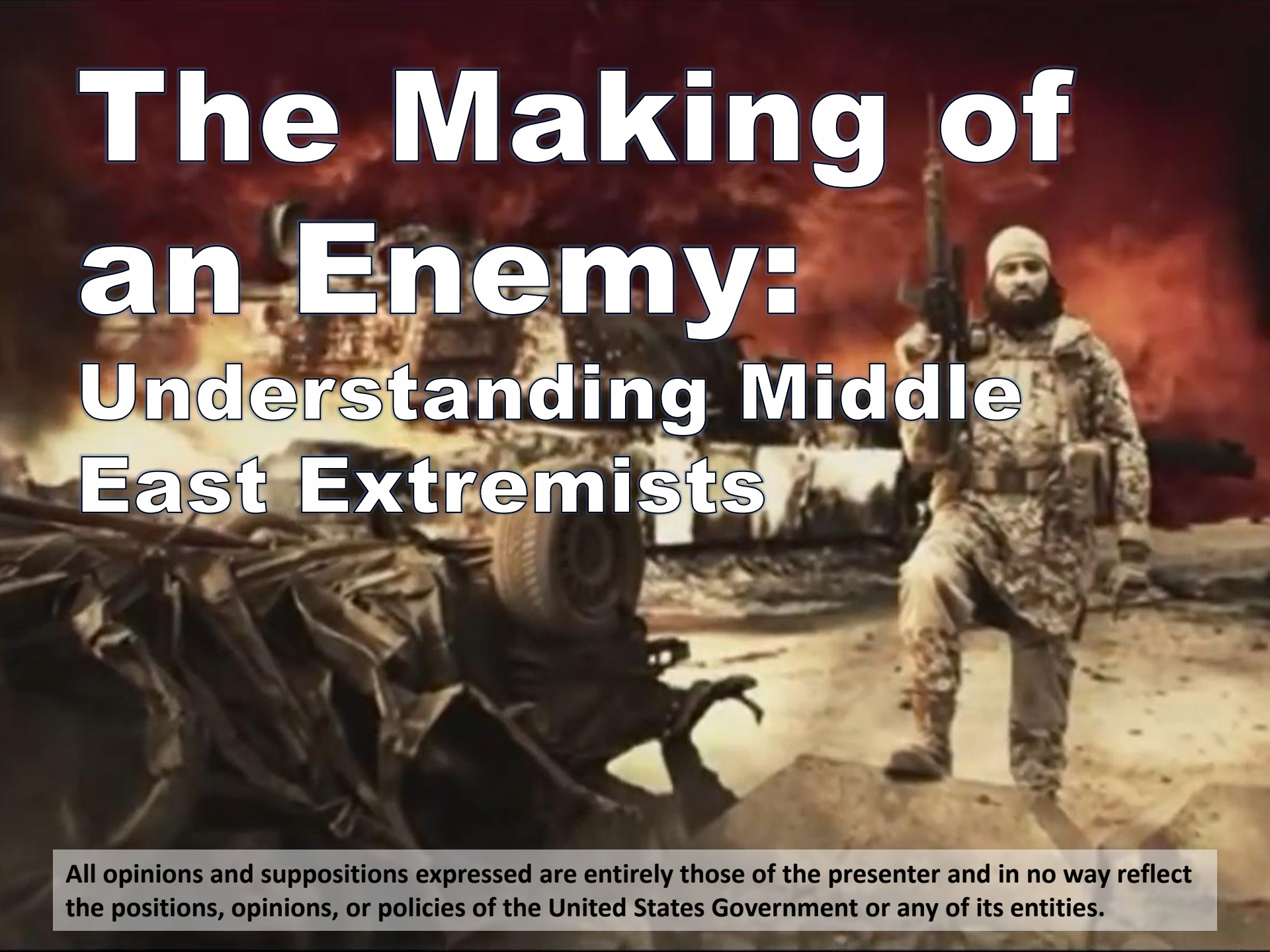


The Making of an Enemy: Understanding Middle East Extremists

The background image shows a soldier in full combat gear, including a camouflage uniform, a beanie, and a rifle. He is standing in a desolate, war-torn environment with smoke and fire in the background. In the foreground, there is a destroyed vehicle, possibly a car, with its body crumpled and its wheels visible. The overall scene is one of conflict and destruction.

All opinions and suppositions expressed are entirely those of the presenter and in no way reflect the positions, opinions, or policies of the United States Government or any of its entities.

Presentations

- 26 Mar WWII Comes to the Middle East
- 8 May The US Meets the Middle East in WWII
- 18 Sep WWII Scars the Middle East
- 5 Nov The Making of an Enemy:
Understanding Middle East Extremists

How ISIS sees the fight



بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

Words that Matter

- Tawhid (common: monotheism) توحيد
- Shirk (common: idolatry) شرك
- Prophetic Methodology المنهج النبوي
- Jahiliya (common: ignorance) جَاهِلِيَّة
- Sharia (common: Islamic law) شريعة

How ISIS sees the fight

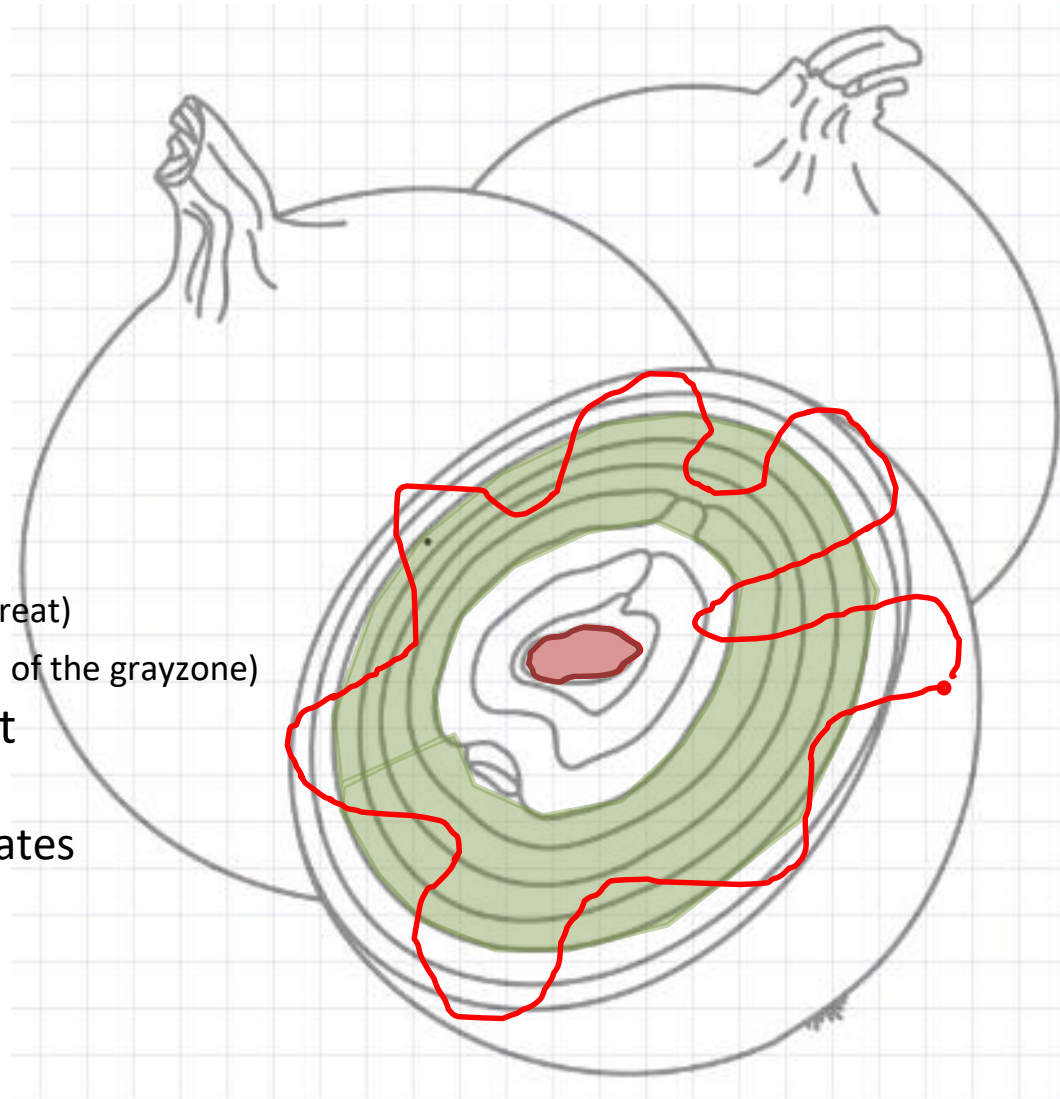
Seeing the Layers of Narrative

Major Themes that Resonate

- Remaining and Expanding (Everywhere Caliphate)
- Tawhid
- Prophetic methodology
- Common grievances

