



Tracking ISIS Since (Before) the Islamic State

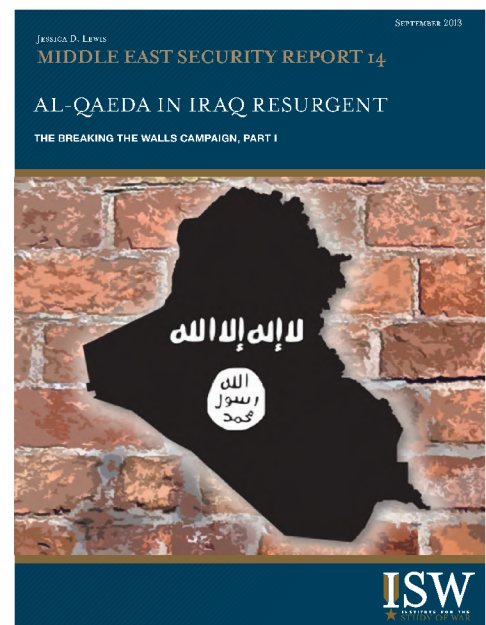
Since ISIS stormed onto the world's stage on June 10, 2014 with its seizure of Mosul, the Institute for the Study of War has been the institution of record for tracking ISIS. The ISW "ISIS Sanctuary Map" quickly became an iconic image of the conflict raging across Syria and Iraq. It has been used hundreds of times, in several languages, and adapted for such uses as electronic backdrops on CNN, Fox, and other news broadcasts. When developing a 1,200 year history of Iraq in maps, *The National Geographic* used only one source for its map of the recent conflict: ISW.

The ISIS Sanctuary Maps from the last 14 months (and longer -- see below) show how ISW has tracked the conflict and become the recognized expert on ISIS's expansion. As we approach the one-year anniversary of U.S. and coalition airstrikes against ISIS, we have collected all our Sanctuary Maps, along with examples of where they have appeared, to help show the role ISW is proud to have played in tracking ISIS.

Question: When was the first ISIS Sanctuary Map published?

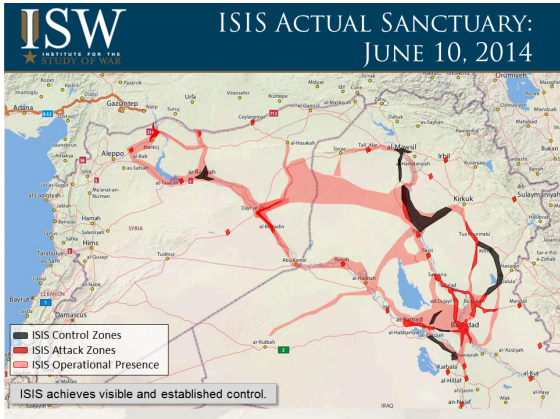


**Answer: September 2013
10 months before Mosul fell.**



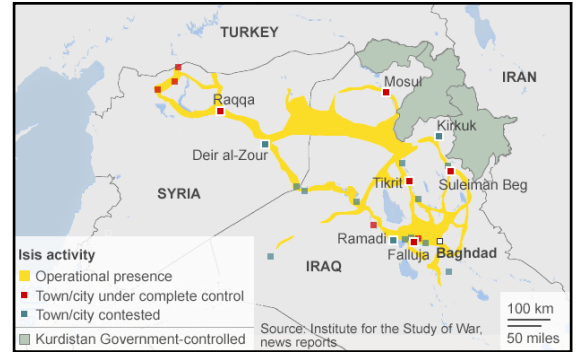
10 June 2014

Mosul Falls to ISIS

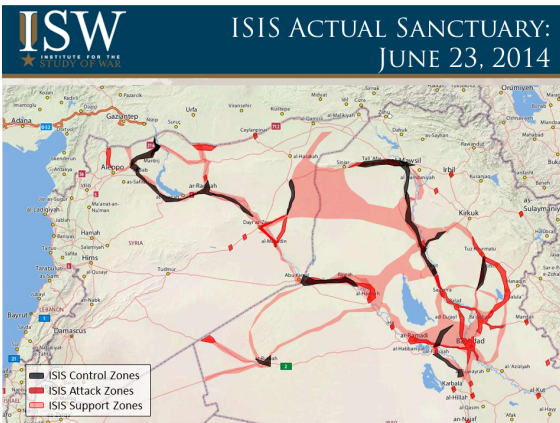
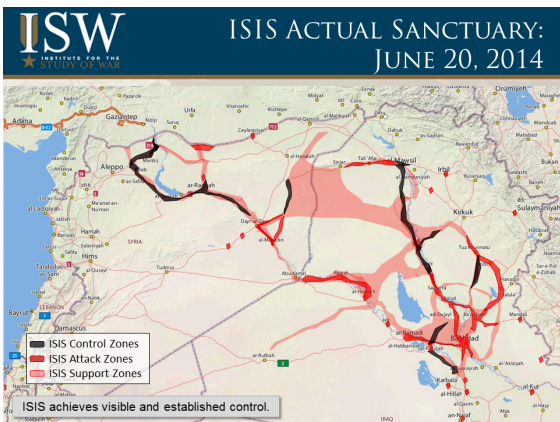


"The Islamic State of Iraq is no longer a terrorist group. It is an army."

Kim Kagan, *PBS News Hour*, 6/10/14



ISW's Research Director, Jessica Lewis McFate.
Former Army intel officer on the ground in Iraq:
The go-to media expert on tracking ISIS.



