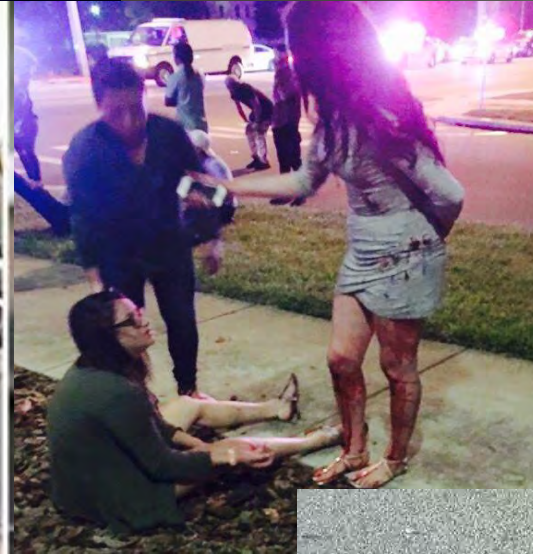


# From Al Qaeda to ISIS: The Evolution of Terrorism

**Dr Sebastian Gorka**

*Vice President & Professor of Strategy and Irregular Warfare*  
**INSTITUTE of WORLD POLITICS**

Chairman  
**THREAT KNOWLEDGE GROUP**







# **The Islamic State and Information Warfare:**

## **Defeating ISIS and the Broader Global Jihadist Movement**

ThreatKnowledgeGroup Special Report

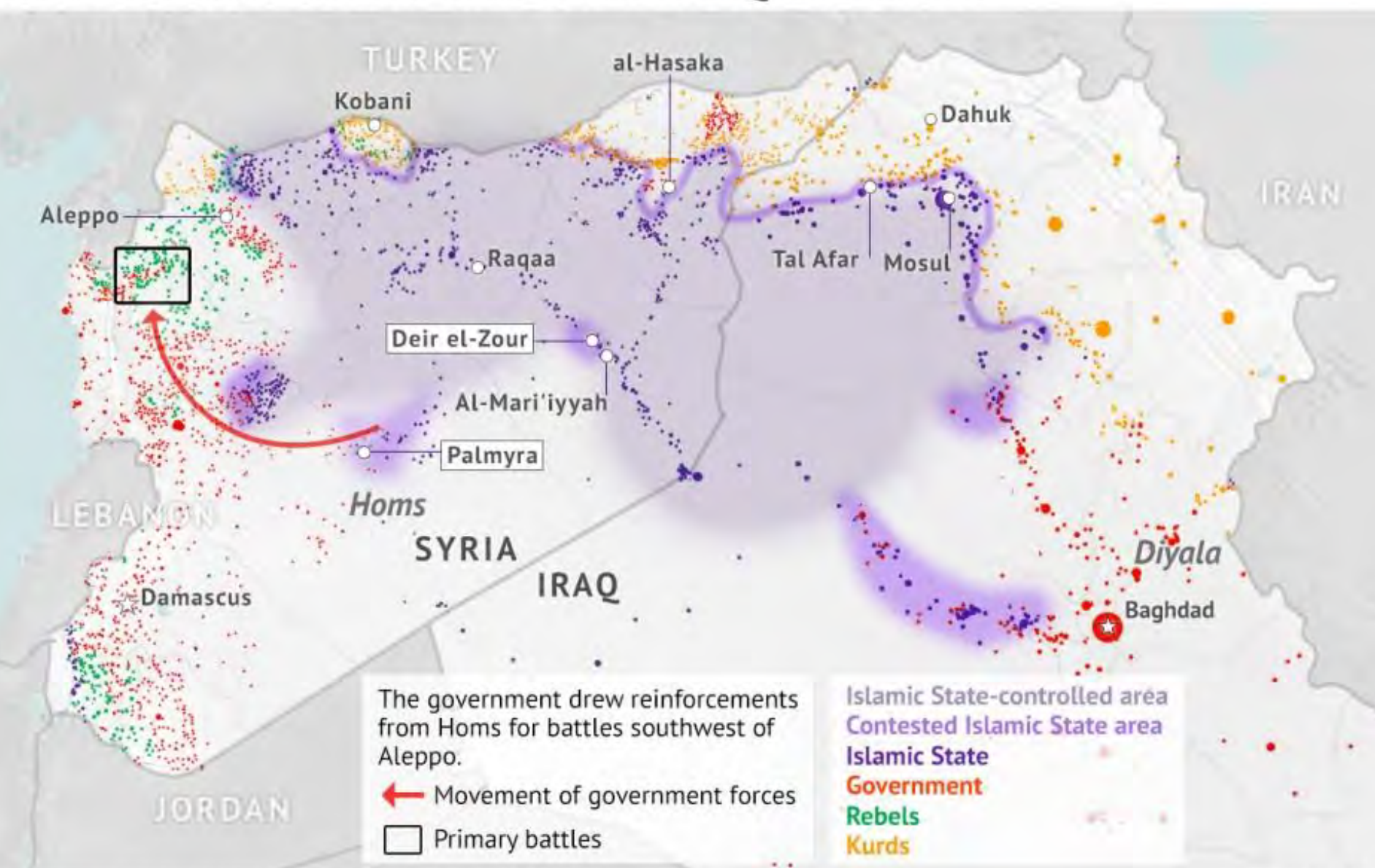


# Why ISIS-The Islamic State is much worse than Al Qaeda

- It is a fully-fledged TRANSREGIONAL insurgency not just a terrorist group like AQ
- It is the richest non-state threat group in modern history
- It has recruited 36,000+ foreign fighters in just months
- It has declared Caliphate after 90 years absence

