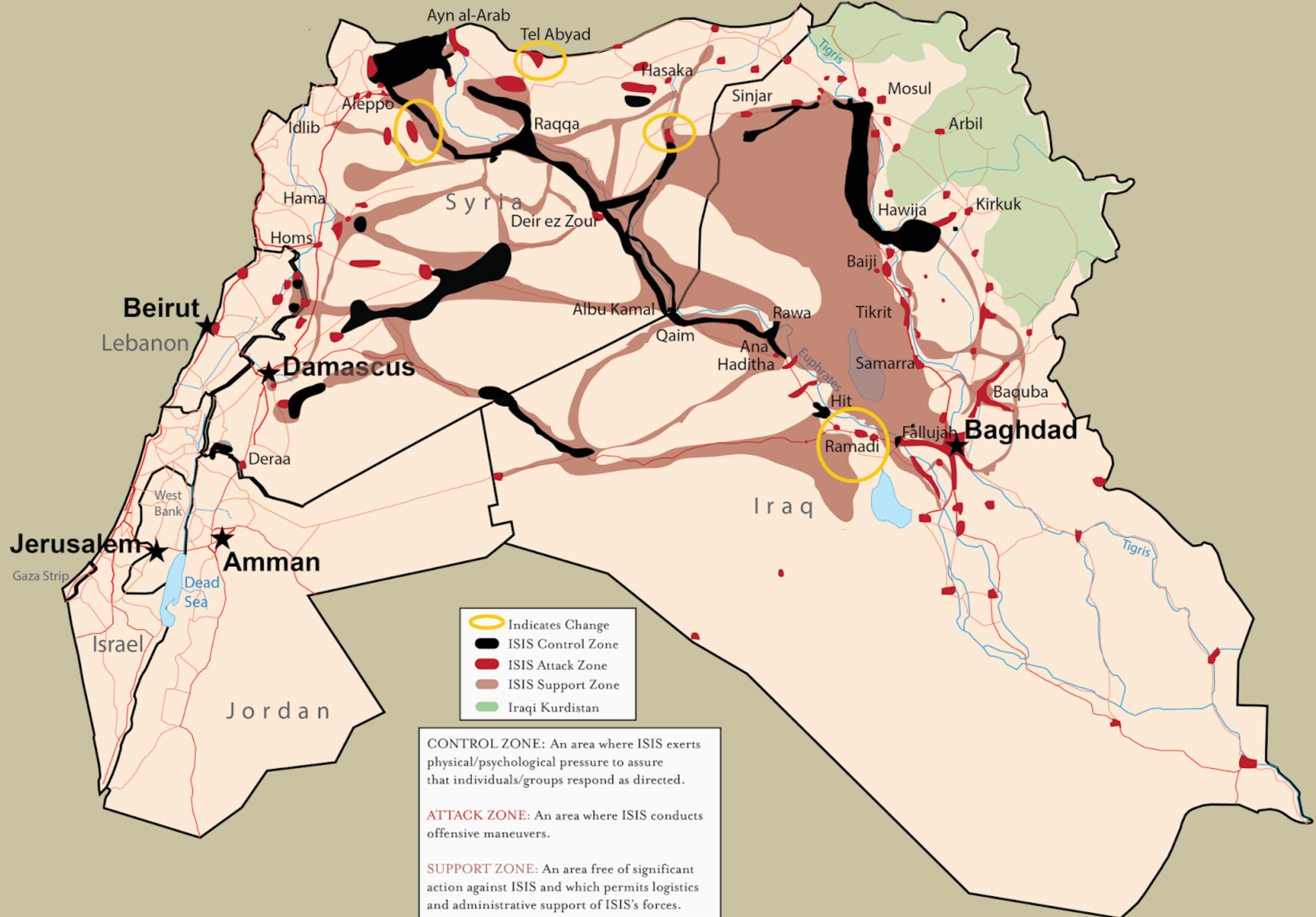
-  Indicates Change
-  ISIS Control Zone
-  ISIS Attack Zone
-  ISIS Support Zone
-  Iraqi Kurdistan

**CONTROL ZONE:** An area where ISIS exerts physical/psychological pressure to assure that individuals/groups respond as directed.

