

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 our website (www.UnderstandingWar.org), our Research Blog (iswresearch.blogspot.com) and Twitter [@TheStudyofWar](https://twitter.com/TheStudyofWar).

ISW in Congress

Dr. Kimberly Kagan *President, ISW*



Dr. Kimberly Kagan testified to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee about Iraq, Syria, and Middle East Policy September 19, 2015.

Testimony | Video

General Jack Keane *Chairman of the Board, ISW*

General John M. Keane (USA, Ret.) testified on U.S. Counter-terrorism Efforts in Syria to the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Terrorism September 29, 2015.

Testimony | Video



General David Petraeus *Board Member, ISW*

General David H. Petraeus (USA, Ret.) testified to the Senate Armed Services Committee on U.S. Policy in the Middle East September 21, 2015

Testimony | Video



LTG James Dubik *Senior Fellow*

"The 1991 war was quick and easy and created the myth that this is how we could fight wars now... This set us up for a misunderstanding of how to wage war in the years that followed."

NPR - 08/02/15

General John Allen

Special Presidential Envoy for the Global Coalition to Counter ISIL

"The Institute for the Study of War is an outstanding organization, and in fact, we get a lot of help from them sometimes in the work that we do"

on Martha Raddatz (ABC)

09/11/15



Harleen Gambhir *Counter-terrorism Analyst*

"We need to back a moderate Syrian opposition and we need to believe in a Syrian state that does not include Assad"

Al Jazeera America

09/29/15





Christopher Harmer

Senior Naval Analyst



"Actual U.S. strategy in the Middle East right now is to try and get allies and proxies to take the lead on actual fighting, a variant of the 'lead from behind' approach [taken] in Libya. It is simply not possible for the U.S. to tell allies and proxies who are doing the fighting what weapons to use. If the U.S. wants to minimize the use of cluster munitions against terrorist-affiliated groups then the U.S. needs to take the lead in the fight.

U.S. News and World Report

09/07/15

Los Angeles Times

"It's pretty obvious that all the Russian logistics preparation is to do something significant in support of Assad At this point, it's too big to be a misdirection."

Los Angeles Times

09/04/15

"Russia wants Assad to stay alive, and, by putting the focus on ISIS, it gives him another lifeline."

The Daily Beast

09/07/15

Our aircraft can hit anywhere in Syria or Iraq, but we're not really doing anything to restrain the growth of the Islamic State."

Voice of America

08/06/15



"It gives an aura of stability and even permanency to the Assad regime that it did not have before. It essentially completely guarantees that there will be no political solution that involves Bashar Assad leaving Syria for the foreseeable future."

Voice of America

09/18/15



"It is much easier to increase the size of the Army or Air Force on short notice than it is to increase the size of the Navy. Even at the peak of World War II, with the entire industrial might of the US brought to bear, it took three years to build the battleship Missouri."

Washington Examiner

08/22/15



Jennifer Cafarella

Syria Analyst, Evans Hanson Fellow

"We do need another ground force. The Kurds alone won't be sufficient, and trying to build another from scratch by the U.S. has failed."

Washington Examiner

08/07/2015



"Nusra has exchanged that territory in Deir ez Zor for networks in western Syria. "It really is the power of those networks that Nusra has been able to advance. Nusra is regarded as a highly effective and necessary ally for a majority of Syrian rebel groups in their fight against Assad."

Voice of America

08/28/15



THE HUFFINGTON POST

"Both al-Qaeda's Jabhat al-Nusra and the Islamic State are altering their strategies in Lebanon in reaction to how their battles with Hezbollah are going in Syria. The Islamic State may hit parts of northeastern Lebanon in the weeks ahead, so that it can draw Hezbollah's attention there and away from the Syrian city of Homs, leaving that city more vulnerable to attack "

Huffington Post

08/19/15



"I think that the current ISIS offensive and ISIS gains against the Syrian regime east of Homs are not surprising given the success ISIS has had in fighting the regime in central Syria to date."

NPR

08/07/15

Christopher Kozak

Syria Analyst



“Honestly, I do not see a way for the Pentagon to hit that number. It seems at this point to be an unrealistic number for what the program will be able to achieve in coming months.”

Washington Examiner

09/10/15

“The T-90s are a definite escalation. They are an advanced piece of hardware with an offensive purpose. Its piece of equipment that I would entirely expect be operated by Russian and remain in Russian hands,”

McClatchyDC

09/15/15

"Russia, by positioning themselves in Syria as an anti-ISIS actor, is also fighting in a way to both undermine the United States in running its own coalition as well as present itself in a light on the international stage as a key international player.

