

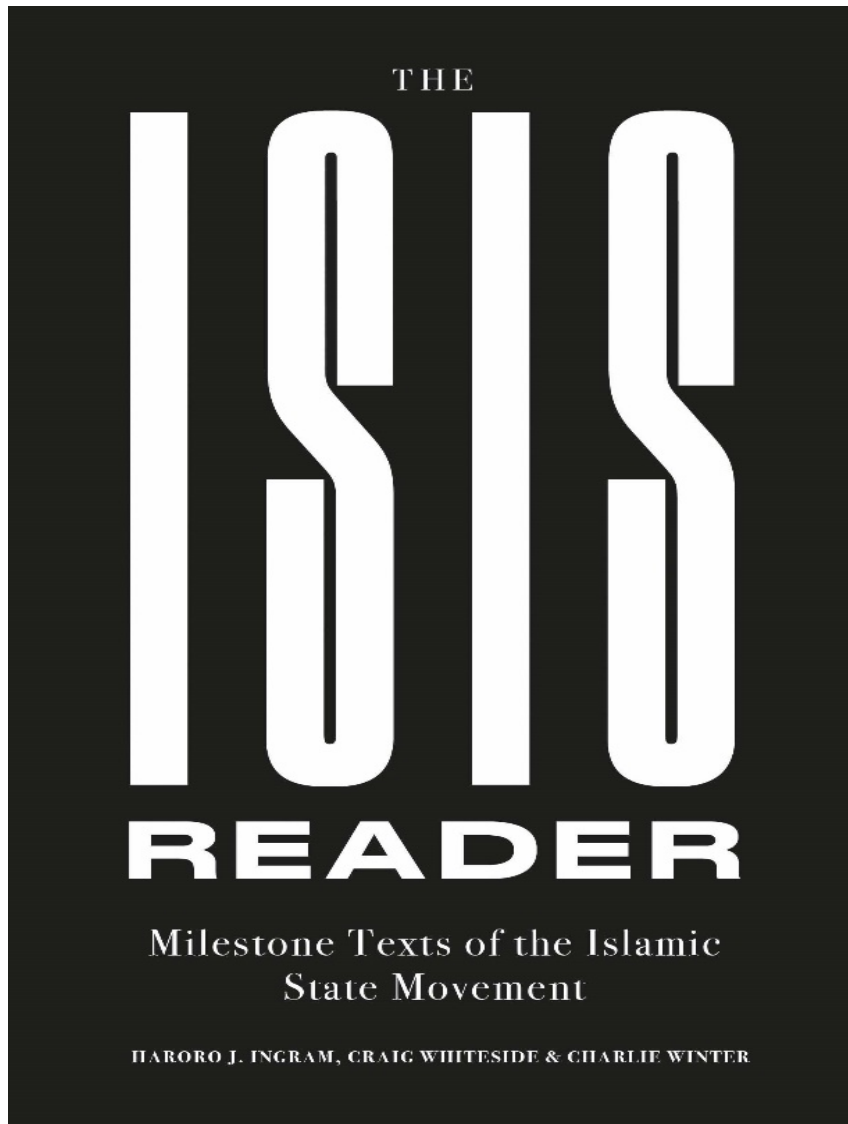
# Spoiler Alert!

## Managing the Threat of the Islamic State During Great Power Competition



Haroro Ingram, George Washington University Program on Extremism  
Craig Whiteside, USNWC at the Naval Postgraduate School

# ISIS Reader (Hurst/Oxford UP 2020)



## Shorter Version:

“Lessons from IS Milestone Texts/Speeches”  
CTC Sentinel, Jan 2020



# Talking Points

- Third player in the ideological competition
- History of Islamic State as a “spoiler”
- winning local has been their mantra
- Three advantages they have
- New Leadership of the Brand
- Impact in Africa, Asia
- three concluding thoughts:
  - rightsizing threat perceptions
  - the anti-ISIS effort *can* complement GPC
  - American global leadership matters

