

# **The Islamist State Resurgence in Iraq and Syria and Worldwide**

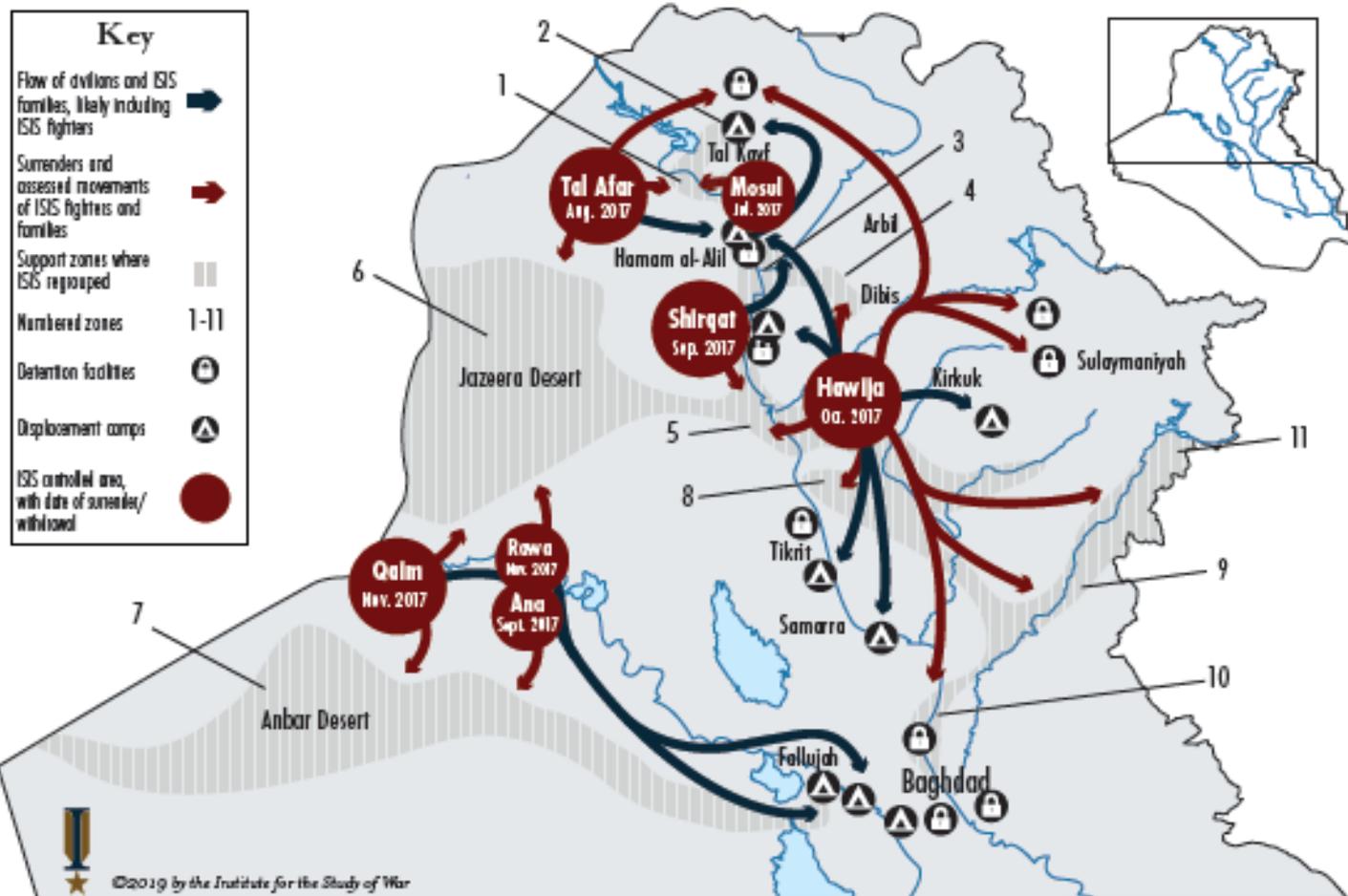
**Ted Morse  
Richard Hobbs**

**National Security Forum**

**10 October 2019**

# MAIN POINTS OF TALK

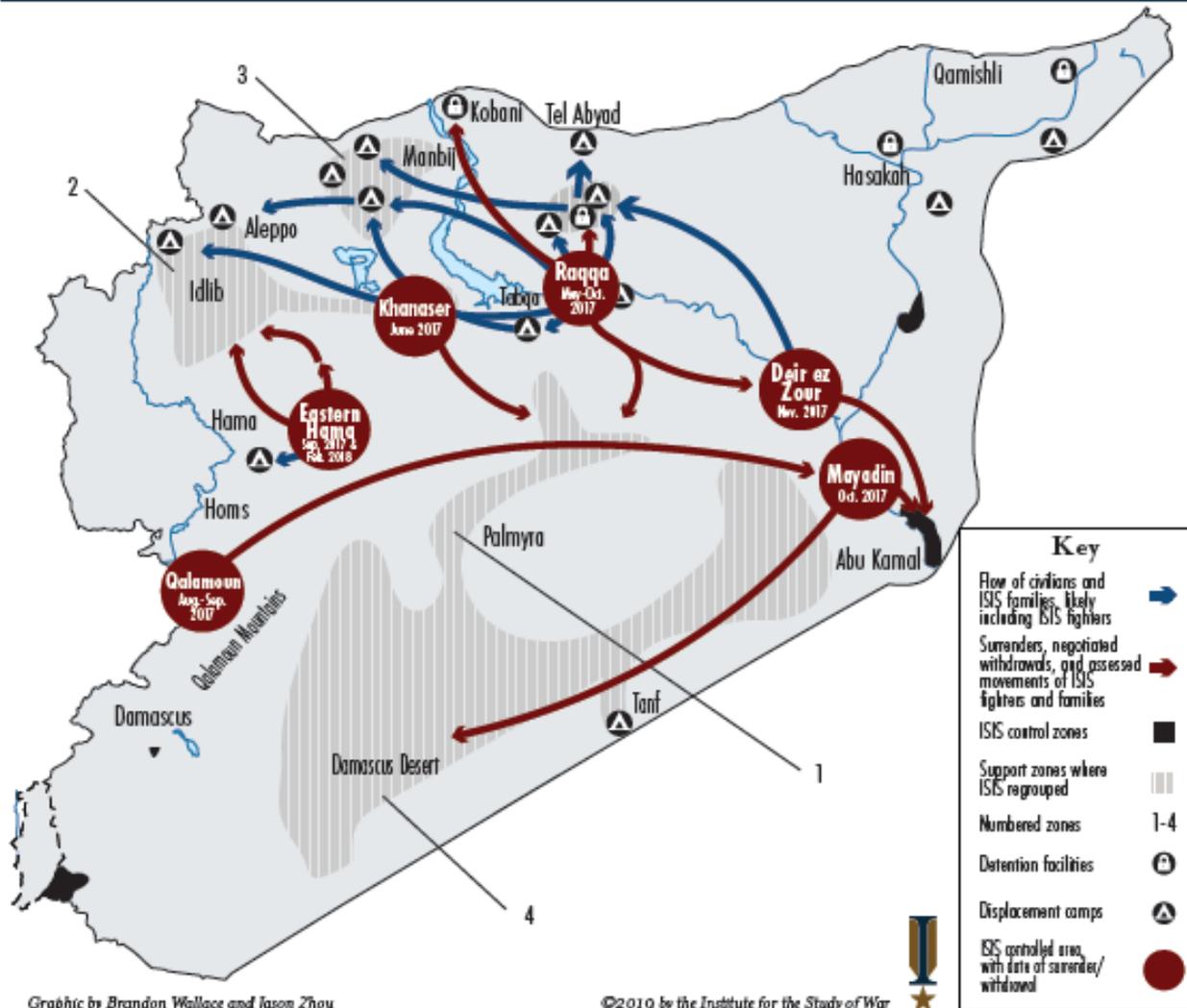
- **ISIS NOT DEAD AFTER CALIPHATE FALLS**
- **ISIS HAS DISPERSED AND IS RESURGING**
- **NEW GUERILLA TACTICS**
- **ISIS CONTIUES WORLDWIDE**
- **CONSEQUENCES OF US TROOP  
WITHDRAWAL AND TURKEY INVASION**