NPR Here and Now

09/21/2015



More of ISW in the News

CNN (08/16/15)

Politico (09/10/15)

Vox News (09/30/15)

The Globe and Mail (09/18/15)

WJLA (09/18/15)

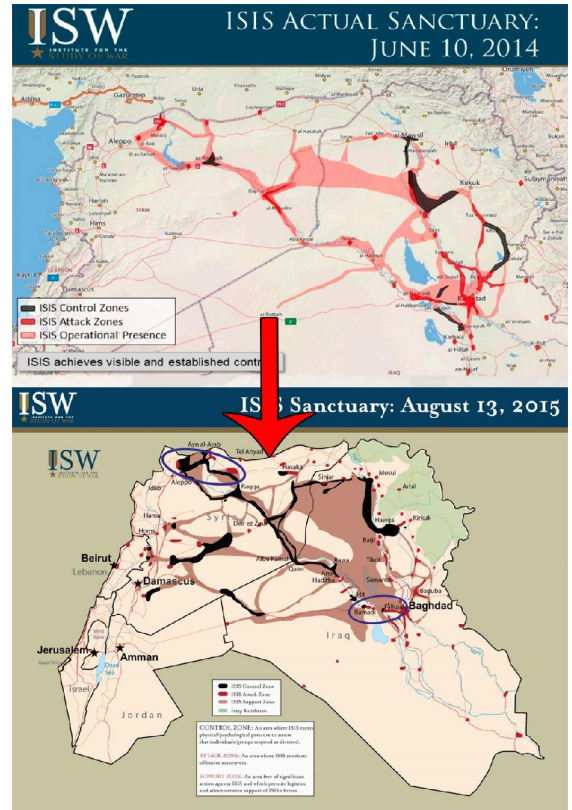
The Atlantic (09/11/15)

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ISW Maps in the News

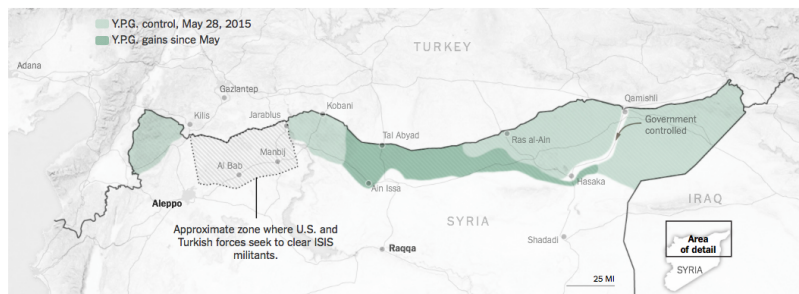
In addition to our analysts' expertise, ISW's maps continue to be utilized by major news sources as a crucial visual complement to breaking news stories and cutting edge analysis. In particular, our maps provided valuable insight on the rapid deployment of Russian forces to Syria and the subsequent commencement of airstrikes that primarily targeted regime opposition groups.