# Insurgency Doctrine

- Integrated and Phased Insurgency
  - Adaptation from Mao, other jihadist strategists
- *al-Naba* series on insurgency doctrine (3 phases)
  - *Nikaya* (continual stabs, guerilla style)
  - *Istinzaf* (cumulative attrition)
  - *Tamkin* (consolidation/empowerment)
- Fallujah Memo (Ch 4 - 2009), echoes early Zarqawi discussions (Ch 1-2), *Management of Savagery* (2004)

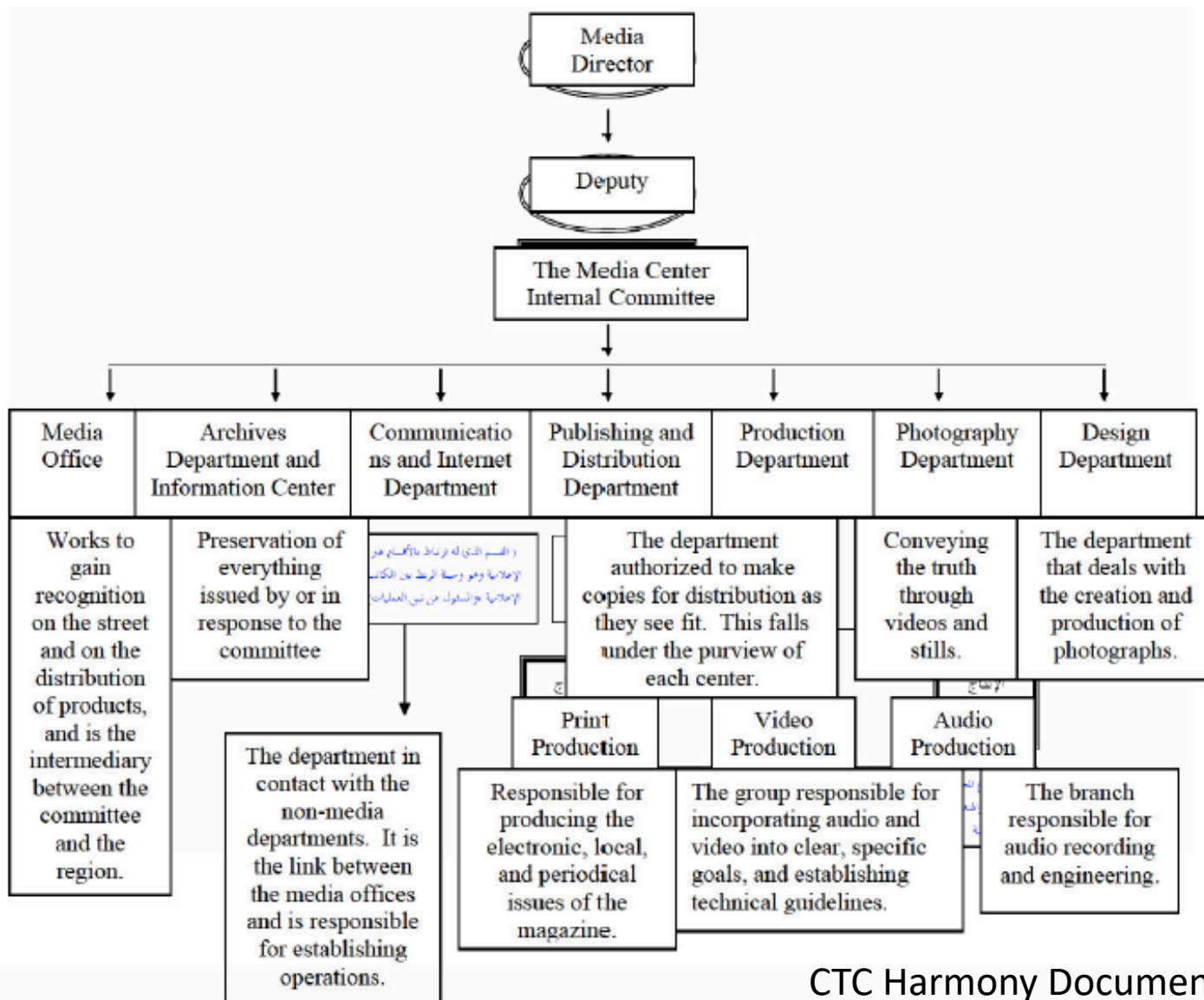
***nikaya* (irritation)**  
***tamkin* (empowerment)**

“Some of them want us to stop committing to Jihad in the land of Mesopotamia. They are claiming that the Jihad in Iraq is a fight to *irritate* the enemy and not a fight of *empowerment*.”

