

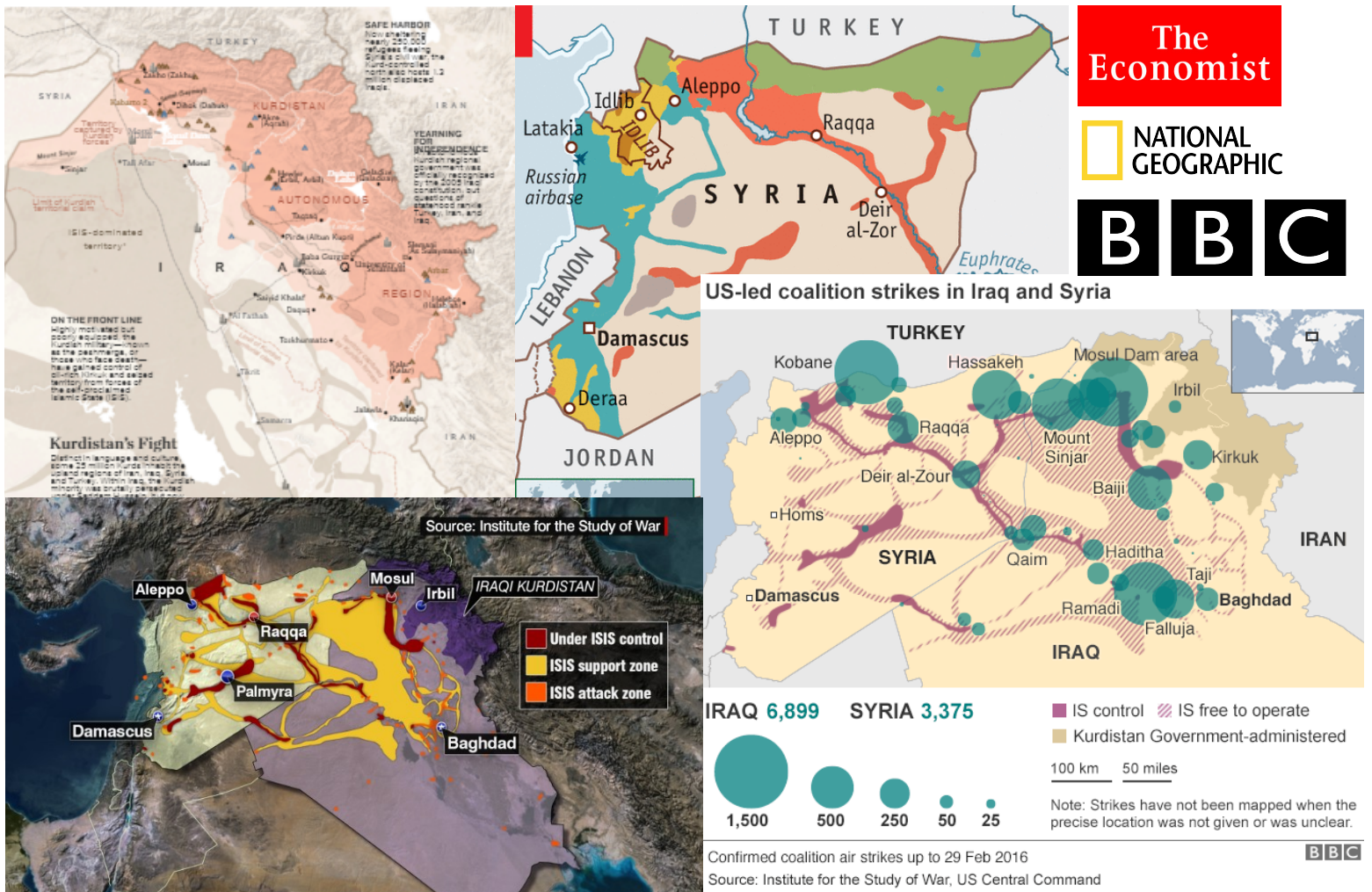
"ISIS has been waging three parallel campaigns — defending the caliphate, spreading disorder in the wider Middle East and destabilizing the West."