## How is ISIS / IS Doing this?

# ISLAMIC STATE CORE TERRITORY IN IRAQ AND SYRIA





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# American jihadis fighting in Iraq and Syria



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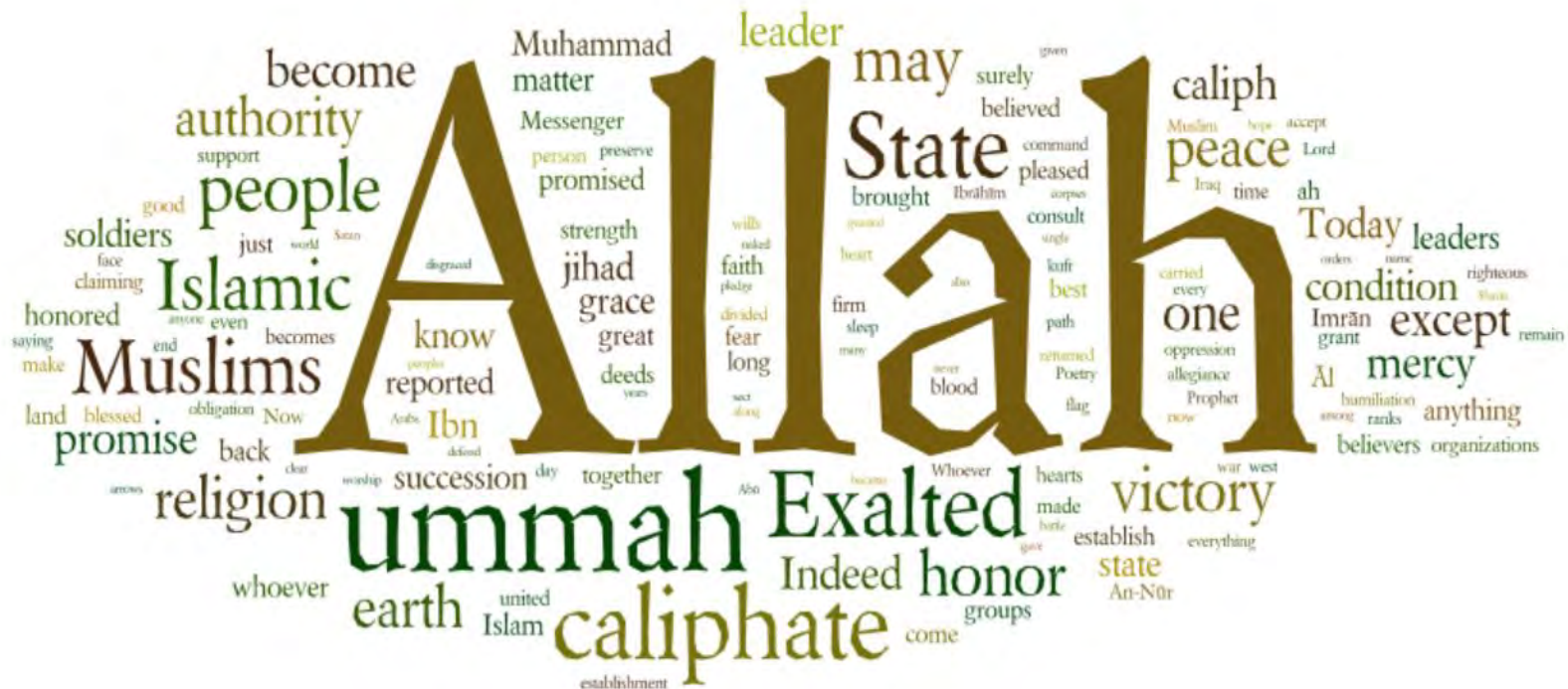
# Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi: A New Kind of Threat Commander