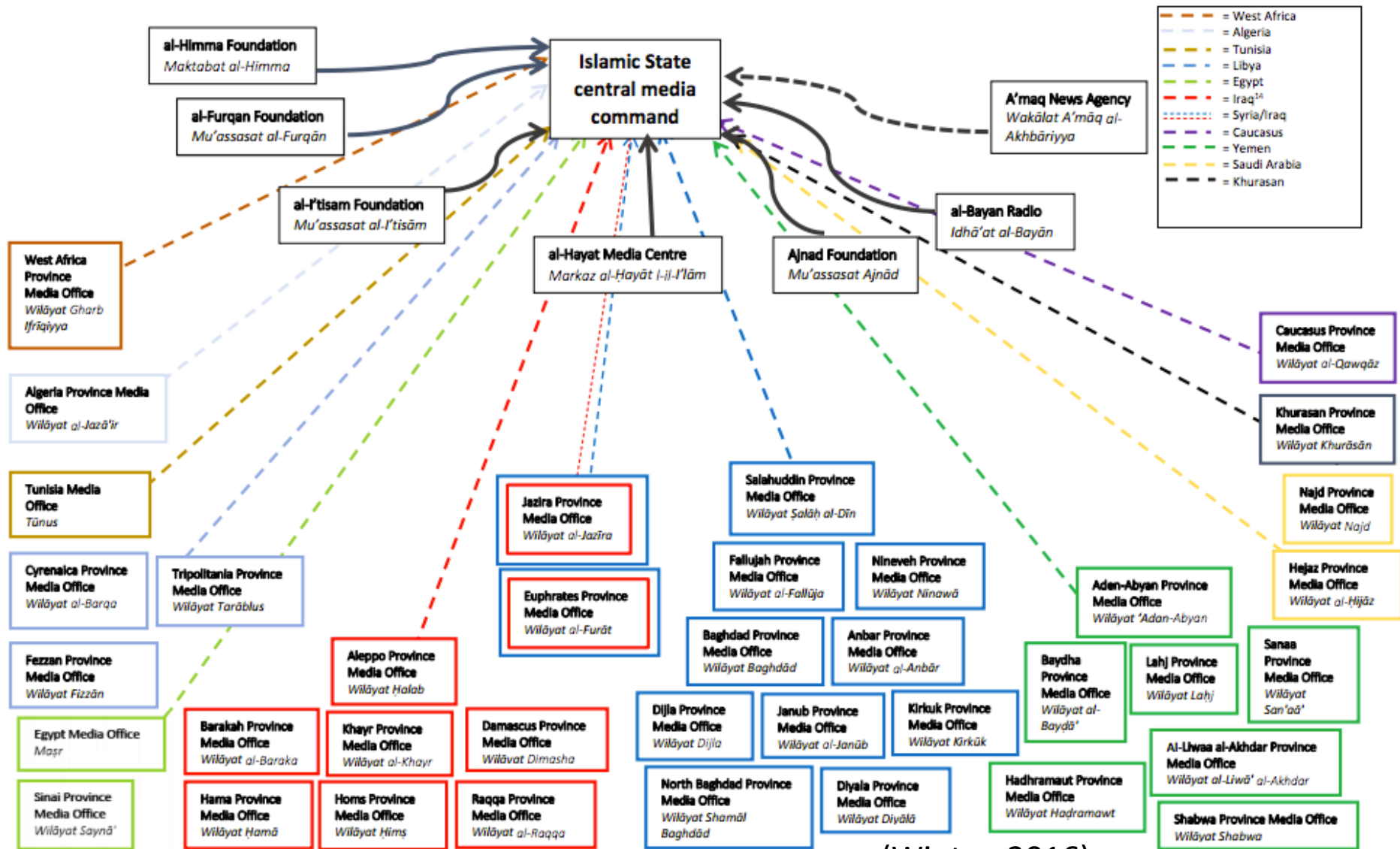
Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, July  
2005