*Harleen Gambhir*



"Jabhat al-Nusra...directly targets US-backed groups, and defeats them when it can, in order to ensure that moderate forces do not find footing in a new Syria."

*Jennifer Cafarella*





**Harleen Gambhir**  
*Counter-terrorism Analyst*

“Defensively, the U.S. and its allies should aim to reduce ISIS’s resonance online.”

3/9/2016



**"There is no group on the ground currently that cares enough about ISIS in Sirte or has that effort up high enough on its priority list to actually hit ISIS in its core terrain."**

3/9/2016



"As any good terrorist can tell you, the plan of an attack involves cells having minimal contact with one another."

3/18/2016



**"ISIS has been waging three parallel campaigns — defending the caliphate, spreading disorder in the wider Middle East and destabilizing the West."**

3/23/2016



"[Isis] is taking on all the military and social aspects of its core in Syria and Iraq."

3/20/2016



**"The group relies on a combination of strong networks within the continent and a sanctuary in Iraq and Syria."**

3/23/2016



**"ISIS has definitely faced losses and has increased its use of unconventional tactics, like suicide bombings, in order to draw forces away from the front."**

3/29/2016





"They aimed at different military targets, but in a coordinated way."

3/1/2016



## Christopher Kozak

*Syria Analyst*

"Russia expects a return on its investment and Assad needs to play ball right now while they have favorable conditions, in order to secure Russia's long-term interests."

3/15/2016



"There was a Syrian [regime] face on the Palmyra operation because of the [symbolic value]."

3/29/2016



"It's *calculated brutality*, in order to demoralize the population, to prevent governance, to force the flight of populations."

3/4/2016



"At this stage, I look to the involvement of the regime's allies — the Russian air and ground troops and Iran-backed militias — as a way of gauging how serious an operation is."

3/23/2016





“Maybe it means that this set of suicide bombers started out as just sympathizers to ISIS, sort of *tourist terrorists*.”

3/24/2016

**BUSINESS  
INSIDER**

“If/when the long-rumored assault on Mosul commences, those numbers will spike again.”

3/16/2016

**Bloomberg**

## Christopher Harmer

*Non-Resident  
Senior Naval Analyst*

“*Either illusion or delusion or optimism* that Iraq is still a unitary nation state.”

3/29/2016

**TIME**

“The Army and Marine Corps general officers are siding squarely with their subordinates, and laying the blame for the increased mishap rates directly at the feet of the civilian authorities.”

3/17/2016

**TIME**

“What is happening is ‘resource creep’ to support the missions.”

3/21/2016

**U.S. News** & WORLD REPORT



“The attacks likely aim at delaying deployment of troops to Makhmour or along the Euphrates River valley for the Mosul assault by forcing the military to move its best forces to protect the capital.”

**AP**

## Patrick Martin

*Iraq Analyst*

3/6/2016





**Jennifer Cafarella**  
*Syria Analyst*  
*Evans Hanson Fellow*

"They engaged in the negotiating process to preserve the [Assad] regime. **They have no incentives to cut a deal** that gives the Syrian opposition any concessions."

*The Philadelphia Inquirer*

3/5/2016

"Jabhat al-Nusra is leveraging its battlefield contributions to create relationships with civil society, civilian populations and other Syrian opposition groups. It then manipulates those relationships in order to achieve dominance. And it directly targets US-backed groups, and defeats them when it can, in order to ensure that moderate forces do not find footing in a new Syria. "

**BUSINESS INSIDER**

3/24/2016



**Genevieve Casagrande**  
*Syria Analyst\**

\**And primary airstrikes map creator*

"If anything, they're not just targeting Jabhat al-Nusra [and the Islamic State] like they're claiming."