Strategic Approach

- Call for and Create the Caliphate
 - Awaken Muslims (western and Shia threat)
 - Compel Muslims (civil war – extinction of the grayzone)
- Draw America in to the Middle East
 - Discredit allies of America
 - Weaken apostate or idolatrous states
- Exhaust America **500,000 : 1**
- Defeat Enemies
- Rule the Caliphate



Necessary and Sufficient Causes of ISIS

Necessary Causes

- Rise and Success of Salafi-Jihadi-Takfiri Ideology
- US Foreign Policy and the Middle East
- US Invasion of Iraq

Sufficient Causes

- Sunni Loss of Power in Iraq and Syria
- Syrian Civil War

Perception: Good Guys and Bad Guys



Amaryllis Fox (Former CIA Clandestine Service Agent)

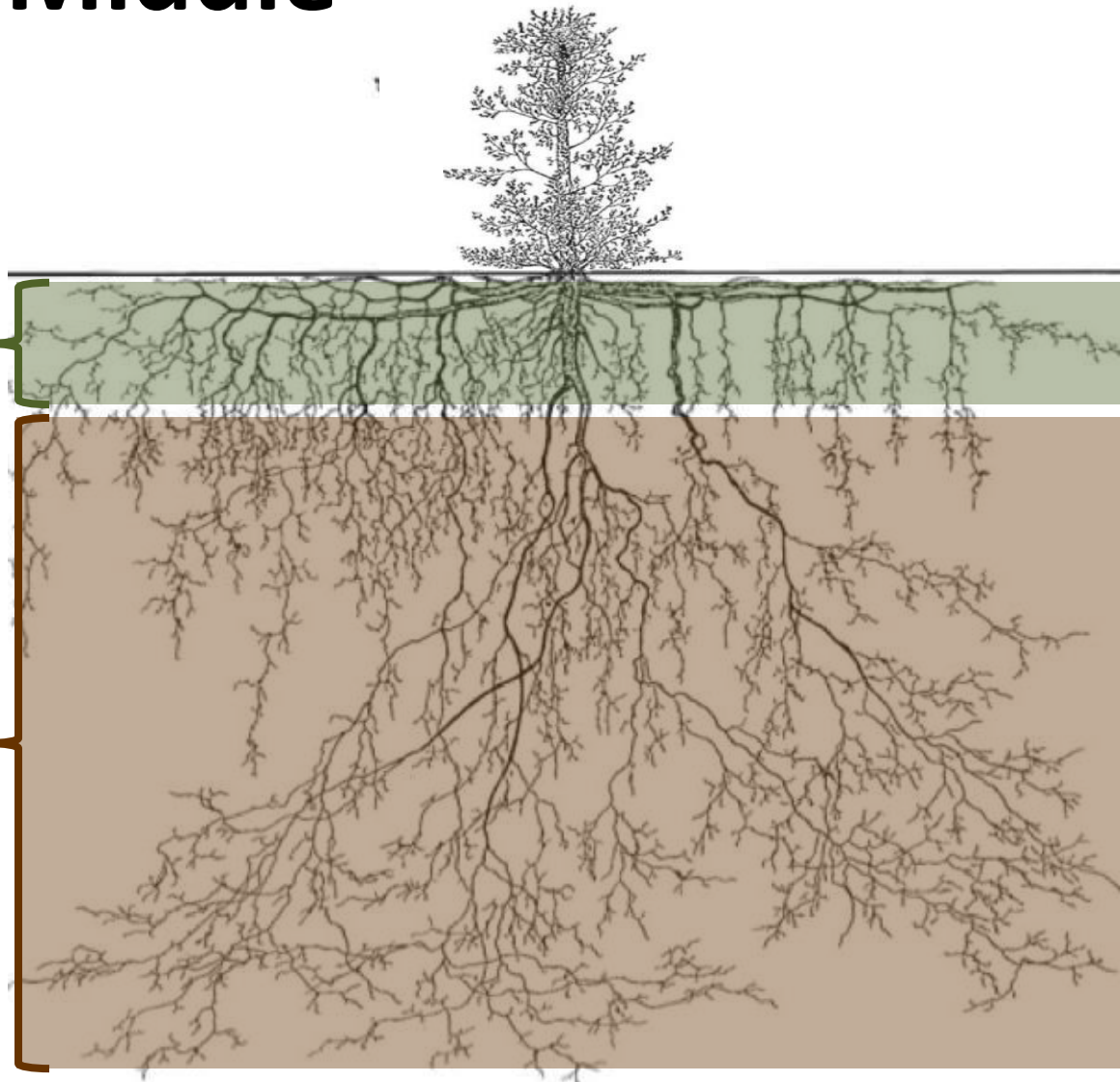
What are the Roots of Conflict in the Middle East?

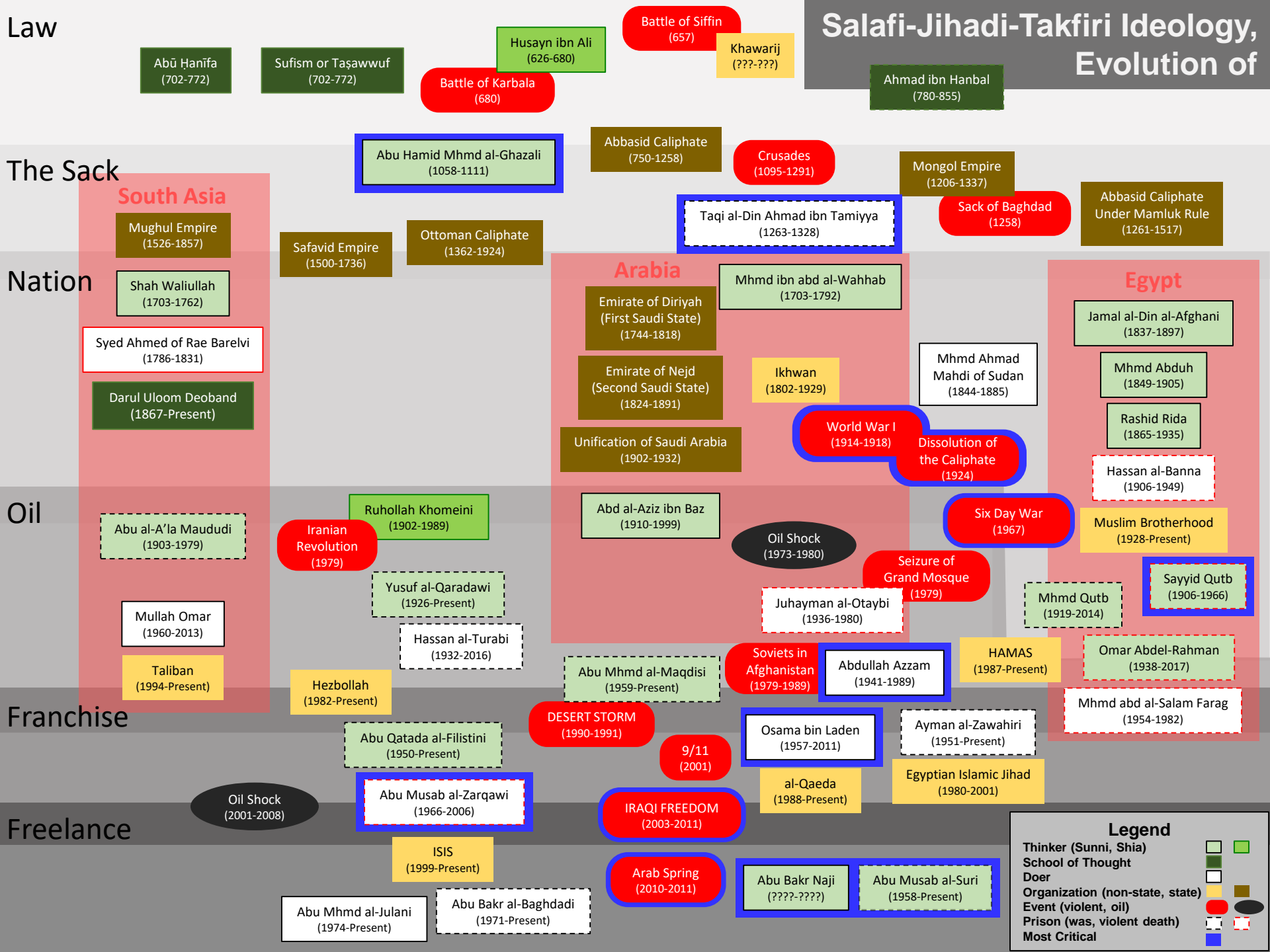
How it really is.