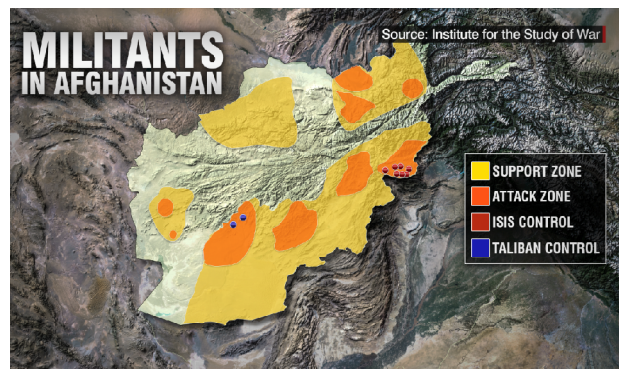
BUSINESS INSIDER

Kurdish Territorial Gains in the Fight Against ISIS

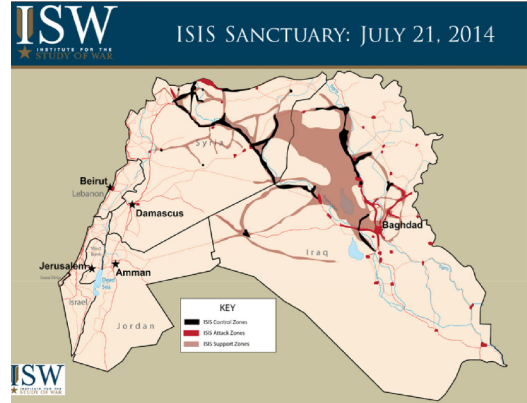
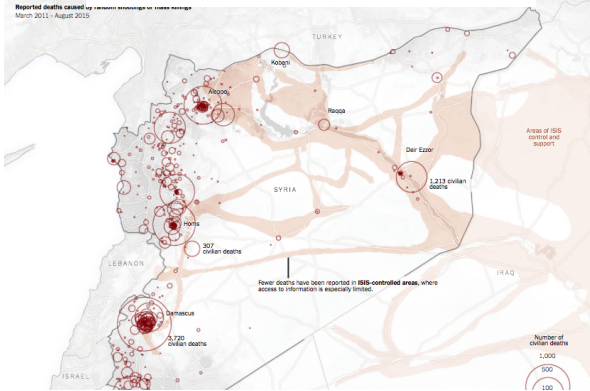
Kurdish Y.P.G. forces have seized territory from the Islamic State along the border with Turkey, building a nearly contiguous Kurdish-controlled area. The proposed "ISIS-free" zone would also prevent further Kurdish advances.



Sources: Institute for the Study of War; Kurdish officials
By The New York Times



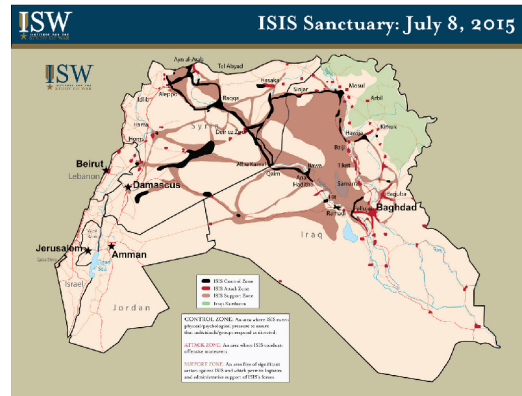
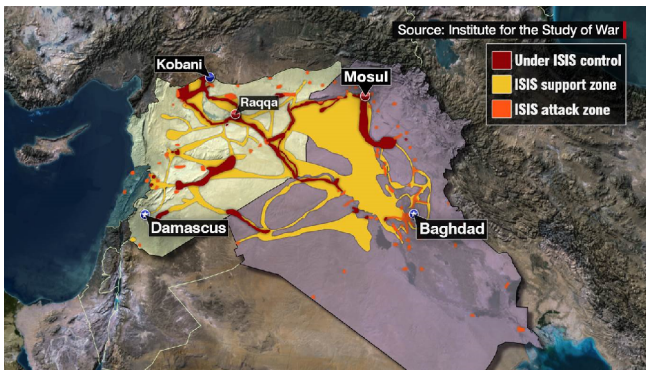
The New York Times



Voice of America 09/12/15
The article compared ISIS territory in July 2014 vs. July 2015 using our maps.



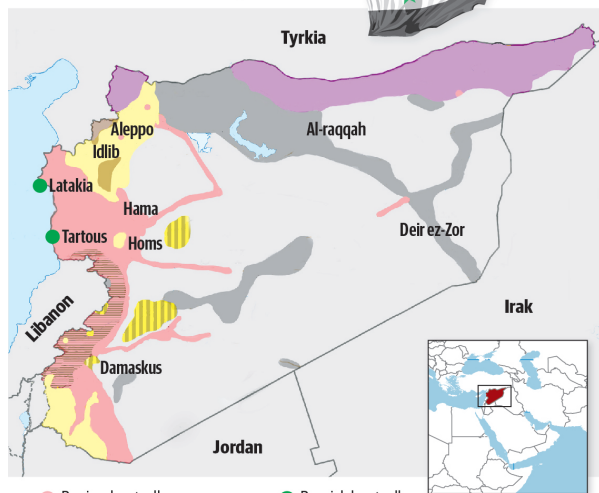
CNN 09/18/15



Mashable

Mashable
09/18/15

Konflikten i Syria



- Regimekontroll
- Hizbollah-område
- Jabhat al-Nusra-kontroll
- Opprørsstyrkene har kontroll
- Russisk kontroll
- Daesh (IS) - kontroll
- IS, al-Nusra, opprørsstyrker
- YPG (syriske kurdere) har kontroll

2015 **DN grafikk** (Kilde: Institute for the Study of War)

Kurdish Successes Raising Concerns About Territorial Ambitions

Ethnic Kurds straddle a region that includes parts of Turkey, Syria, Iraq and Iran. The potential break-up of Iraq and Syria along ethnic lines has raised the prospect of an independent Kurdistan in some of that territory.