3/1/2016

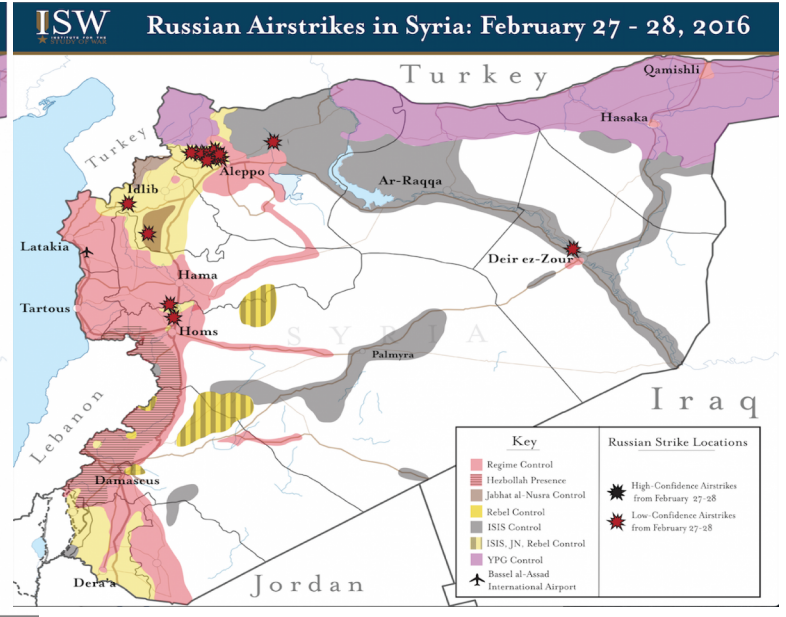
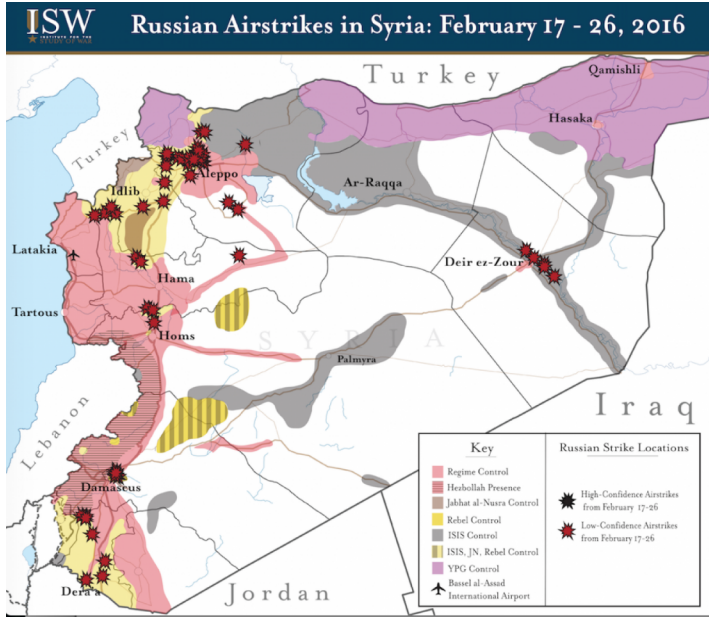
*The Washington Post*

"The air strikes definitely seek to give regime forces a tactical advantage."

