In addition to ISW’s written products, our analysts are subject matter experts for the media on a constant basis. This new periodic publication collects these media appearances and use of our maps in one place. You can also follow ISW on our website (www.UnderstandingWar.org), our Research Blog (iswresearch.blogspot.com) and Twitter @TheStudyofWar.

ISW in Congress

Dr. Kimberly Kagan
President, ISW

Dr. Kimberly Kagan testified to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee about Iraq, Syria, and Middle East Policy
September 19, 2015.
Testimony | Video

General Jack Keane
Chairman of the Board, ISW

General John M. Keane (USA, Ret.) testified on U.S. Counter-terrorism Efforts in Syria to the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Terrorism
September 29, 2015.
Testimony | Video

General David Petraeus
Board Member, ISW

General David H. Petraeus (USA, Ret.) testified to the Senate Armed Services Committee on U.S. Policy in the Middle East
September 21, 2015
Testimony | Video
LTG James Dubik
Senior Fellow

"The 1991 war was quick and easy and created the myth that this is how we could fight wars now...This set us up for a misunderstanding of how to wage war in the years that followed."

NPR - 08/02/15

General John Allen
Special Presidential Envoy for the Global Coalition to Counter ISIL

"The Institute for the Study of War is an outstanding organization, and in fact, we get a lot of help from them sometimes in the work that we do"

on Martha Raddatz (ABC)

09/11/15

Harleen Gambhir
Counter-terrorism Analyst

"We need to back a moderate Syrian opposition and we need to believe in a Syrian state that does not include Assad"

Al Jazeera America
09/29/15
Christopher Harmer  
Senior Naval Analyst

"Actual U.S. strategy in the Middle East right now is to try and get allies and proxies to take the lead on actual fighting, a variant of the 'lead from behind' approach [taken] in Libya. It is simply not possible for the U.S. to tell allies and proxies who are doing the fighting what weapons to use. If the U.S. wants to minimize the use of cluster munitions against terrorist-affiliated groups then the U.S. needs to take the lead in the fight."

Los Angeles Times

"It's pretty obvious that all the Russian logistics preparation is to do something significant in support of Assad At this point, it's too big to be a misdirection."

Los Angeles Times  
09/04/15

"Russia wants Assad to stay alive, and, by putting the focus on ISIS, it gives him another lifeline."

The Daily Beast  
09/07/15

"It gives an aura of stability and even permanency to the Assad regime that it did not have before. It essentially completely guarantees that there will be no political solution that involves Bashar Assad leaving Syria for the foreseeable future."

Voice of America  
09/18/15

Our aircraft can hit anywhere in Syria or Iraq, but we’re not really doing anything to restrain the growth of the Islamic State."

Voice of America  
08/06/15

"It is much easier to increase the size of the Army or Air Force on short notice than it is to increase the size of the Navy. Even at the peak of World War II, with the entire industrial might of the US brought to bear, it took three years to build the battleship Missouri."

Washington Examiner  
08/22/15
Jennifer Cafarella

*Syria Analyst, Evans Hanson Fellow*

"We do need another ground force. The Kurds alone won't be sufficient, and trying to build another from scratch by the US has failed."

*Washington Examiner*

08/07/2015

"Nusra has exchanged that territory in Deir ez Zor for networks in western Syria. "It really is the power of those networks that Nusra has been able to advance. Nusra is regarded as a highly effective and necessary ally for a majority of Syrian rebel groups in their fight against Assad."

*Voice of America*

08/28/15

**THE HUFFINGTON POST**

"Both al-Qaeda's Jabhat al-Nusra and the Islamic State are altering their strategies in Lebanon in reaction to how their battles with Hezbollah are going in Syria. The Islamic State may hit parts of northeastern Lebanon in the weeks ahead, so that it can draw Hezbollah's attention there and away from the Syrian city of Homs, leaving that city more vulnerable to attack."

*Huffington Post*

08/19/15

“I think that the current ISIS offensive and ISIS gains against the Syrian regime east of Homs are not surprising given the success ISIS has had in fighting the regime in central Syria to date.”

*NPR*

08/07/15
Christopher Kozak
Syria Analyst

“Honestly, I do not see a way for the Pentagon to hit that number. It seems at this point to be an unrealistic number for what the program will be able to achieve in coming months.”

*Washington Examiner*
09/10/15

“The T-90s are a definite escalation. They are an advanced piece of hardware with an offensive purpose. Its piece of equipment that I would entirely expect be operated by Russian and remain in Russian hands,”

*McClatchyDC*
09/15/15

"Russia, by positioning themselves in Syria as an anti-ISIS actor, is also fighting in a way to both undermine the United States in running its own coalition as well as present itself in a light on the international stage as a key international player.

*NPR Here and Now*
09/21/2015

More of ISW in the News

CNN (08/16/15)
*Politico* (09/10/15)
*Vox News* (09/30/15)
*The Globe and Mail* (09/18/15)
*WJLA* (09/18/15)
*The Atlantic* (09/11/15)

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ISW Maps in the News

In addition to our analysts’ expertise, ISW’s maps continue to be utilized by major news sources as a crucial visual complement to breaking news stories and cutting edge analysis. In particular, our maps provided valuable insight on the rapid deployment of Russian forces to Syria and the subsequent commencement of airstrikes that primarily targeted regime opposition groups.

 SOURCES: Institute for the Study of War (ISW) and The New York Times

Kurdish Territorial Gains in the Fight Against ISIS

In the fight against ISIS, Kurdish forces have gained territory, creating a contiguous Kurdish-controlled area.

Militants in Afghanistan

The New York Times

Business Insider
ISW in the News
August and September 2015

The New York Times

Voice of America 09/12/15
The article compared ISIS territory in July 2014 vs. July 2015 using our maps.

CNN 09/18/15

The Aviationist 09/20/15
Mashable

Mashable
09/18/15

Kurdish Successes Raising Concerns About Territorial Ambitions
Ethnic Kurds straddle a region that includes parts of Turkey, Syria, Iraq and Iran. The potential break-up of Iraq and Syria along ethnic lines has raised the prospect of an independent Kurdistan in some of that territory.

Bloomberg

Fight against Islamic State

Kurdish fighters in Syria accused the Iraqi army of shelling their positions on Monday, one week after Ankara granted the U.S. led coalition’s use of its air bases against Islamic State.

Business Insider
"Talbiseh is home to Syrian al-Qaeda affiliate Jabhat al-Nusra, hardline Islamist Ahrar al-Sham, and a number of other local rebel groups. These organizations are generally hostile to ISIS. 'The airstrike,' she concludes, 'did not hit ISIS militants.'"

Genevieve Casagrande
09/30/25

Militant attacks in Afghanistan since April

In late July, militants seized multiple district centers in Faryab province; local militias were able to retake the centers, but they are considered at high risk of falling again to militants.

The Taliban launched attacks on multiple districts around Kunduz throughout the summer; the city fell under Taliban control Monday.

Military attacks in Afghanistan since April

The Islamic State affiliate took control of seven district centers in Nangarhar province between July and September.
The Washington Post

The Washington Post
09/30/15

Kremlin’s Syria foray stirs painful memec after Afghanistan u.afp.com/Zp52

Syria: Russia carries out air strikes

The Washington Post

Designed by Casey Jaquez