




Power vacuum in Syria and Iraq


The U.S., Russia, Turkey, Iranian proxies and Syrian government forces are vying for control of territory once dominated by so-called Islamic State, while the terrorist group restructures in Iraq


Areas of control (Dec 23, 2019)


 Syrian government and allies


 Kurdish-majority territory

 Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF)

 Turkish-dominated

 Al Qaeda-linked

 Islamic State (IS)

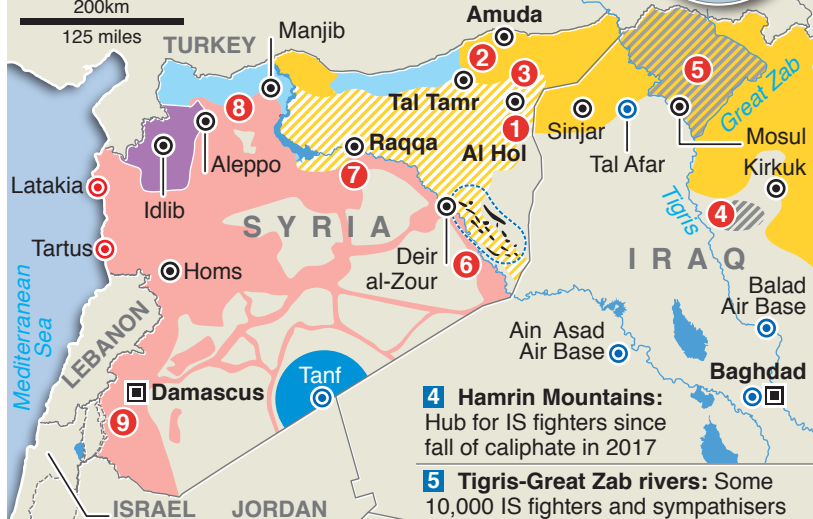
 U.S.-presence

 Russia  U.S. bases



200km

125 miles



1 Al Hol detention camp: Holds some 68,000 IS family members. 11,000 IS fighters are held in five other camps

2 Amuda, Tal Tamr: Russia opens recruitment centres to build force with SDF – previous U.S. allies

3 Dec 16: Syria's parliament approves contracts for oil exploration with two Russian companies, including oilfield in northeast Syria and gas field north of capital Damascus

4 Hamrin Mountains: Hub for IS fighters since fall of caliphate in 2017

5 Tigris-Great Zab rivers: Some 10,000 IS fighters and sympathisers control land between rivers

6 Euphrates River valley: 500 U.S. troops to "protect oil fields" at outposts around Deir al-Zour

7 Raqqa: Russian forces take control of IS's former de facto capital, filling void left by withdrawal of U.S. troops

8 Syrian National Army: Roughly 35,000 Syrian rebels fighting Kurdish forces on Turkey's behalf

9 Israel: Iranian bases in Syria allow Tehran to supply Lebanese Hezbollah with precision-guided missiles