

The Making of ISIS

ISIS

<https://www.history.com/topics/21st-century/isis>

2003	2004	2006	2010	2013
US invades Iraq	al Qaeda in Iraq formed by al-Zarqawi to remove Western occupation	US kills al-Zarqawi Al-Masri renames to ISI Islamic State of Iraq	al Masri dies Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi takes over	ISIS Islamic State of Iraq and Syria



The Making of ISIS

The roots of ISIS trace back to 2004, when the organization known as “al Qaeda in Iraq” formed. **Abu Musab al-Zarqawi**, who was originally part of [Osama bin Laden](#)’s al Qaeda Network, founded this militant group.

The [U.S. invasion of Iraq](#) began in 2003, and the aim of al Qaeda in Iraq was to remove Western occupation and replace it with a Sunni Islamist regime.

When Zarqawi was killed during a U.S. airstrike in 2006, Egyptian Abu Ayyub al-Masri became the new leader and renamed the group “ISI,” which stood for “Islamic State of Iraq.” In 2010, Masri died in a US-Iraqi operation, and **Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi** took power.

When the civil war in [Syria](#) started, ISI fought against Syrian forces and gained ground throughout the region. In 2013, the group officially renamed themselves “ISIS,” which stands for “Islamic State of Iraq and Syria,” because they had expanded into Syria.



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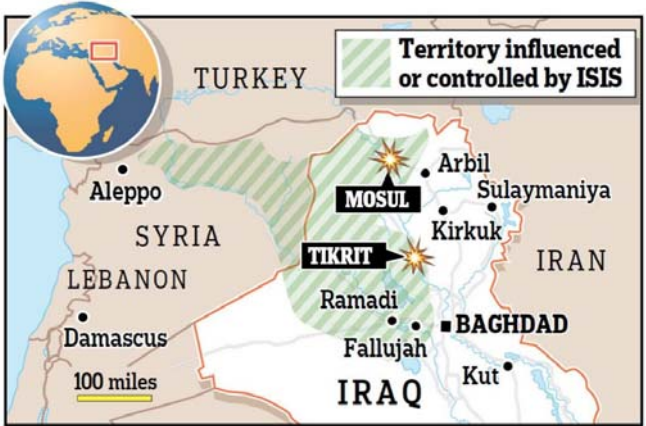
ISIS and Sharia Law

ISIS rule spread quickly throughout Iraq and Syria. The group focused on creating an Islamic state and implementing sharia law—a strict religious code based on traditional Islamic rules and practices.

In 2014, ISIS took control of Falluja, Mosul and Tikrit in Iraq, and declared itself a caliphate, which is a political and religious territory ruled by a leader known as a caliph.

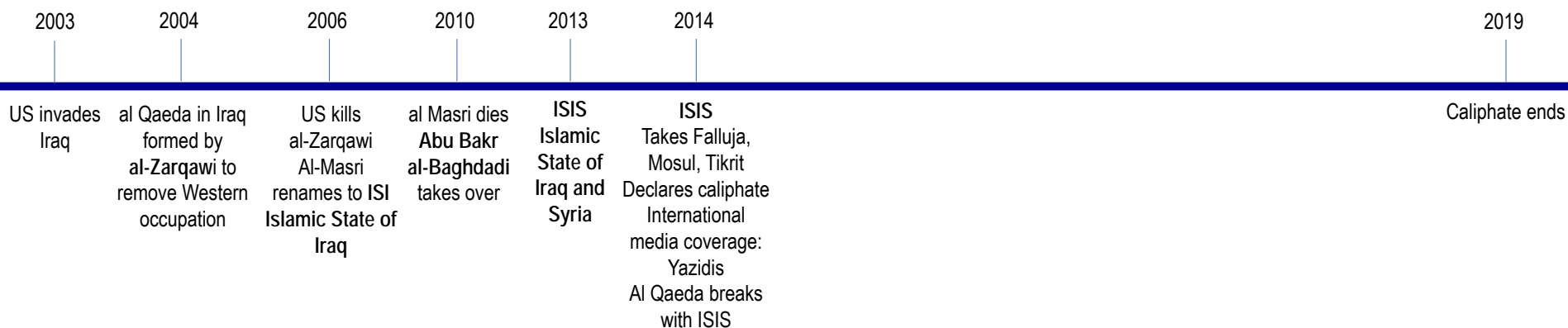
ISIS fighters attacked a northern town in Iraq that was home to the Yazidis, a minority religious group, in August 2014. They killed hundreds of people, sold women into slavery, forced religious conversions and caused tens of thousands of Yazidis to flee from their homes.