3/3/2016

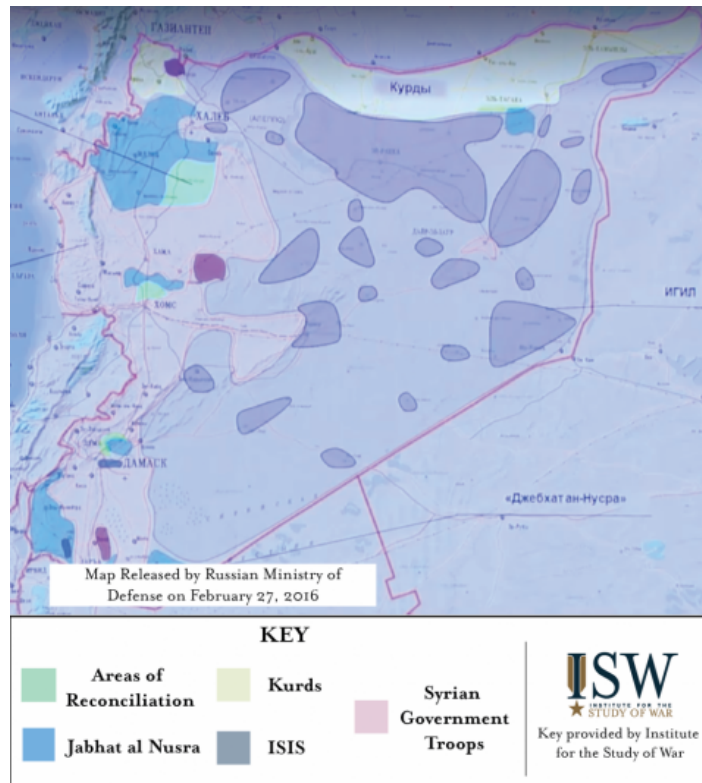


## ISW Maps in the News



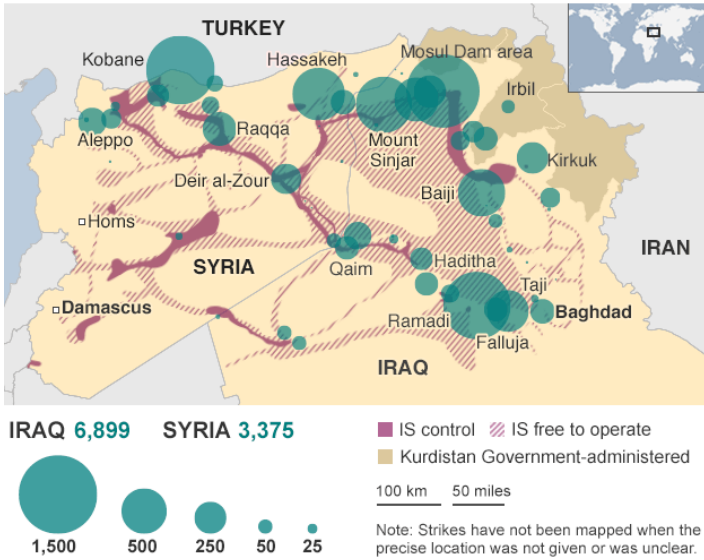
*The Washington Post*

3/1/2016



## ISW Maps in the News

US-led coalition strikes in Iraq and Syria



Confirmed coalition air strikes up to 29 Feb 2016

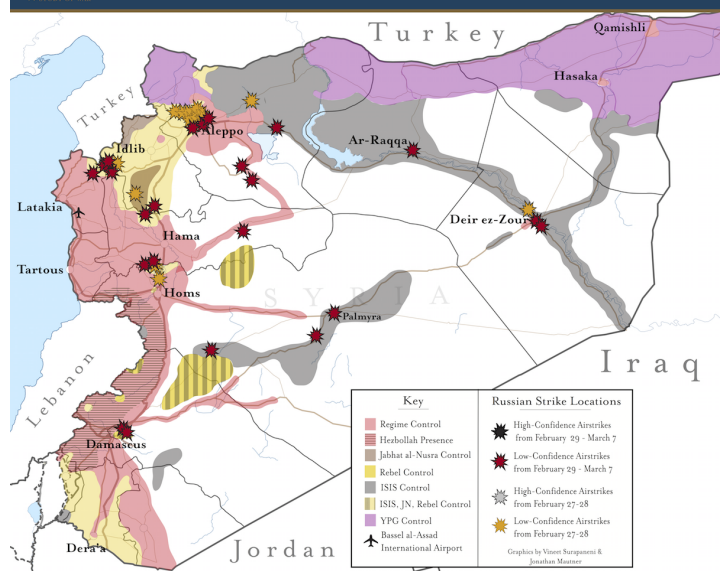
Source: Institute for the Study of War, US Central Command