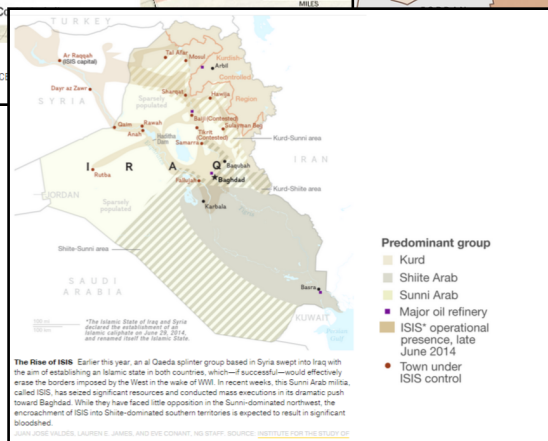
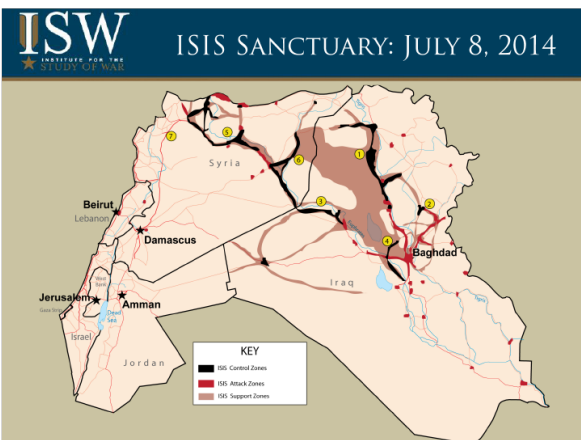
The Washington Post

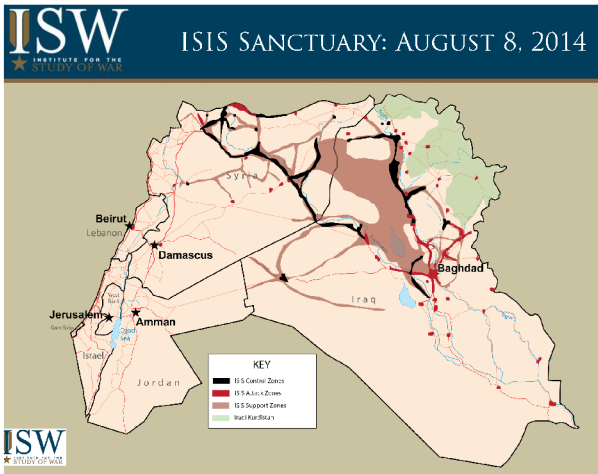
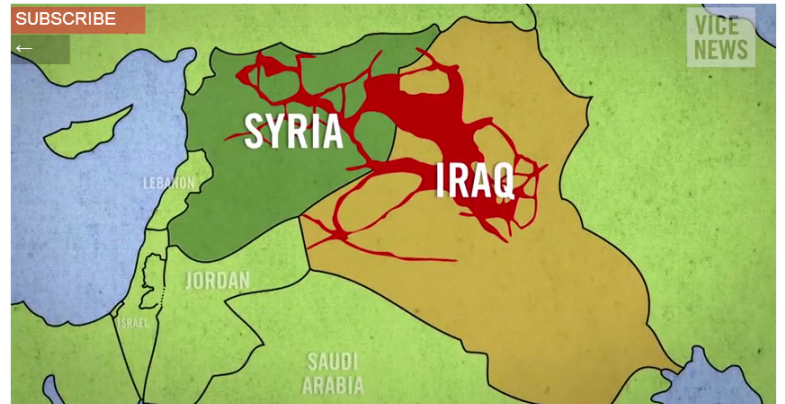
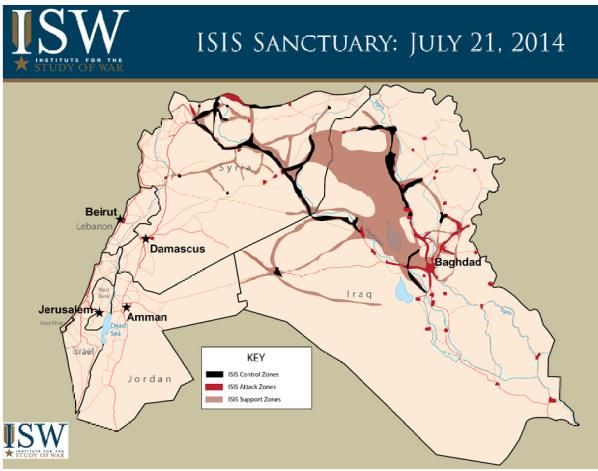
The Islamic State on the march

As the Islamic State continues to seize cities in Iraq, here is a look at the radical group's strongholds and control over various cities.



The Economist





"We have a situation that is no longer 'in the box' of the Iraqi Government."

*Kimberly Kagan
CSIS Live
07/17/14*

THE CYCLE DOW 16549.53 LEAN FORWARD

IRAQ UNDER SIEGE

"ISIS IS NO LONGER A MERE TERRORIST ORGANIZATION... [IT IS] AN ENTRENCHED STRATEGIC ADVERSARY."

JESSICA LEWIS
INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF WAR



Washington

WSJ Live

OPINION

What Will Bombing ISIS Achieve?