# ISI Media Structure (2007)

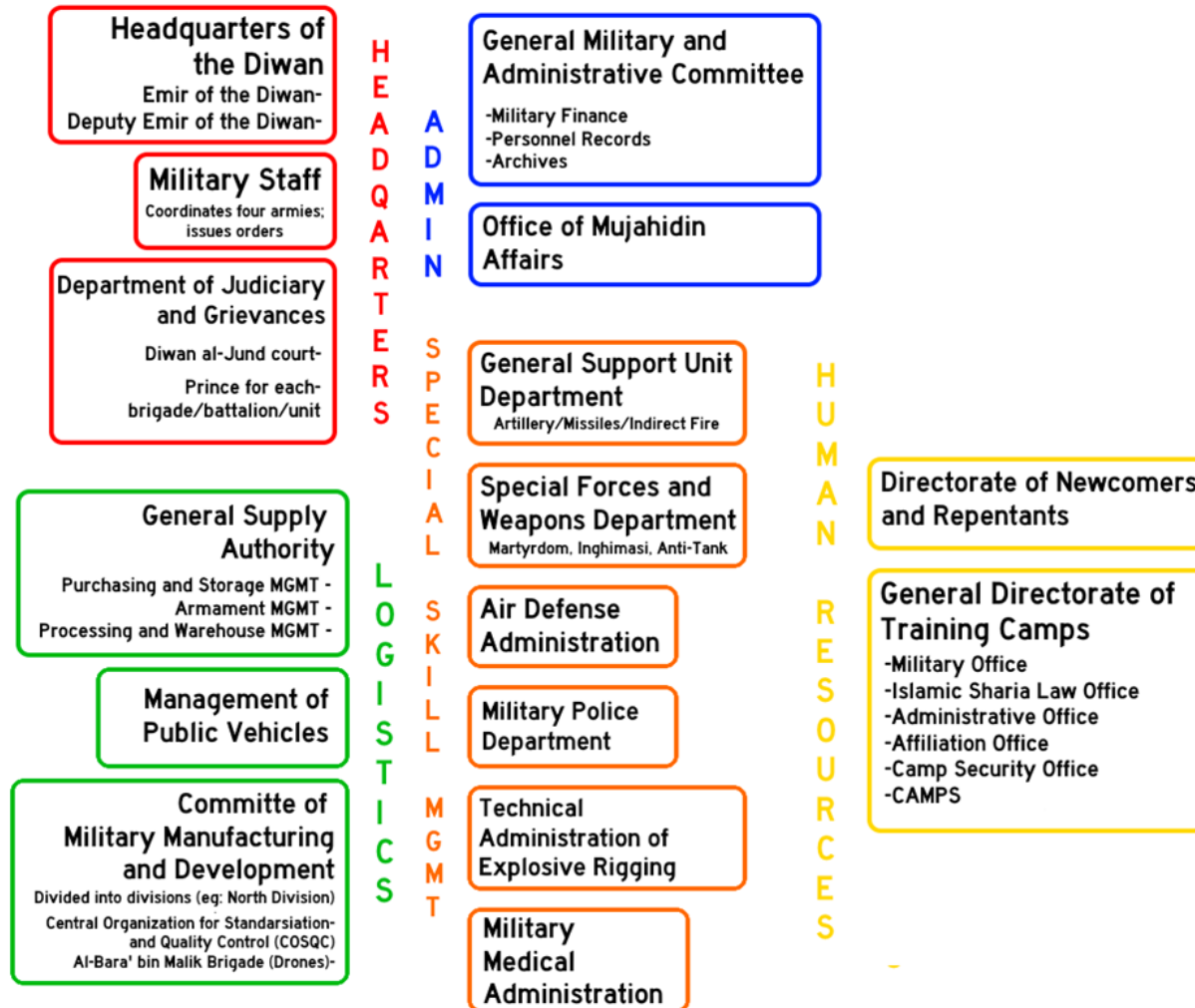


# Centralized control, Decentralized Execution



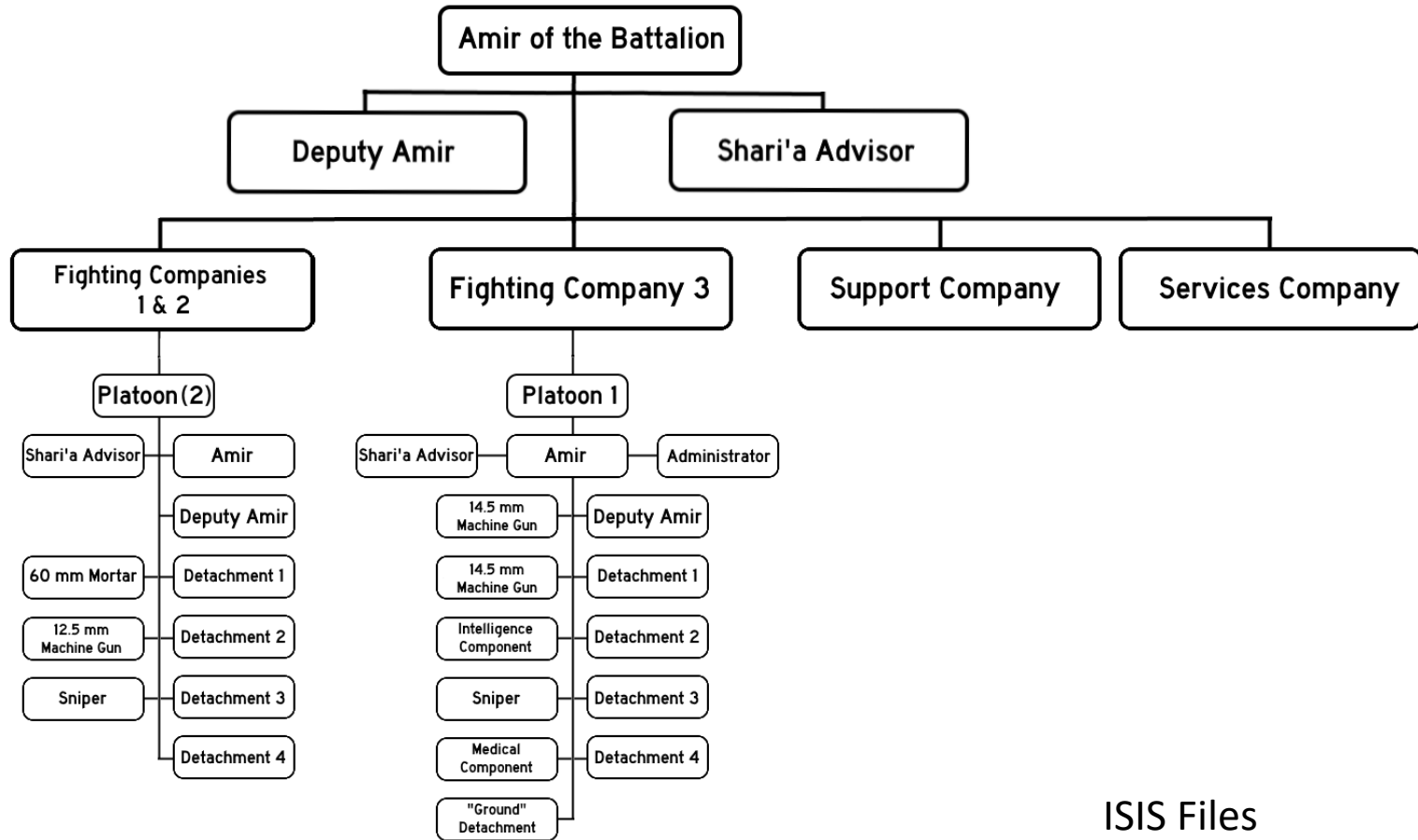
(Winter, 2016)