# Al Shaam: The Power of a Name



# What Does Abu Bakr al Baghdadadi Really Want?





# How Much Religion Matters



# IS & Religious Genocide

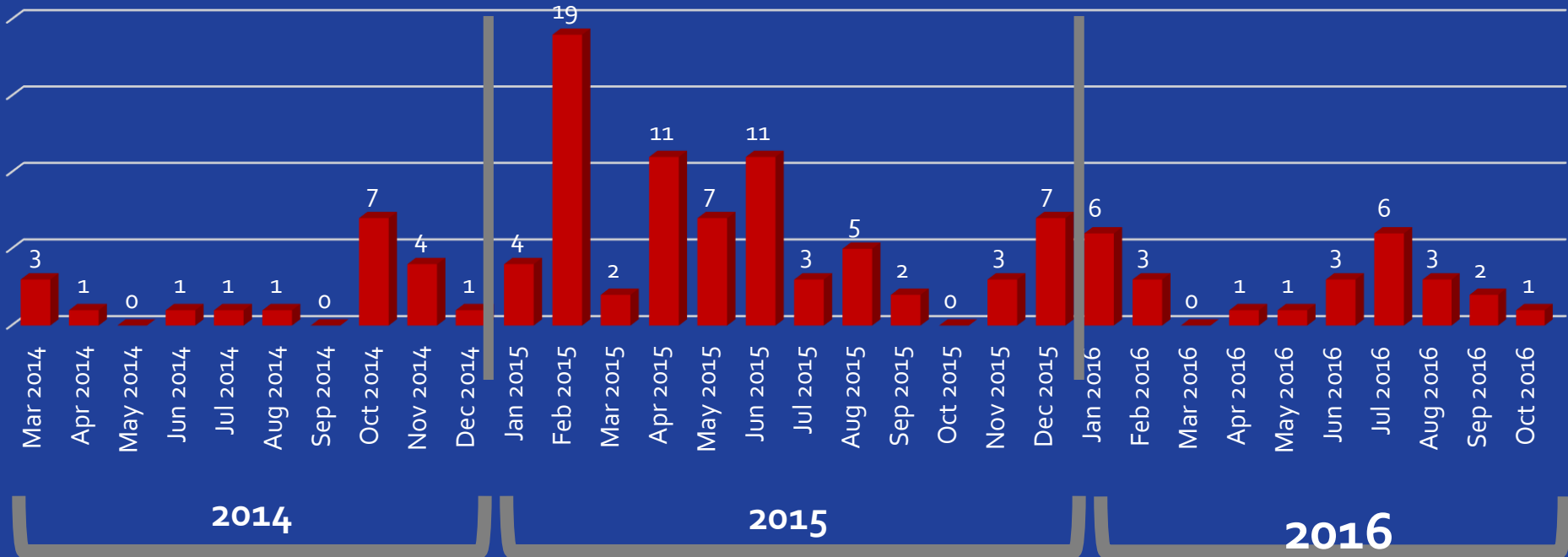


# THE ISIS THREAT TO U.S.

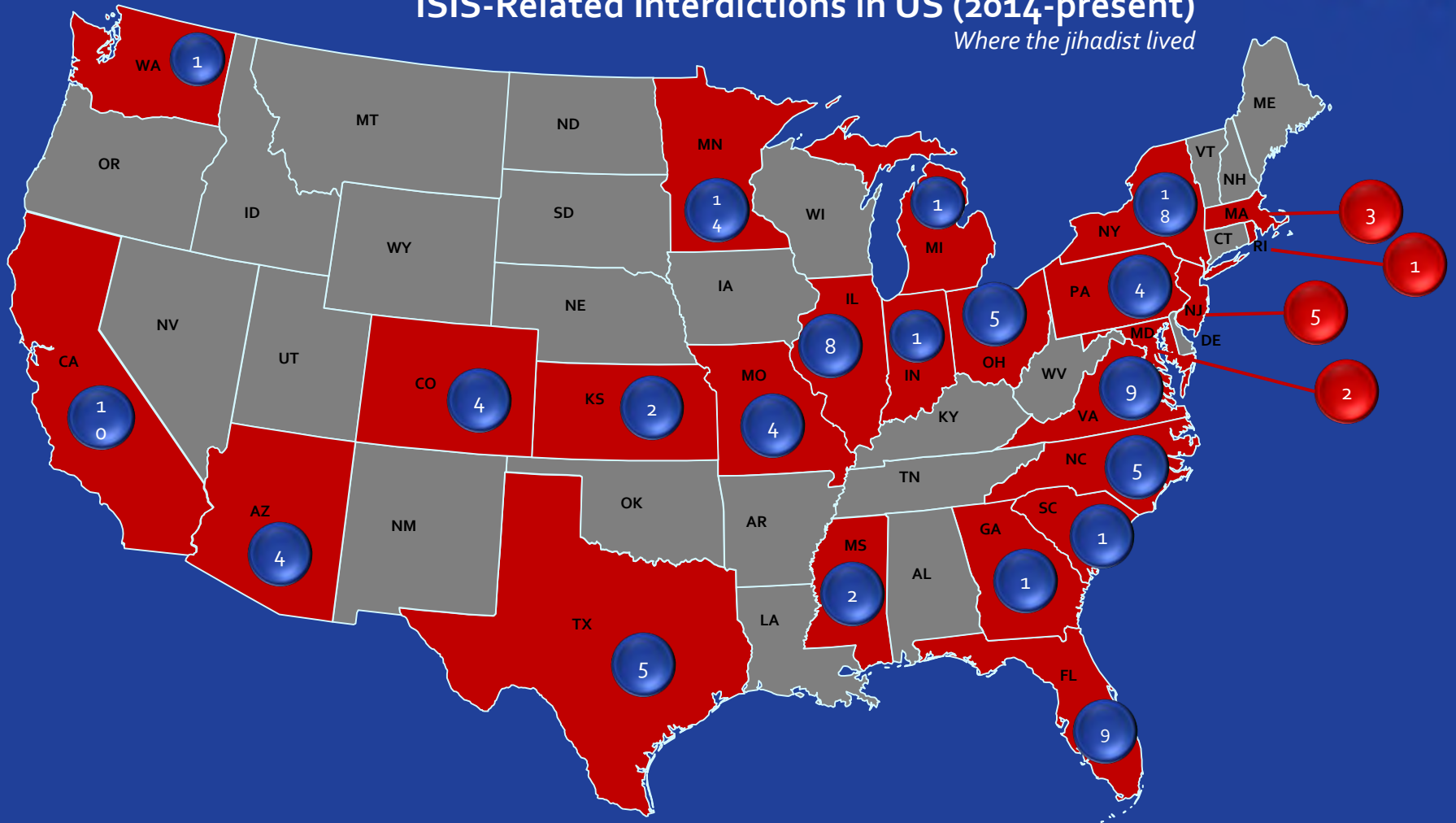




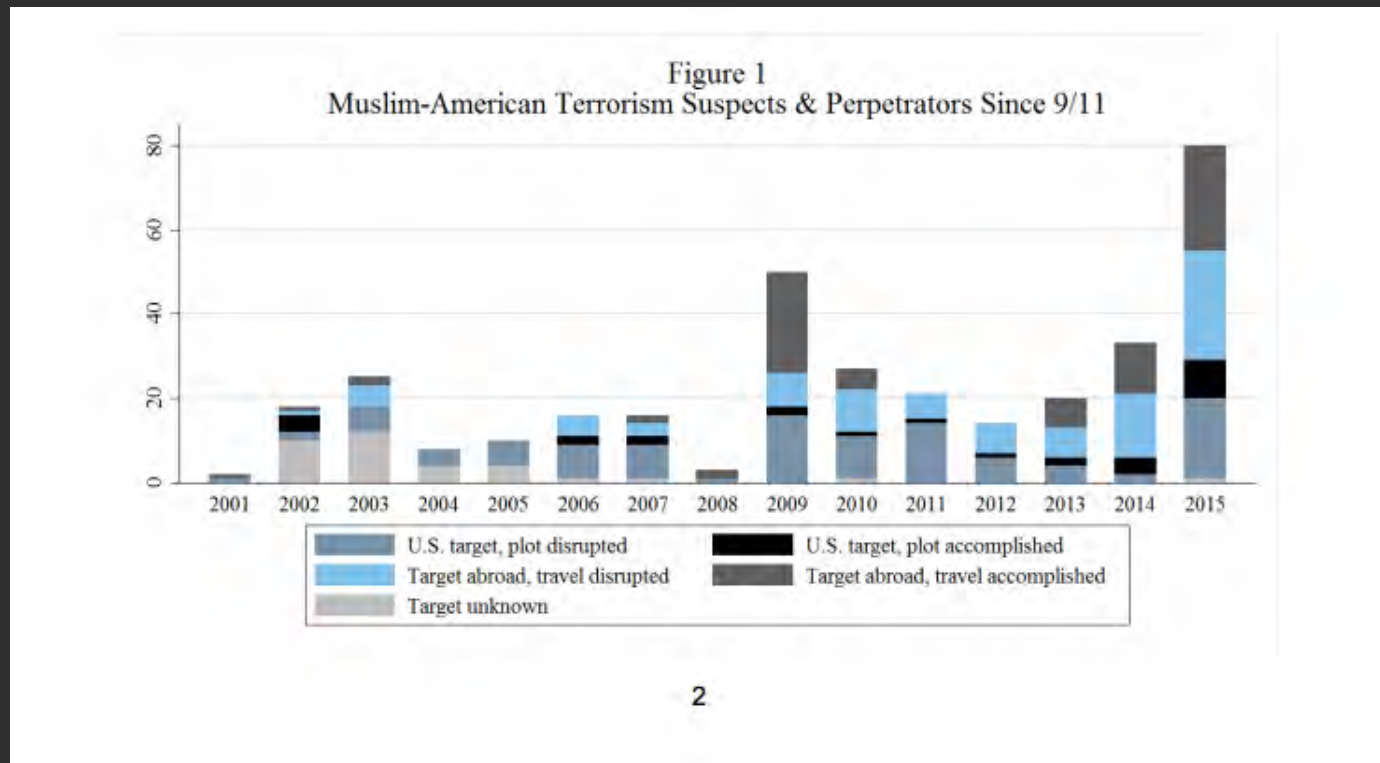