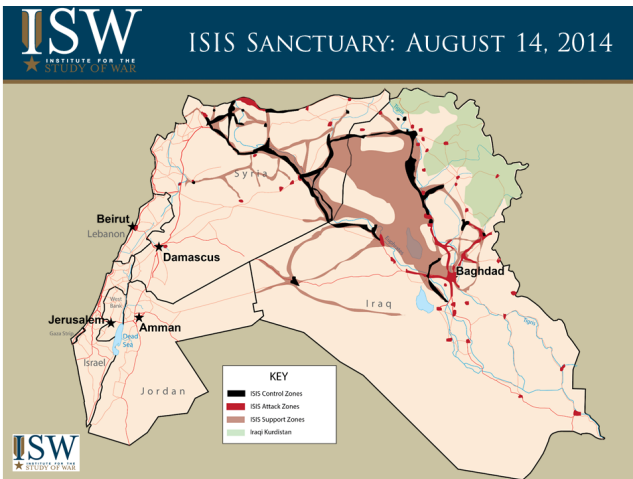
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TURKEY
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IRBIL
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IRAQ
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IRAN
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ISIS CONTROL ZONES
KURDISH CONTROL ZONES

FOX NEWS SUNDAY

JESSICA LEWIS
INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF WAR



Secretary of Defense Hagel and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs GEN Dempsey testify to the Senate Armed Services Committee in front of an adaptation of the ISW Sanctuary Map.

Airstrikes Begin in Syria

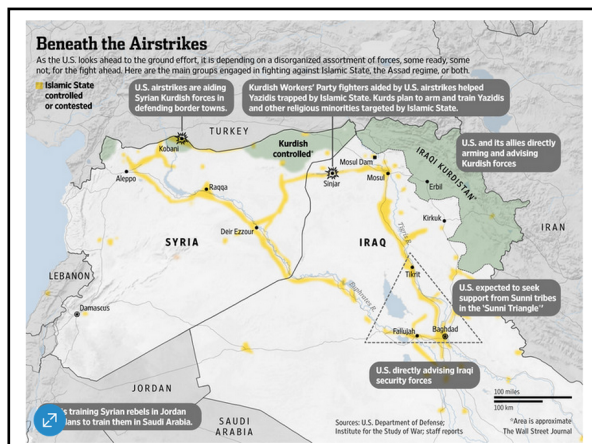
The night airstrikes began in Syria, CNN used our map as the backdrop for its coverage. And it was on the front page of *The Washington Post* the next day.



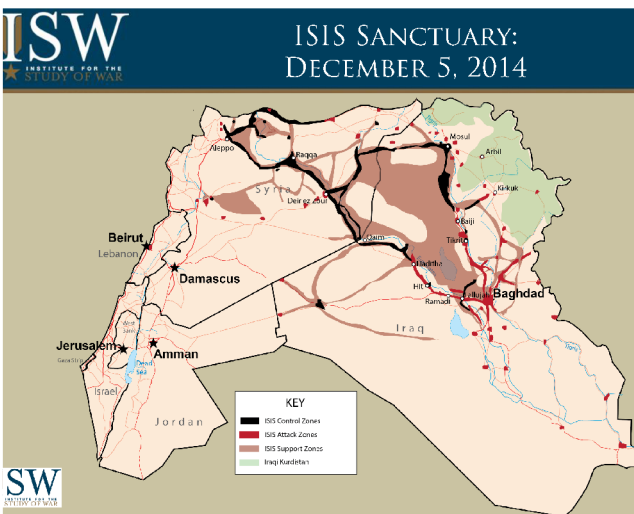
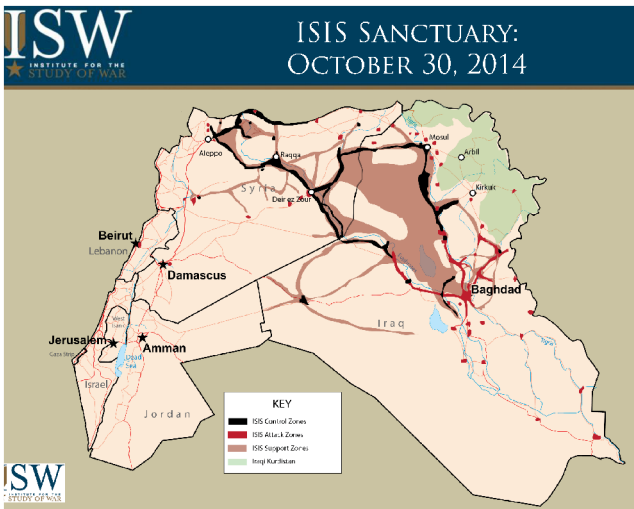
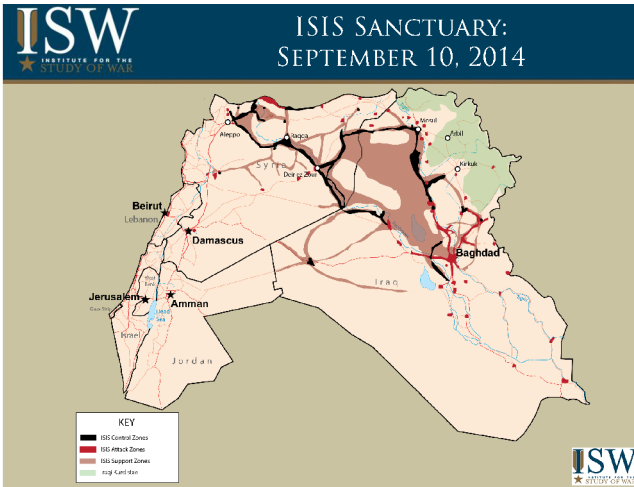
Tracking airstrikes meant tracking ISIS, using ISW's map.



THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

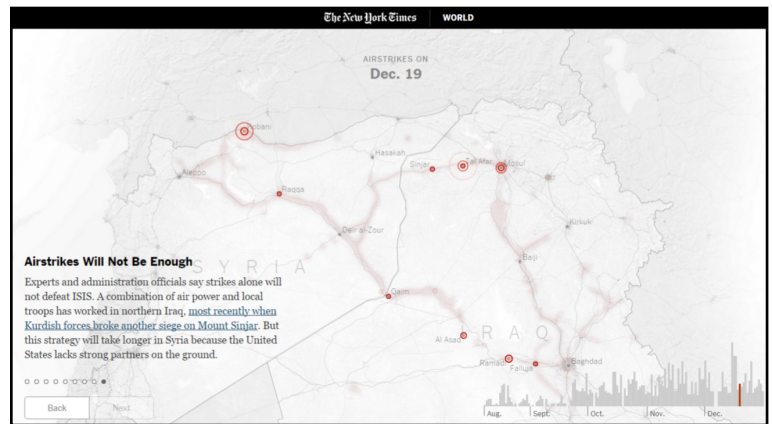
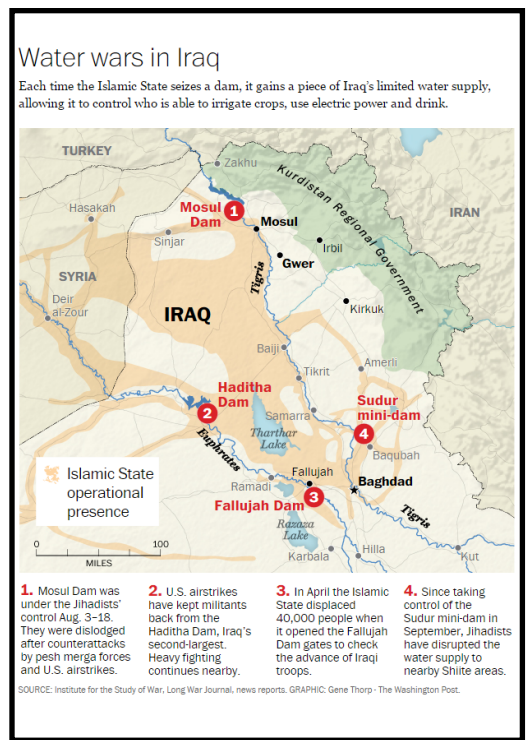


Lt.-Gen. Jonathan Vance, Commander of Canadian Joint Operation Command, holds a briefing on combat strikes against the Islamic State (Nov. 4, 2014)

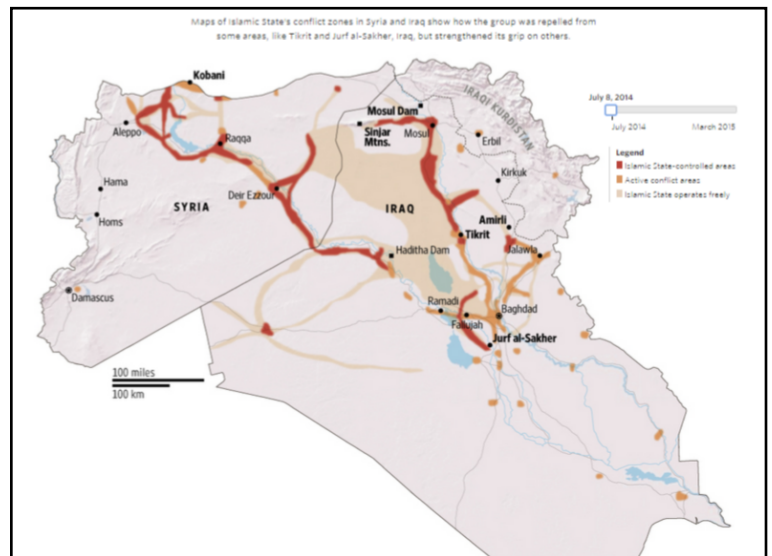


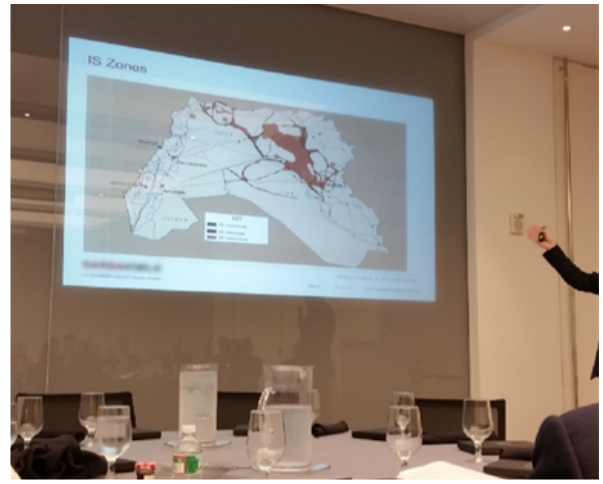
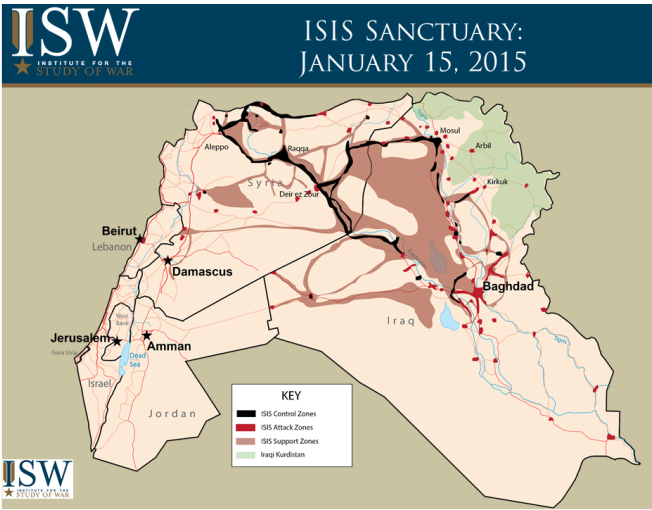
THE WALL STREET JOURNAL
WSJ

Control of territory meant control of key assets, including water resources.

