



The Islamic State

Aims, means and prospects



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Aims



- „modern notions of statehood and national borders must be discarded”
 - underlying Islamic principle: the *umma* – its „state” format is the caliphate – but a meaning PLUS: the legacy of the Prophet Mohammad
 - Re-establishing the caliphate – but what resonance and where? (Shia no, Maghreb no ...)
- „glorified violence”
 - Religious duty: the *jihād* – extreme interpretation
 - Return to the era of the Prophet – by all and any means – the heritage of fundamentalism
 - *dar al-islam* vs *dar al-harb*
- „consolidating Sunni anger against the Shia population”
 - The concept of the *ahl ul-kitab*
 - Heresy



Supposed Future Islamic State?



Means



• FINANCING

- best-funded radical Islamist group
 - Money „found” in the banks of the occupied territories
 - Gulf donors
 - Oil (at least 50,000 barrels per day)
 - Smuggling and trade of weapons
 - Protection money
 - „jizya”
 - Ancients artifacts



• MEDIA

- Social media to reach people worldwide
 - Recruitment
 - Attraction and support
- Possible contact with other militant groups
 - To claim responsibility
 - To receive the *bay'a*
- Profi handling of media and filmmaking tools
 - Videos publicized

Prospects - 1

- In a system of internationally defined borders and nation-states
 - Evolution into a state, OR
 - Eroding/demolishing nation-states and borders >> a new international order evolving?
- Is the Islamic State a „state“?
 - A defined territory – (mostly) YES (approx that of GB)
 - A permanent population – (mostly) YES (6-7 million people)
 - An effective government – (mostly) YES (some kind of order – organized activities in certain places and in certain sectors – as above)
 - Capacity to enter into relations with other states/international recognition – NO, but ...



Prospects - 2

- Reaction of the local population
- Alliance against

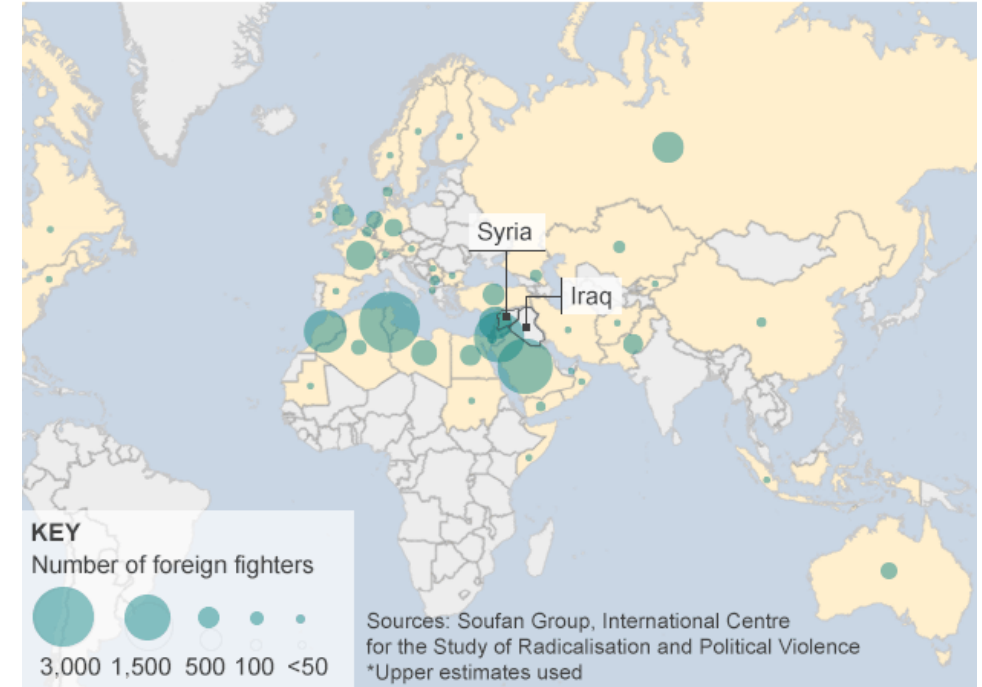


Prospects - 3

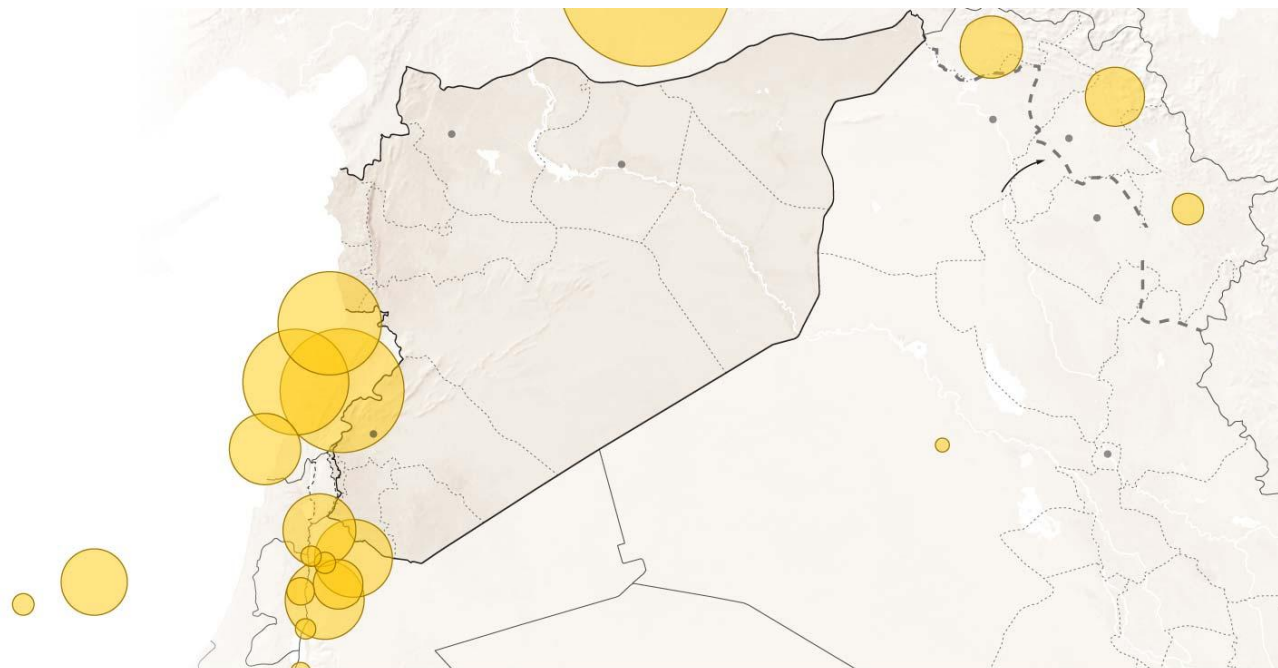
- What other consequences?
 - Perceptions of the Muslims globally
 - Refugees
 - Threat to farther regions, e.g. Europe – overlapping with migration
 - Problem: how to make sure that a migrant/refugee is not/will not constitute a „sleeping cell“
 - Problem: the return of the foreign fighters



Origin of foreign fighters in Syria and Iraq



Refugees from Syria
> 3 million in 2014



Displaced Iraqis
~ 500,000 in 2014