BBC

BBC

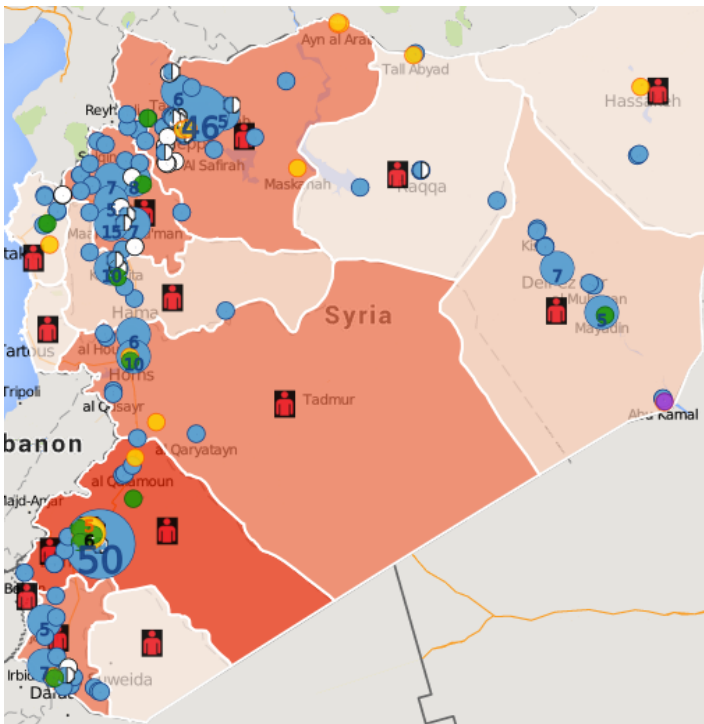
3/4/2016

ISW Russian Airstrikes in Syria: February 27 - March 7, 2016



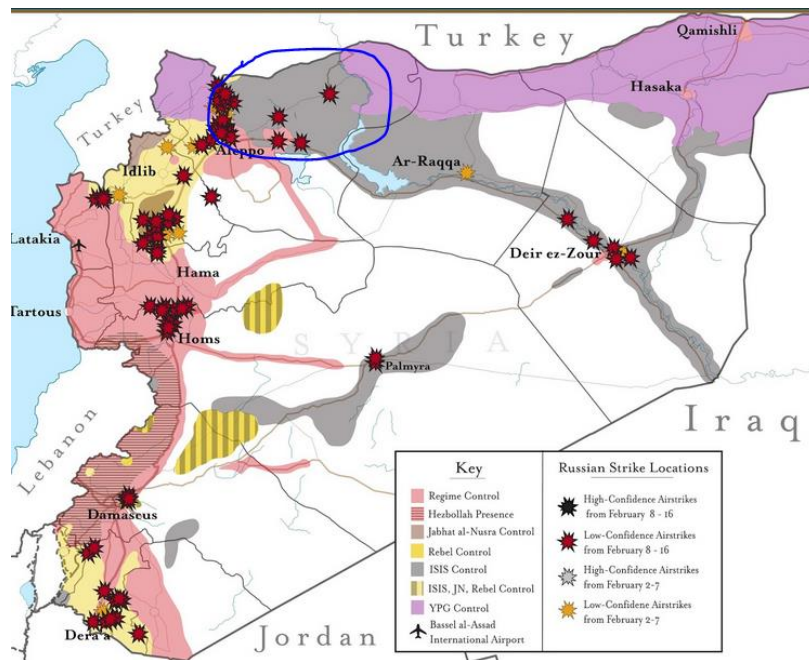
BBC

3/16/2016



Physicians for Human Rights

3/16/2016



The Intersection Project

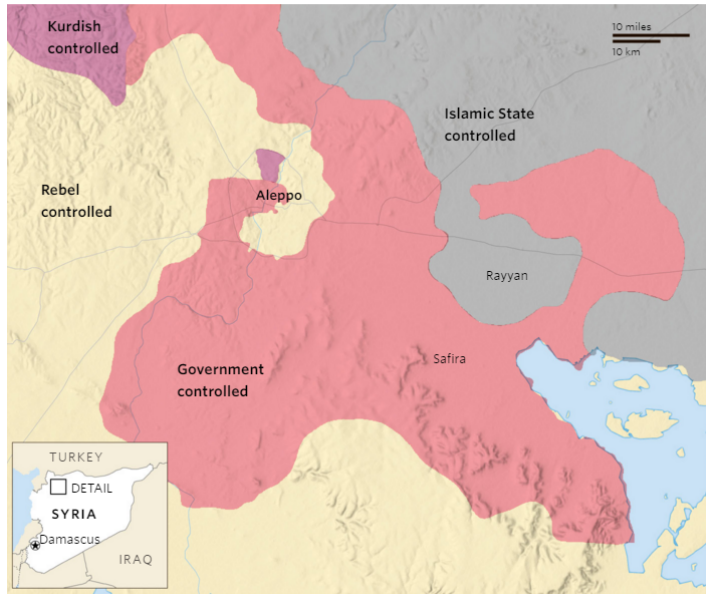
3/16/2016



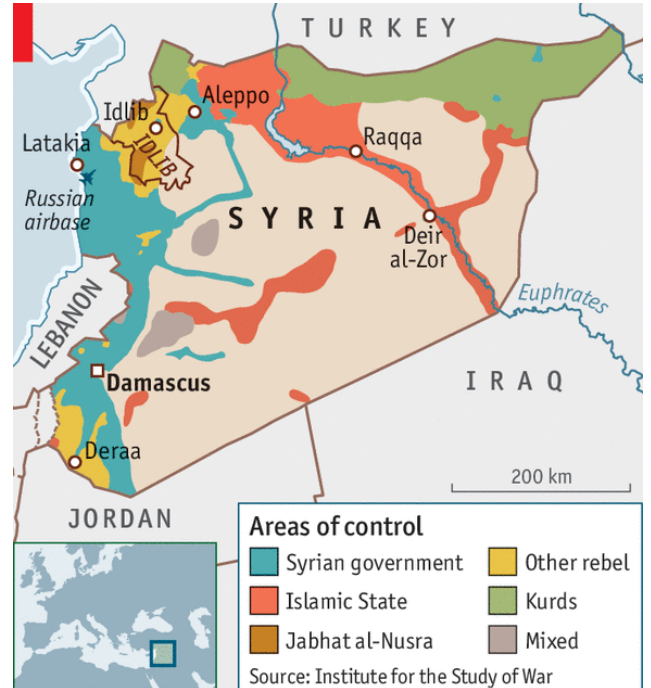