Sources: Institute for the Study of War, Bloomberg research

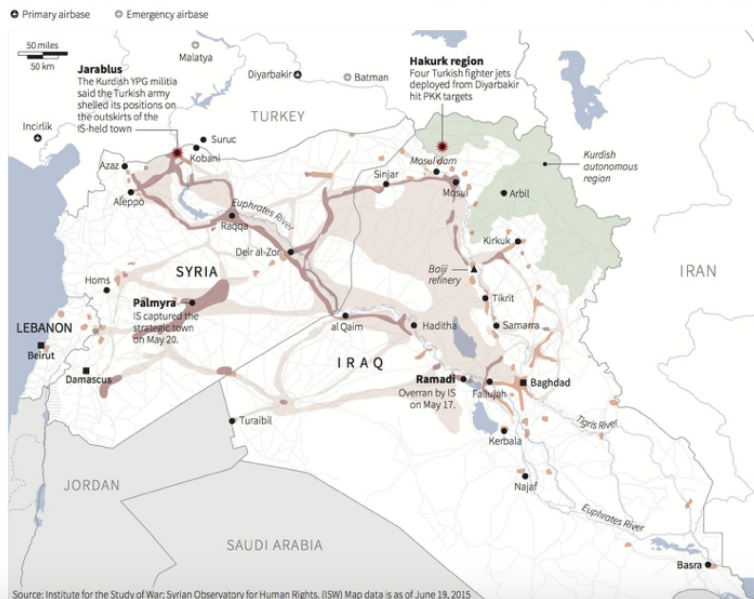
Bloomberg Graphics

Bloomberg

Fight against Islamic State

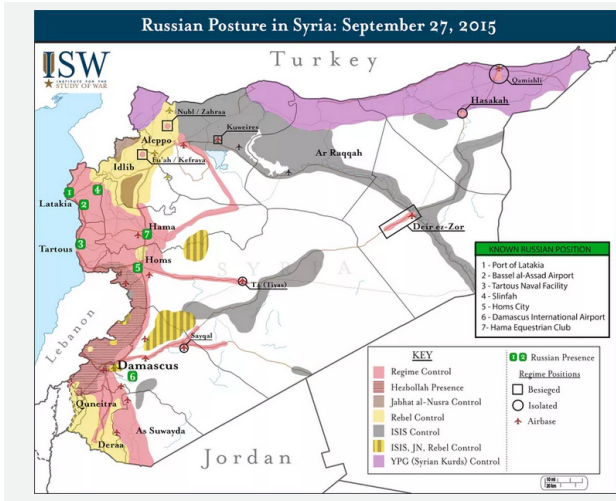
Kurdish fighters in Syria accused the Turkish army of shelling their positions on Monday, one week after Ankara granted the U.S.-led coalition's use of its air bases against Islamic State.

- IS control status**
- Attack zone: Where IS participated in or perpetrated attacks
 - Control zone: Where IS has defensible control
 - Support zone: Where IS moves freely and attacks are often staged



Source: Institute for the Study of War, Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. (ISW) Map data is as of June 19, 2015

BUSINESS INSIDER

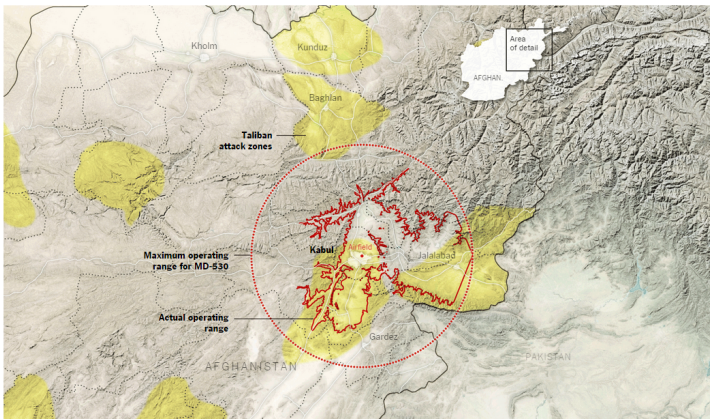


"Talbiseh is home to Syrian al-Qaeda affiliate Jabhat al-Nusra, hardline Islamist Ahrar al-Sham, and a number of other local rebel groups. These organizations are generally hostile to ISIS. 'The airstrike,' she concludes, 'did not hit ISIS militants.'"

Genevieve Casagrande
09/30/25

Aerial Obstacles

One of the Afghan Air Force's primary assault vehicles is the MD-530 scout helicopter. Its range is about 63 miles. But it cannot operate above an elevation of 7,000 to 8,000 feet, which dramatically reduces the area it can patrol in Afghanistan's mountainous landscape.