The attack sparked international media coverage and brought attention to the brutal tactics employed by ISIS. Also in 2014, al Qaeda broke ties with ISIS, formally rejecting the group and disavowing their activities.



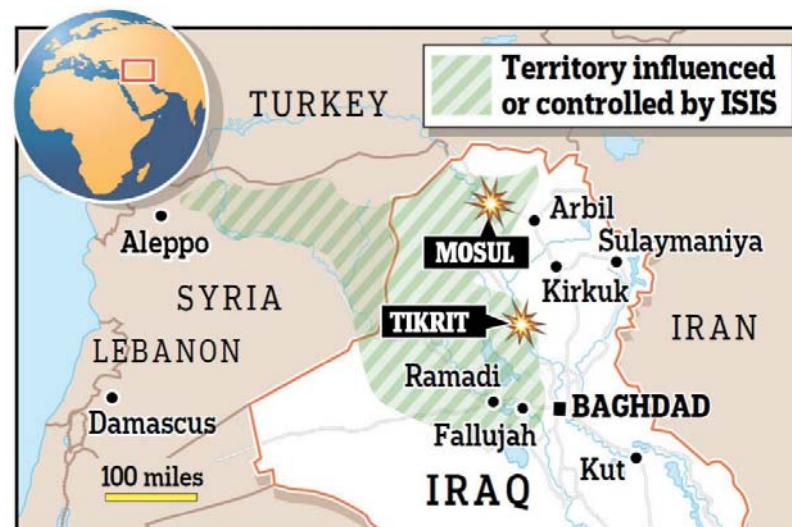
ISIS

<https://www.politico.com/news/2019/10/27/baghdadi-islamic-rise-fall-058970>



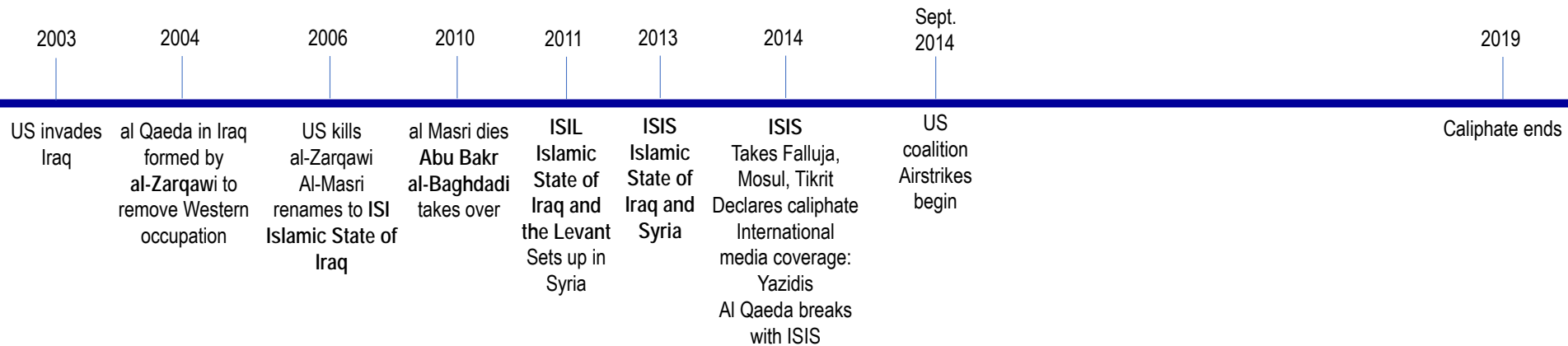
The Islamic State group erupted from the chaos of Syria and Iraq’s conflicts and swiftly did what no Islamic militant group had done before, conquering a giant stretch of territory and declaring itself a “caliphate.”

Its territorial rule, which at its height in 2014 stretched across nearly a third of both Syria and Iraq, ended in March (2019) with a last stand by several hundred of its militants at a tiny Syrian village on the banks of the Euphrates near the border with Iraq.



ISIS

<https://www.straitstimes.com/world/middle-east/timeline-the-rise-and-fall-of-isis>



2004-11 - In the chaos following the 2003 US-led invasion of Iraq, an Al-Qaeda offshoot sets up there, changing its name in 2006 to Islamic State in Iraq.