## More ISW Maps in the News

### Who Holds What

Assad regime and allied forces have been fighting for ground around the major city of Aleppo.



Source: Institute for the Study of War



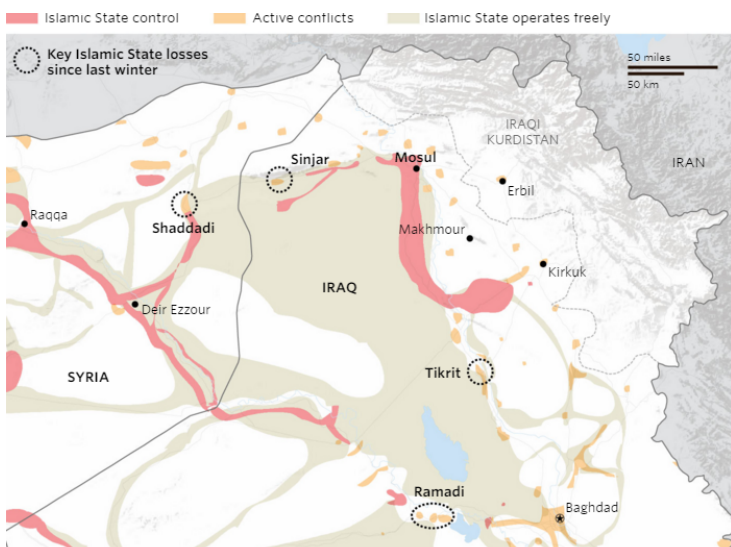
Economist.com

*WSJ*

3/2/2016

*The Economist*

3/5/2016



Source: Institute for the Study of War (areas of control)