Conflict

Roots of Conflict
WWI – Present

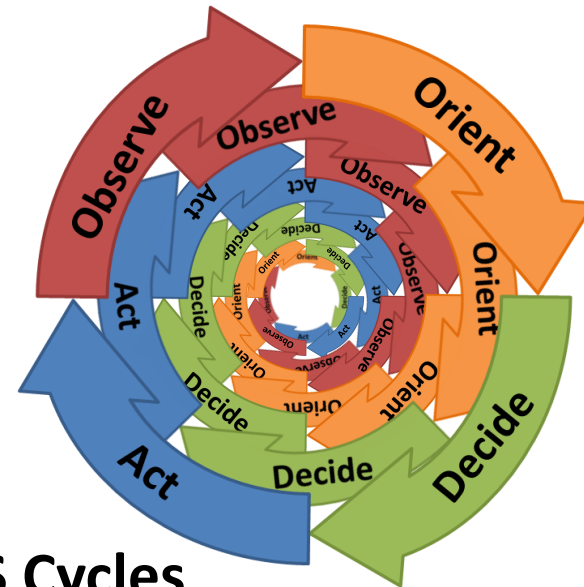
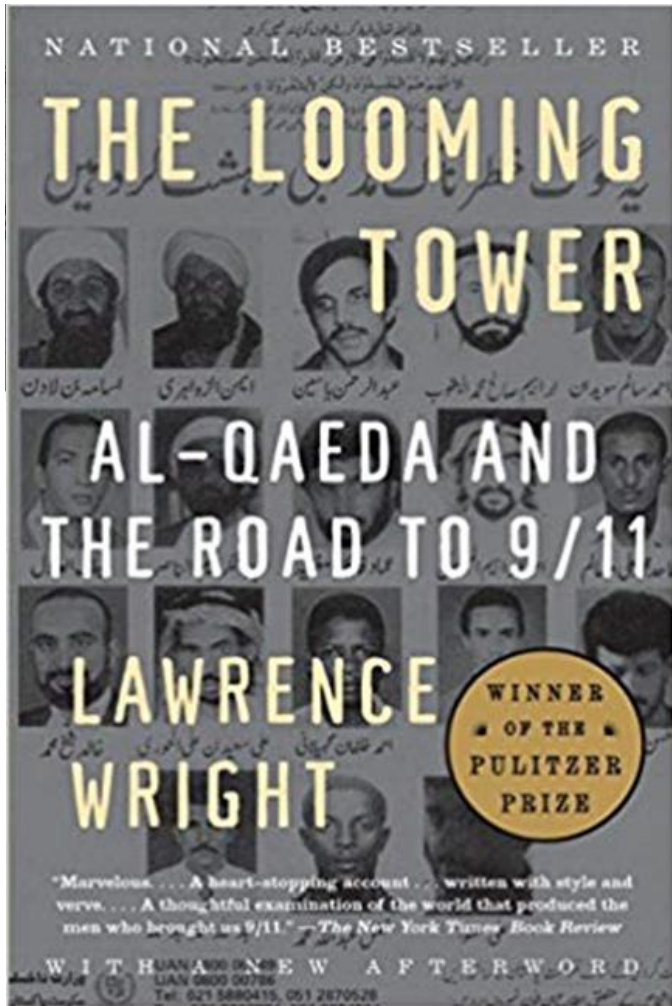
Deep Roots of Conflict
Weakening of Empires – WWI





Evolution of the Terrain

Using John Boyd's OODA Loop



ISIS Cycles

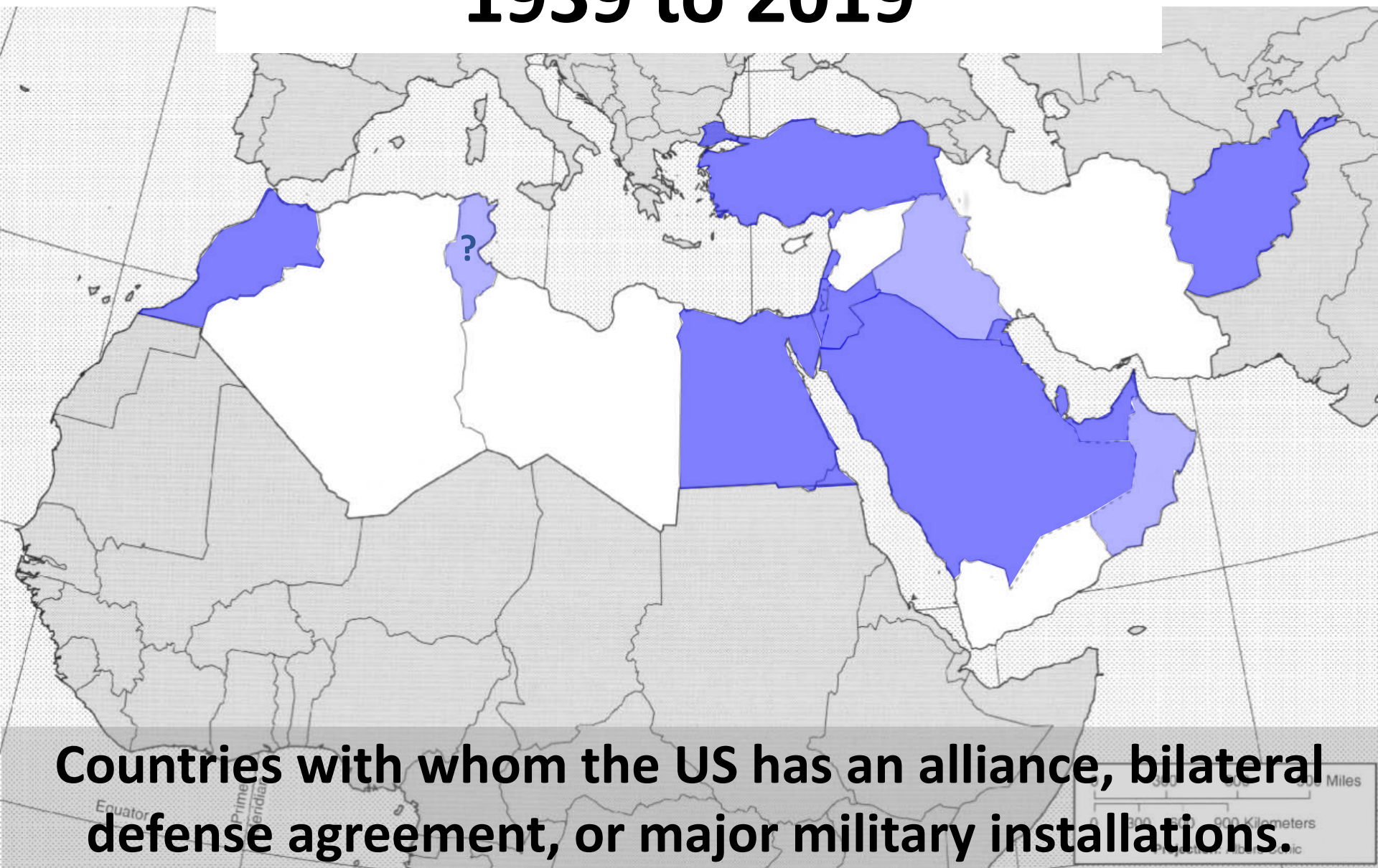
1. Post-WWII Revolutionary War
2. End of Arab Nationalism
3. Rise of Islamism (Iranian Revolution)
4. Victory of the Mujahideen
5. Declaration of War Against US

The Management of Savagery

"What ISIS Really Wants"

"Islamic State Insurgent Tactics"

US Security Commitments 1939 to 2019



Countries with whom the US has an alliance, bilateral defense agreement, or major military installations.