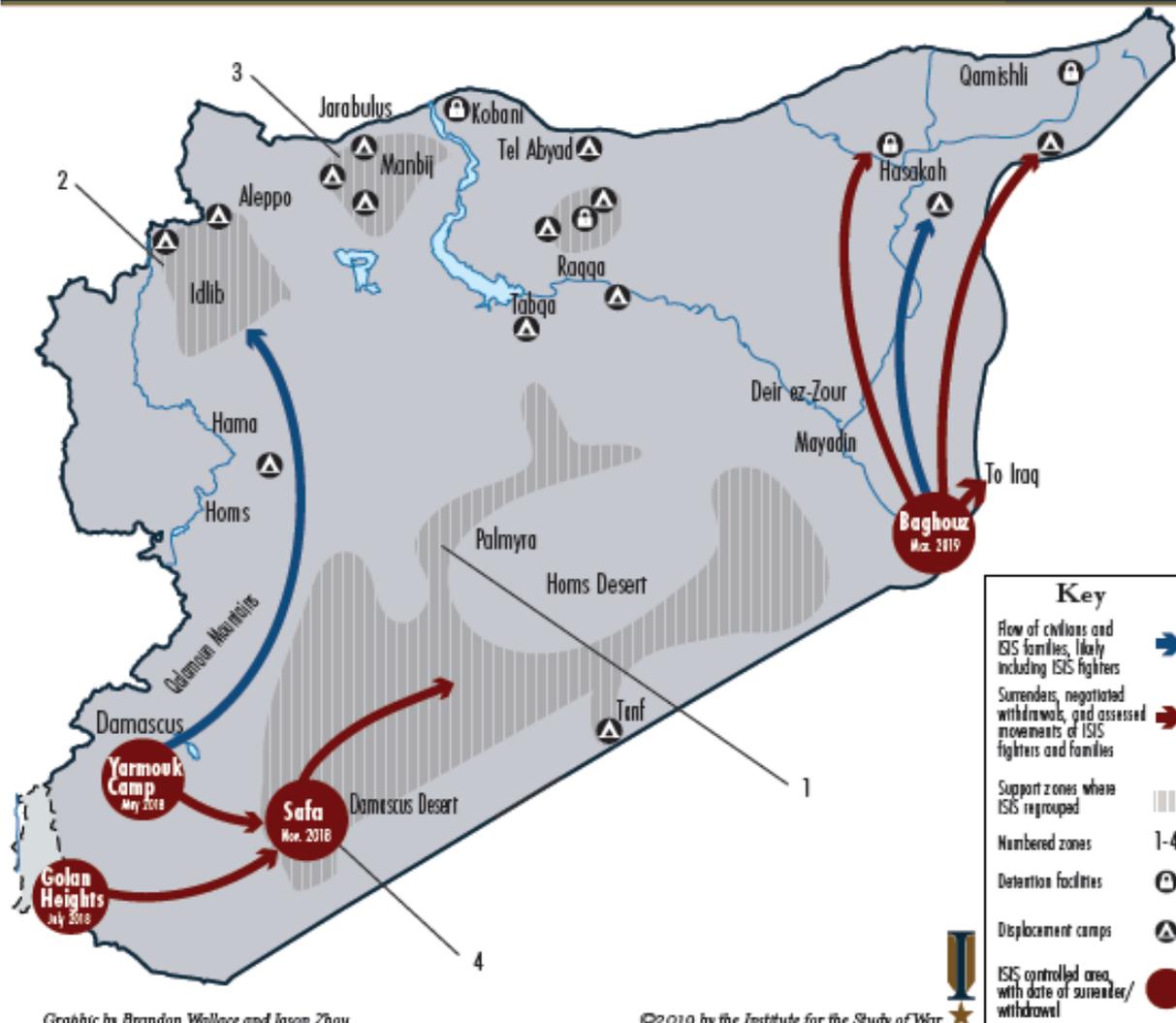
- |                     |                        |                   |                     |                            |                      |
|---------------------|------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Badush Mountains | 3. Tigris River Valley | 5. Zaab Triangle  | 7. Anbar Desert     | 9. Diyala River Valley     | 11. Zagros Mountains |
| 2. Tel Kayf         | 4. Makhmour Mountains  | 6. Jazeera Desert | 8. Hamrin Mountains | 10. Northern Baghdad Belts |                      |