# ISIS-Related Interdictions Per Month



*Where the jihadist lived*

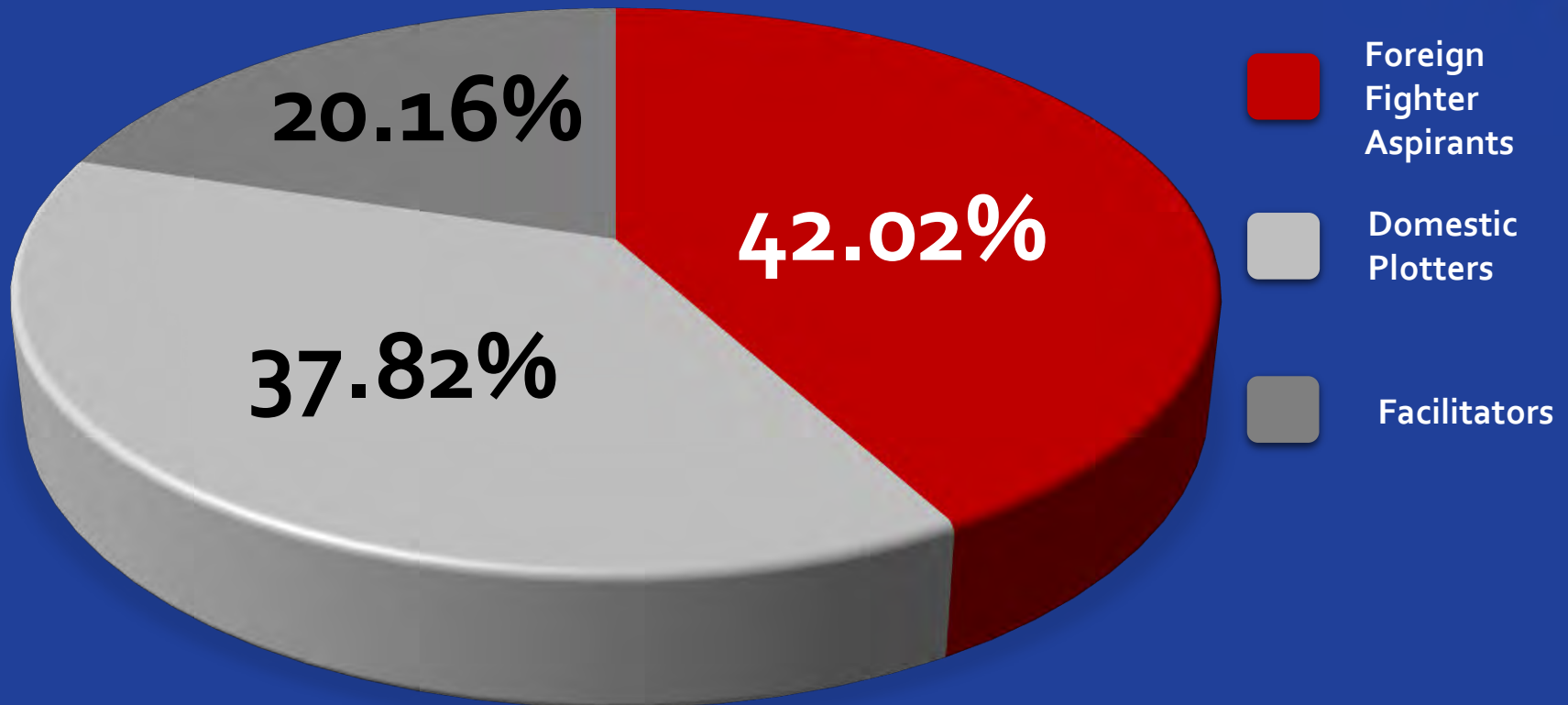


# KURZMAN: *Muslim American Involvement in Violent Extremism, 2015 (Duke)*



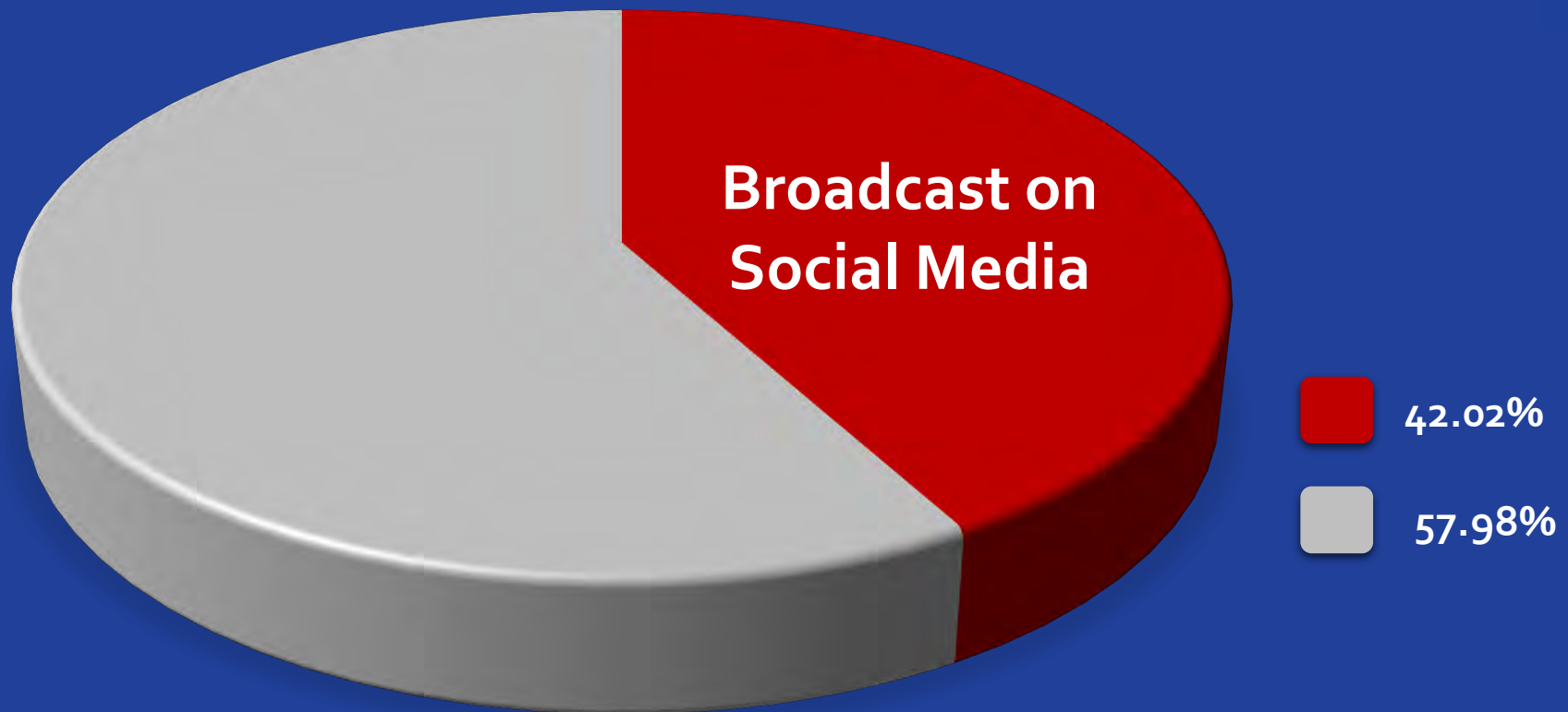


# ISIS Supporters in the U.S.

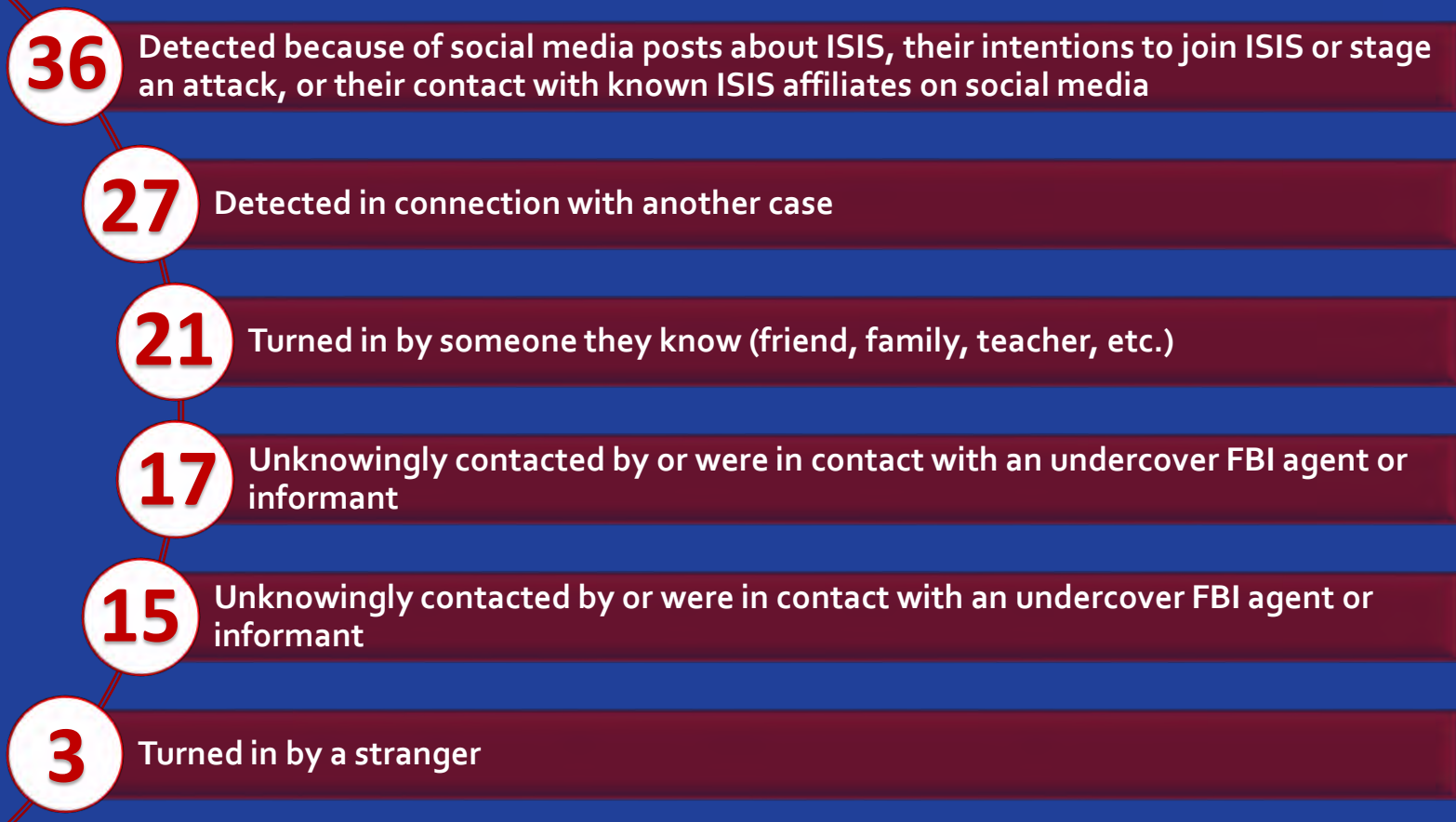


**Nearly 38%** of arrests so far have been ISIS supporters who believed they **could best serve the cause by carrying out attacks within the United States**

## Social Media: *Broadcasting Support Online*

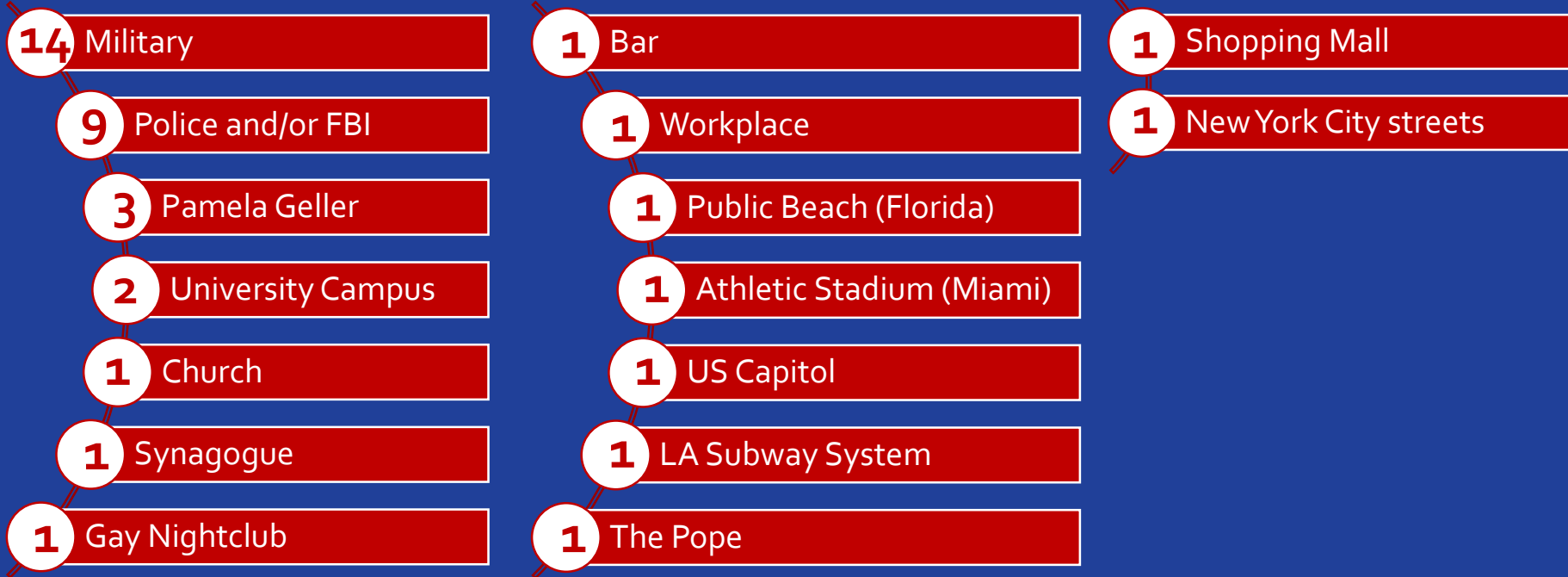


# How are ISIS Supporters Being Interdicted?





# What are domestic plotters targeting?



# What the Terrorists Believe



**The World as Heretical, to be cleansed forcibly by Holy War.**

Sayyed QUTB



**War's Objective is God's Sovereignty on Earth.**  
**Terror is the best weapon in war**  
Brigadier S.K. Malik



**Jihad as a Global Brand.**  
**All believers must fight.**  
Abdullah AZZAM

# The Threat is REAL

Between March 2014 and September 2016, 110 Americans have been arrested or charged for some connection to ISIS (including 6 unnamed minors), whether traveling to fight, recruiting, fundraising or planning to travel.

That is a 300% increase of ISIS recruits over Al Qaeda recruits over a comparable period

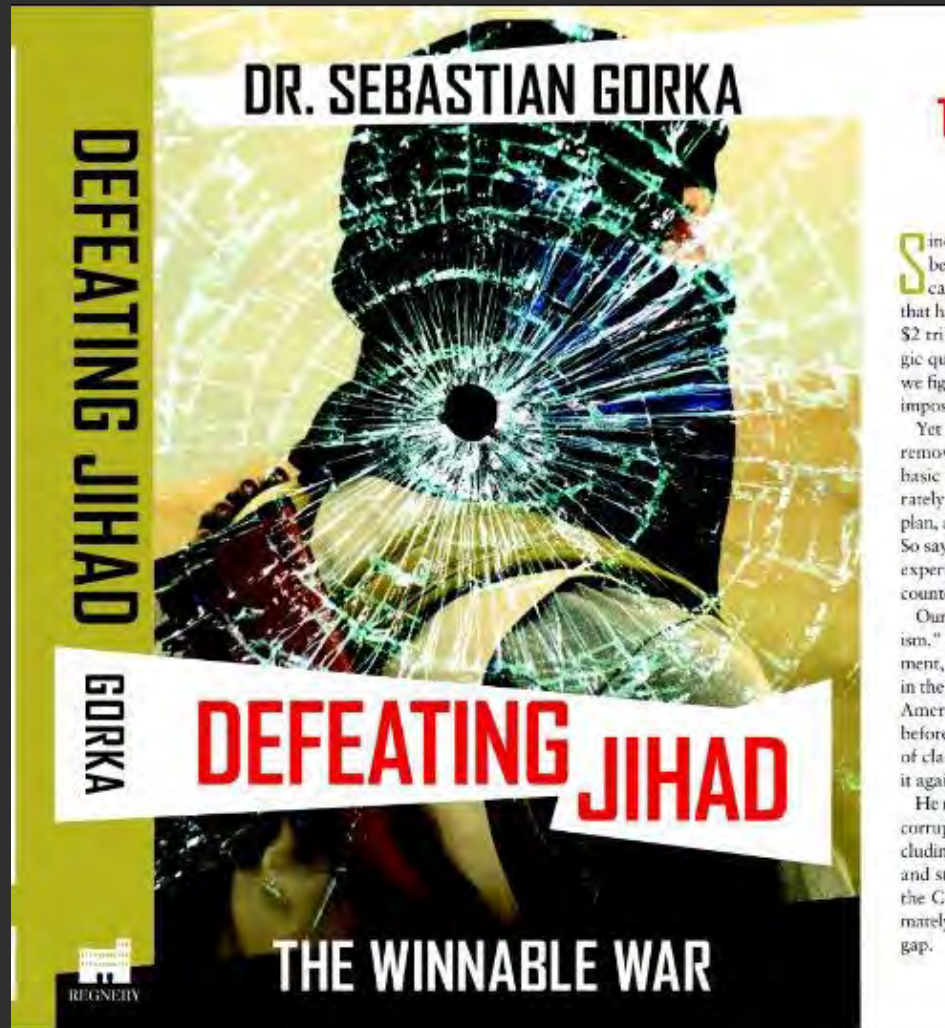


# So What?



- The Enemy is motivated by a religious narrative
- We cannot defeat him unless we understand how religion informs his operations and defines his strategic objectives and TTPs
- ISIS and the GJM tell their recruits what they want them to do. Their Enemy Threat Doctrine must be incorporated into our Intell. Cycle. (Use Open Source!)
- Self-Censoring the above truths endangers our citizens and operators and will prolong the war.

# GOING DEEPER



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## RELEVANT SITES:

[www.TheGorkaBriefing.com](http://www.TheGorkaBriefing.com)



[www.ThreatKnowledge.org](http://www.ThreatKnowledge.org)



[www.CouncilOnGlobalSecurity.org](http://www.CouncilOnGlobalSecurity.org)



BACK-UP

# But Why is ISIS-IS So Popular?

- 1924 Caliphate Dissolved
- 1928 Creation of the Muslim Brotherhood
- 1948 Creation of Israel, loss of Palestine
- 1979 Soviet Invasion of AFG  
Iranian Revolution and  
the Siege of Mecca  
(MAK, proto-AQ, created)
- 1989 Soviet Withdrawal from AFG
- 1990/1 Fall of USSR and Gulf War I
  - Modern Jihad goes from Int. Unconventional Warfare Organization to  
**Global Terrorist Ideology and Brand**