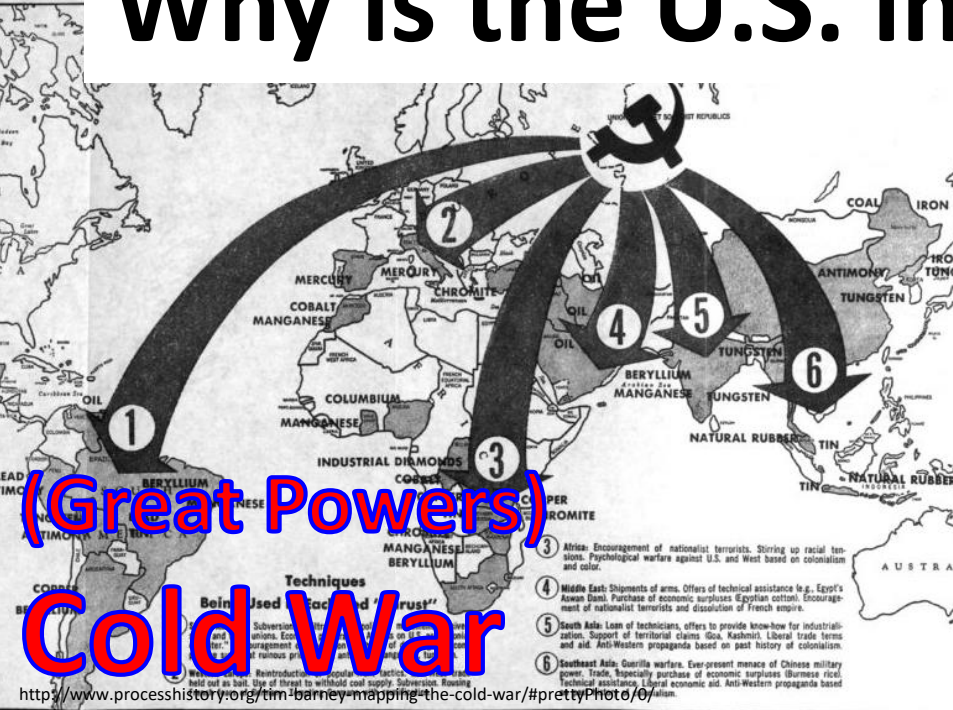
Oil



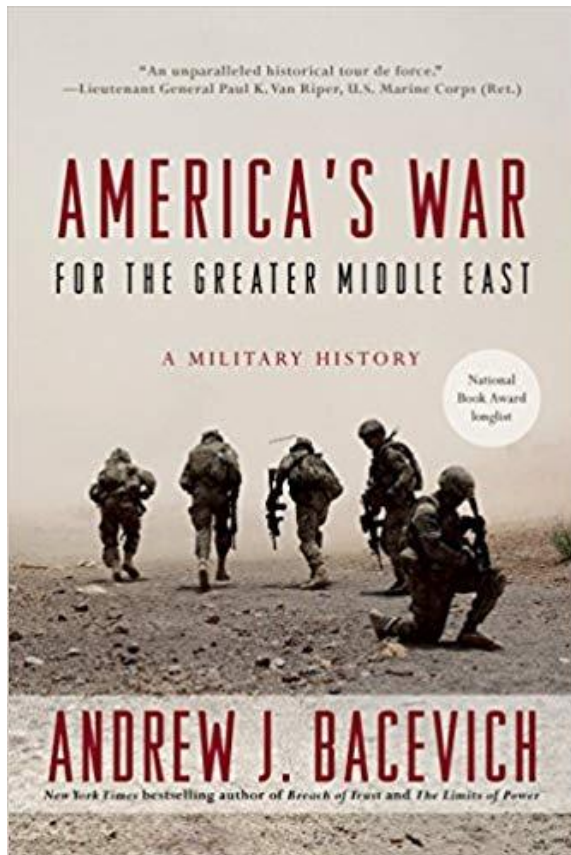
Zionism (Religion)



Why is the U.S. in the Middle East?



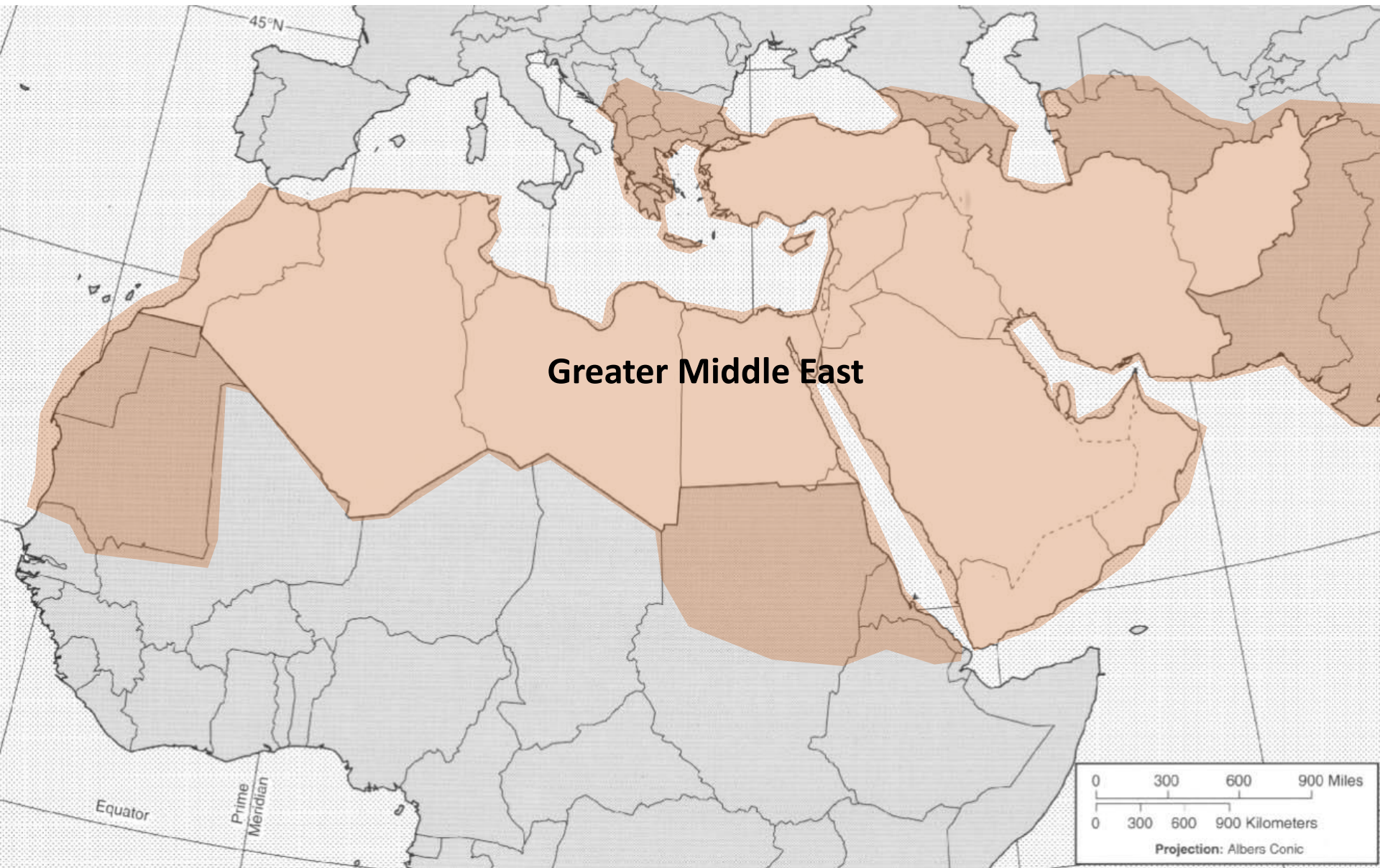
The Importance of the Middle East to the US is a Recent Phenomena – About 40 Years



My Restatement

Before 1979 almost every American military casualty happened outside the Middle East. Since 1979, almost every American military casualty happened inside the Greater Middle East.

Middle East Explanations



1979

The Year that Changed the Middle East



US in the Middle East

Collapse of the Twin Pillars Policy



State of the Union



Operation Cyclone



Multinational Force in Lebanon (MNF)