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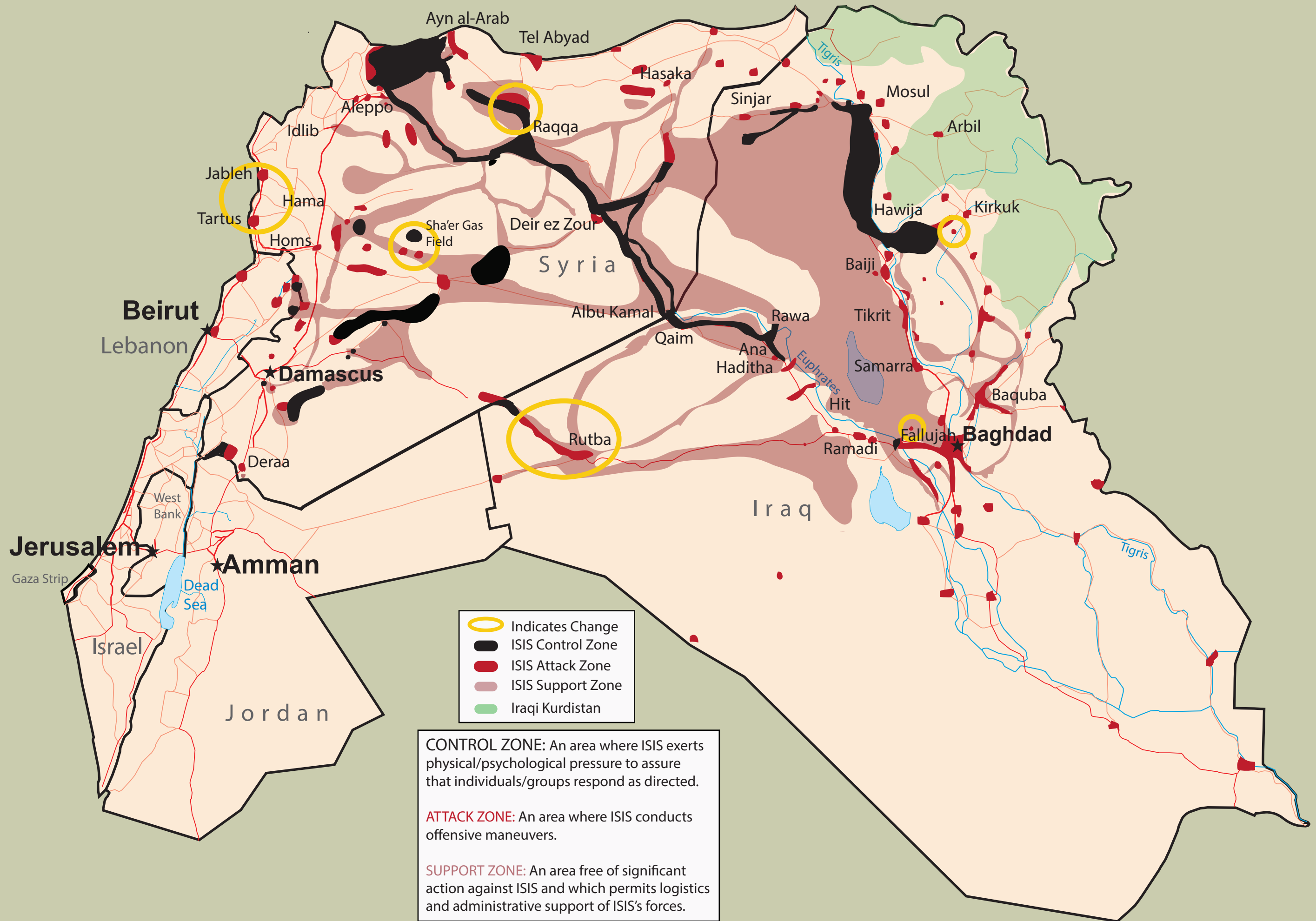




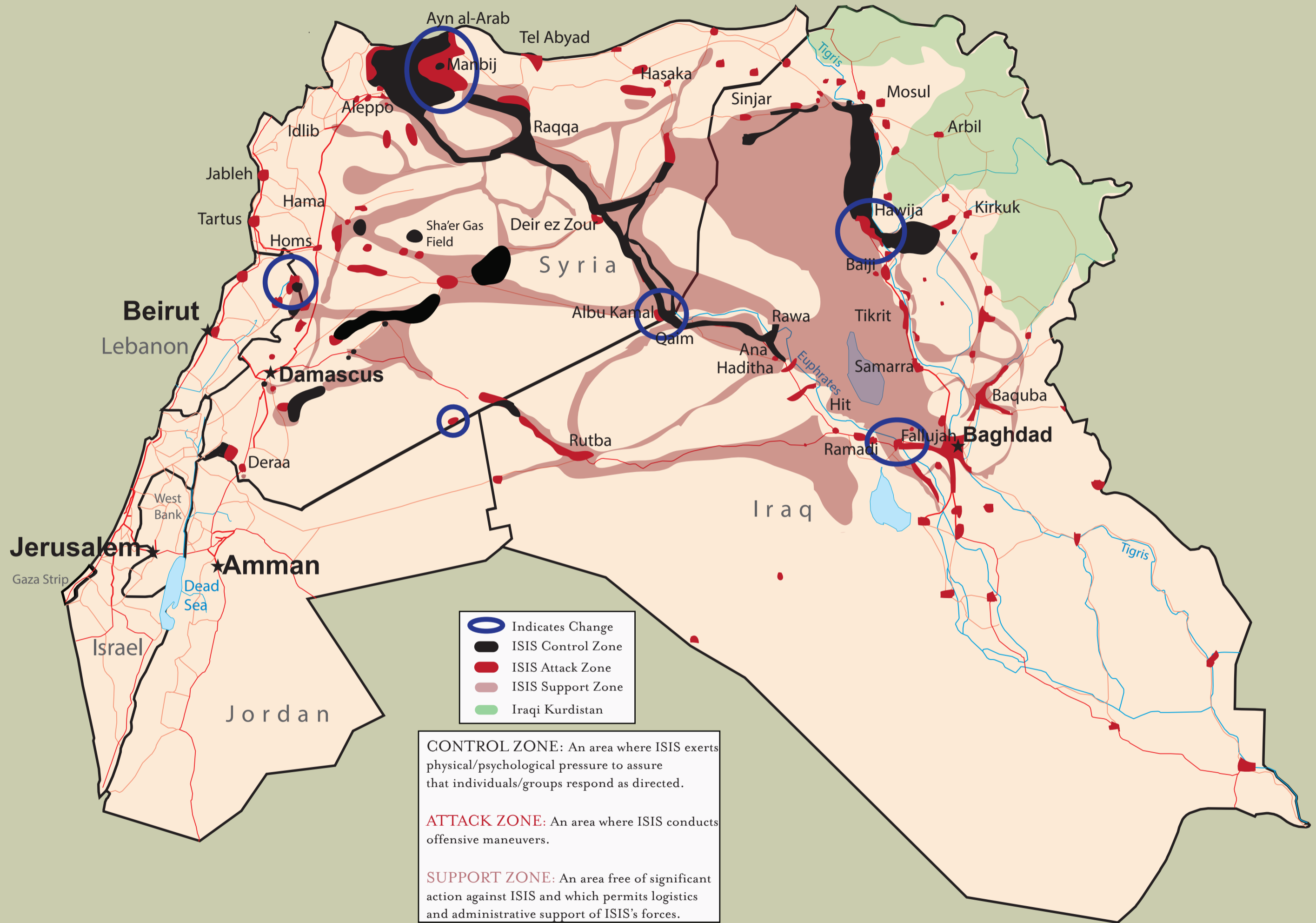






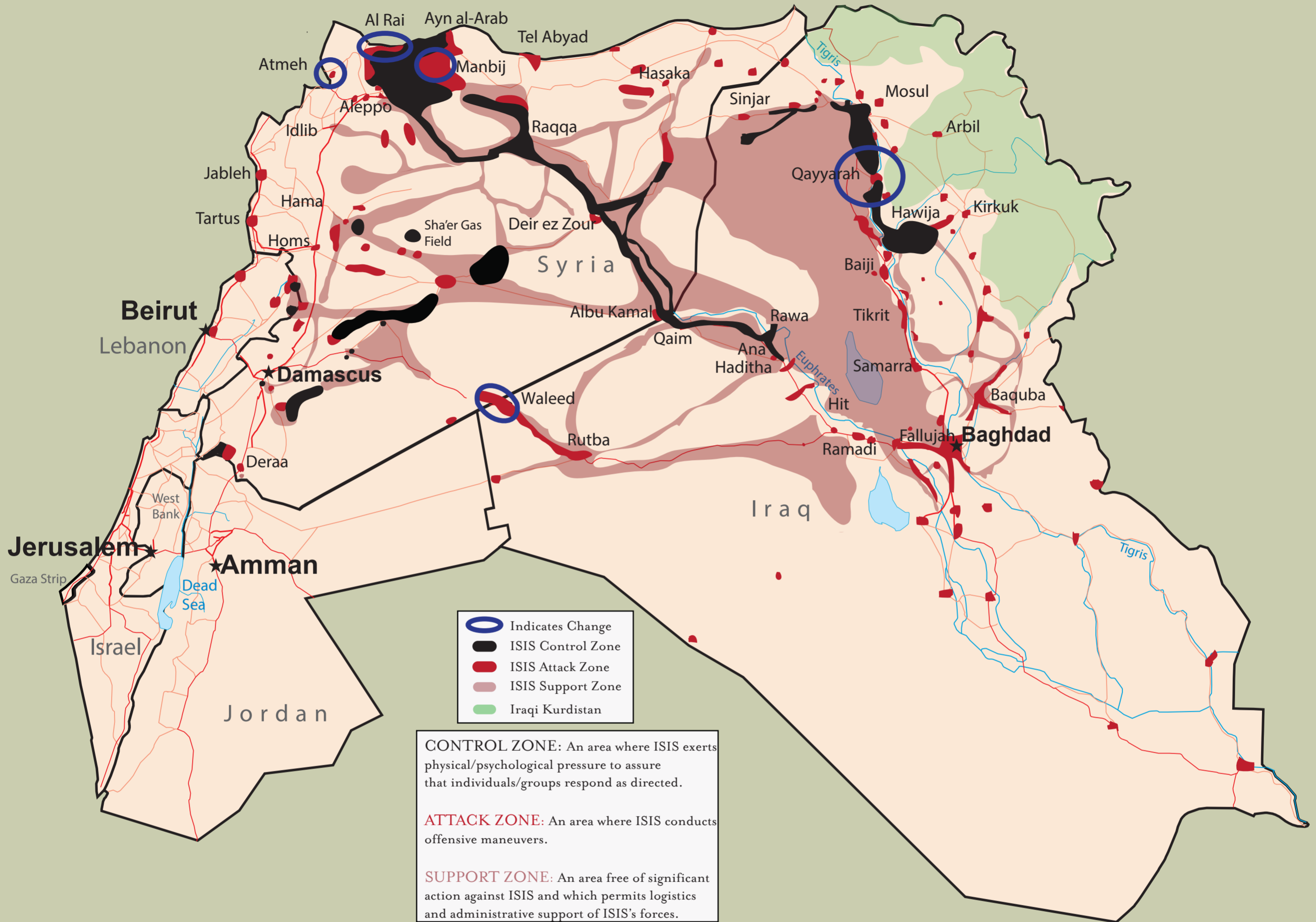


Since the publication of ISW's last ISIS sanctuary map on April 22, 2016, ISIS lost terrain in Iraq but claimed an attack from a new governorate, Wilayat Sahel, on the northwestern coast of Syria deep in regime territory. ISIS militants launched complex suicide attacks in core regime territory in Tartus City and Jableh on May 23, 2016. ISIS will likely escalate attacks against Alawite communities on the Syrian Coast in order to exacerbate sectarian tensions during Ramadan. ISIS militants also regained control of Sha'er Gas Field in Syria on May 5, 2016 and attacked Maher and Jazal gas fields on May 8 and 17, 2016. Syrian Democratic Forces launched an offensive against ISIS in ar-Raqqa Province on May 24, 2016 as part of Operation Inherent Resolve's protracted effort to isolate ISIS-stronghold ar-Raqqa City. Meanwhile, Peshmerga and Popular Mobilization Units (PMU) retook Bashir on April 30, 2016, Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) recaptured Rutba on 19 May, 2016 and PMU and ISF forces retook Garma on May 23, 2016, effectively securing the Euphrates River Valley from Haditha to Ramadi. Despite these gains, ISIS was able to launch several deadly attacks in Baghdad and the Baghdad Belts throughout May 2016. ISIS's spokesman, Abu Mohammad al-Adnani delivered a speech on May 21, 2016 declaring ISIS will prevail despite territorial losses, even if they lose major cities like Raqqa, Mosul, or Sirte, essentially hedging against potential future losses and reframing ISIS's notion of victory as equal to evading defeat.