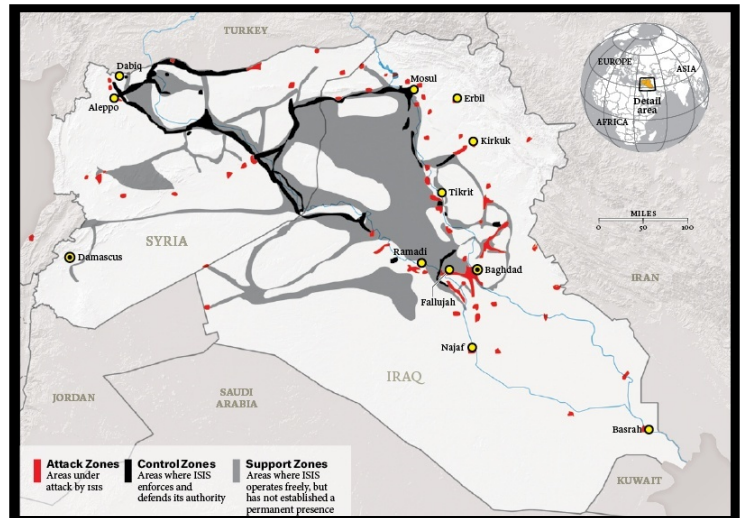
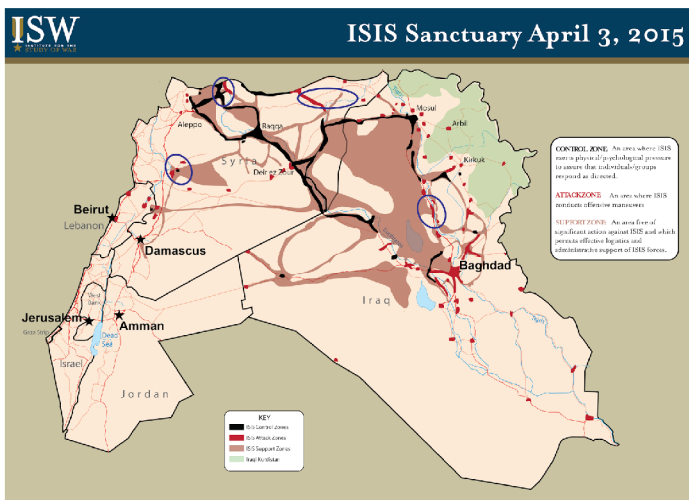
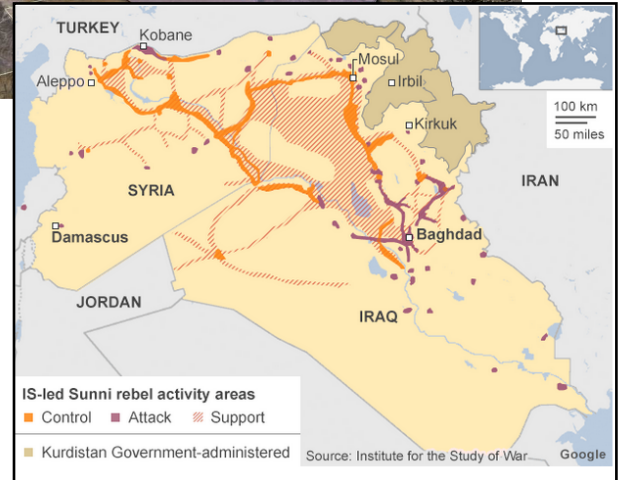
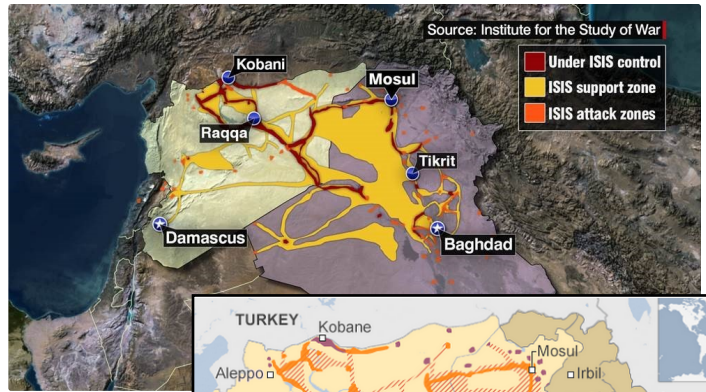
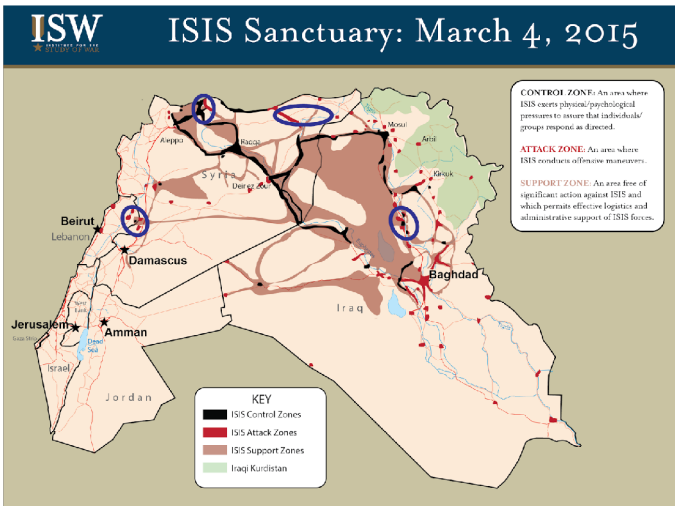