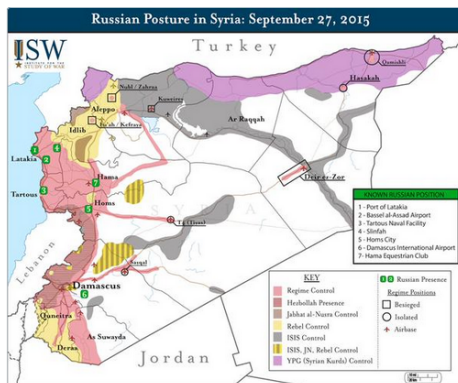
By Tim Wallace | Sources: Institute for the Study of War; distance analysis by The New York Times



Militant attacks in Afghanistan since April

Source: Institute for the Study of War

THE WASHINGTON POST



Matthew Woodcraft
@MWoodcraft

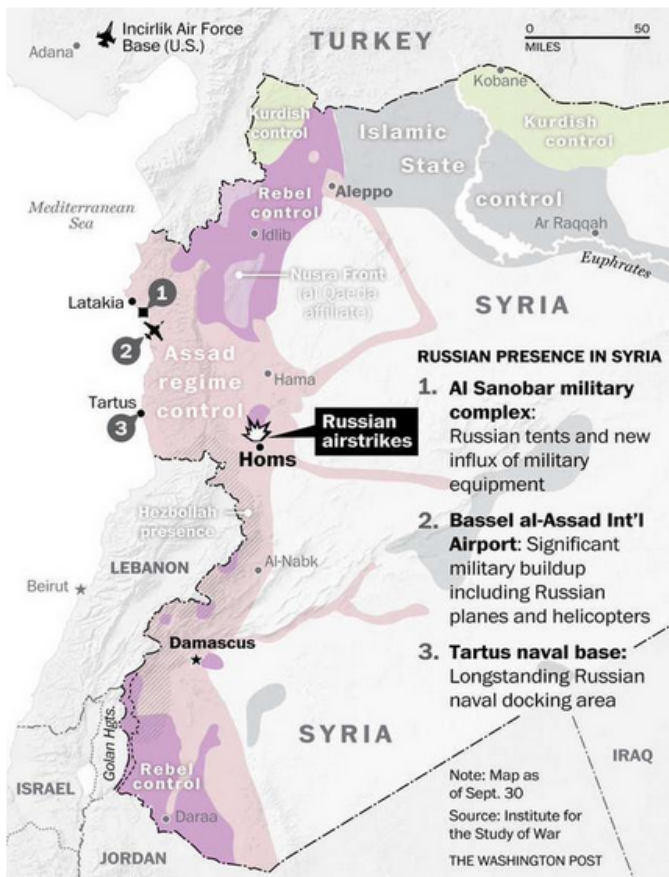
Russia bombs Homs, U.S. Says Russia told them IS was the target. @TheStudyofWar map shows no IS position in that area

8:55 AM - 30 Sep 2015

137 47

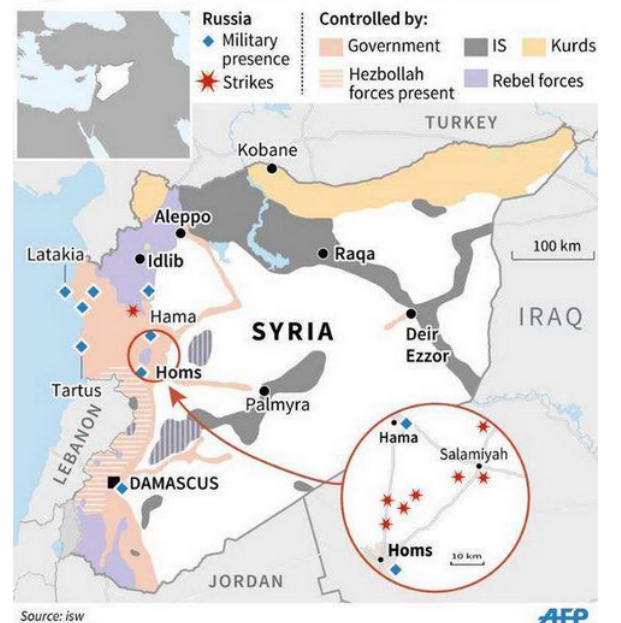


The Washington Post



Kremlin's Syria foray stirs painful memc after Afghanistan u.afp.com/Zp52

Syria: Russia carries out air strikes



The Washington Post
09/30/15