

"The Islamic State's attacks prove that, despite its recent losses, it remains strong and capable of executing its global strategy to undermine modern states, expand as a caliphate, and spark an apocalyptic war with the West."

7/11/2016

Jessica Lewis McFate and Christopher Kozak

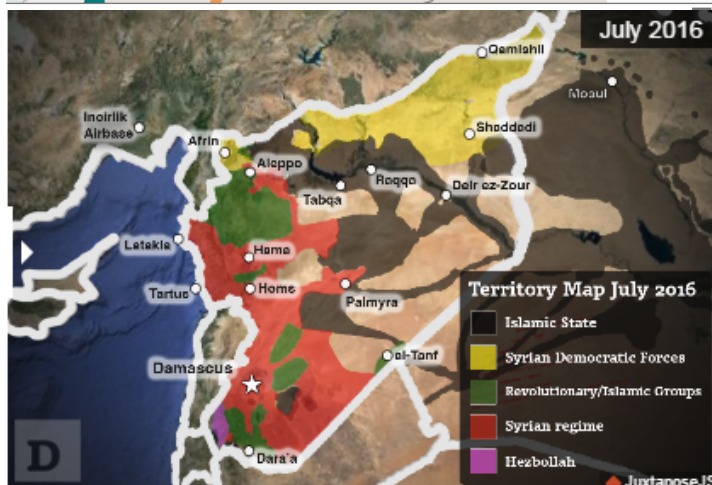
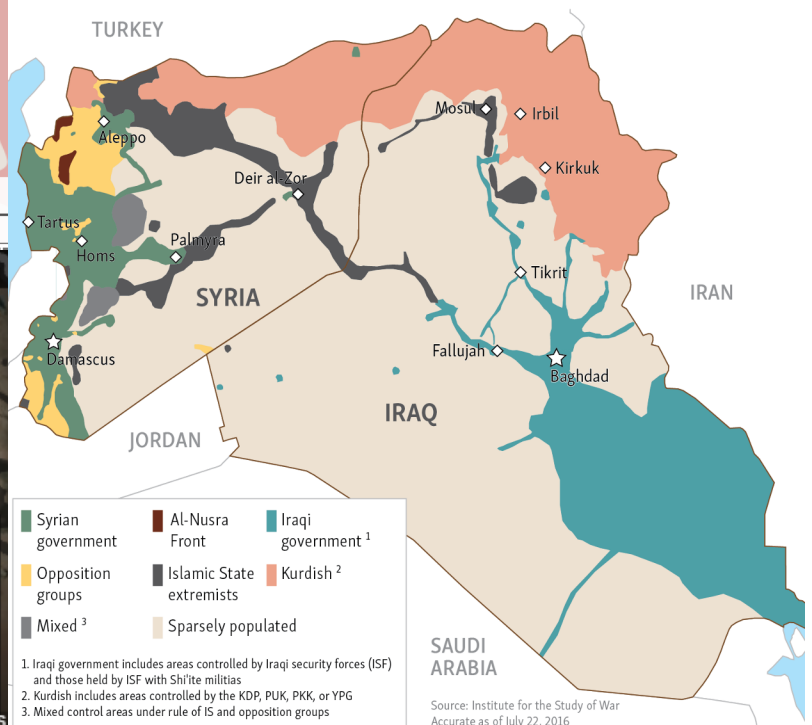


Articles, quotes, and maps link to original postings.

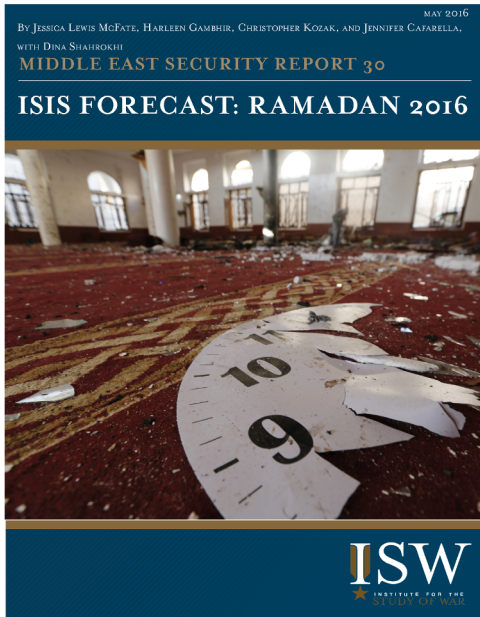


## TERRITORIAL CONTROL IN SYRIA & IRAQ

These are the factions vying for control in Syria and Iraq.



## *ISIS Forecast: Ramadan 2016*



"This year, ISIS will likely take action to reverse serious losses in Iraq and Syria while expanding its attacks against the non-Muslim world in an attempt to spark an apocalyptic total war,"

7/5/2016

**THE DC**

**AP**

"ISIS uses Ramadan, "as a justification for its attacks and as an occasion to reorient its strategy."

7/5/2016

IS' leaders will likely encourage affiliates to plan actions clustered in time, perhaps on the anniversary of the caliphate declaration, so that they can be united in a common messaging framework,"

7/5/2016

**FIRSTPOST.**



**Caitlin Forrest**

*Counter-terrorism  
Research Assistant*

**"ISIS is likely preparing to launch new affiliates in Bangladesh."**

7/2/2016



"ISIS may take advantage of a likely security reshuffle and intensify spectacular attacks in Turkey after a failed coup by military officials on July 15."

7/16/2016



"These measures are appropriate, but insufficient to close the readiness gap of the (Afghan security forces) ... or bring Taliban militants to the negotiating table... The next president of the United States will inherit a challenge in Afghanistan in January 2017, even with current troop levels and increased authorities for supporting (Afghan military) offensive missions."

7/18/2016



**"A peace agreement is unlikely, however, as militants have steadily regained territory since the bulk of U.S. forces withdrew from Afghanistan beginning in 2011."**

7/16/2016





**Patrick Martin**  
*Iraq Analyst*

"Within Iraq, we will see them shift more toward **attacking civilian targets...** and outside the country, there will likely be a renewed emphasis on sending foreign recruits to Libya."

7/4/2016

THE SACRAMENTO BEE

**BUSINESS  
INSIDER**

"The Iraqi government cannot guarantee its long-term stability as long as Sunni populations do not feel protected or represented by their government and are possibly more inclined to welcome extremist ideology,"

7/22/2016



**Jessica Lewis  
McFate**  
*Director of Tradecraft  
and Innovation*

"ISIS, at its core, is still in my view an Iraqi military organization that has an outsized global network."

7/5/2016

**VOA** Voice of America

"I expect that ISIS has extremely hardened defenses inside of Raqqa and Mosul."

**VOA** Voice of America

7/19/2016

"The Islamic State's strategy is both local and global. "

7/11/2016

**FP**  
Foreign Policy



**Harleen  
Gambhir**

*Non-Resident  
Counter-terrorism Fellow*



"Competition between militant elements vying to lead the Southeast Asian pro-ISIS movement will likely encourage increased jihadist attacks in the short term, threatening urban areas and Western interests in the region."



7/4/2016

"Taliban militants seek to degrade the ANSF, discourage foreign presence, and demonstrate the weakness of the unity government ... They will achieve these objectives through increased insider attacks, assassination campaigns, and attacks against Western and diplomatic targets in Kabul City and beyond."

7/6/2016



**Christopher  
Kozak**

*Syria Analyst*

"In the immediate aftermath of the coup, President Erdogan is going to be directing the majority of his attention towards what we're seeing now, which is a wide-ranging purge of major institutions of alleged coup supporters, and these include the major state institutions that have been the external arm of Turkish foreign policy, namely the Turkish armed forces and the Turkish Intelligence Organization (MIT)."

7/26/2016



"The Islamic State's attacks prove that, despite its recent losses, it remains strong and capable of executing its global strategy to undermine modern states, expand as a caliphate, and spark an apocalyptic war with the West."

7/11/2016



**Jennifer Cafarella**

*Syria Analyst*

*Evans Hanson Fellow*

“The extent of Erdogan’s purge and his use of a counterterrorism justification demonstrate his intent to use the coup attempt as an excuse to transform the Turkish military into a source of personal power and eliminate sources of dissent in Turkey.”

**TheNational**

7/31/2016

**THE DC**

“A partnership with al-Qaeda could grant [Erdogan] a powerful proxy force to achieve national security objectives without relying on the Turkish Military.”

7/20/2016

“Russia is framing this offer in terms of counterterrorism and is proposing joint operations against both Jabhat al Nusra and ISIS, but of course Russia’s current campaign does not actually make such distinctions. The issue on the table, therefore, is whether it’s possible for the U.S. to redirect Russia into an actual counterterrorism alliance in which Russia halts targeting of acceptable opposition groups.”

**THE DAILY BEAST**

7/13/2016



**Franklin Holcomb**

*Russia and Ukraine  
Research Assistant*

“Part of Russia's current strategy is to a campaign of information warfare against the Baltic States paired with political pressure and military provocation.”

7/6/2016

**THE HUFFINGTON POST**



**Chris Harmer**

*Non-Resident Senior*

*Naval Analyst*

"Marine Corps aviation is 'on the verge of systemic failure' because the fleet has been overused since Sept. 11, 2001."

7/4/2016

NationalSecurity news

"China and Russia are closing the advanced weapons gap."

7/7/2016



"The idea that the moderate rebels will separate themselves from Nusra is just not going to happen. It [the administration's plan] is a Hail Mary pass that is dead on arrival."



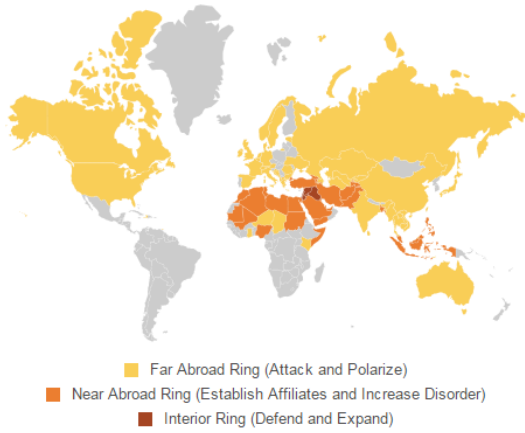
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"Right now the Assad regime has momentum [in Aleppo]."



7/11/2016

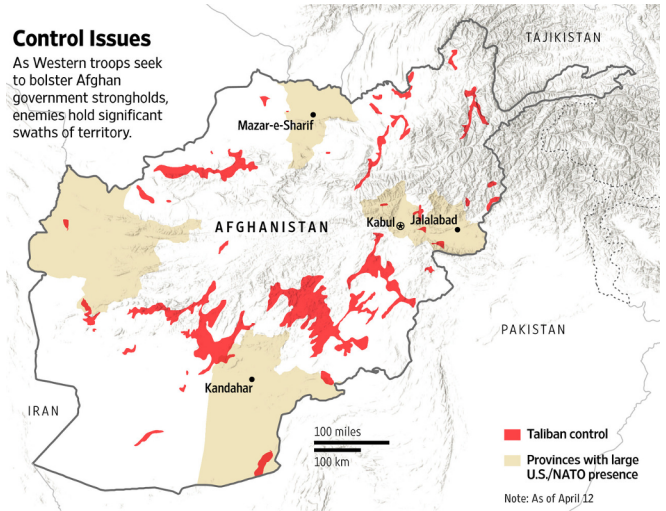
ISIS Global Strategy



Source: [Institute for the Study of War](http://Institute for the Study of War). As of March 28, 2016

Control Issues

As Western troops seek to bolster Afghan government strongholds, enemies hold significant swaths of territory.



Source: Institute for the Study of War

07/5/2016

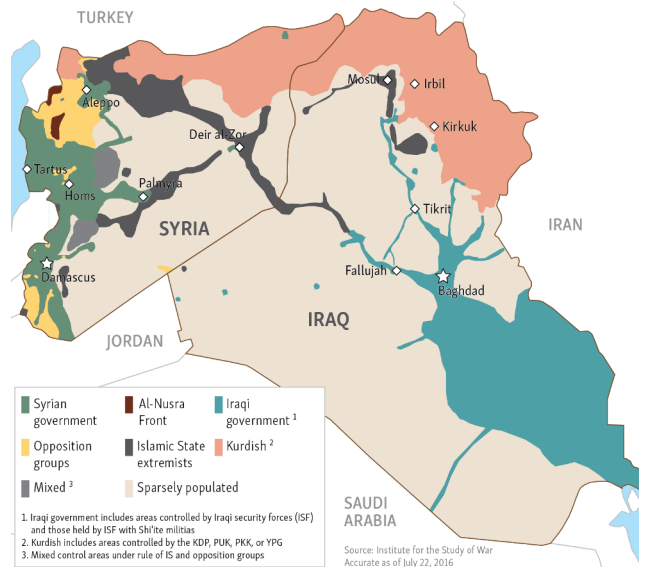
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*Wall Street Journal*

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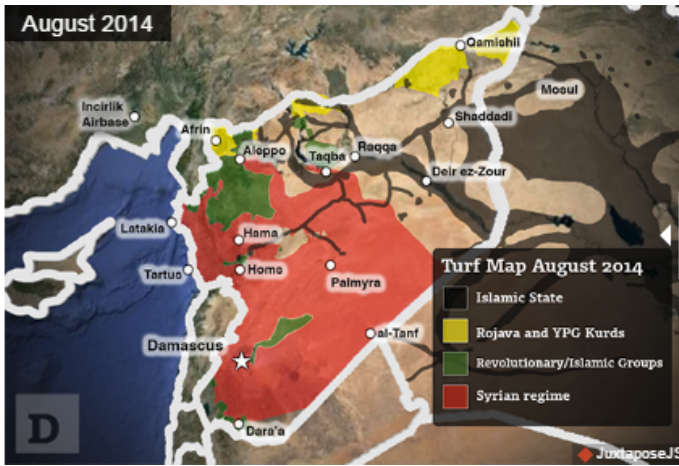
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*Business Insider*

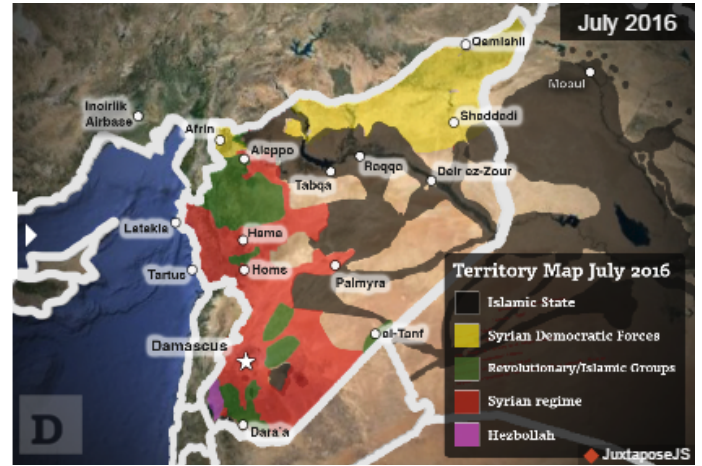
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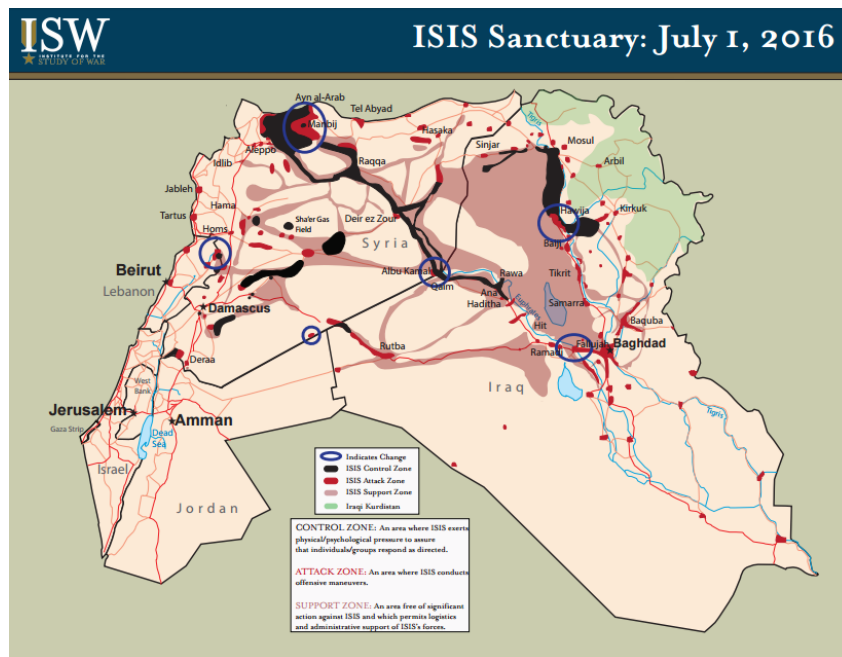




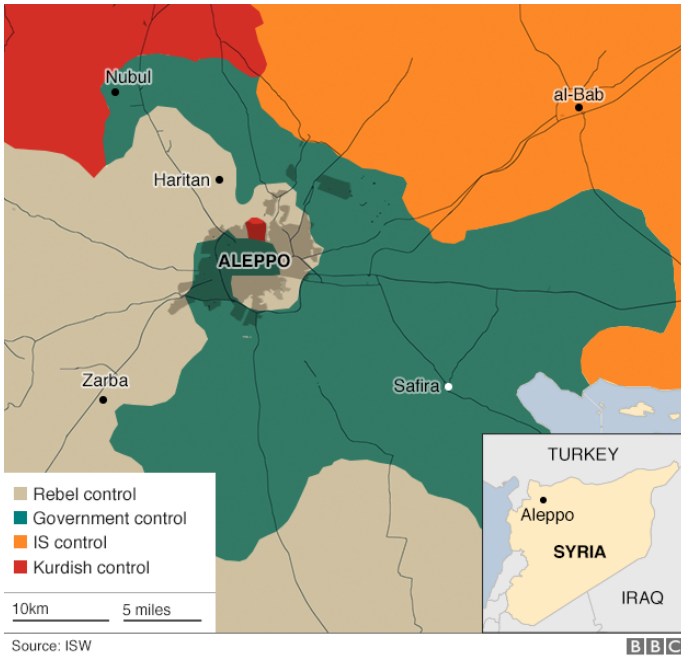
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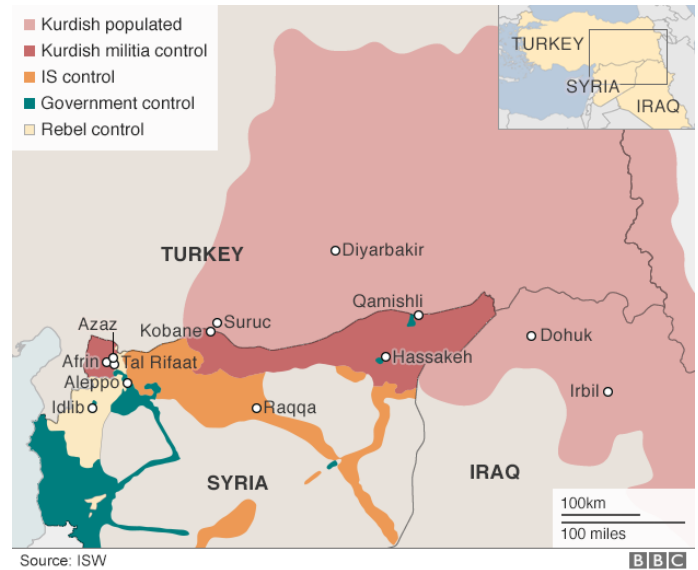


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