# Islamic State Department of Soldiers





# Islamic State battalion

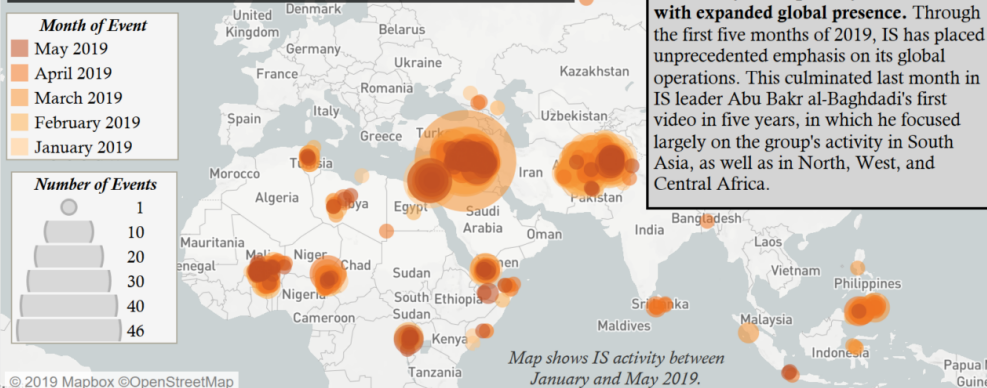


ISIS Files  
Diwan al-Jund paper  
Forthcoming (2020)

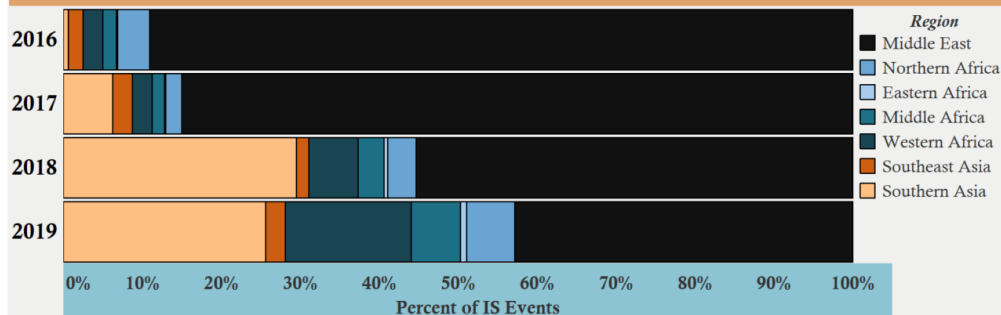
# Branching Out

The Islamic State has expanded its global footprint in 2019, and has restructured in order to emphasize its global operations.

The Islamic State (IS) has greeted its loss of territory in Iraq and Syria in 2018 with expanded global presence. Through the first five months of 2019, IS has placed unprecedented emphasis on its global operations. This culminated last month in IS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi's first video in five years, in which he focused largely on the group's activity in South Asia, as well as in North, West, and Central Africa.



## More than half of IS activity in 2019 has taken place outside of the Middle East

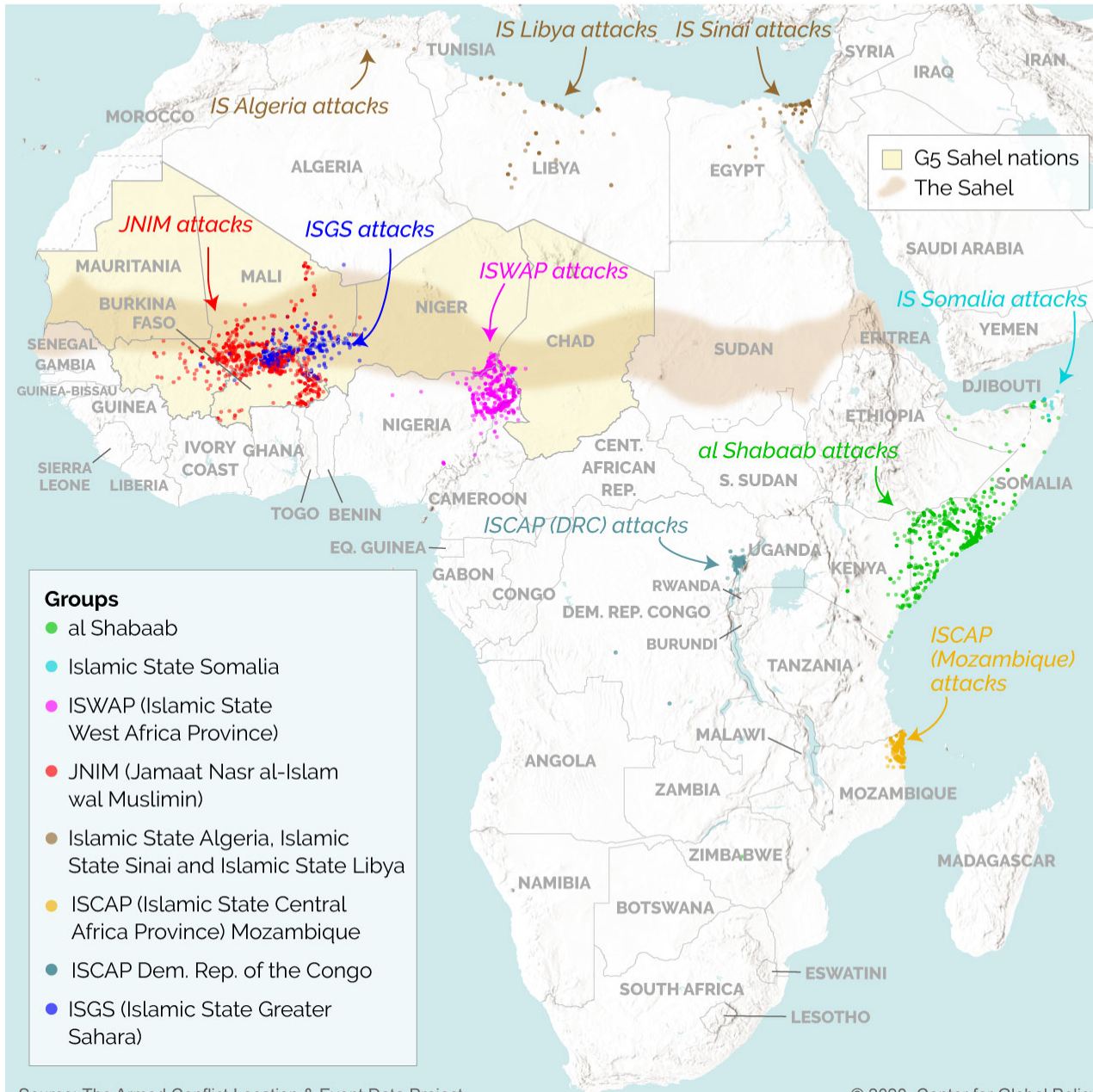


## An April 2019 message from IS leader Baghdadi signals expansion

New Wilayats (Provinces)	New focal points	More to come?
<p>Three new IS branches emerged in the past month. Wilayat Central Africa, based in Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), grew out of an existing rebel group. Wilayat al-Hind is a new branch based in Kashmir. Wilayat Turkey, advanced in Baghdadi's video, has not yet claimed an attack.</p>	<p>In his April video, Baghdadi praised specific IS activity across three regions. This included attacks in Libya (Africa), in Saudi Arabia (the Middle East), and the Easter attacks in Sri Lanka (South Asia). The scope of his praise served to emphasize IS's worldwide reach.</p>	<p>Baghdadi accepted pledges of allegiance from groups in three countries. These countries - Burkina Faso and Mali in the Sahel and Afghanistan in South Asia - have some of the highest levels of IS activity outside of Iraq and Syria.</p>