The Sanctuary Map comes to life courtesy of *The New York Times* (above) and *The Wall Street Journal* (below). Click on the links for the animated versions.





Other groups used our map for private briefings.

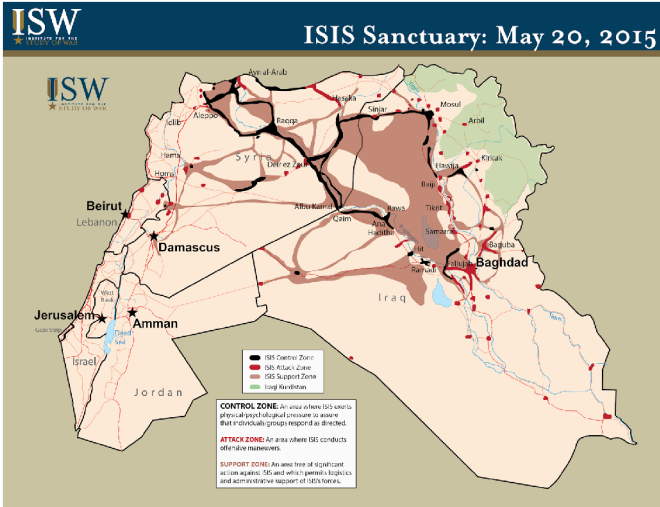


The Atlantic

Ramadi falls

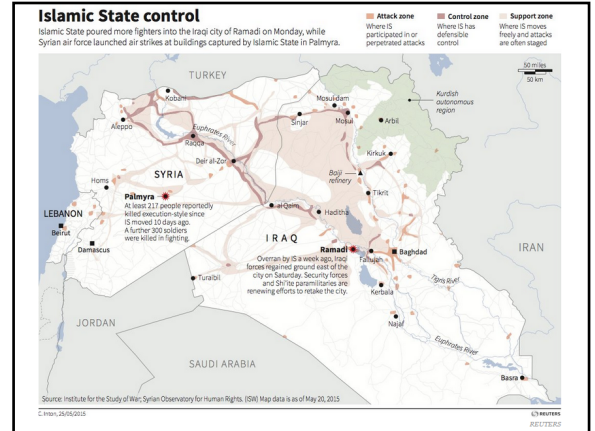


REUTERS



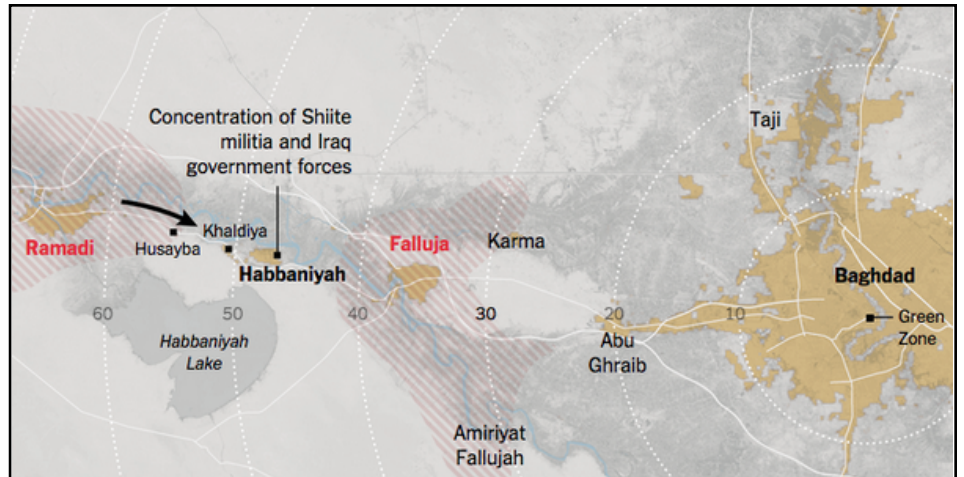
"Attack on Ramadi 'not a strategic surprise'."

Kimberly Kagan
Bloomberg Business
05/28/15



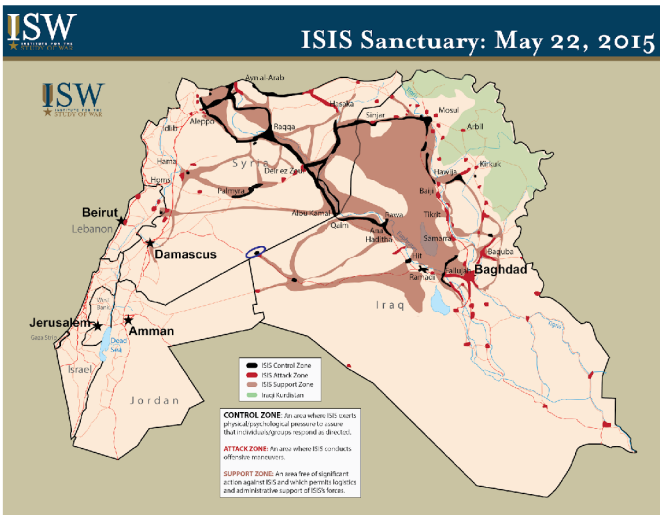
"This is what happens when a policy of half-measures, restrictions and posturing meets a skillful and determined enemy on the battlefield."