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Graphic by Brandon Wallace and Jason Zhou



- 1. Central Syria Desert
- 2. Idlib Province
- 3. Northern Aleppo and Raqqa Provinces
- 4. Southeastern Damascus



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# ISIS Leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi



# US Troops in Iraq and Syria

- **4000 in Iraq; 2000 in Syria. Mission :  
SUPPORT Fighting ISIS**
- **Add Experience, sophisticated technology,  
and leadership**
- **Partners: “Boots on the ground” – chase and  
destroy**
- **DRONES: Identify, help target, and destroy  
ISIS**
- **VIDEOS**

# US Troops Supporting Fighting ISIS



# US Troops Supporting Fighting ISIS



# **Presidential Decision**

**Turkey will Invade NE Syria to secure 20-30  
mile border**

**Withdrawing 50-100 US troops out of harms  
way**

**Agreed no untoward action on Kurds, or I will  
slap heavy sanctions**

**Turks are responsible for ISIS militants**

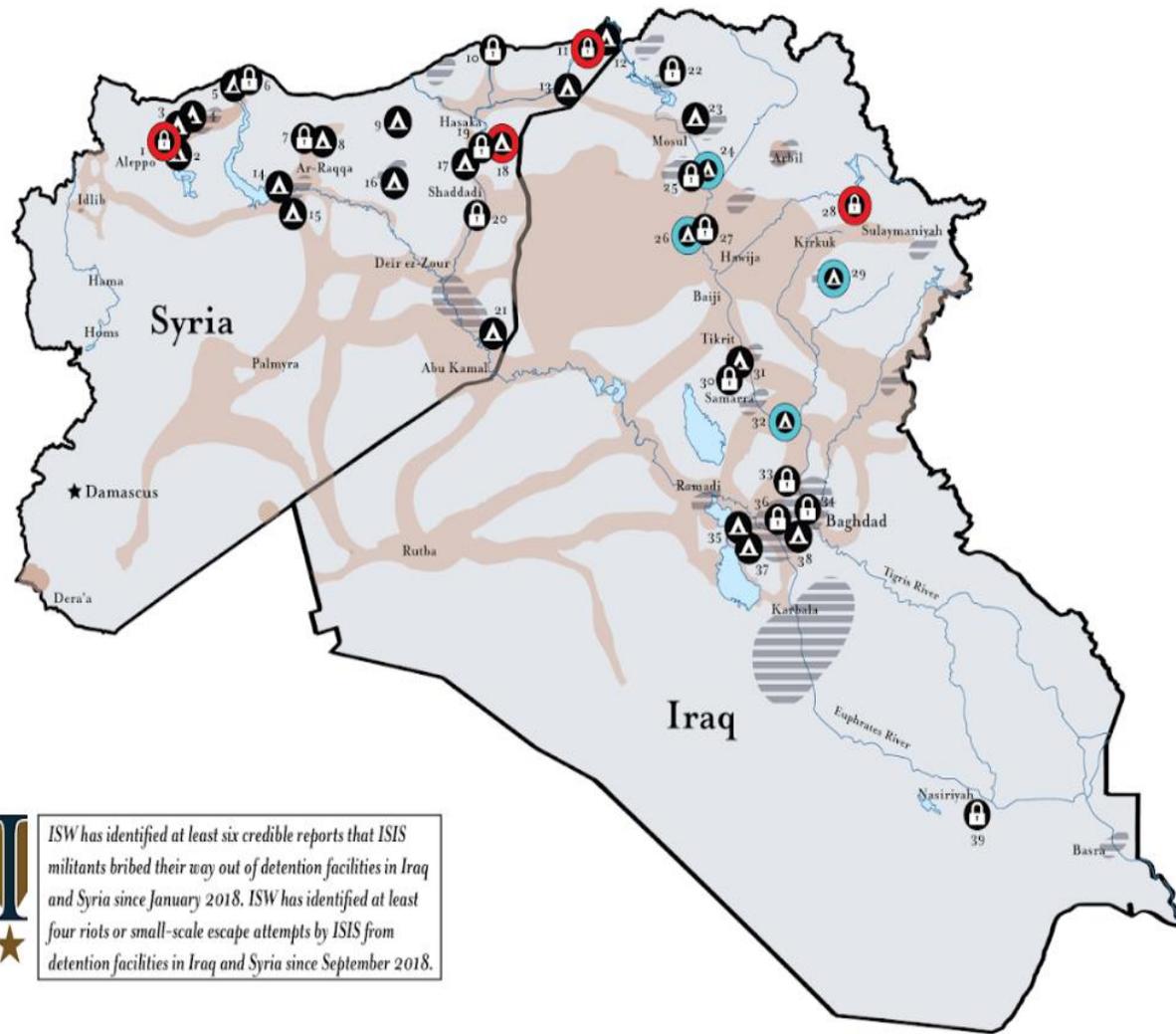
**We must withdraw from this endless war**