Melissa Pavlik  
ACLED, 2019

# Islamic State Provinces and Rival al Qaeda Affiliates' Areas of Operations in Africa, March 2017 to May 2020

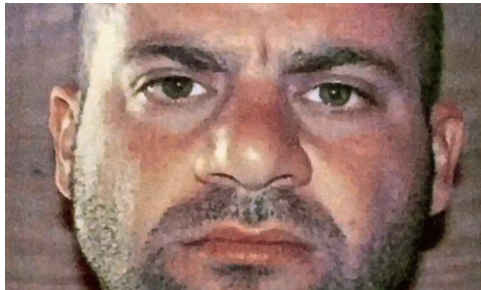


“ISIS in Africa”  
By Wassim Nasr  
June

## Old Guard



Hajji Abdullah – possible new “caliph”



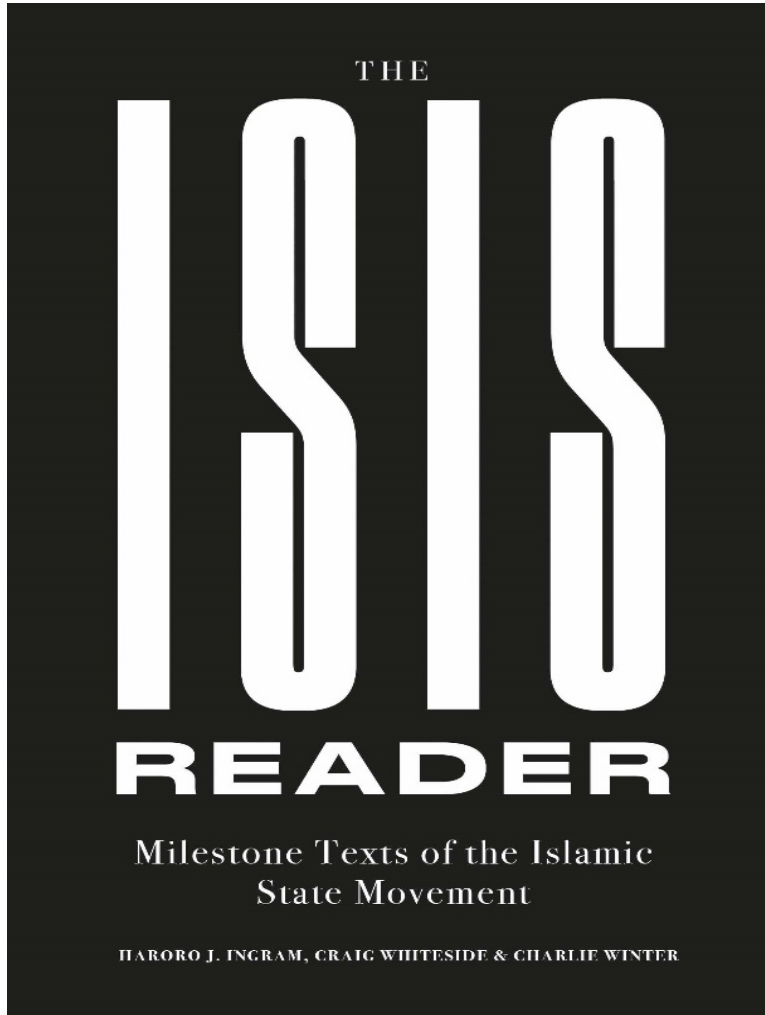
## Their Legends

Former Caliph  
Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi



# The ISIS Reader

*Oxford University Press – USA*



For a **30% discount**  
use promo code  
**ADISTA5**

<https://global.oup.com/academic/product/the-isis-reader-9780197501436?cc=us&lang=en>

# Back-up Slides

# Conclusion

- Rush to engage in Great Power Competition isn't an excuse not to learn
- This movement had deep roots, isn't going anywhere
- Their success is not something we can propagandize away
- They will be copied endlessly by other extremists on all ends of the spectrum

# Resources

- The ISIS Reader book (<http://theisisreader.com/> )
- CTC Article (January 2020)  
<https://ctc.usma.edu/lessons-islamic-states-milestone-texts-speeches/>
- Twitter: @haroro\_ingram @CraigAWhiteside
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