2011 - After Syria's crisis begins, the group's leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi sends operatives there to set up a Syrian subsidiary. **Baghdadi follows in 2013, breaking with Al-Qaeda and renaming his group "The Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant".**

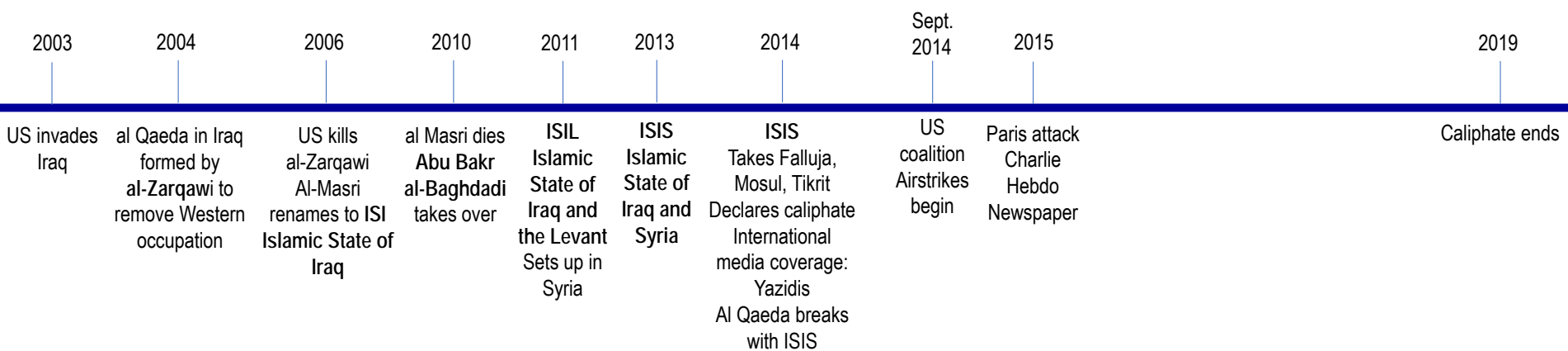
2014 - Its sudden success starts with the seizure of Fallujah in Iraq and Raqqa in Syria at the turn of the year. The extremists take Mosul and Tikrit in June and overrun the border with Syria. **At Mosul's great Mosque, Baghdadi renames the group Islamic State (IS) and declares a caliphate.**

So begins a reign of terror. In Iraq, ISIS slaughters thousands of Yazidis in Sinjar and forces more than 7,000 women and girls into sexual slavery. In Syria, it massacres hundreds of members of the Sheitaat tribe. ISIS beheads Western hostages in grotesquely choreographed films.

In September, the United States builds a coalition against ISIS and starts air strikes to stop its momentum, helping the Syrian Kurdish YPG militia turn the militants back from Kobani on the border with Turkey.

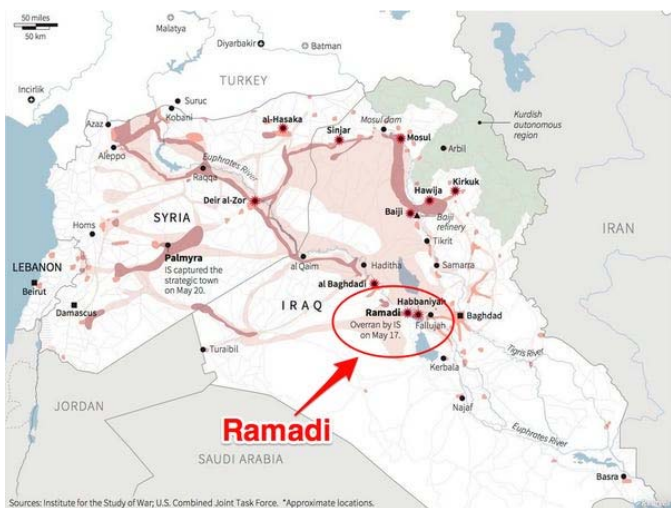
ISIS

<https://www.straitstimes.com/world/middle-east/timeline-the-rise-and-fall-of-isis>



2015 - Militants in Paris attack a satirical newspaper and a kosher supermarket, the bloody start to a wave of attacks that ISIS claims around the world. Militants in Libya behead Christians and pledge allegiance to ISIS, followed by groups in other countries, but they stay operationally independent.