# **POLICY: WITHDRAW? STAY? EXPAND?**

- **DEC 2018 – POTUS: ISIS DEFEATED = WITHDRAWAL**
- **JUNE 2019 – ISW: ISIS RESURGENCE**
- **JULY 2019 – DOD/IG: ISIS IS RESURGING**
- **JULY 2019 – C/JCS DUNFORD: ISIS IS STILL A THREAT**
- **AUGUST 2019 – S/S POMPEO: ISIS IS POWERFUL TODAY!**
- **SEPTEMBER 2019 – POTUS: ISIS DEFEATED = WITHDRAWAL**

# **FOUR HIGHLY VOLATILE SITUATIONS**

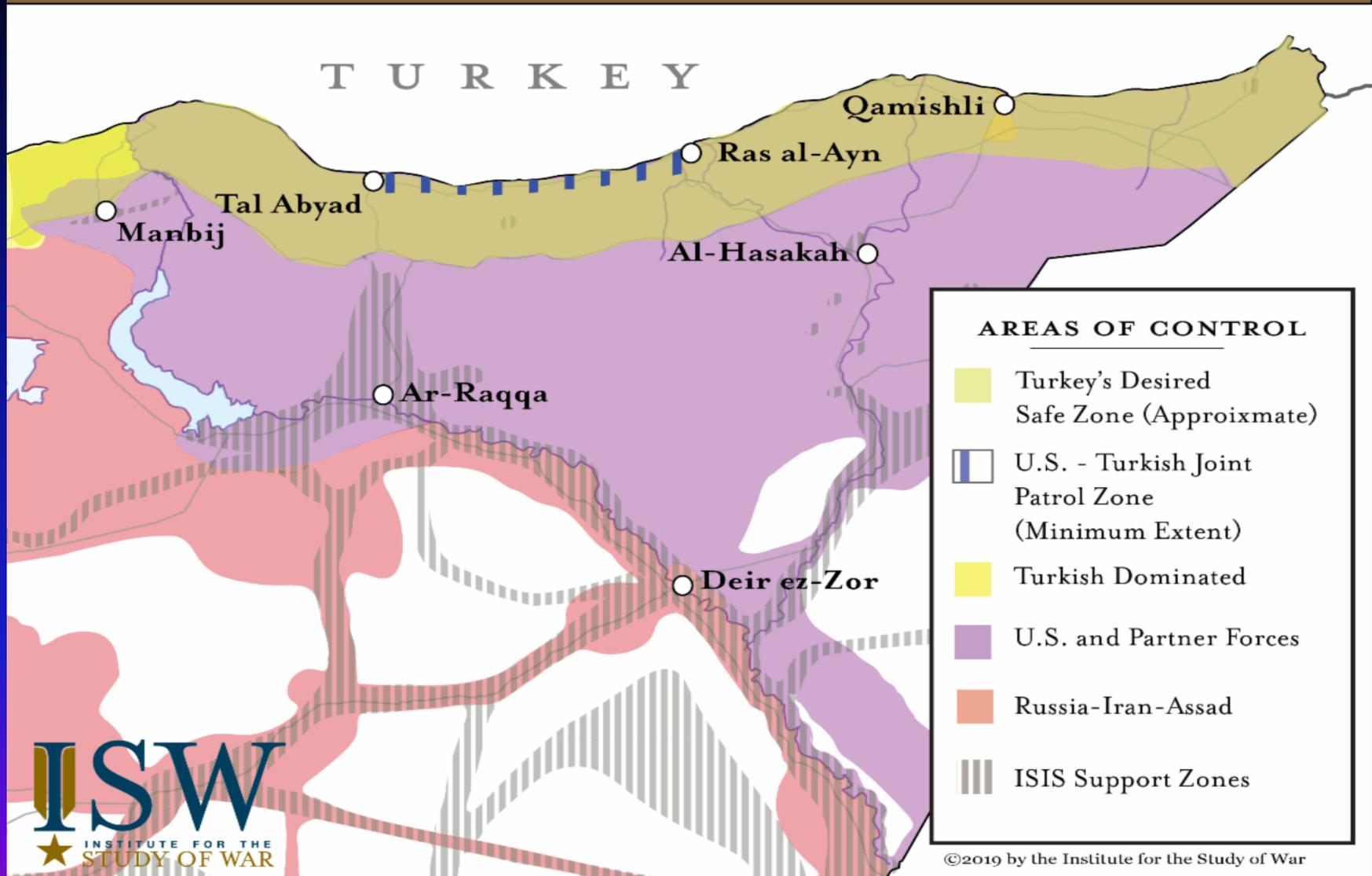
- 1. TURKEY ready to invade Syria to push back SDF/Kurds from its border, or annihilate the Kurds**
- 2. SDF repositioning troops for fight with Turkey; diminished fighting ISIS with US**
- 3. ISIS is ready to attack/free the ISIS fighters and supporters in 24 IDP camps and 14 detention centers/prisons to join their resurgence.**
- 4. Destabilizing Iraqi populations/demonstrations nationwide are demanding end to corruption, job opportunities, better water and electric services: 100 killed in 4 days rioting.**