Operation Earnest Will



Operations Desert Shield
Desert Storm



Rise of al-Qaeda

1993 World Trade Center Bombing



1996 Khobar Towers



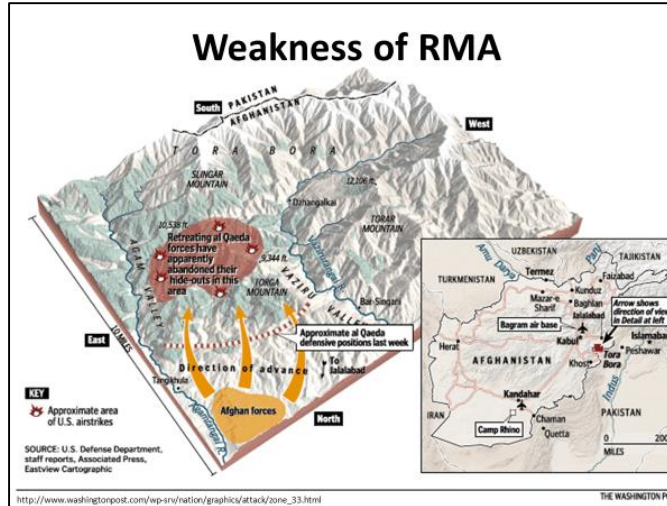
1998 Embassy Bombings



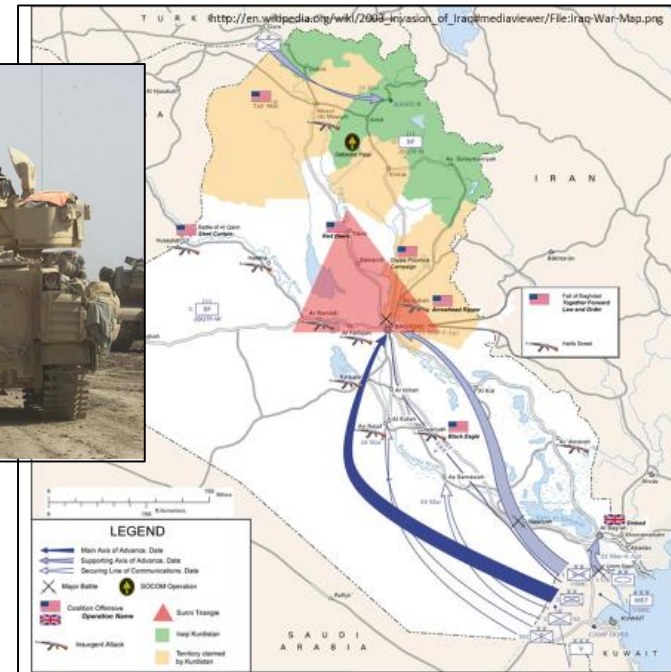
2000 USS Cole Bombing



Since 9/11

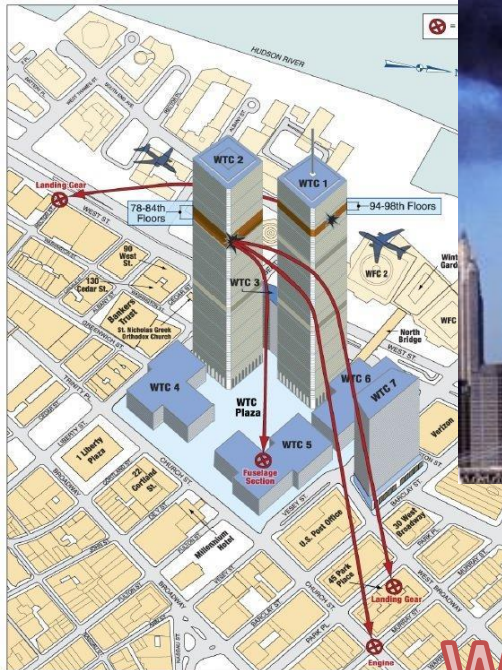
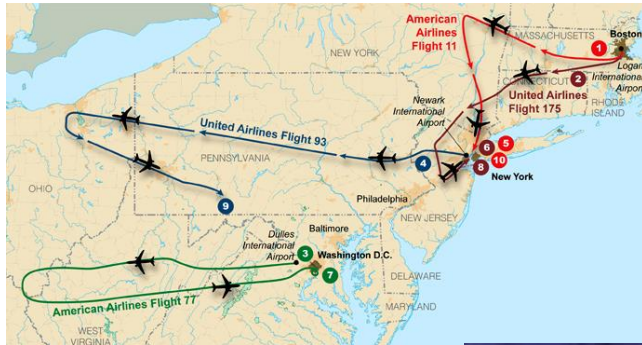


RMA Proof of Concept



Why Iraq?

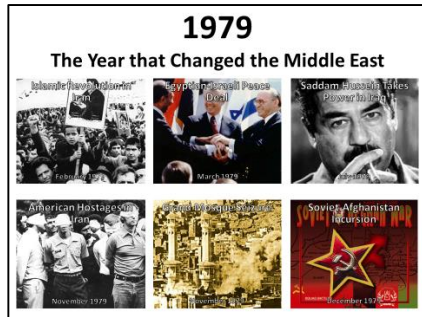
Could these guys really pull this off?



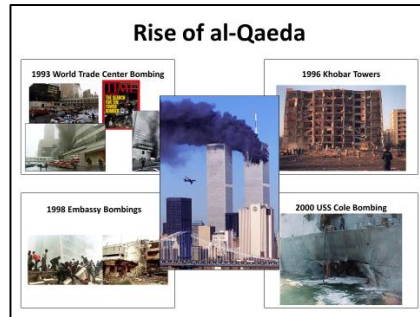
Without the help of a state

Figure 1-4. Area of aircraft debris impact.

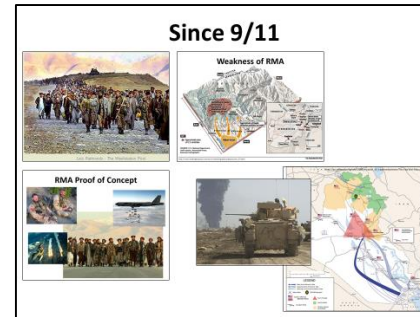
ISIS Created



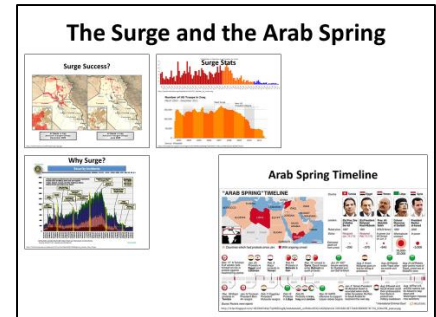
- Necessary causes
- Islamism proven
- America defeated by Islam
- Jihad redefined
- Globalist movement created
- Globalist Salafism reinforced / reinvigorated
- Soviets defeated by mujahidin (1989)



- Necessary causes
- America identified as target
- Wake the ummah
- War declared
- Globalist, Salafist, Non-state actor
- America bleeds
- Franchise terrorism with global appeal



- Necessary causes
- America's technological superiority
- America's impotence
- Commitment wins
- Iraq an unjust war against Muslims
- Global jihad



- Sufficient causes
- Struggle against the superpower
- Compel the ummah
- Vacuum of authority in Syria
- America defeated by mujahidin (2011)
- Freelance / Crowd-sourced terrorism

The last force to defeat two superpowers was the mujahidin in the 7th Century. They defeated Sassanid Persia and Rome.

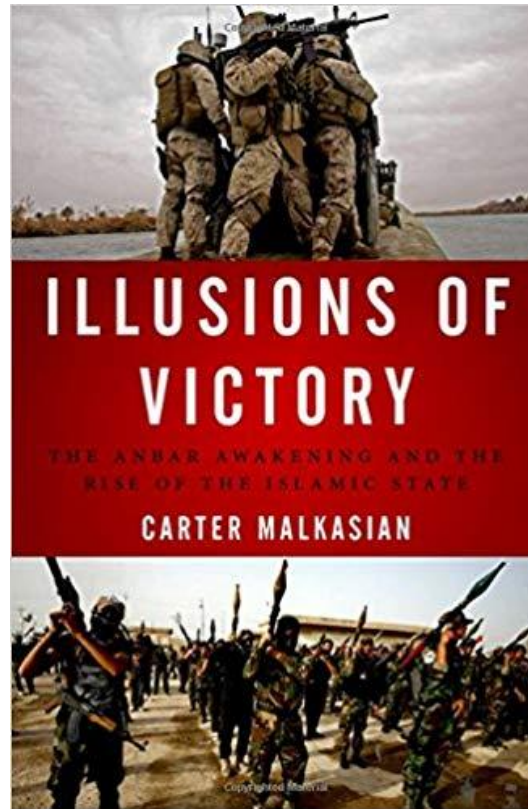
Understanding *The Surge*

Illusions of Victory: The Anbar Awakening and the Rise of the Islamic State (2017)

Necessary Conditions for Success

- Presence of US military
- Struggle for power between tribes and ISIS
- Esprit de corps and cohesion of tribes opposing ISIS

(note: need to understand what binds people together in opposition to our opponents)



Necessary Conditions for Failure

- Maliki's government turned against the Sunnis
- The Awakening was not self-sustaining
- ISIS received a critical mass of Sunni support

History of ISIS in 7 Periods

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| 1. Operating in al-Qaeda's Shadow | 1999-2006 |
| 2. A State is Declared | 2006-2010 |
| 3. Arab Spring | 2010-2014 |
| 4. Building the State | 2011-2014 |
| 5. Declaring the State | 2014 |
| 6. Defending the State | 2014-2017 |
| 7. ISIS Remains | 2017-Present |

Battle of Mosul

Narrative-Led 2014

Kinetic-Led 2016-2017

7 (4+ yrs prep)	Days	278
1,000	Attacking Force	110,000
60,000	Defending Force	9,000
1:60	Ratio of Attacker to Defender	12:1
105+	Attacking Force Killed	*1,400
6,500	Defending Force Killed	8,000
1:65	Ratio of Attacker to Defender Killed	1:7
<1%	Infrastructure Damaged/Destroyed	>60%
Unknown	Civilians Killed	25,000
500,000	Civilians Displaced	900,000

All figures are estimates.

If you can persuade a
person, you don't need
to kill him.

- Dmitry Kiselyev (Russia's most famous television anchor and the director of the organization that runs Sputnik.)

Battle of Mosul Aftermath

published on 11 July 2017

 RadioFreeEurope
RadioLiberty



Competition



Materialistic Hedonism

VS.



Aspirational Purpose



Supposed Future Islamic State?

Contact Information

Brian L. Steed

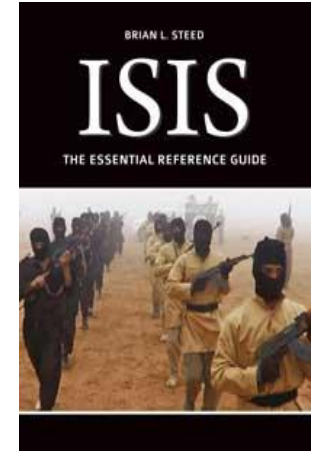
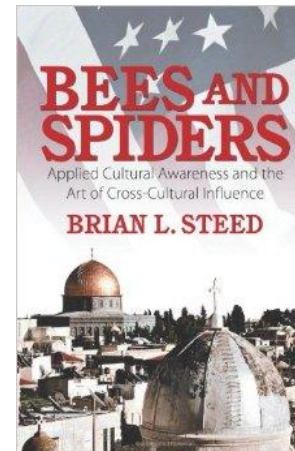
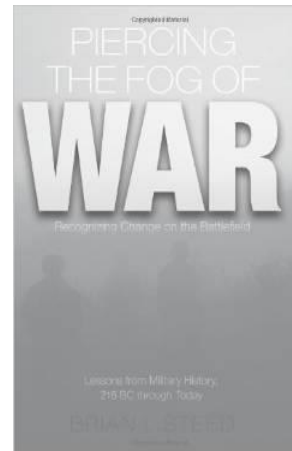
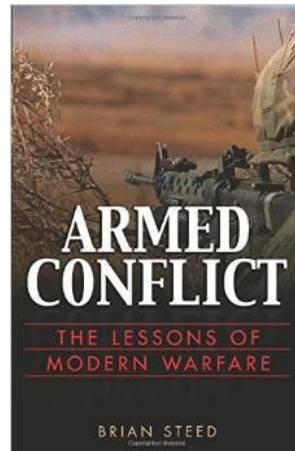
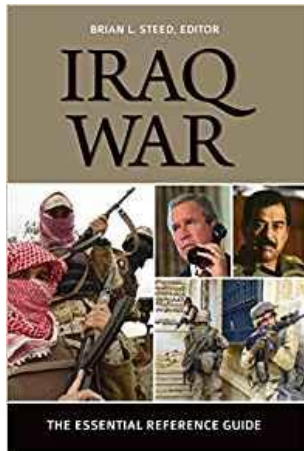
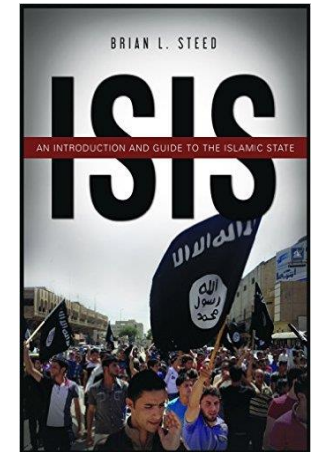
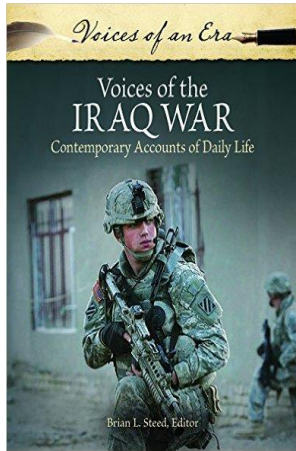
www.narrativespace.net

www.narrative-strategies.com

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narrativespace.net@gmail.com

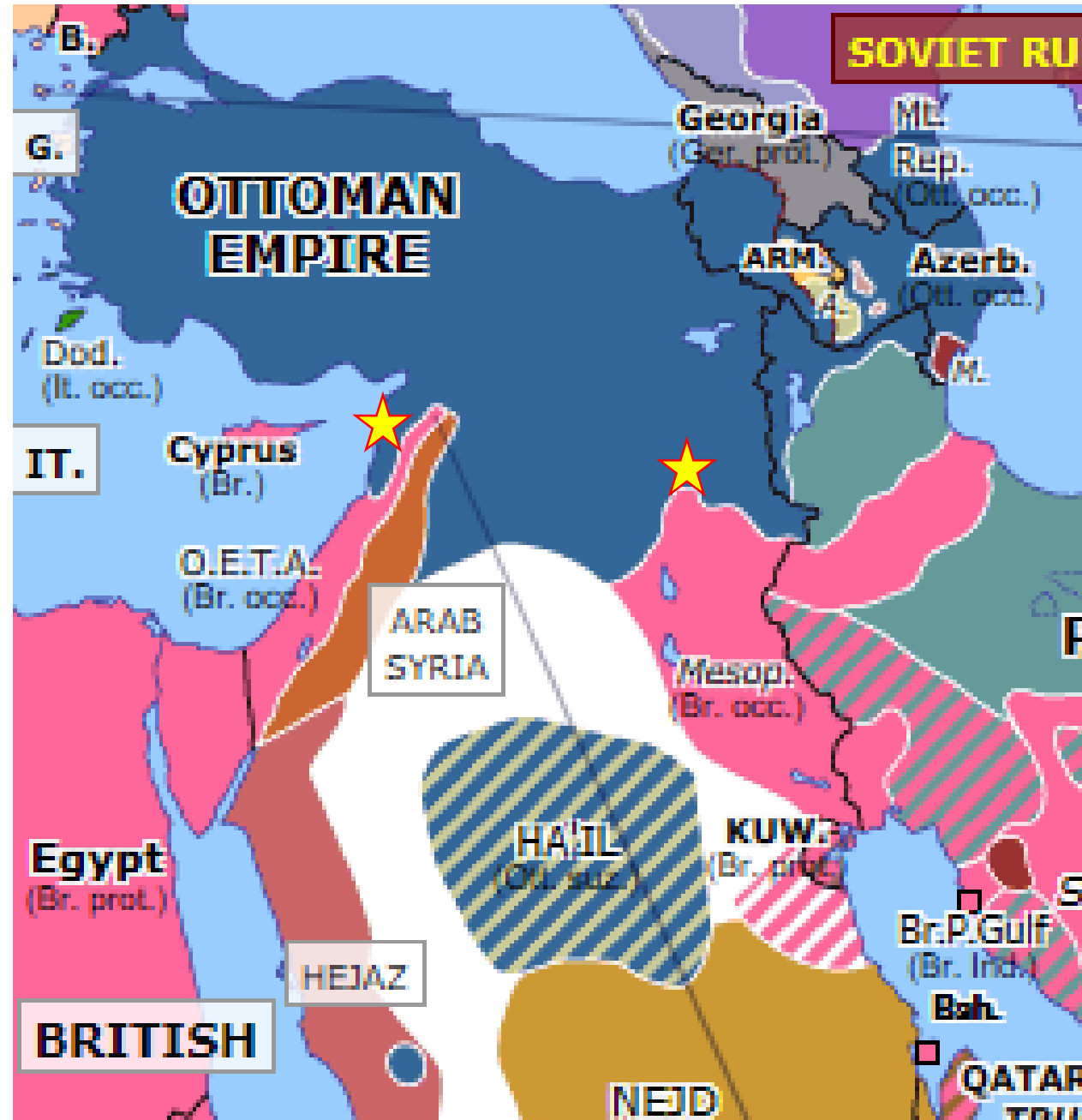
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/brian-l-steed/>



Agreements and Treaties (Some Disassembly Required)

Sykes-Picot Agreement	November 1915 – March 1916 (announced by Bolshevik Russia 23 November 1917)
Armistice of Mudros	30 October 1918
Treaty of Sèvres	10 August 1920
Abolition of Ottoman Sultanate	1 November 1922
Declaration of Republic of Turkey	29 October 1923
Abolition of Caliphate	3 March 1924
Treaty of Lausanne	24 July 1924

Armistice of Mudros



National Pact

Misak-ı Milli

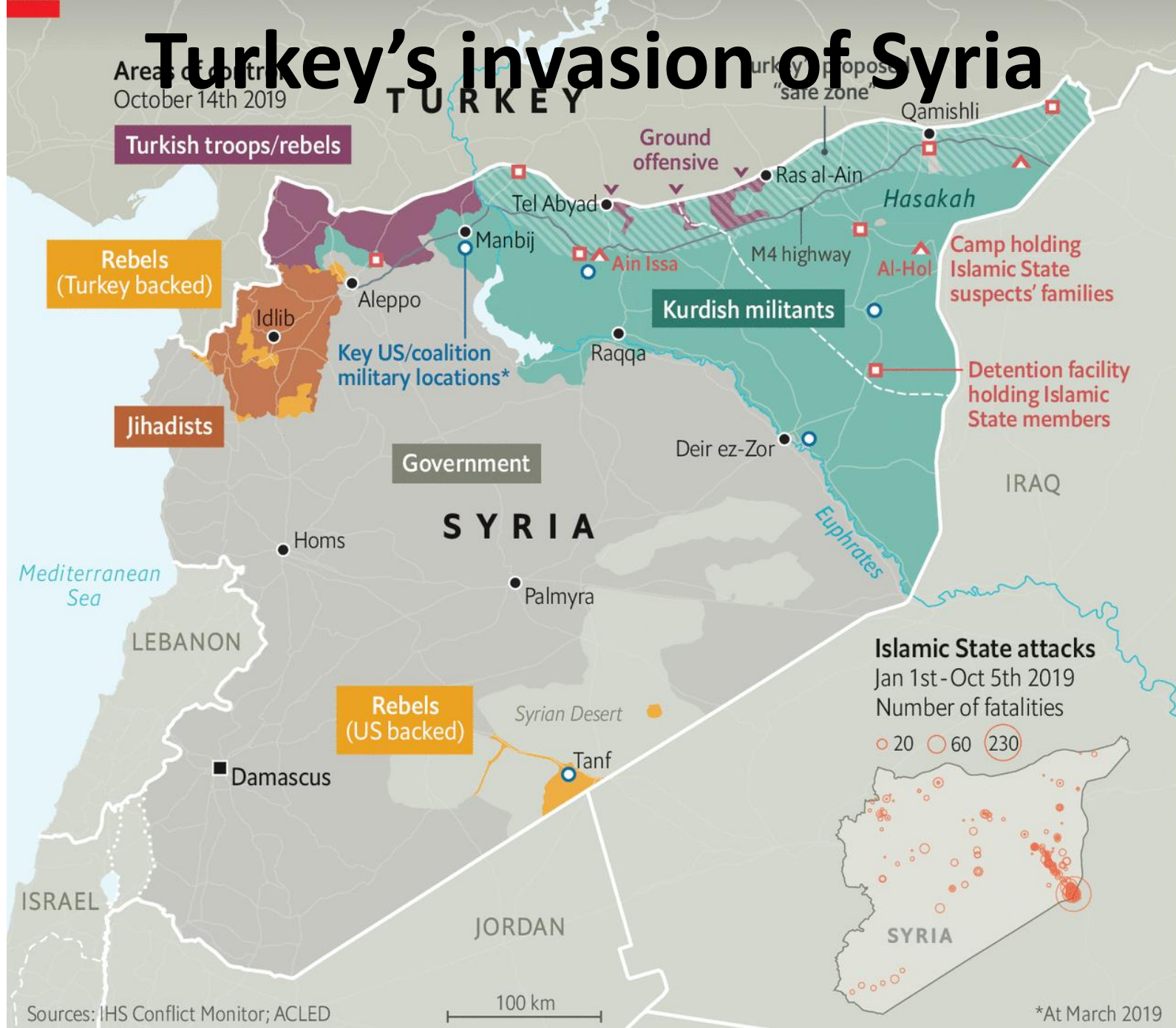
1. The future of the **territories inhabited by an Arab majority** at the **time of the signing of the Armistice of Mudros** will be determined by a referendum. On the other hand, the territories which were not occupied at that time and inhabited by a Turkish majority are the homeland of the Turkish nation.
2. The status of Kars, Ardahan and Batum [**Eastern Turkey-Armenia**] may be determined by a referendum.
3. The status of Western Thrace will be determined by the votes of its inhabitants.
4. The security of Istanbul and Marmara should be provided for. Transport and free-trade on the Straits of the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles will be determined by Turkey and other concerned countries.
5. The rights of minorities will be issued on condition that the rights of the Muslim minorities in neighboring countries are protected.
6. In order to develop in every field, the country should be independent and free; all restrictions on political, judicial and financial development will be removed.

