

ISIS: roots and what it is now



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Contribution of Iraq war and religious tensions

- US leaving Iraq after 8 years of war, late 2011
- Insurgency -> elimination of surges
- Al-Qaeda influence decreased, move to Western Desert of Iraq
- Maliki PM of Iraq – independent from the US in his internal decisions
- Shia-led government -> Oppression of Sunnis
- Massive protests and civil disobedience
- Sunni politicians killed, tortured, shifted from positions
- Feeling marginalized Sunnis in Iraq

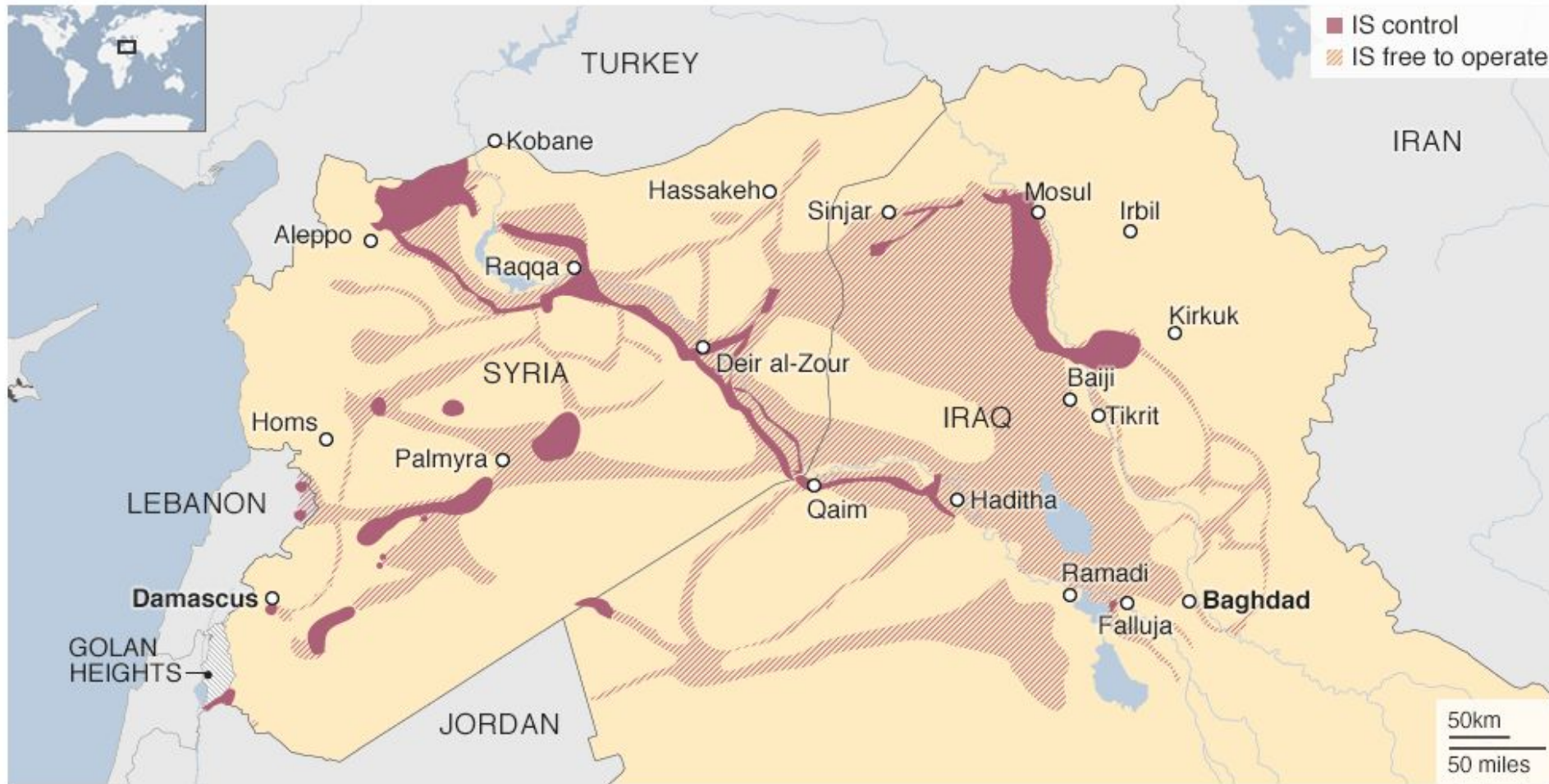
Contribution of Syrian civil war

- Al- Baghdadi – ambitious leader, own group formation
- Civil war in Syria starts
- Al-Baghadadi sent people to Syria
- No US help (not clear who will get the aid, weapons?)