### KEY

-  **ISIS SUPPORT ZONE:** An area free of significant action against ISIS which permits logistical and administrative tasks by its forces.
-  **DISPLACEMENT CAMP:** An official facility housing internally displaced persons (IDPs). This map shows only formal facilities supported by the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) or Iraqi Government. It does not depict all informal displacement camps in Iraq and Syria.
-  **EMPTIED CAMPS:** A displacement camp or section of a displacement camp ordered to be emptied and closed by the Iraqi Government.
-  **DENSE IDP SETTLEMENTS:** An area with a concentration of settlements of displaced persons recognized by local authorities and receiving administration and management. This map shows an approximation of these concentrations of smaller settlements.
-  **DETENTION FACILITY:** A facility holding ISIS members and often criminals. This map shows only major facilities in Iraq and Northern Syria. It does not depict all detention facilities across Iraq and Syria.
-  **RIOT OR ATTEMPTED BREAKOUT:** A detention facility where ISIS members participated in a known riot or breakout attempt. These small-scale incidents likely involve corruption and mismanagement.

**I** ISW has identified at least six credible reports that ISIS militants bribed their way out of detention facilities in Iraq and Syria since January 2018. ISW has identified at least four riots or small-scale escape attempts by ISIS from detention facilities in Iraq and Syria since September 2018.