Treaty of Lausanne

24 July 1923

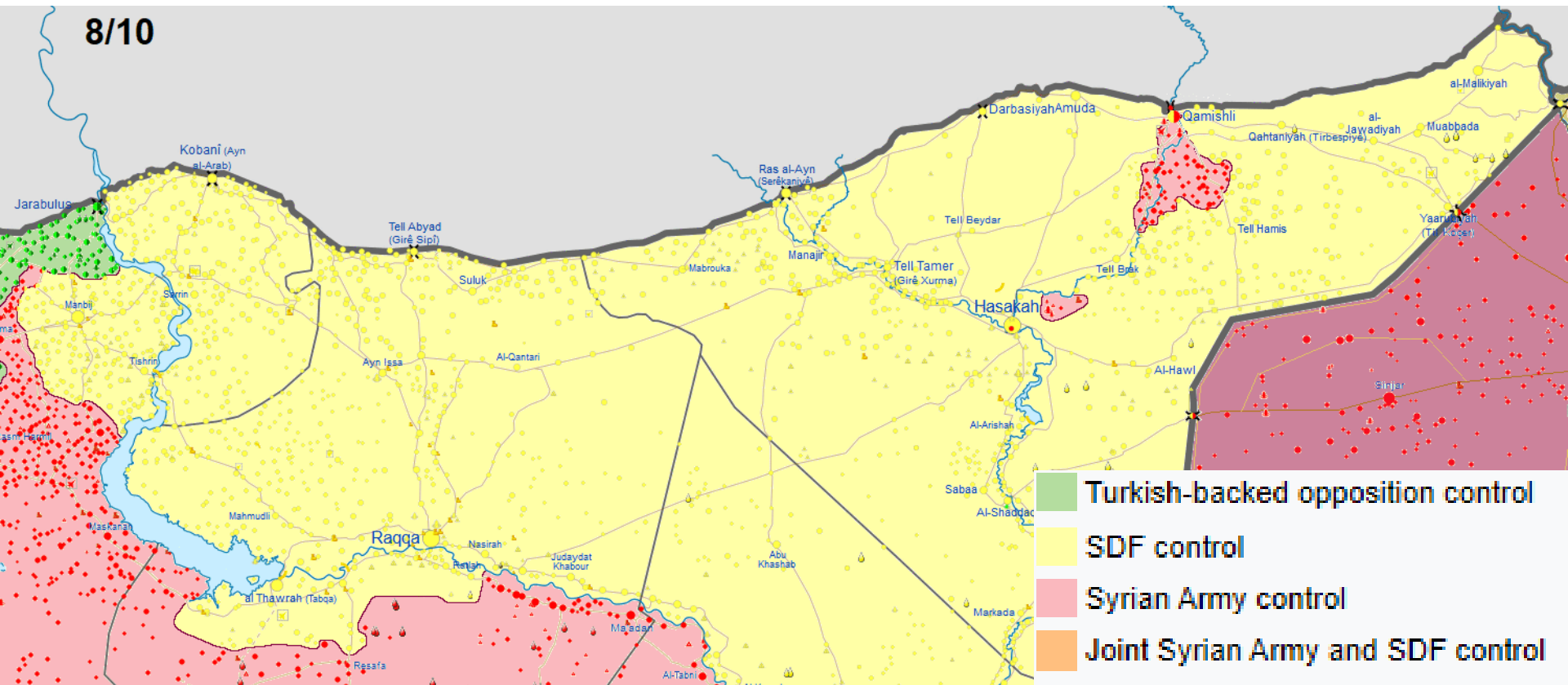


Turkey's invasion of Syria



Frontlines of the Battle between the Turks and the SDF in Rojava

8 October – 29 October 2019

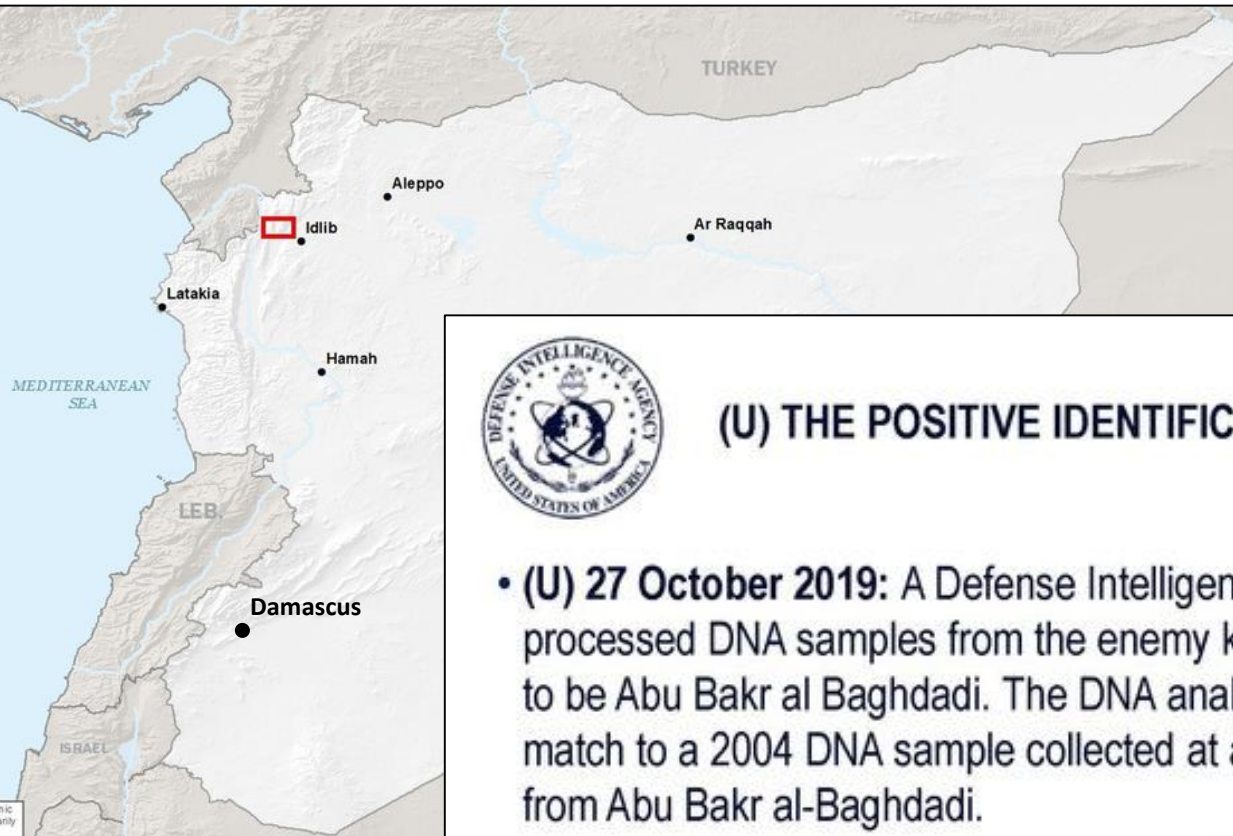
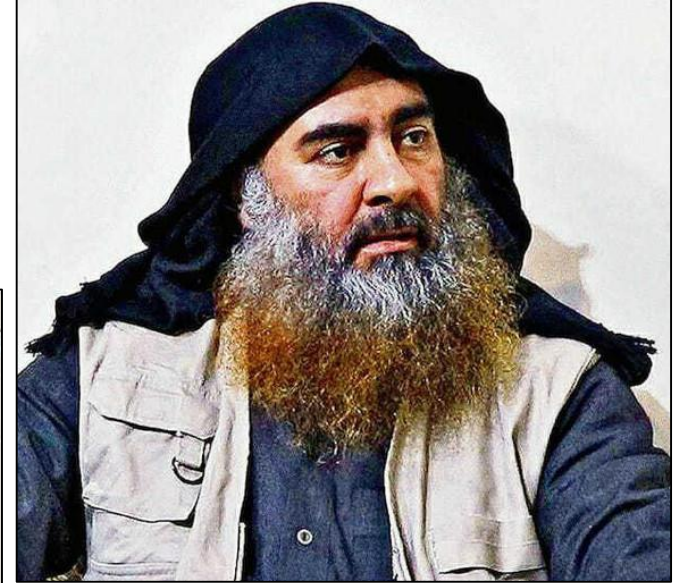


https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2019_Turkish_offensive_into_north-eastern_Syria

This is a gif file which shows the frontlines of the battle between the Turks and the SDF in Rojava, which started in October, 2019. Each frame represents one day
Nate Hooper - Own work, derived from The Syria Livemap, Southfront maps and The Civil War Map. When sources disagree, I average the differences to the best of my ability, giving more weight to claims backed by photo evidence or which come from places which are not heavily biased. If I make mistakes and am made aware of them, I am all too happy to go back and re-edit old frames. (The discussion page can be used if anyone has any issues).

Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi

28 June 1971 – 26 October 2019



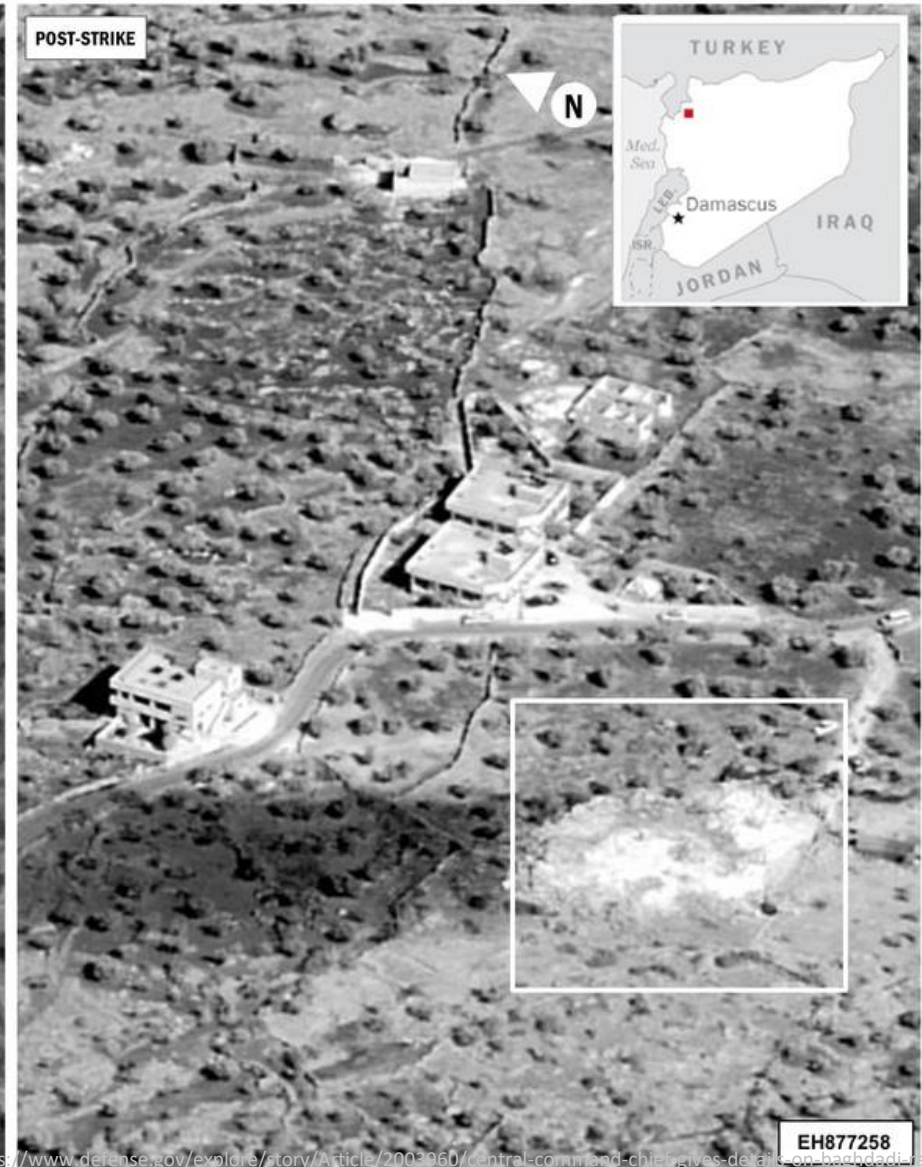
(U) THE POSITIVE IDENTIFICATION OF ABU BAKR AL-BAGHDADI

- (U) **27 October 2019:** A Defense Intelligence Agency DNA laboratory processed DNA samples from the enemy killed-in-action suspected to be Abu Bakr al Baghdadi. The DNA analysis resulted in a direct match to a 2004 DNA sample collected at an Iraq detention center from Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.
 - Statistical analysis indicates a probability of **1 in 104 Septillion** (1.04×10^{26}) to support this match.
- (U) For perspective, if the population of earth was 14.8 quadrillion times what it is today (~7 billion), you would still only expect to find one person with this DNA profile.

al-Baghdadi Compound Strike

Syria: Reported ISIS-Leader Al-Baghdadi Compound

26 October 2019



al-Baghdadi Compound Strike

26 October 2019

Syria: Reported ISIS-Leader Al-Baghdadi Compound