ISIS formed and ISIS now

- Declaration of Khalifate
- Violence use
- Release of videos, use of social media
- Resources conquering: strategic places
- Oil on the black market
- Aim: to create the state
- Recruitment now – use of fear and unprotected
- Export of terrorism

IS territory 2016 May

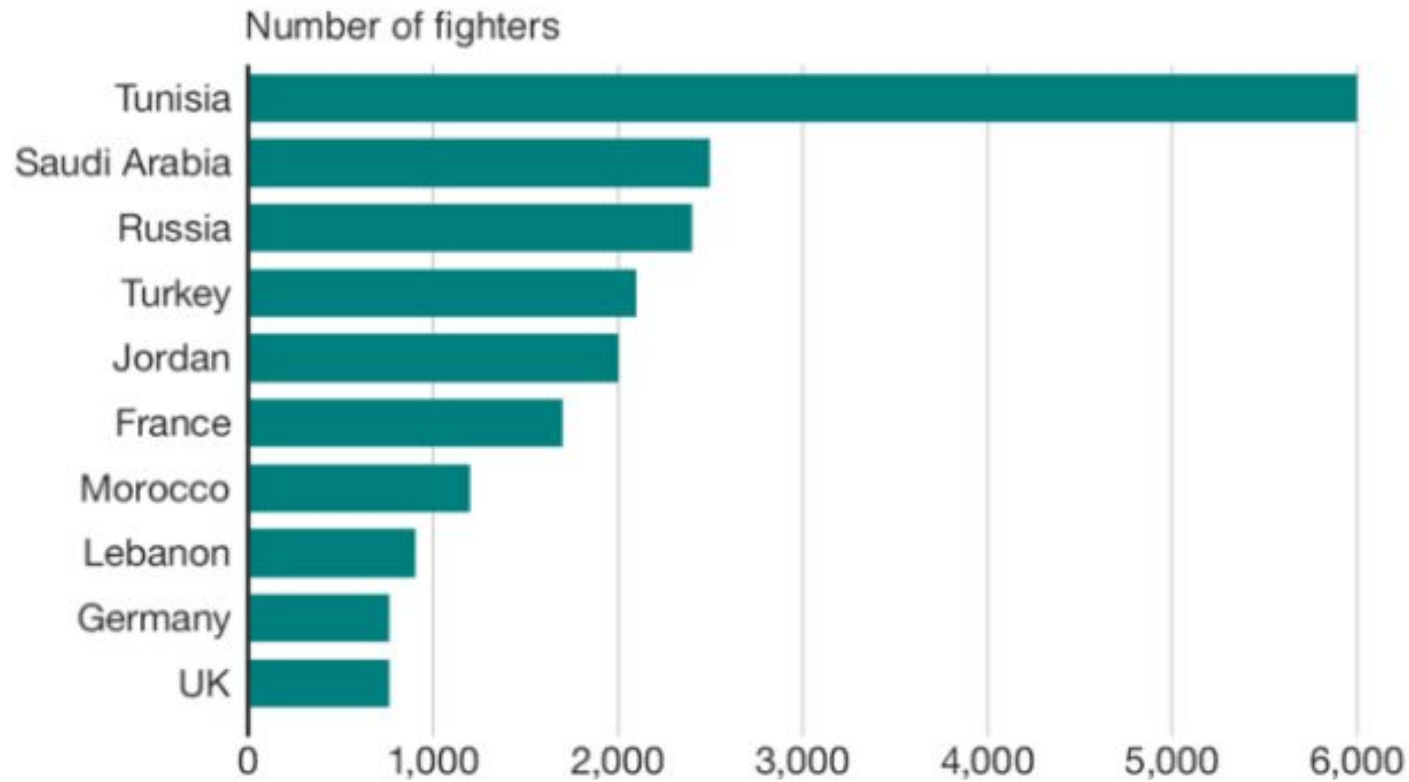


Source: Institute for the Study of War (25 May 2016)

BBC

Where Foreign Jihadists come from?

Nationalities of foreign fighters



Source: The Soufan Group (December 2015)

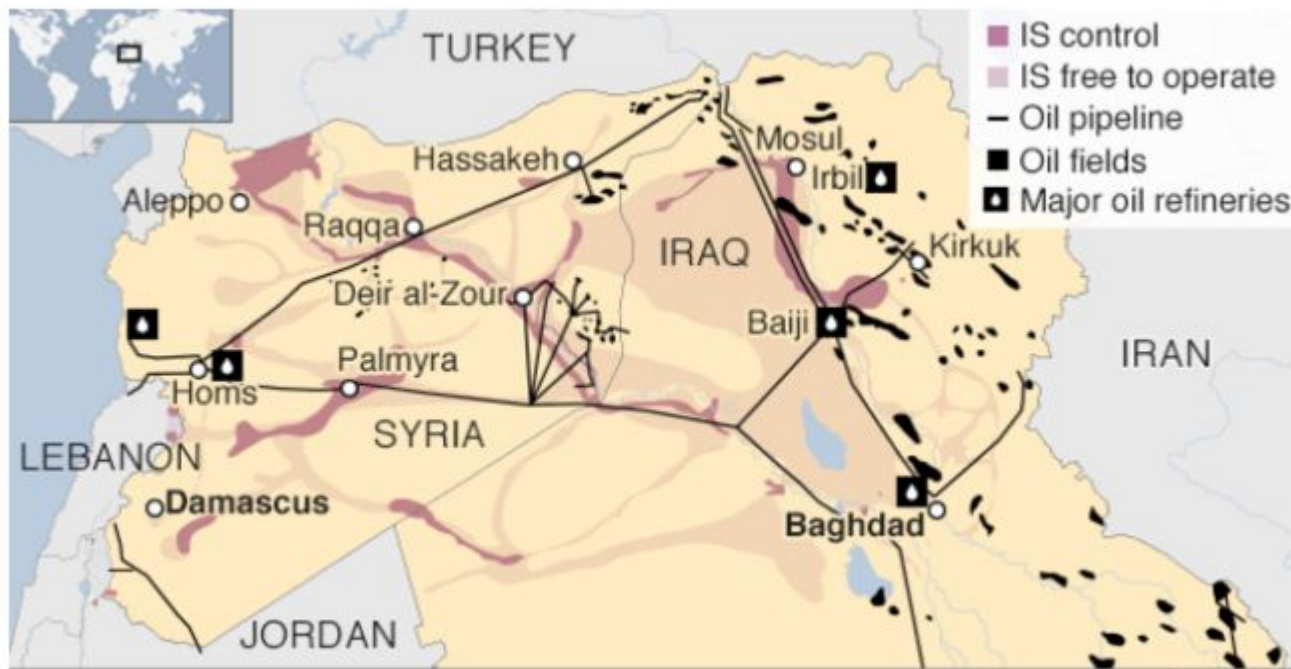
BBC

Reasons people join IS

- Unemployment, power vacuum, financial crisis
- Disillusionment after Arab Spring
- Identity and revenge seekers
- Religious recruitment: ideology
- Fear
- Adventure seekers
- Death seekers: psychological traumas, form of suicide

<http://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2015/12/why-people-join-isis/419685/>

Where IS gets Funding?



Source: World Energy Outlook. IEA, Petroleum Economist, ISW

BBC

Where IS gets Funding?

- Oil zones, strategic infrastructure
- Taxes
- Property confiscation
- Grain silos
- Historical artefacts
- Sponsors*

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-27838034>

How IS is structured?

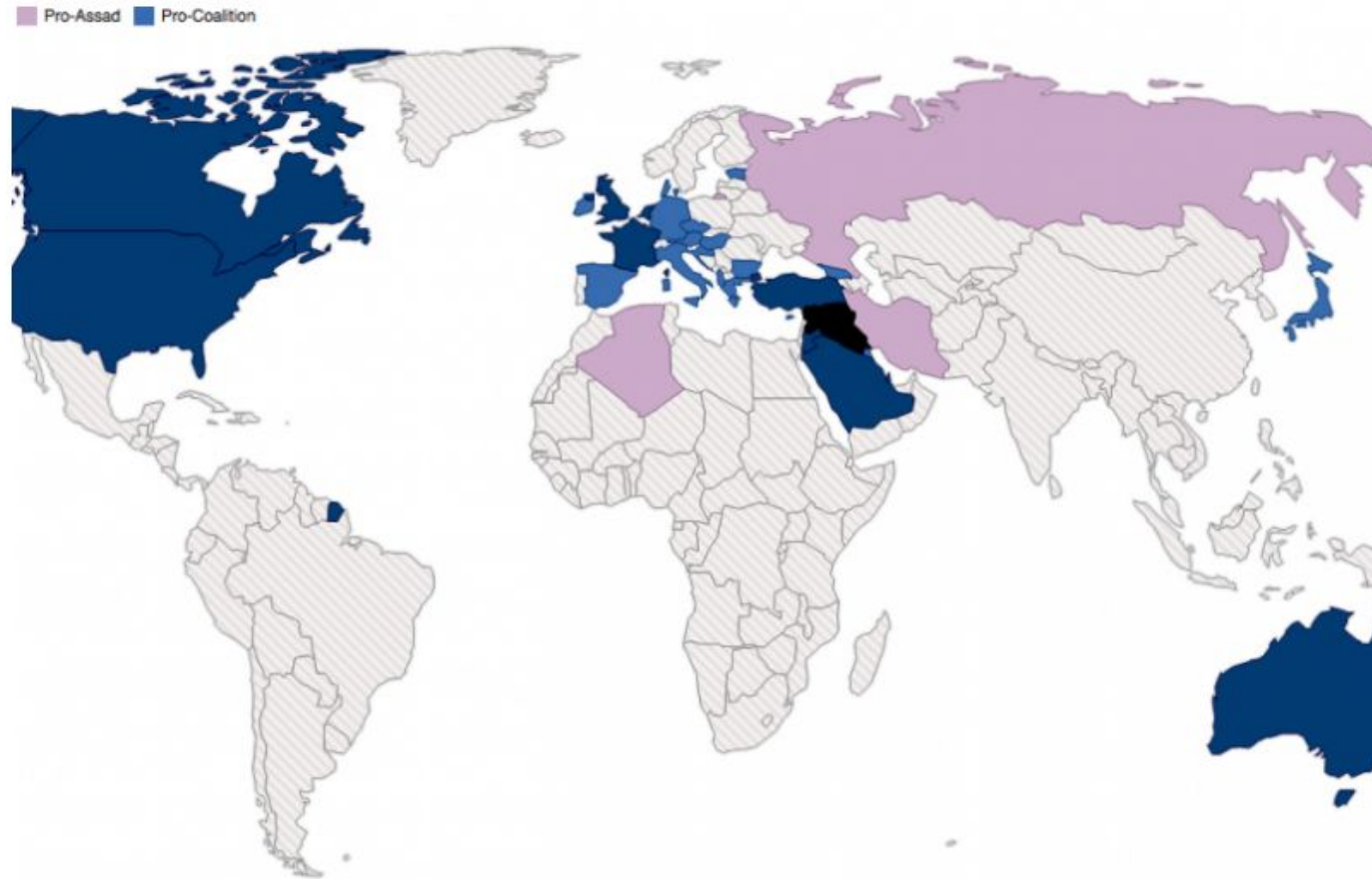
- Acts like a government
- Al-Baghdadi -> Al-Turkmani (Iraq) and Al-Anbari (Syria), former Hussein generals
- Governors -> provinces
- Councils -> Create and Carry out IS policy
- Councils: Leadership, Security, Military, Shura, Financial, Fighters Assistance Council, Legal (Recruitment), Intelligence, Media

<http://www.wsj.com/video/the-islamic-state-how-its-leadership-is-organized/4F4FA0B8-9C07-4D09-BF1D-5761162A0D87.html>

How IS is structured?



Who is Fighting IS?



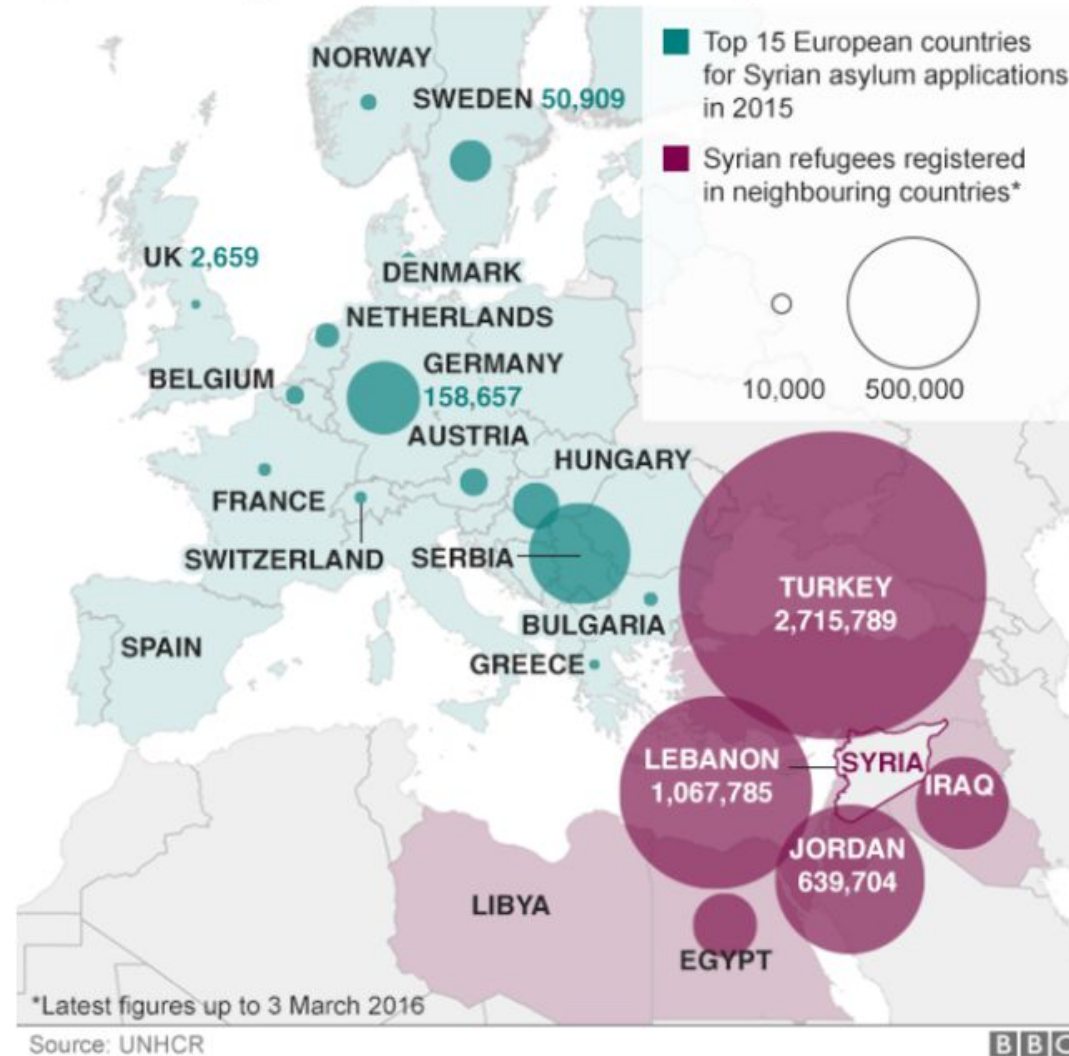
<http://www.ibtimes.com/who-fighting-isis-map-us-led-coalition-campaign-after-paris-attacks-2185295>

Major battles

- 2014 Kobane, Northern Syria, 1600 dead, city ruined
- 2016 Ramadi, Western Iraq, massive destructions after a month-long offensive
- 2016 Palmyra, Syria, UNESCO World Heritage site

Consequence of IS rise

Syrians in neighbouring countries and Europe



- <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-27838034>

IS territory plan