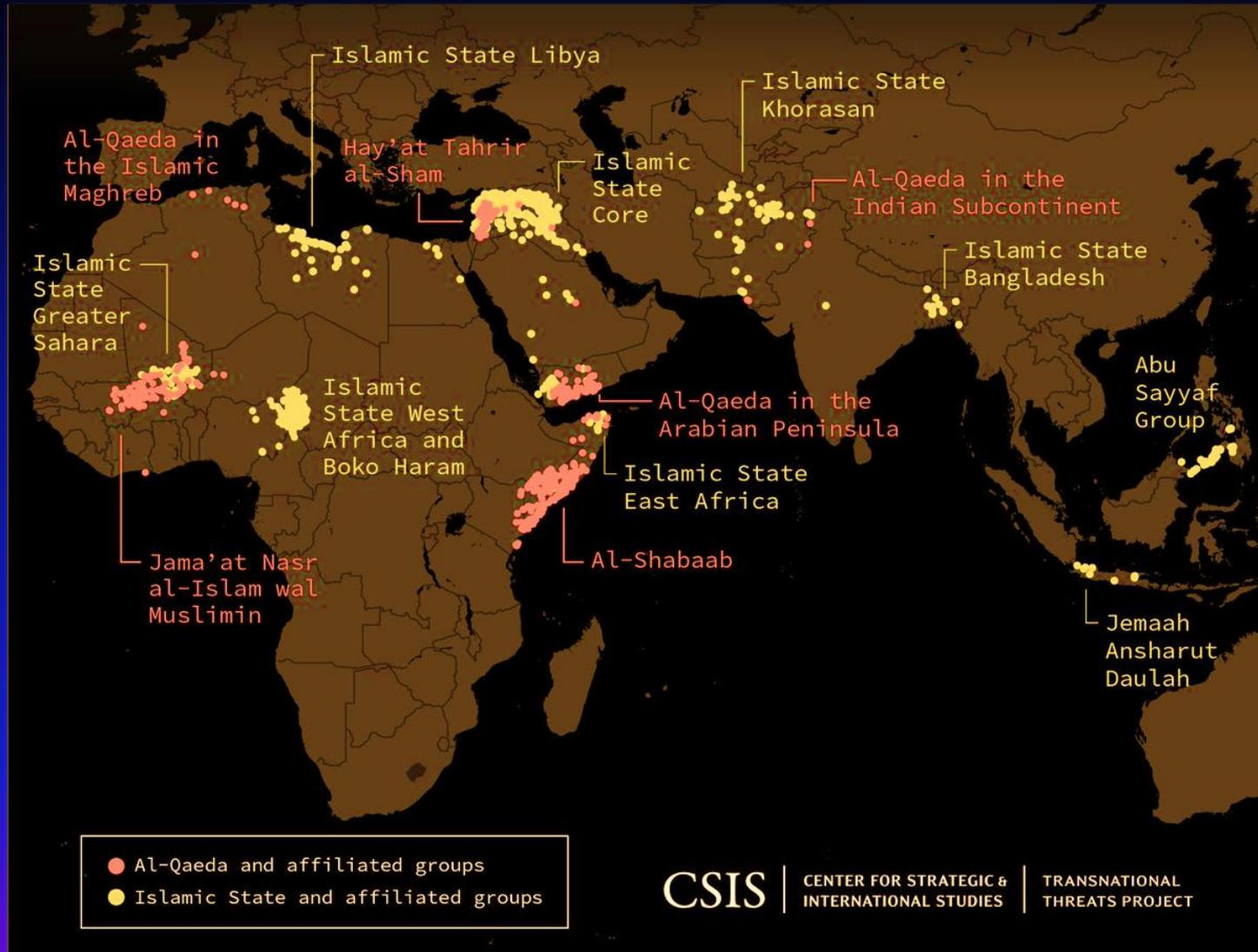


**IS down but not out,  
\$300M in coffers and  
affiliates in many countries**

**3,670 attacks worldwide in  
2018 according to BBC**

**Daesh claimed:**  
**316 attacks in Afghanistan,**  
**181 in Sinai peninsula,**  
**73 in Somalia,**  
**44 in Nigeria,**  
**41 in Yemen, and**  
**27 in the Philippines.**

# Map of Islamic State and AQ Violent Activity 2016-2018



**There are nearly four times as many Salafi-Jihadist militants around the world today than before 9/11**

**In addition to the allegiances in the map, there are groups in the following countries that have also sworn allegiance:**

**Caucasus**

**Yemen**

**Sinai**

**Algeria**

**Actually 2 in Somalia (offshoots from Al Shabaab)**

**Plus operatives in Canada, Mexico, and the US**

# USA

**You are our  
primary goal.**

**- Daesh spokesman**

# Turkey-Kurd War in NE Syria

- **Between 5,000-10,000 Turkish troops on the border ready to invade**
- **Turks will use Syrian rebel proxies as ground fighters**
- **Invasion across 480 km border with Kurd population**
- **Kurds face overwhelming force**

# Turkey Kurd War Zone



# US Military in Syria/Iraq

- **Assume NE “Pull Back” not withdrawal**
- **Stop maneuvers next to Turk invasion areas**
- **Diminished anti-ISIS maneuvers w/o SDF in Syria**
- **Reduced anti-ISIS maneuvers in Iraq in anticipation of US military withdrawal soon**