Since the publication of ISW's last sanctuary map on May 25th, 2016, ISIS militants lost control of the city of Fallujah but were able to launch spectacular attacks in Lebanon and on the Jordanian border. ISIS continues to lose territory in Iraq, and the U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) are threatening its last major supply route from ar-Raqqa City to the Syrian-Turkish border. Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) cleared the city of Fallujah with support from coalition airstrikes on June 26, 2016. The presence of Iranian proxy militias in Fallujah, however, will negatively affect government efforts toward Sunni reconciliation. Meanwhile, the ISF began to approach Shirqat, the last ISIS-held district in Salah al-Din Province, on June 18, 2016. The U.S.-backed New Syrian Army (NSA) began operation "Day of Wrath" to seize the ISIS-held town of Albu Kamal on the Syrian-Iraqi border in order to cut off ISIS supply lines between Iraq and Syria on June 29, 2016. The SDF, a coalition consisting of the Syrian Kurdish YPG and allied opposition groups, completed the encirclement of Manbij on June 10, 2016 and are conducting ongoing operations to retake the town from ISIS militants. ISIS's loss of Manbij would impede its foreign fighter flows by sealing the Syrian-Turkish border. The U.S. has stressed the importance of retaking Manbij as part of larger operations to isolate and eventually seize the ISIS stronghold of ar-Raqqa City. Despite losses in its core terrain, ISIS was able to launch two separate quadruple SVEST (suicide vest) attacks targeting the predominately Christian al-Qaa District of Bekaa valley, in northeastern Lebanon near the Syrian-Lebanese border on June 27, 2016, the day after the ISF cleared Fallujah. ISIS also detonated a SVBIED (suicide vehicle-borne improvised explosive device) against a Jordanian Army border post in a buffer zone on the Syrian-Jordanian border on June 21, 2016. ISW's "ISIS Forecast: Ramadan 2016" assessed that ISIS would likely mount attacks in neighboring countries as it loses momentum in Syria during Ramadan, which ends on July 5.





Since the publication of ISW's last sanctuary map on July 1st, 2016, ISIS militants lost control of the city of Manbij and the town of Al-Rai in Northern Aleppo Province in a series of victories for the U.S.-led anti-ISIS coalition. The U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces recaptured Manbij from ISIS militants on August 15 after over two months of heavy clashes. The protracted fight for the city demonstrates that ISIS retains that capability to mount a stiff defense of urban terrain that it considers to be of strategic importance, suggesting that coalition forces will face similar tough fights for the strongholds of Ar-Raqqa City in Syria and Mosul in Iraq. ISIS also lost the town of Al-Rai on the Syrian-Turkish border to opposition forces backed by Turkey and the U.S. on August 17, severing a key cross-border smuggling route for fighters and supplies. The loss of border access through Manbij and Al-Rai will disrupt the ability of ISIS to reinforce its core terrain or dispatch cells to conduct external attacks. ISIS may respond to these losses by seeking to secure cross-border access in other regions, including Lebanon and Western Syria. For example, ISIS conducted an SVEST targeting opposition forces at the Atmeh Border Crossing in Idlib Province on the Syrian-Turkish Border on August 14. ISIS could also take advantage of ongoing infighting between pro-regime forces and the Syrian Kurdish YPG to mount local counterattacks against the Syrian Democratic Forces in Northern Syria. Meanwhile, the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) continued to set conditions for future operations to retake Mosul. The ISF recaptured the Qayyarah Airfield in Southern Ninewah Province on July 9. The U.S. later announced the deployment of over 500 personnel to the strategic installation to serve as a staging ground for an offensive on Mosul. The ISF also severed the ground line of communication between the ISIS-held towns of Shirqat and Qayyarah in an operation from July 2 - 13 and recaptured the Waleed Border Crossing on the Syrian-Iraqi Border in a separate operation on August 3. ISIS nonetheless retains limited freedom of movement in both areas and will likely conduct local counterattacks to pressure its opponents, as demonstrated by an attack on the Waleed Border Crossing on August 8 - 9. ISIS may also mount a resurgence in previously-cleared areas, in particular Southern Baghdad and the Southern Provinces.