Kimberly Kagan
The Washington Post
05/18/15



The New York Times

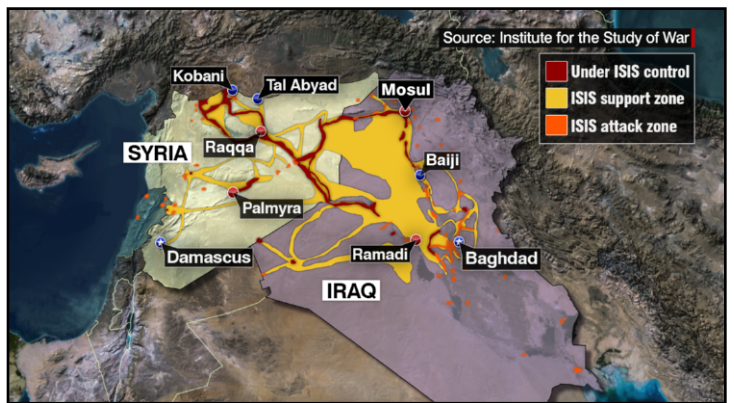
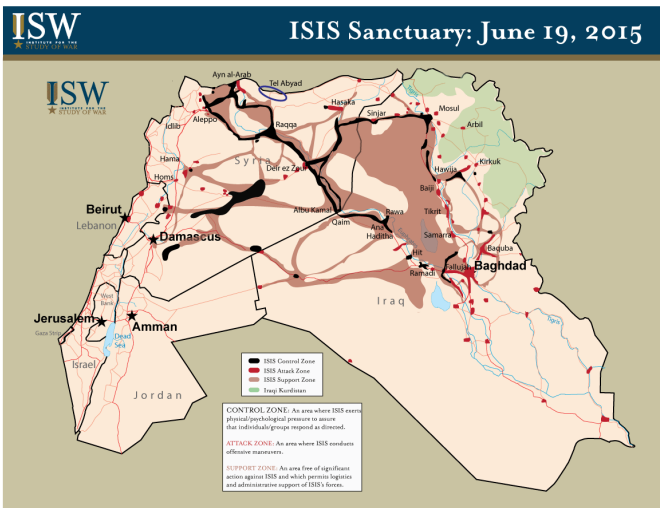
Palmyra falls



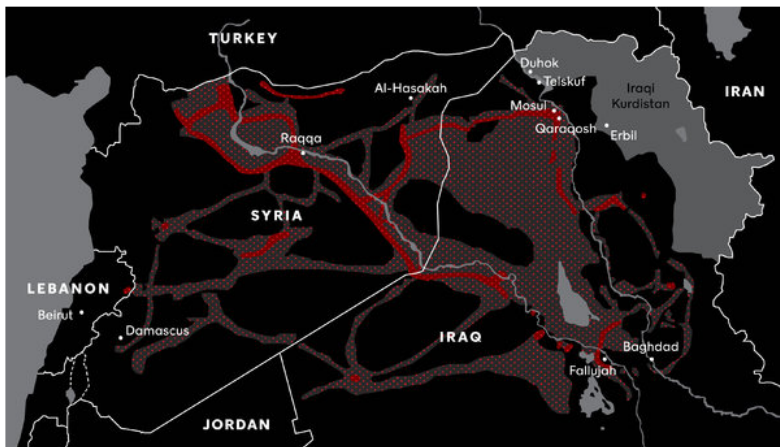
The Economist



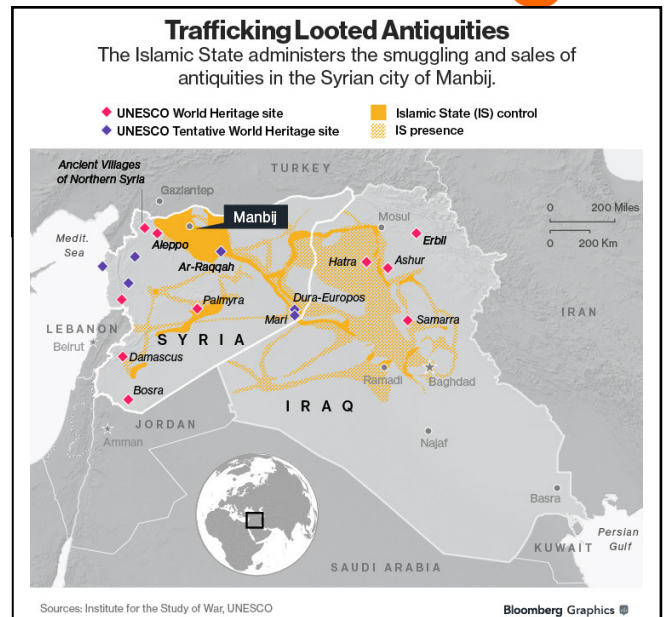
When analyzing the effects of 9 months of coalition airstrikes, DefenseOne used the ISIS Sanctuary Map as its base.

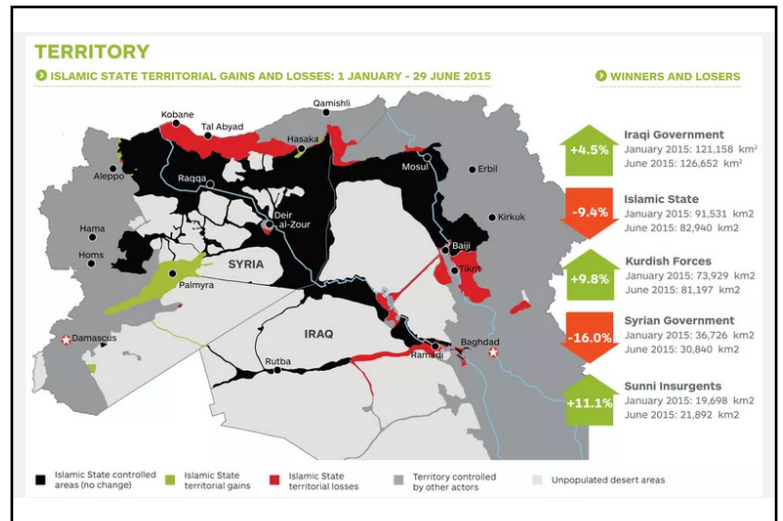
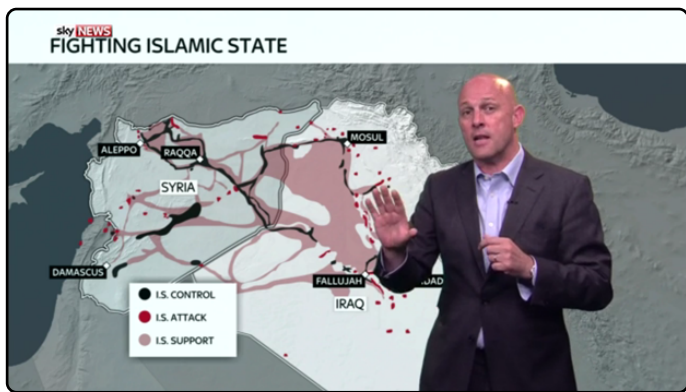
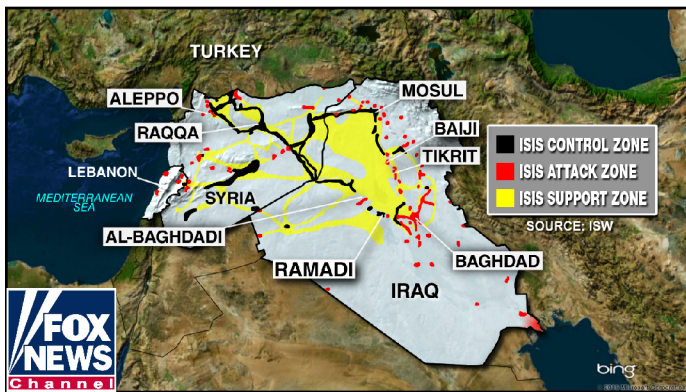
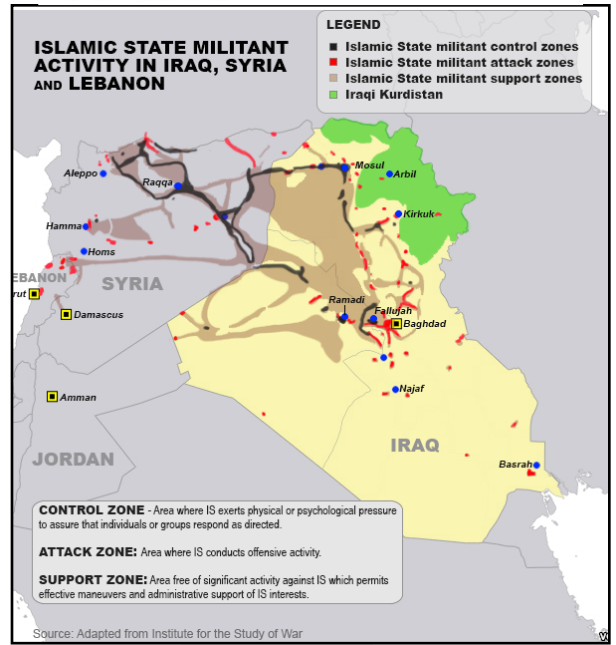
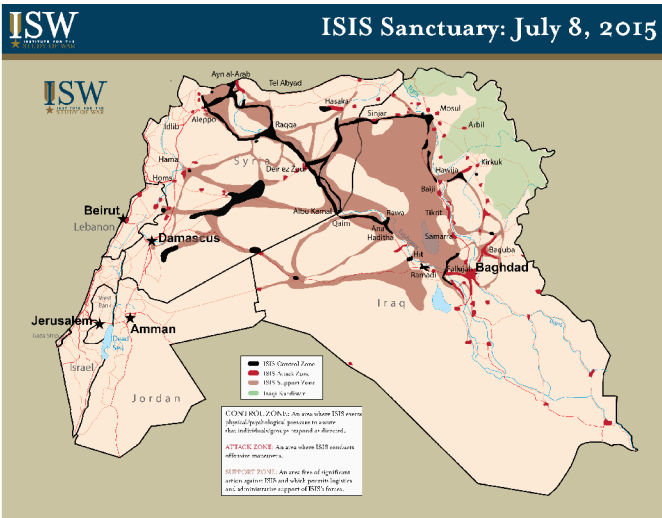


The New York Times



Source: Institute for the Study of War





Since the fall of Mosul, ISW's ISIS Sanctuary Map has been featured in--

