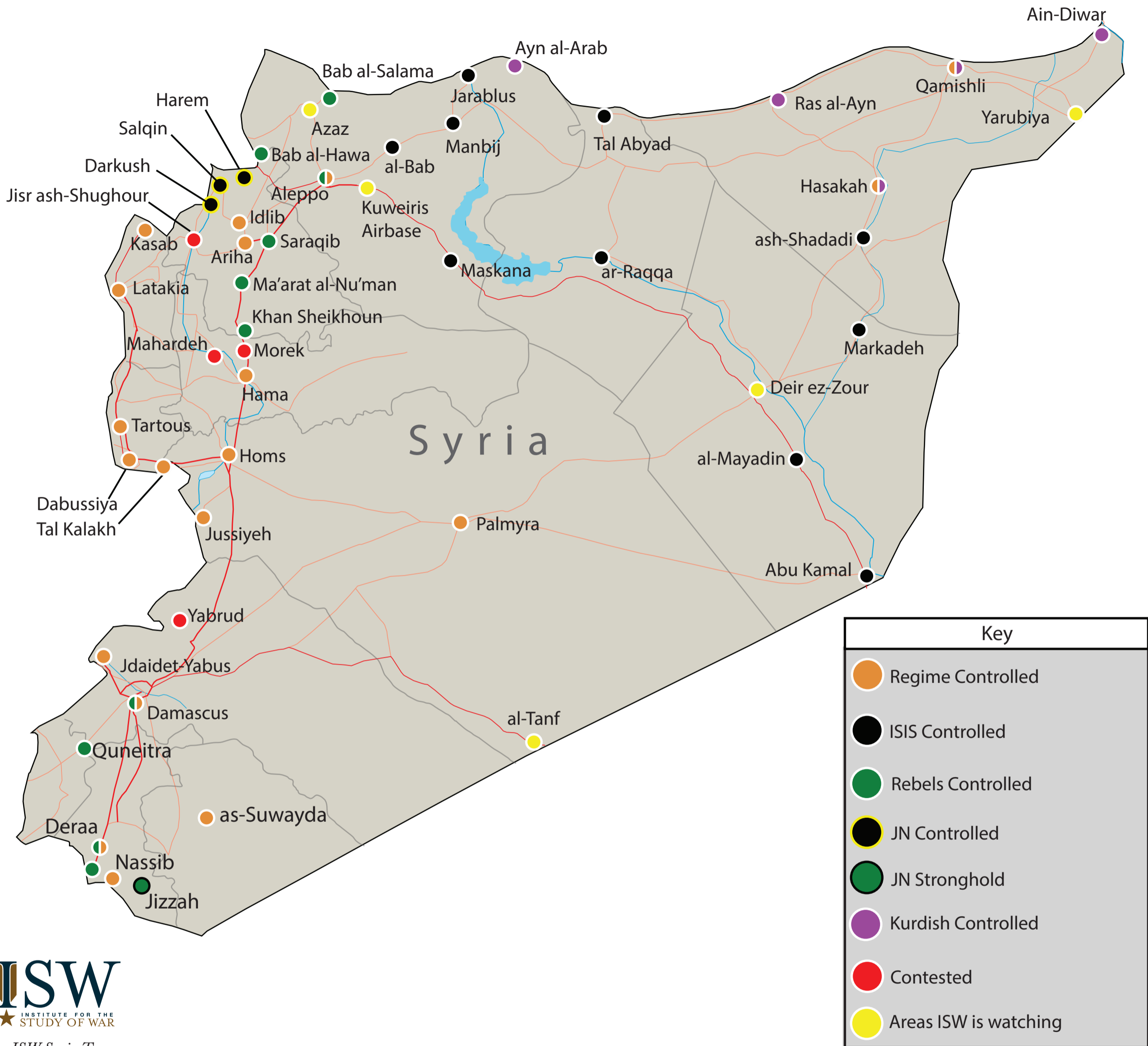


Control of Terrain in Syria: September 11, 2014



Control of the urban terrain in Syria is parceled among a number of armed groups, including the Syrian regime, opposition groups including Jabhat al-Nusra (JN), and the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS). As of September 11, all three formations are on the offensive in various parts of the country. ISIS is currently on the offensive in northern Aleppo province, where it has seized a number of villages from rebels since August 2014. ISW has placed a watch on the Turkish border town of Azaz, a strategic asset for rebels that is threatened by ISIS advances in the area. ISW has also placed a watch on Kuweiris Airbase and the Deir ez-Zour Military Airport, where there are indications of impending ISIS offensives. In central Syria, regime forces have retaken control of villages on their alternate supply route leading northwest out of Hama as part of a counteroffensive against JN and other opposition groups. Opposition groups including JN are currently on the offensive in Quneitra province, where they have seized the border crossing at al-Quneitra as well as other regime installations in the province. Jabhat al-Nusra, the Syrian al-Qaeda affiliate, typically fights alongside other opposition forces throughout the country. Other than a collection of small towns including Salqin and Darkush in Idlib province, JN does not control terrain independently of other opposition groups. ISW assesses that the area of Jizzah in Deraa province represents a JN stronghold and an area where the group might assert control in the future.