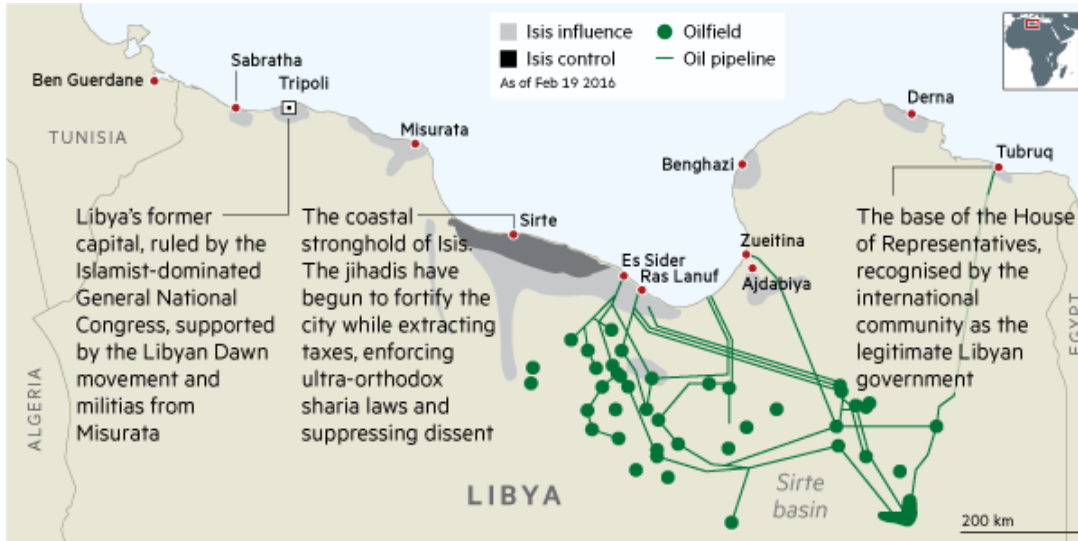


*ISN Zurich*

3/7/2016



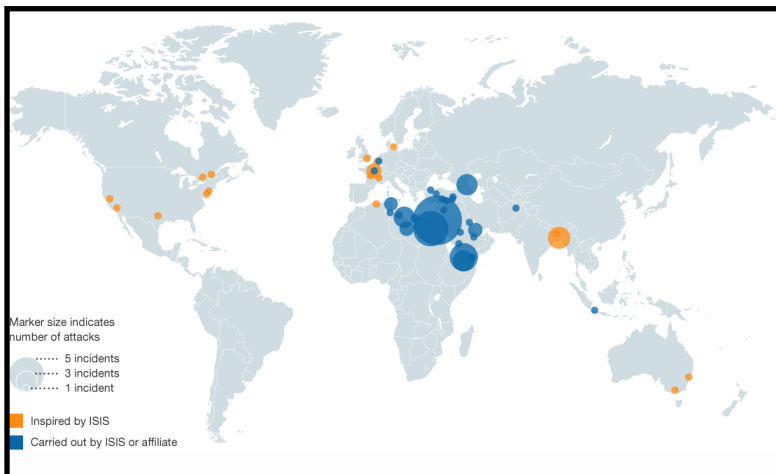
## More ISW Maps in the News



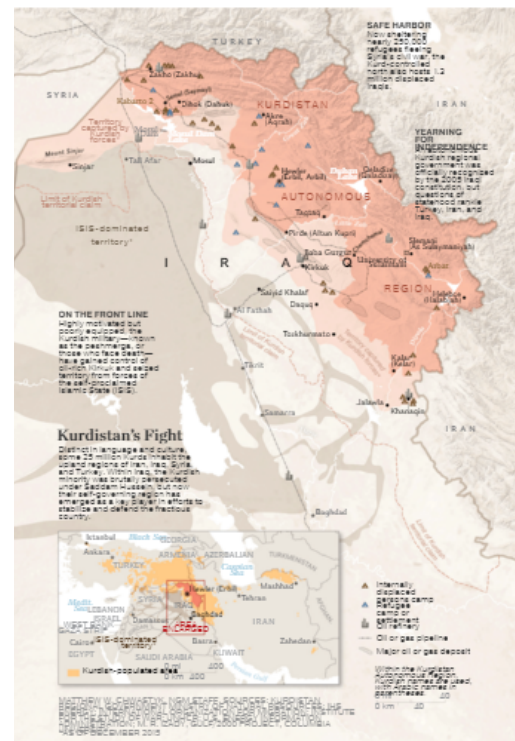
Only oilfields and pipelines from Sirte basin shown  
Source: Institute for the Study of War; CTP; The Soufan Group; FT research

FT

*Financial Times*  
3/2/2016



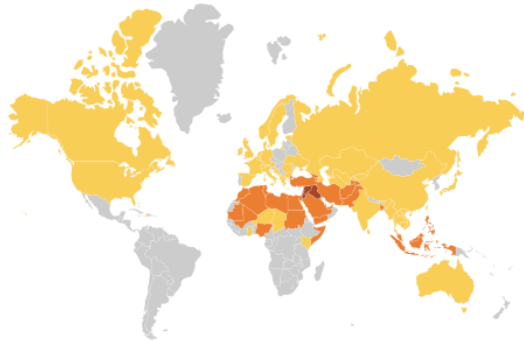
*CNN*  
3/2/2016



*National Geographic*  
3/22/2016

## More ISW Maps in the News

ISIS Global Strategy

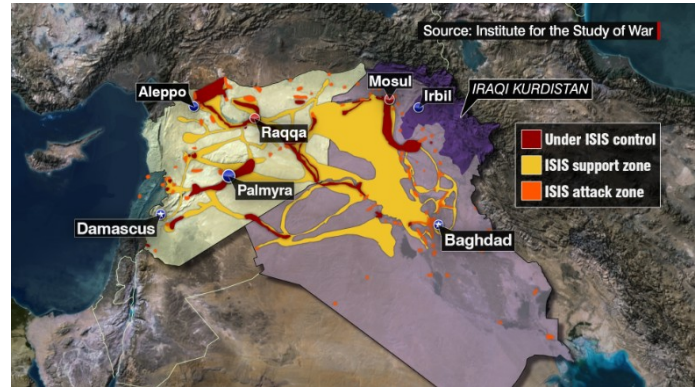


- Far Abroad Ring (Attack and Polarize)
- Near Abroad Ring (Establish Affiliates and Increase Disorder)
- Interior Ring (Defend and Expand)

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

**FOX6**

3/23/2016



**FOX6**

3/29/2016

## More of ISW in the News

*Defense One*

3/1/2016

*Military Times*

3/1/2016

*Voice of America*

3/1/2016

*Financial Times*

3/2/2016

*Daily News*

3/2/2016

*Reuters*

3/2/2016

*International Business Times*

3/2/2016

*BBC*

3/4/2016

*Politico*

3/4/2016

*The Economist*

3/5/2016

*Maxim*

3/5/2016

*Wall Street Journal*

3/6/2016

*ISN Zurich*

3/7/2016

*Charleston Courier*

3/7/2016

*Daily Caller*

3/7/2016

*AINA*

3/8/2016

*PBS Newshour*

3/10/2016

*Star and Stripes*

3/14/2016

*The Telegraph*

3/21/2016

*Breitbart*

3/22/2016

Follow ISW: