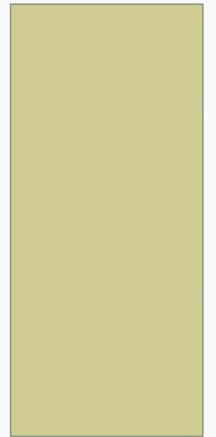


MAKING SENSE OF ISIS

OVERVIEW OF THE THREAT OF ISIS



WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

- With the people around you discuss the following:
 - What have you read, watched, or heard about the Islamic State (ISIS/ISIL)?
 - Terms and people associated with the group?
 - History and background?

OUTLINE

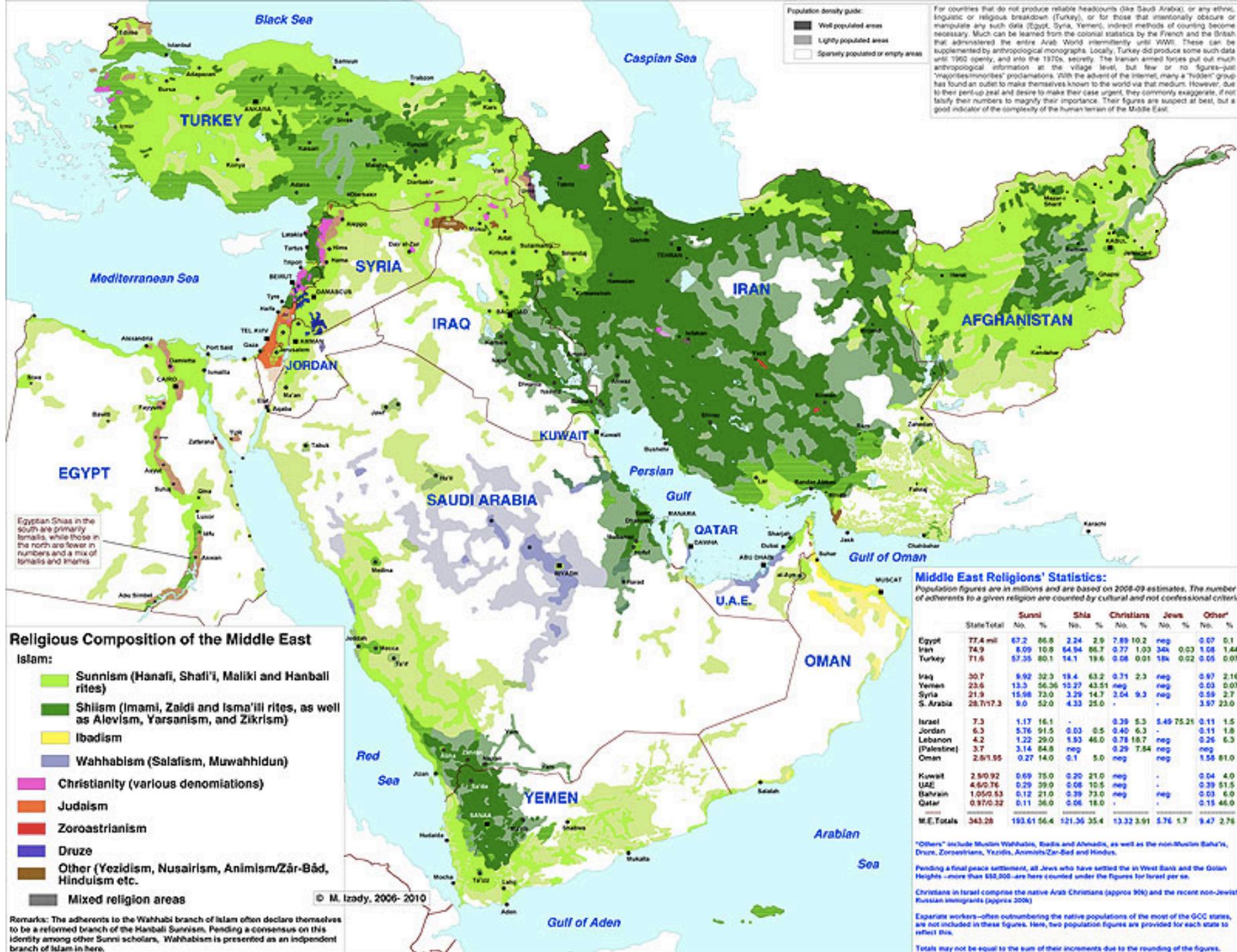
1. Background and definition of group
2. Tracing the origins and rise of ISIS
3. Ideology
4. Goals
5. Organizational Structure
6. Establishment of a caliphate
7. Major players
8. Results, consequences, and costs
9. What now?

CONDUCTING OVERVIEW RESEARCH ON ISIS

- Individually OR in a group of 3-4, address the following:
 1. What and who is ISIS/ISIL? Difference?
 2. Where do they operate? Where do they hold territory?
 3. How do they operate and how are they organized?
 4. Why did they rise to power and why do they continue to gain power? How are they financed? Weapons and military strategy?
 5. What are their beliefs, ideology, goals, etc.? How do they hope to achieve these goals?
 6. Who are the major players involved this global issue in the Middle East?
 7. What has been the response to ISIS from nations/groups/organizations around the world?

VIDEO BACKGROUND

- [WSJ: ISIS Sparks a Crisis in the ME](#)
- [NY Times: ISIS Goals and Tectics Worldwide](#)
- [Crash Course ISIS](#)
- [NY Times: Evolution of ISIS](#)
- [NY times: Iraq's Factions and Their Goals](#)
- [TED Talk: The surprising way groups like ISIS stay in power](#)
- [TED Talk: A Global culture to fight extrememism](#)



Population density guide:
 Well populated areas
 Lightly populated areas
 Sparsely populated or empty areas

For countries that do not produce reliable headcounts (like Saudi Arabia), or any ethnic, linguistic or religious breakdown (Turkey), or for those that occasionally obscure or manipulate any such data (Egypt, Syria, Yemen), indirect methods of counting become necessary. Much can be learned from the colonial statistics by the French and the British that administered the entire Arab World intermittently until 2000. These can be supplemented by anthropological monographs. Locally, Turkey did produce some such data until 1960 openly, and into the 1970s, secretly. The Iranian armed forces put out much anthropological information at the village level, but few or no figures—just “majorities/minorities” proclamations. With the advent of the internet, many a “hidden” group has found an outlet to make themselves known to the world via that medium. However, due to their pent-up zeal and desire to make their case urgent, they commonly exaggerate, if not falsify their numbers to magnify their importance. Their figures are suspect at best, but a good indicator of the complexity of the human terrain of the Middle East.

Egyptian Shias in the south are primarily Ismailis, while those in the north are fewer in numbers and a mix of Ismailis and Imams.

- Religious Composition of the Middle East**
- Islam:**
- Sunnism (Hanafi, Shafi'i, Maliki and Hanbali rites)
 - Shilism (Imami, Zaidi and Isma'ili rites, as well as Alevism, Yarsanism, and Zikrism)
 - Ibadiism
 - Wahhabism (Salafism, Muwahhidun)
 - Christianity (various denominations)
 - Judaism
 - Zoroastrianism
 - Druze
 - Other (Yezidism, Nusairism, Animism/Zār-Bâd, Hinduism etc.)
 - Mixed religion areas

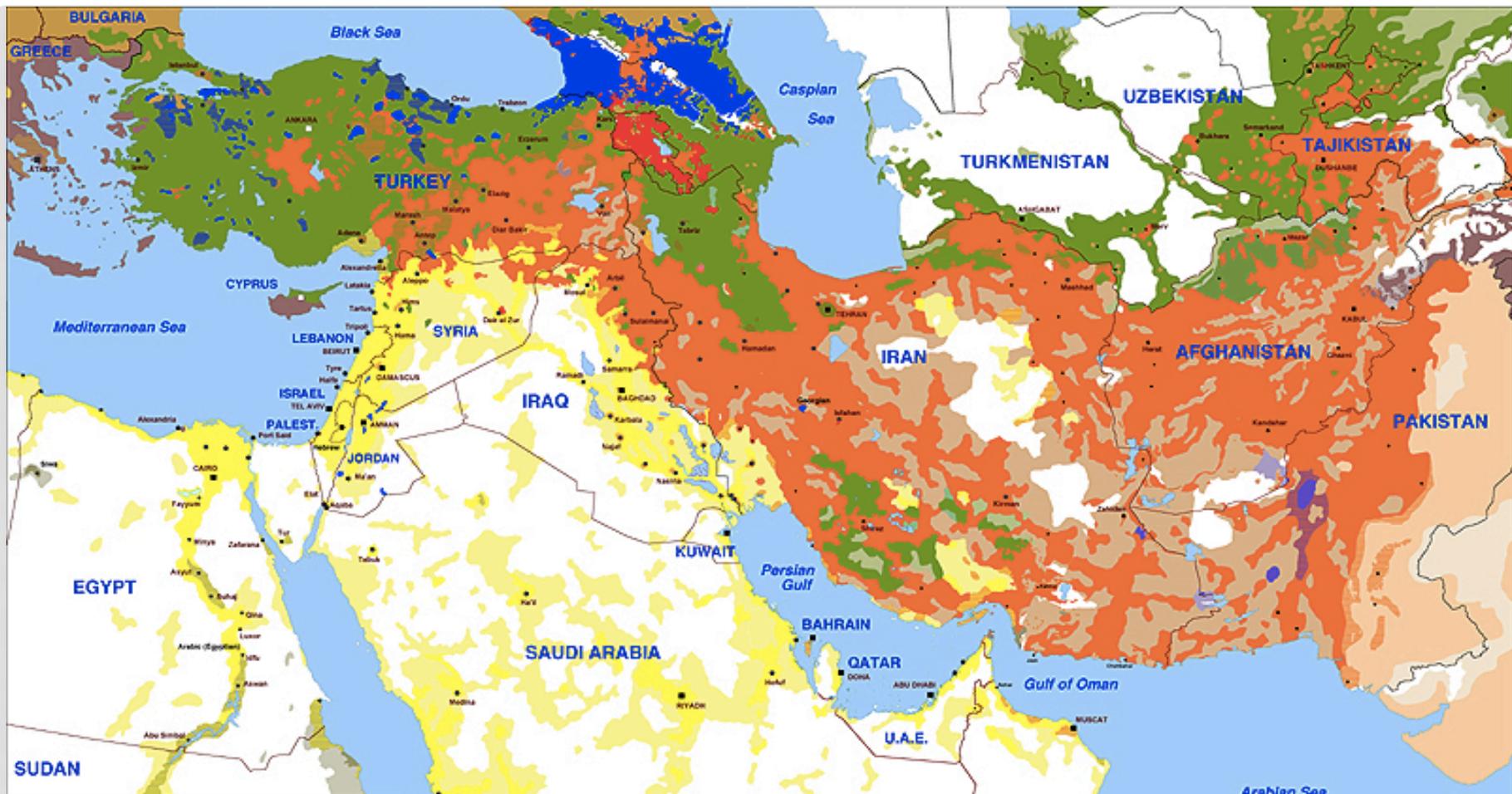
Remarks: The adherents to the Wahhabi branch of Islam often declare themselves to be a reformed branch of the Hanbali Sunnism. Pending a consensus on this identity among other Sunni scholars, Wahhabism is presented as an independent branch of Islam in here.

© M. Izady, 2006-2010

Middle East Religions' Statistics:
 Population figures are in millions and are based on 2008-09 estimates. The number of adherents to a given religion are counted by cultural and not confessional criteria

	State Total	Sunnli		Shia		Christians		Jews		Other*	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Egypt	77.4 mil	67.2	86.8	2.24	2.9	7.89	10.2	neg		0.07	0.1
Iran	74.9	8.09	10.8	84.94	86.7	0.77	1.03	34n	0.53	1.08	1.44
Turkey	71.6	57.35	80.1	14.1	19.6	0.08	0.01	18n	0.02	0.05	0.07
Iraq	30.7	6.92	22.3	19.4	63.2	0.71	2.3	neg		0.87	2.16
Yemen	23.6	13.3	56.36	10.27	43.51	neg		neg		0.03	0.07
Syria	21.9	15.98	73.0	3.29	14.7	3.04	9.3	neg		0.59	2.7
S. Arabia	28.7/17.3	9.0	52.0	4.33	25.0	.	.	.		3.97	23.0
Israel	7.3	1.17	16.1	.	.	0.39	5.3	5.49	75.31	0.11	1.5
Jordan	6.3	5.76	91.5	0.03	0.5	0.40	6.3	.		0.11	1.8
Lebanon	4.2	1.22	29.0	1.93	46.0	0.78	18.7	neg		0.26	6.3
(Palestine)	3.7	3.14	84.8	neg	.	0.29	7.84	neg		neg	
Oman	2.6/1.95	0.27	14.0	0.1	5.0	neg		neg		1.58	81.0
Kuwait	2.9/0.92	0.69	75.0	0.20	21.0	.	.	.		0.04	4.0
UAE	4.6/0.76	0.29	39.0	0.08	10.5	neg		neg		0.39	51.5
Bahrain	1,05/0.53	0.12	21.0	0.39	73.0	neg		neg		0.03	6.0
Qatar	0.97/0.32	0.11	36.0	0.08	18.0	.	.	.		0.15	46.0
M.E. Totals	343.28	193.61	56.4	121.30	35.4	13.32	3.91	5.76	1.7	9.47	2.76

Others include Muslim Wahhabis, Bada'i and Ahmadiis, as well as the non-Muslim Bahais, Druze, Zoroastrians, Yazidis, Animists/Zar-Bad and Hindus.
 Pending a final peace settlement, all Jews who have settled the in West Bank and the Golan Heights -more than 500,000- are here counted under the figures for Israel per se.
 Christians in Israel comprise the native Arab Christians (approx 90k) and the recent non-Jewish Russian immigrants (approx 200k)
 Expatriate workers—often outnumbering the native populations of the most of the GCC states, are not included in these figures. Here, two population figures are provided for each state to reflect this.
 Totals may not be equal to the sum of their increments due to the rounding of the figures.



Sources: A. Burdett, *Afghanistan Strategic Intelligence Records 1919-1970* (2006); A. Razmara, *Farhang-i jughrafiyyi-i Iran* (Geographical Dictionary of Iran) (1940-S1); B. Destani, ed., *Minorities in the Middle East: Christian Minorities 1838-1967* (2007); B. Destani, ed., *Minorities in the Middle East: Muslim Minorities in Arab Countries 1843-1973* (2007); B. Destani, ed., *Minorities in the Middle East: Druse Communities 1849-1974* (2006); British administration reports for Mesopotamia, *Iraq Administration Reports 1914-1932*, reprint 1992; S.I. Brak, *Narodny Perepisy Azii* (1960); Brak, S.I. and V. S. Apenchenko, *Atlas Narodov Mira* (Moscow: Academy of Science, 1964); A. Gabriel, *Religionsgeographie von Persien* (Vienna, 1971); Government of French Mandate of Syria, *Les Tribus Arabes de Syrie* (Damascus: Section d'étude du service des renseignements du Levant, 1930); British Naval Intelligence Division, *Iraq and the Persian Gulf* (1944); Government of Iran, *Population and Household Census, 1986* (Tehran: Iranian Census Bureau, 1987), "the secret edition," text available in English; Government of Iraq, *Annual Abstract of Statistics, 1970* (1971); Government of Syria, *Statistical Abstract 1973* (1973); Government of Turkey, Statistical Bureau, *Köy Envanter Enkleri* ("Village In-ventory Studies") (1961-64); J.G. Lorimer, *Gazetteer of the Persian Gulf, Oman and Central Arabia* (1886); *Jahisa Project* (for the Christian communities of Sudan); L. Dupree, *Afghanistan* (1975); M. Izady, *The Kurds: A Concise Handbook* (1992); K. E. Müller, *Kulturhistorische Studien zur Genese pseudo-islamischer Sektengruppen in Vorderasien* (1969); Peter Andrews, ed., *Ethnic Groups in the Republic of Turkey* (1989); R. Trench, *Gazetteer Of Arabian Tribes* (1996); *Tübinger Atlas of the Near East*, sheet A VIII.6, "Middle East: Religion," (Wiesbaden: Reichert, 1987), includes percentages for various religions and sects, and a list of important sources for such data; *Weltkarte, Sonderausgabe: Völkern* (Vienna, 1943-44).

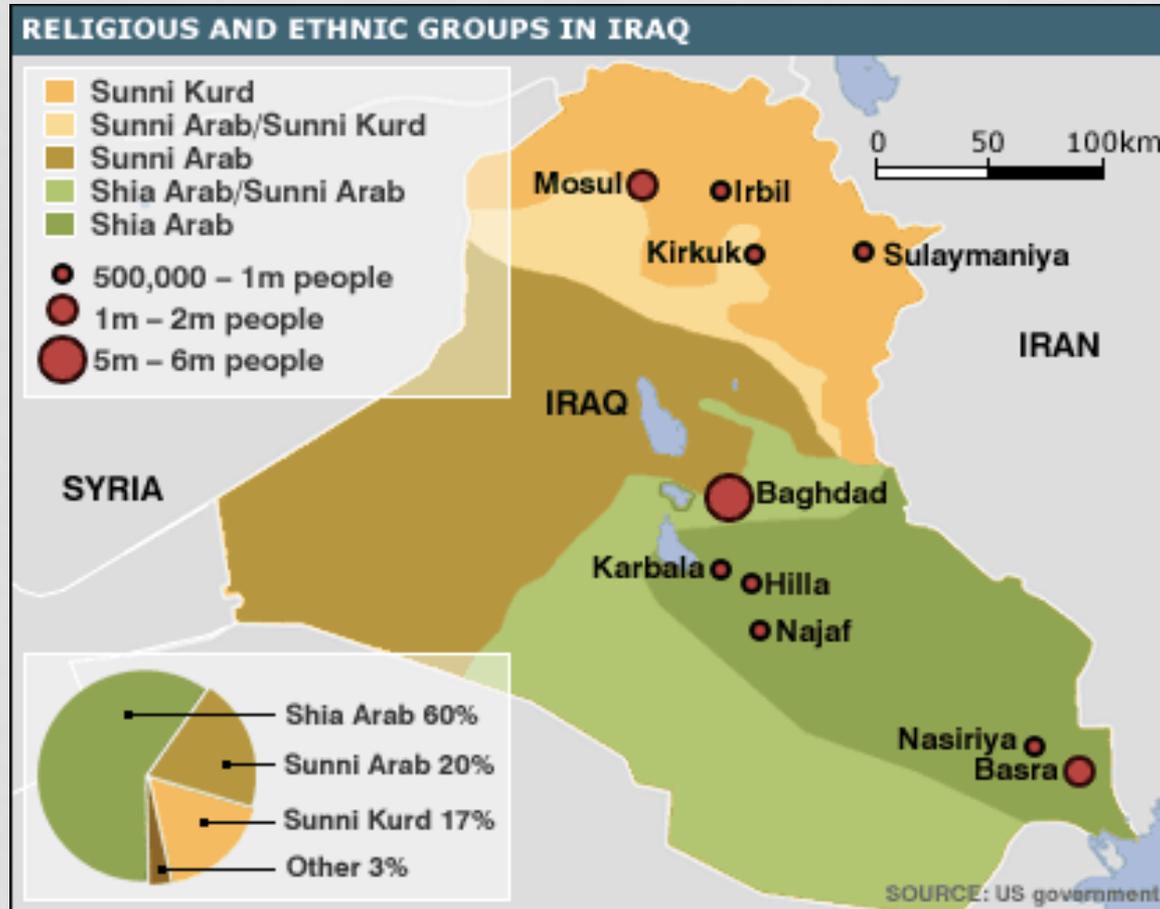
Language Families of the Middle East and Vicinity

- | | |
|---|--|
| INDO-EUROPEAN LANGUAGES | TURKIC LANGUAGES |
| Iranic branch (Persian, Pashto, Kurdish, Baluchi, etc.) | Turkish, Uzbek, Azeri, Kazakh, Turkmen, Kyrgyz, etc. |
| Indic branch (Hindi, Sinhali, Punjabi, Gujari etc.) | CAUCASIAN LANGUAGES |
| Dardic branch (Kashmiri, Sani, Pashai etc.) | Georgian, Laz, Chechen, Circassian, Kabardian, Ingush, languages of Dagestan, etc. |
| Armenian branch | DRAVIDIAN LANGUAGES |
| Slavic branch (Russian, Bulgarian, Bosnian, etc.) | Baruhli |
| Heleneic branch (Greek) | Other |
| SEMITIC LANGUAGES | To include Hamitic, Nilotic, Kushitic, Bantu, etc. |
| Arabic, Hebrew, Mehri, Shemitic, Socotran, Oholani, Assyrian, Syriac, Aramaic, etc. | |

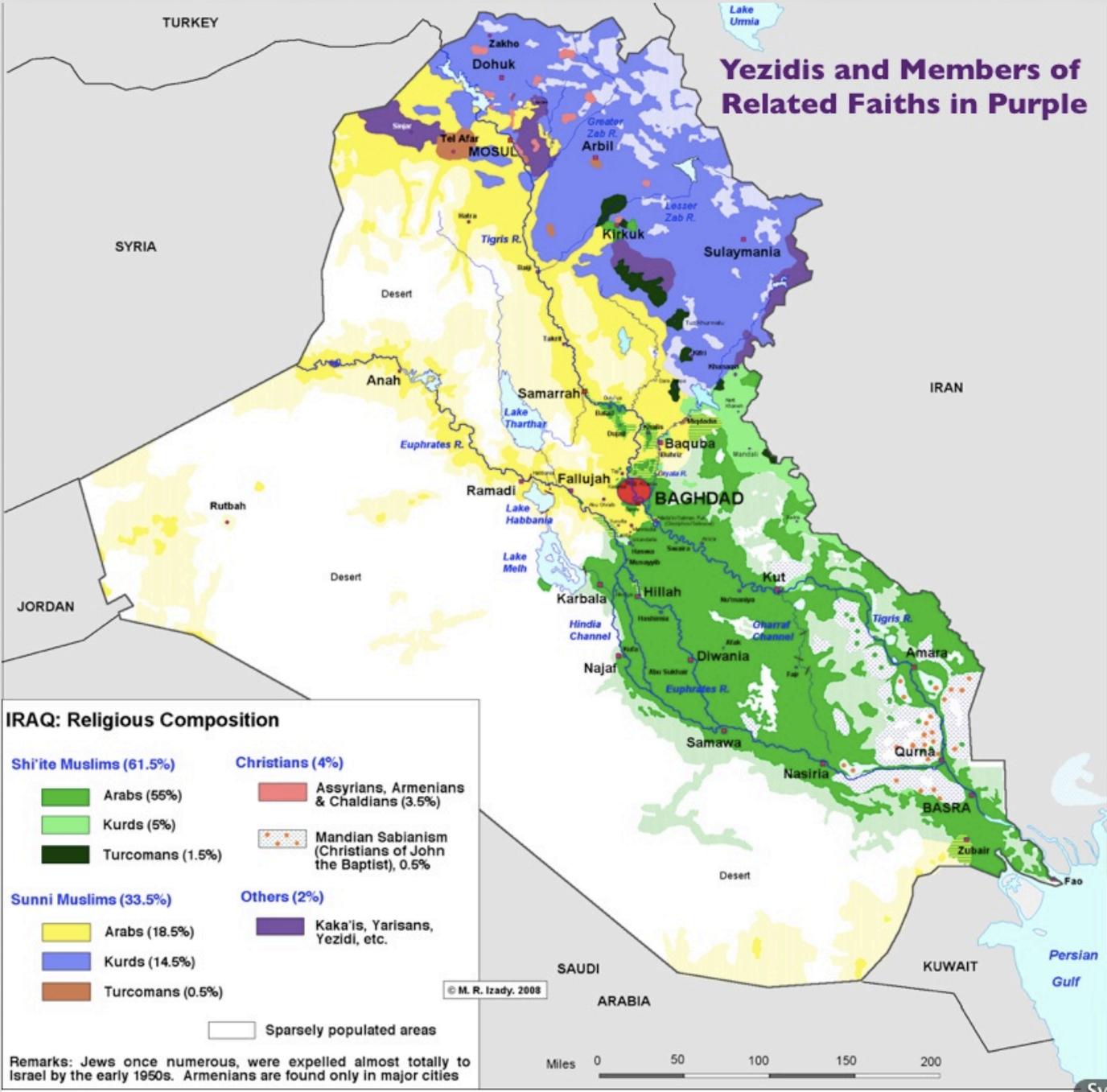
© M. Izady, 1996-2012

Population Density Key (no. of persons per square mile)

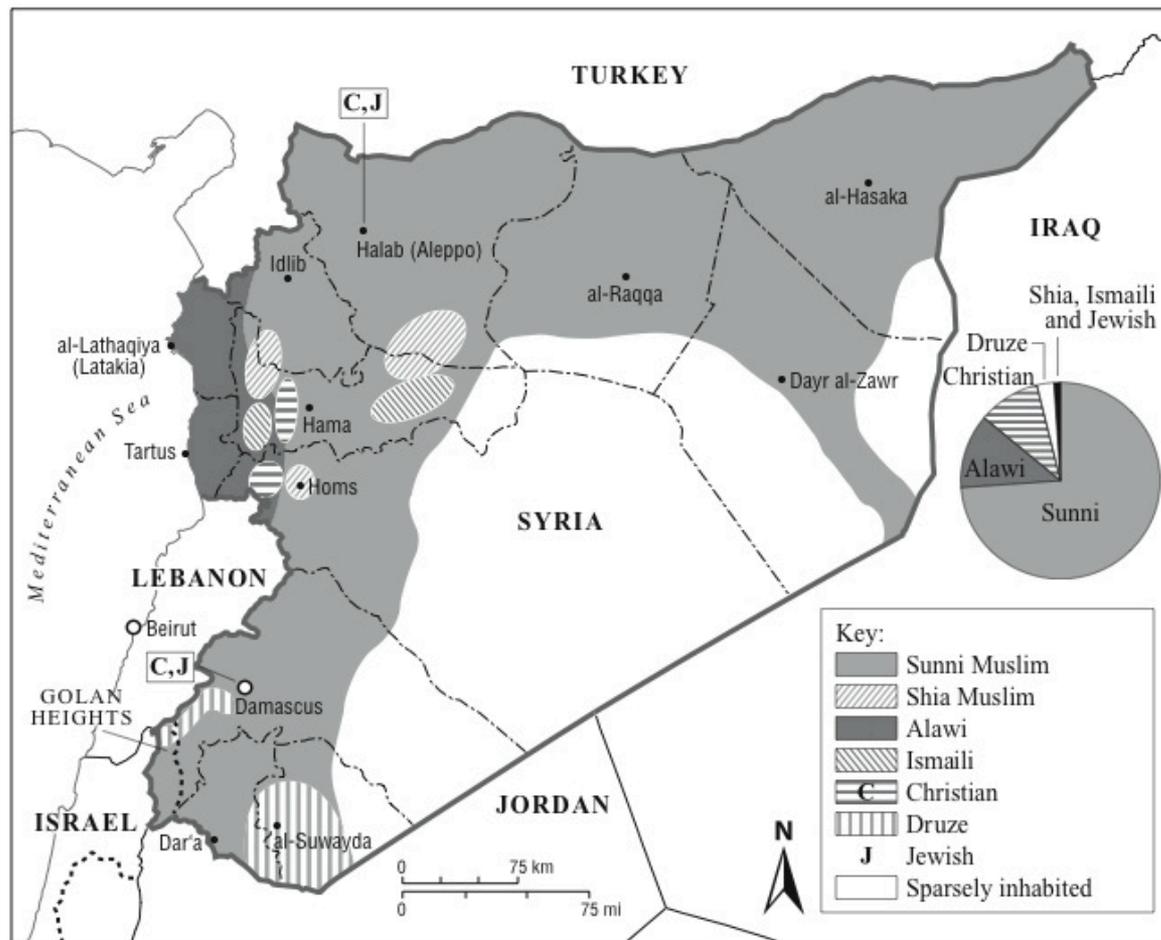
RELIGIOUS AND ETHNIC GROUPS IN IRAQ



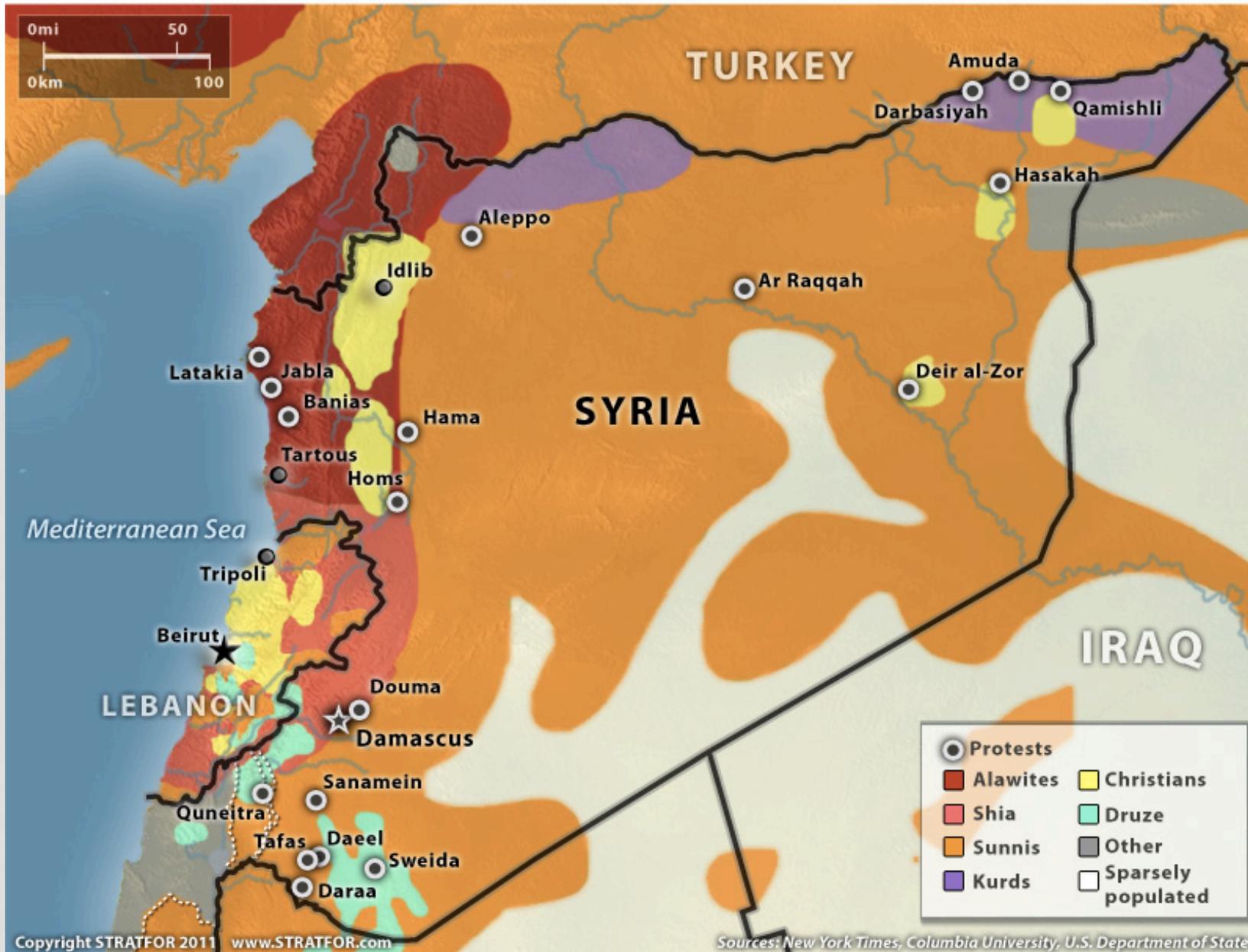
Yezidis and Members of Related Faiths in Purple



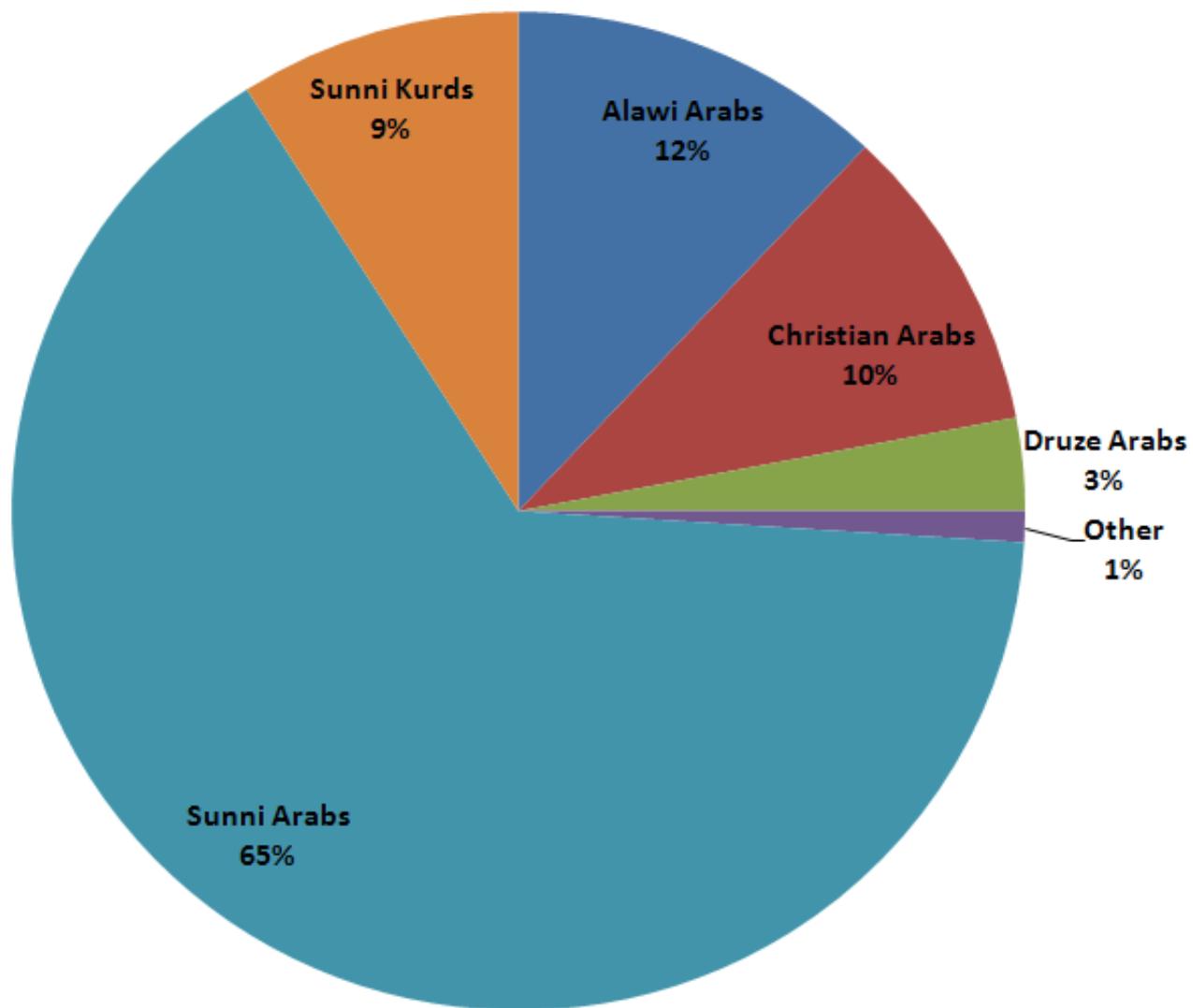
RELIGIOUS DISTRIBUTION IN SYRIA



A SECTARIAN LOOK AT SYRIAN UNREST



Syrian demographics 2012 US Dept. of State



DEFINITION OF TERRORISM

- the use of violence and threats to intimidate or coerce, especially for political purposes.
- the state of fear and submission produced by terrorism or terrorization.
- a terroristic method of governing or of resisting a government.

TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS IN ME

1. **Hamas**-Palestine, destruction of Israel, allegiance to Islam and jihad, rejection of negotiated peace settlement
2. **Hizbollah**-Lebanon, *Party of God*, anti-Israel, Shiite Islamic Ideology, work towards social and economic development in Leb.
3. **Boko Haram**-Nigeria, linked to Al Qaeda, Sunni, strict sharia law, wants Islamic state in Nigeria/West Africa
4. **Al-Shabaab**-Somalia affiliate of AQ, strict form of Salafism (like ISIS), Islamic State in Somalia free of foreigners and outside influence, anti-west
5. **Taliban**-Afghanistan and regions of Pakistan
6. **Al Qaeda**-global and militant, Salafist Sunni extremism

TURBULENT HOMES FOR TERROR

SYRIA / IRAQ

Ruthless ISIS takes over vast swaths of land, threatens more

AFGHANISTAN / PAKISTAN

Taliban presses on with attacks in war-torn region

LIBYA

Instability, insecurity since Moammar Gadhafi's ouster

YEMEN

Al Qaeda remains a force amid political upheaval

NIGERIA

Nigerian government fails to stifle Boko Haram

SOMALIA

Push back against Al-Shabaab's campaign of terror



1. WHAT IS THE ISLAMIC STATE?

- **ISIS**-Islamic State of Iraq and Syria OR **ISIL**-Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant
- Terrorist group (from Western View)
- Political and military organization with radical interpretation of Islam
 - Political philosophy that seeks to impose worldview by force on Muslims and non-Muslims alike
- Expelled from Al-Qaeda b/c too extreme
- Claims to be legitimate ruler of all Sunni Muslims worldwide
- Established a “state” includes swaths of territory in Syria and Iraq, governed from Raqqa in Syria

1. WHAT IS THE ISLAMIC STATE?

- Advances theological opinions to advance its claims
- Adherents claim to be practicing Islam fully, those who disagree are *takfir* (heretics).
 - Religious justification for killing State's opponents (slaughtering)
- Originally founded by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi (Al-Qaeda in Iraq)
 - Participated in war in Iraq against America forces after fall of Saddam Hussein
 - 2013 joined Syrian Civil War → focused on building Islamic State
- June 29, 2014 Islamic State declared establishment of Islamic caliphate with leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi

2. ORIGINS-TRACING THE RISE OF ISIS

- Began as group called Jamaat al-Tahwid wa-i-Jihad, 1999
- Focused on regime change in Jordan
- Founder-Abu Musab al-Zarqawi
 - Poor background
 - Post 2003 invasion of Iraq by US, Zarqawi prominent Figure against American insurgency
 - Brutality, hatred of Shiites
- JTJ's attacks include:
 - UN compound in Baghdad killed 22, August 2003
 - Simultaneous attacks kill 150 in Baghdad and Shiite holy city (Karbala) during festival, Feb. 2004
 - Beheadings of hostages, Sept. 2004

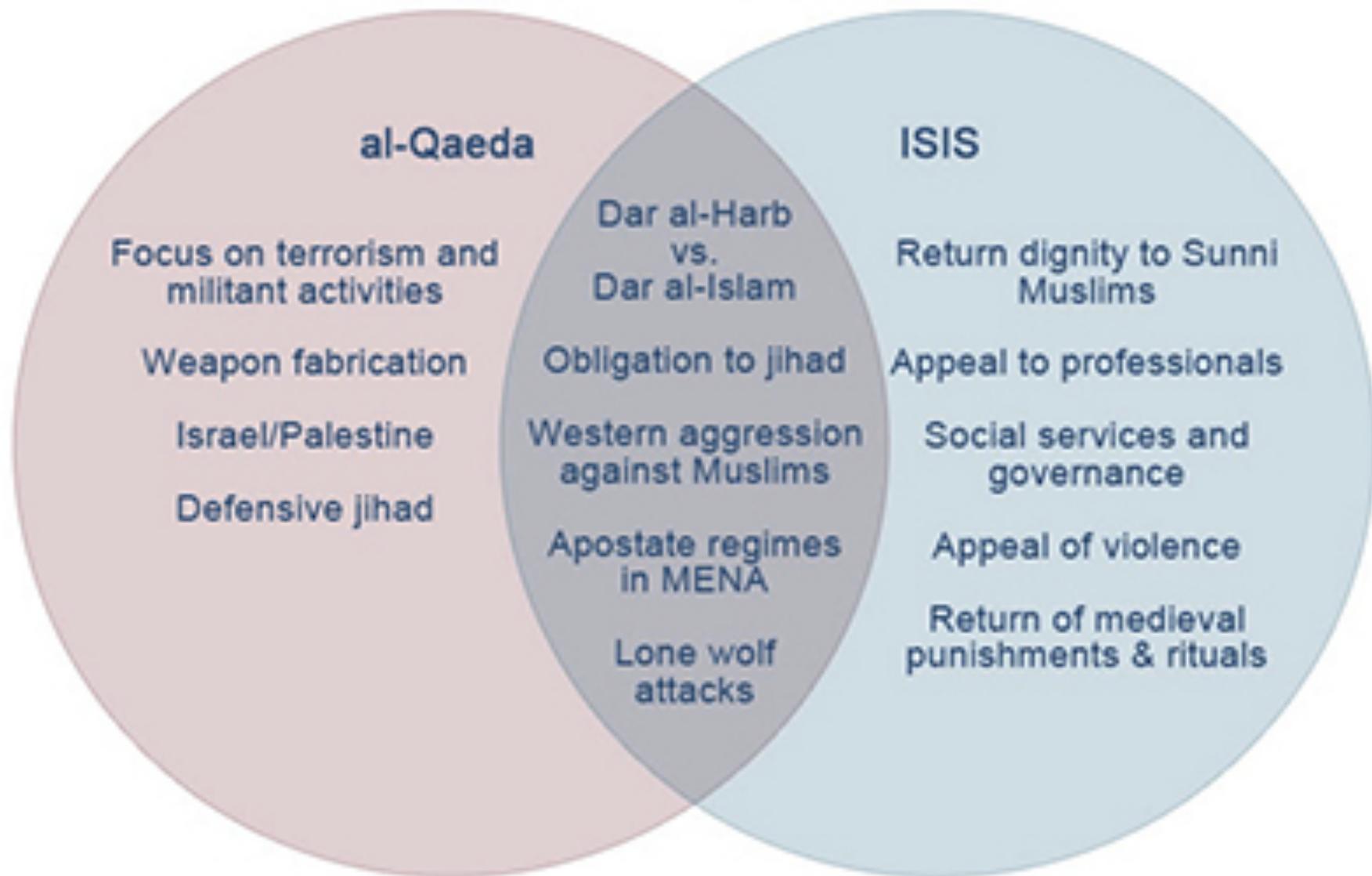
ABU MUSAB AL-ZARQAWI



2. ORIGINS-TRACING THE RISE OF ISIS

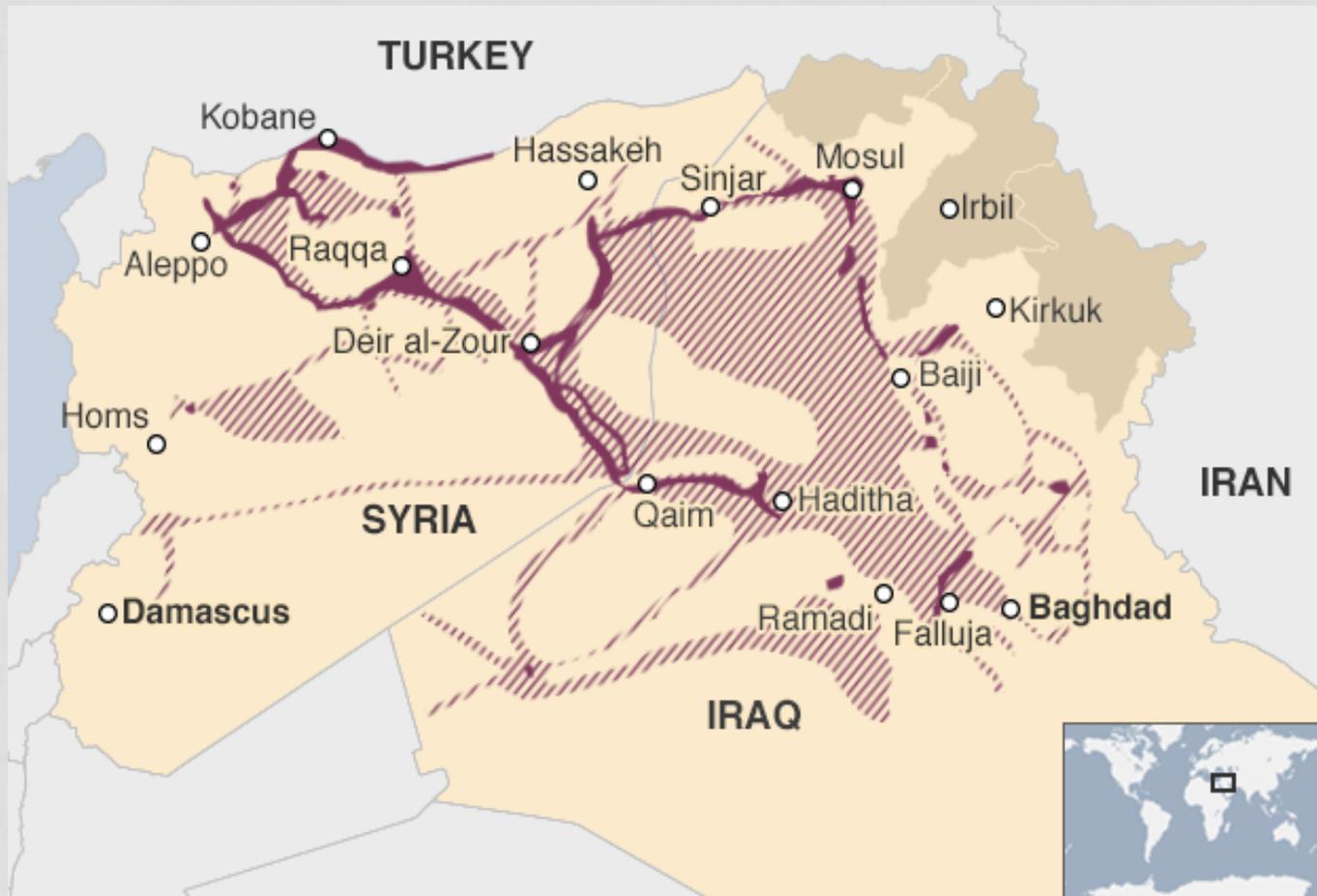
- 2004 became Al-Qaeda in Iraq (AQI)
- Generational and class differences between jihadists aligned with Osama Bin Laden (Afghanistan) and AQI who fought with Zarqawi in Iraq
- 2006-Zarqawi absorbed smaller jihadists groups in Iraq
 - Focused on enforcing sharia law as a state, killed in 2006
- 2006 group became the Islamic State in Iraq (ISI)
 - Focused on conquering territory and forming sharia-based state
 - Local population turned against them (Anbar Province)
- American forces and tribal militias pushed ISI out of Fallujah and Anbar → many militias join Islamic State
 - Shiite Prime Minister, Maliki, sees threat to Shiite majority

Competing narratives in *Inspire* and *Dabiq* magazines



2. ORIGINS-TRACING THE RISE OF ISIS

- 2010 Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi took over ISI rebuilding some popular support
 - Expansion into Syrian Civil War in 2013 (ISIS/ISIL)
 - Official split between AQ and ISIS-differed in methodology
 - ISIS-direct approach, seize territory, enforce sharia law immediately
 - AQ-willing to work with factions and attempt to build Islamic state later
- 2013-2014 ISIS built its power base in Syria (Raqqa)
 - Empowering allies and crushing enemies
 - Divide and rule=sustain territory
- January 2014-Iraq, took parts of Fallujah and Ramadi in Anbar province, then Mosul
- June 29, 2014 ISIS declared itself a caliphate and Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi as Caliph Ibrahim
 - Called for immediate loyalty of Muslims throughout the world

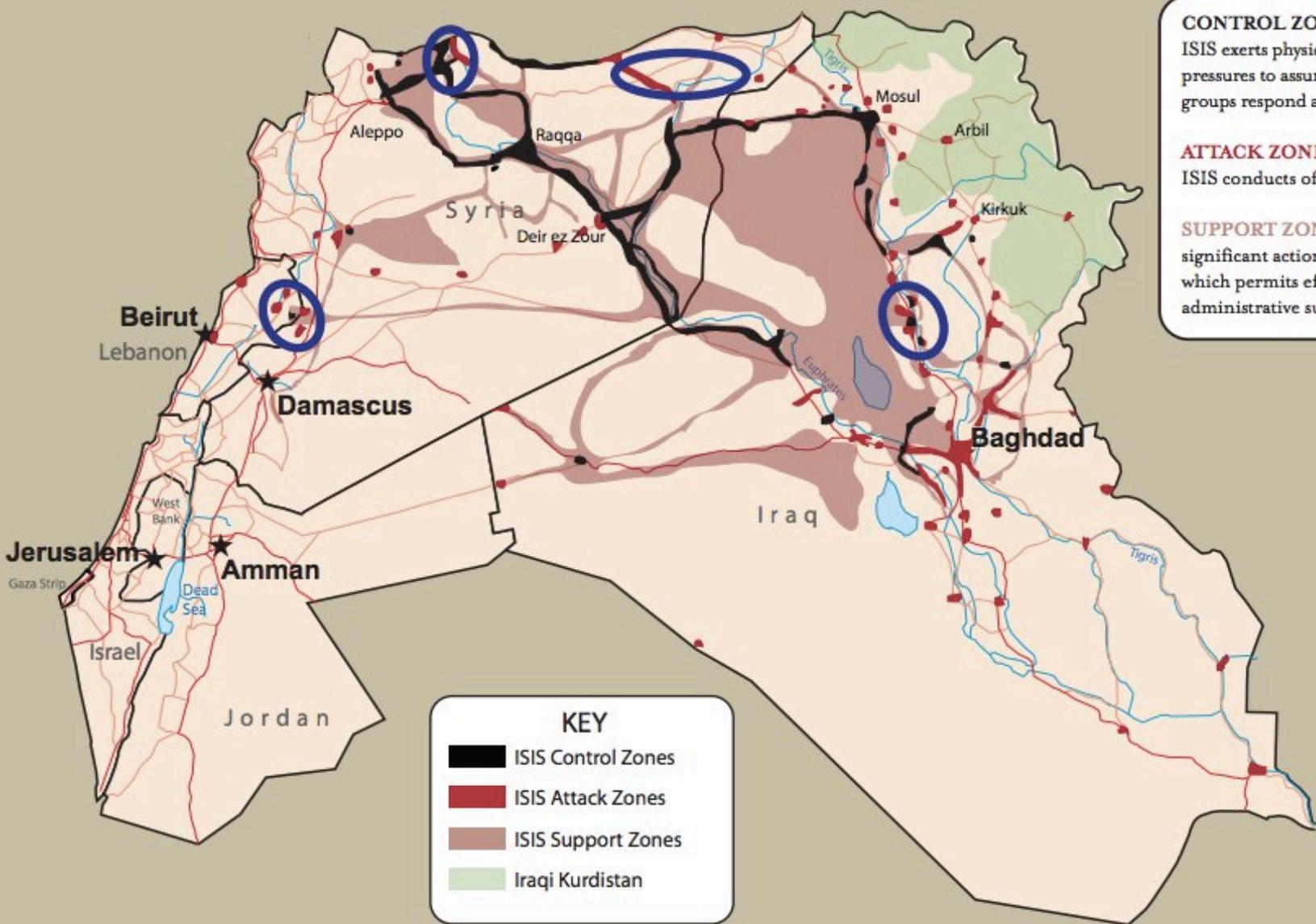


IS control
 IS free to operate
 Kurdistan Government-administered

100 km
 50 miles

Source: Institute for the Study of War, US Central Command

BBC



CONTROL ZONE: An area where ISIS exerts physical/psychological pressures to assure that individuals/groups respond as directed.

ATTACK ZONE: An area where ISIS conducts offensive maneuvers.

SUPPORT ZONE: An area free of significant action against ISIS and which permits effective logistics and administrative support of ISIS forces.

KEY

- ISIS Control Zones
- ISIS Attack Zones
- ISIS Support Zones
- Iraqi Kurdistan

ALGERIA



French citizen kidnapped in Algeria last year was beheaded by a group called Jund al-Khilafah – or soldiers of the Caliphate. It has sworn its allegiance to Islamic State.

TUNISIA



The country has been deemed a breeding ground for ISIS. Its Interior Ministry claims 2,400 of its citizens have become combatants in Syria since 2011.

LIBYA



ISIS has made vast inroads into Libya's coast and gained control of Benghazi, Nofilia, Derna and Sirte – where 21 Egyptian Christians were believed to be beheaded

SYRIA



The militants have self-proclaimed their ideological capital in the central city of Raqqa but there have been recent reports of ISIS defections. It still exercises vast control of the eastern regions.

IRAQ



Islamic State was born out of the Iraq and controls large regions in the north and west of the country including Fallujah – near the capital Baghdad – and its second largest city Mosul

AFGHANISTAN



Sightings of armed fighters wearing black and carrying the ISIS flag have been reported in Farah, Helmand and Zabul. Videos of allegiance have also emerged from neighbouring Pakistan

EGYPT



Violent insurgency began in Sinai province after former dictator Hosni Mubarak was overthrown in 2011. Region's most active militant group Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis pledged support to Islamic State

YEMEN



One of Al-Qaeda's most powerful branches in its global militant network Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) announced its defection to ISIS on social media this month.

TUNISIA

Tripoli

LIBYA

Sirte

Egypt

EGYPT

Cairo

LEBANON

Damascus

JORDAN

Raqqa

SYRIA

Mosul

Falluja

Baghdad

IRAQ

SAUDI ARABIA

YEMEN

AFGHANISTAN

Areas of large scale ISIS and affiliate operations

Countries with ISIS presence

Areas under direct ISIS and affiliate control

Direction of ISIS influence

Major ISIS stronghold



3. IDEOLOGY

- Salafist-jihadism
 - no distinction between religion and state
 - Hardline interpretation of Sharia law, brutally enforced
 - Almost the same as AQ and Taliban but differs in approach, conditions, and timing to establish caliphate
- Major Concepts
 - Return to original pure form of Islam practiced by Muhammad and earliest Muslims
 - Rejects alter additions as *bid'ah* (innovation) and un-Islamic
 - Doctrine allows proclamation of *takfir* (heretics) Muslims who stray from strictly defined Islam
 - Penalty is death
 - Infidels deserve death as stated in Quran and hadiths



“My dear [Muslim] community: As we did not lie against God when we announced the Islamic State, so we do not lie against God when we say that it will persist...It will persist upon its creed (‘aqida) and its path (manhaj), and it has not, nor will it ever, substitute or abandon these”

–Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, leader of the Islamic State, July 21, 2012

3. IDEOLOGY: DOCTRINE

“Salafism focuses on eliminating idolatry (shirk) and affirming God’s Oneness (tawhid). Salafis view themselves as the only true Muslims, considering those who practice so-called “major idolatry” to be outside the bounds of the Islamic faith. Those worshiping—or perceived to be worshiping—stones, saints, tombs, etc., are considered apostates, deserters of the religion. These include the Shi’a and, for many Salafis, democrats, or those participating in a democratic system. The Shi’a are guilty of shirk on account of their excessive reverence of the Prophet Muhammad’s family, among other things, while democrats err in assigning “partners” to God in legislation, deemed the prerogative of the Divine Legislator.”

3. IDEOLOGY: DEVELOPMENT

- Began in Egypt (Muslim Brotherhood) and concurrently with Wahhabism (state doctrine in Saudi Arabia)
- Salafism and Wahhabism are closely connected and draw from early Islamic writing and practices
- **Jahiliyya**- concept that Arabs were in a state of ignorance prior to the appearance of Muhammad and Islamic teachings and becomes a political philosophy
 - Anything other than strict adherence to sharia law
 - Calls for violent overthrow of all contemporary Muslim regimes and replace with Islamic state

3. IDEOLOGY: THE APOCALYPSE

- Quran as tool of God's plan and future
- Shares some political goals as AQ-expulsion of non-Muslims from Arabian Pen. , abolishment of state of Israel, and end of support for dictatorship in Muslims lands
- End of Days beliefs
 - Arrival of Mahdi-messianic figure destined to lead Muslims to victory before the end of the world
 - "12 legitimate caliphs, and Baghdadi is eighth; that the armies of Rome will mass to meet the armies of Islam in northern Syria; and that Islam's final showdown with anti-Messiah will occur in Jerusalem after a period of renewed Islamic Conquest (What Isis Really Wants?)."

4. GOALS: WHAT ISIS REALLY WANTS

1. Short Term

- Consolidate areas that it already controls and capture more territory in Syria and Iraq
- Sectarian war in Iraq between Sunnis and Shiites (usually massacred)
- Shiites=heretics and deserve death
- Causing reprisal attacks from Shiite militia groups → Sunnis run to Islamic State

4. GOALS: WHAT ISIS REALLY WANTS

2. Medium term goal

- Consolidate and expand control of its territory in Iraq and Syria and in the next stage to advance into neighboring Sunni countries (Saudi Arabia and Jordan)

3. Long Term

- Building a manageable and defensible state
- Total world domination (eventually)

5. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

- Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi is leader and declared himself the caliph
- Rarely appears in public due to security concerns
- Appointed a team of advisors, ministers, and military commanders to run the caliphate
 - Mostly from Saddam Hussein's Ba'ath party and team
 - Sophisticated hierarchy of commanders with specific responsibilities
- Cabinet staffed with ministers with a role and salary
 - Treasury, transport, security, prisoners
 - specialized war office manages logistics
 - Approximately 1000 medium to top level field commanders, salaries range from \$2000/month, depending on the job

5. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

- Each province has its own governor responsible for administration of region
- Builds institutions and infrastructure of statehood
- Govern territory and provide services for the population in order to build a “state”
 - Raqqa, Syria as de facto capital
 - Healthcare, education and keeps public order
 - Operates courts, based on sharia law
 - Gender segregation enforced and women must wear burqa in public
- Morality police (*Hisbah*) to monitor sharia law
 - Alcohol, tobacco, and drugs are banned
 - Punishments include-floggings, amputation, and death (in town square)

5. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

- Propaganda tactics
 - Gruesome videos of beheadings and mass executions
 - Online strategy- to ensure visibility, using social media effectively, effective and integral part of Islamic State's operations
 - Publication of **Dabiq**-glossy English magazine highlighting Islamic State's millenarian appeal
- Financing and funding
 - Richest terrorist organization in the world
 - Donations, ransoms, oil seizure and selling of black market, ransoms from kidnapping, and taxes
 - \$6 million/day
 - Ability to delivery services and paychecks=better option than Iraqi gov't

6. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CALIPHATE

*“We took it forcibly at the point of a blade.
We brought it back conquered and compelled.
We established it in defiance of many.
And the people’s necks were violently struck,
With bombings, explosions, and destruction,
And soldiers that do not see hardship as being difficult,
And lions that are thirsty in battle,
Having greedily drunk the blood of kufr [infidel].
Our khilafah has indeed returned with certainty”*

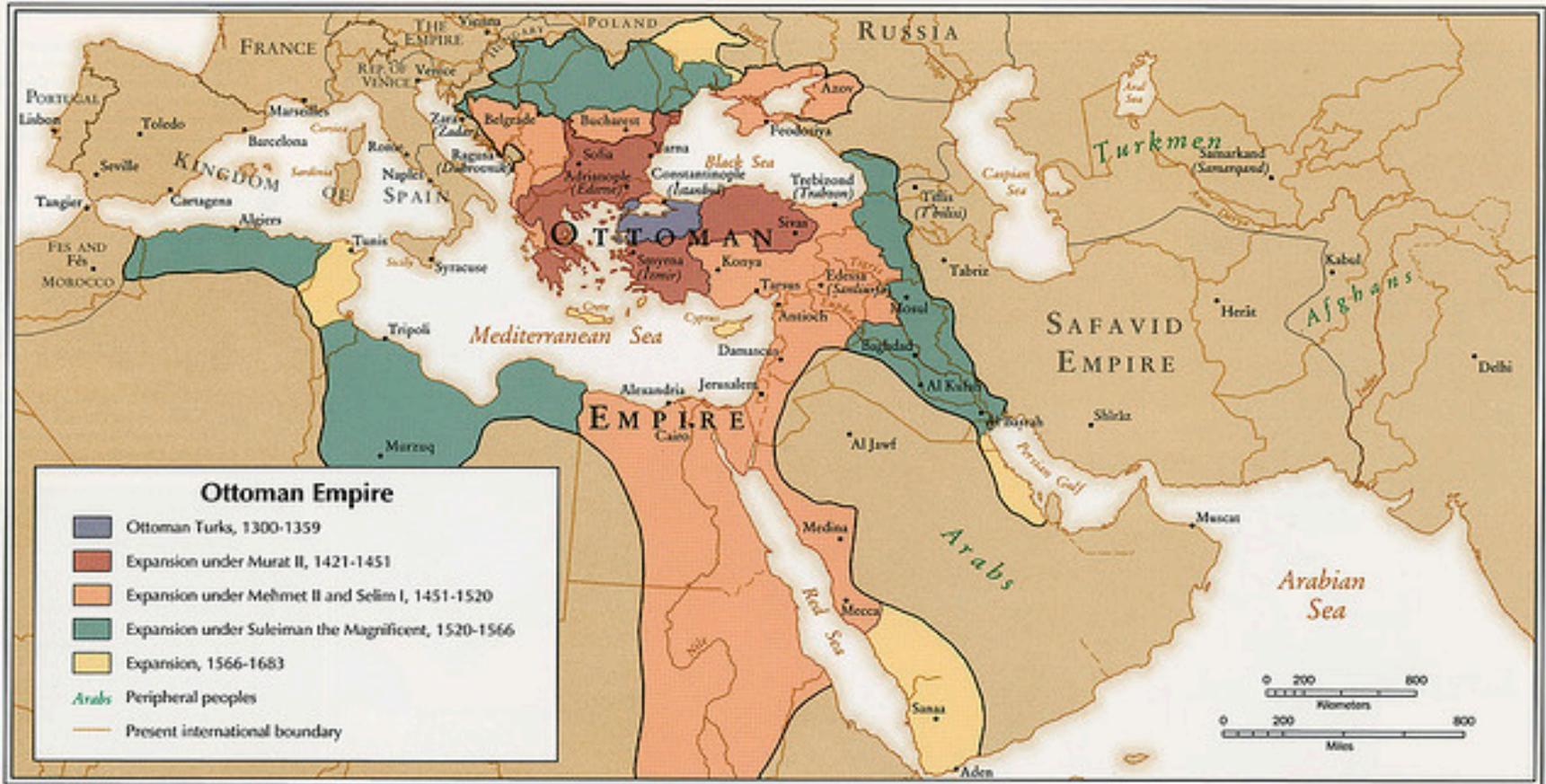


– From the declaration of the caliphate entitled “This is the Promise of Allah” delivered by the Islamic State’s spokesman al-Adnani.

6. ESTABLISHMENT OF A CALIPHATE

- First attempt to resurrect the governmental system of the early Muslims in the modern era
- Caliphate
 - System of gov't, divinely sanctioned monarchy
 - Sole authority and power in hands of caliph
 - Declaration of jihad and interpretation of Islamic texts
- Caliphate has sole religious and political jurisdiction over ENTIRE Muslim *ummah* (nation)
- Last established caliphate-Ottoman Empire
 - Abolished in 1924 by Mustafa Kemal Ataturk → secular nation of Turkey

OTTOMAN EMPIRE/CALIPHATE



Carving up the Ottoman Empire



6. ESTABLISHMENT OF A CALIPHATE

- Longstanding goal of all Islamists and jihadist groups
- Spiritual successor to the prophet Muhammad
 - Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi claims legitimacy and descent from Muhammad's tribal ties to the Qurayshi
- Expansion of the caliphate
 - Demands allegiance from ALL Muslims-submit or not submit to caliphate (jihadists groups as well as civilians)
 - Allegiance from groups in Egypt, Libya, Yemen, Saudi Arabia
 - Original form of gov't used by successors of Muhammad of areas under Islamic rule → First four caliphs oversaw rapid expansion
 - Romanticized by jihadists (time of power) and try to replicate
 - Anything else is *bid'ah* (later innovation)
 - Many prominent Muslim leaders and terrorists groups have rejected claim, b/c does not meet religious preconditions required to be valid caliphate

ALLIED WITH ISIS



ALLEGIANCE AND FUTURE CALIPHATE