# **Syrian Military/Government**

- **Move to restrain Turkish invasion**
- **Move to retake areas held by SDF**
- **Move to retake control of oil areas**
- **Aided by Russia and Iran**

# ISIS

- **RESURGENCE INCREASE DURING CHAOS, both countries.**
- **15,000 dispersed fighters emerge from cells=attack**
- **Freer ISIS attacks with diminished SDF fighters and indecision on US support/withdrawal**
- **Attack and free supporters in prisons & IDPs**

# SDF

- **Withdraw from US anti-ISIS maneuvers**
- **Withdraw guards from prisons/IDPs**
- **Fighters move to NE to confront Turks**
- **Feel abandoned by US**
- **SDF/Arabs seek alliance with Assad in common objective of keeping Turkey out of Syria**

# ISIS Prisoners

- **2,000 Includes 1,000 foreign fighters**
- **Guarded by SDF in 14 prisons – all over region**
- **If Freed by ISIS “Prison Break,”**
- **Dispersed to fight locally and worldwide Or**
- **US “INTERIM” Guards Or**
- **Turkish troops move to guard in NE or in all locations**

# ISIS Supporters in IDP Camps

- 170,000 in 24 make-shift camps all over
- 60% are children – Rest mostly women
- Internal security by ISIS.
- Freed in ISIS “Break Out” Or
- “Interim” US guards Or
- Turk Guards?
- Unwelcomed home in Assad gov’t. areas
- Discriminated, abused in ISIS areas

# Refugees in Turkey

- **3.5-4.0 million Syrians and Iraqis**
- **Turkey: relocate Syrian Arabs to NE border area to re-populate Kurdish areas**
- **Turkey: what to do with Syrian Kurd refugees??**
- **Turkey: reluctant to release Iraqi refugees into RKA areas of Iraq (future PKK?)**

# IRAQ PROTESTS

- **Fear more refugees from Turkey/Kurd War**
- **Popular protests against corruption and poor services are unsettling GOI**
- **IRANIAN influence increased directly and with surrogate militias**

# US REPUTATION/RELIABILITY

- **WORLDWIDE confusion**
- **CONGRESS split**
- **PUBLIC supports**
- **WITHIN ADMINISTRATION?**

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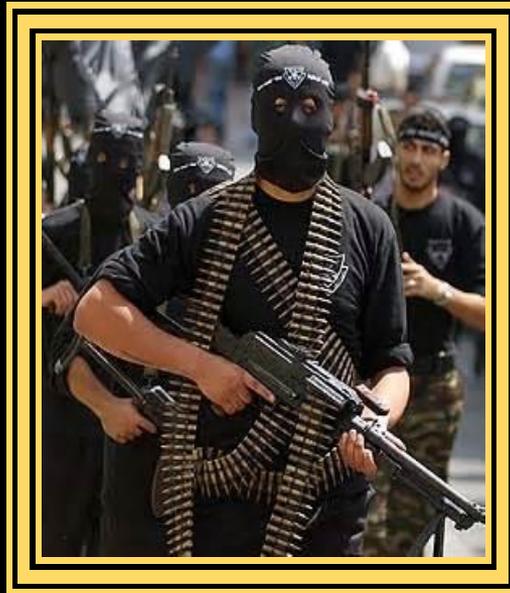
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# References

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**“The Return of ISIS in Iraq, Syria, and the Middle East”, CSIS 03 Sep 2019**
- **Syria Study Group – Final Report, September 24, 2019: Report to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee**
- **“ISIS’s Second Comeback: Assessing the Next ISIS Insurgency,” June 2019, Institute for the Study of War**

# Radical Islam at War with the World



**Do we want Dhimmitude - third class citizens/slaves  
under Islam - or do we want to be free?**

**It is Our Choice**

**Richard Hobbs**

# **Death**

by a

# **Thousand Cuts**

**Islam, Fiscal Irresponsibility, and  
other Threats to Destroy America**



**Richard Hobbs**

# **Women and Children Oppressed**

**Mistreatment under Islam  
including in Europe and America**



**Richard Hobbs**

# Islam versus Civilization

The Great War of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century



Richard Hobbs

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