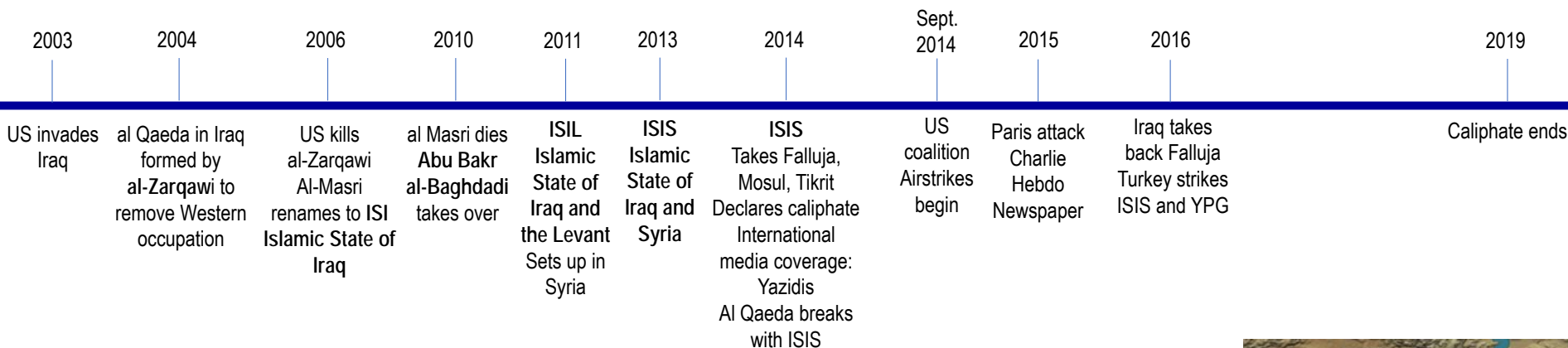
In May, ISIS takes Ramadi in Iraq and the ancient desert town of Palmyra in Syria, but by the end of the year it is on the back foot in both countries.



Terrorists Strike Charlie Hebdo Newspaper in Paris, Leaving 12 Dead
 The attack comes as thousands of Europeans have joined jihadist groups in Iraq and Syria, further fueling concerns about Islamic radicalism and terrorism being imported. Those worries have been especially acute in France, where fears have grown that militants are bent on retaliation for the government's support for the United States-led air campaign against jihadists with the Islamic State group in Syria and Iraq.
<https://www.nytimes.com/2015/01/08/world/europe/charlie-hebdo-paris-shooting.html>

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<https://www.straitstimes.com/world/middle-east/timeline-the-rise-and-fall-of-isis>



2016 - Iraq takes back Fallujah in June, the first town ISIS had captured during its initial blaze of success. In August, the US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), spearheaded by the Kurdish YPG, takes Manbij in Syria.

Alarmed by the Kurdish advances near its own frontier, Turkey launches an offensive into Syria against both ISIS and the YPG. Enmity between Turkey and the YPG will continue to complicate operations against ISIS.

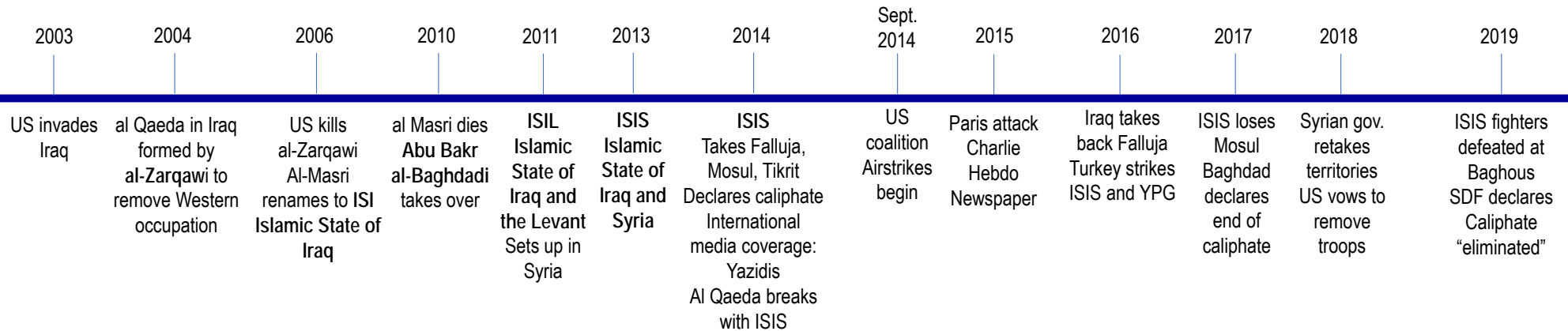


The YPG is a mainly-Kurdish militia in Syria and the primary component of the [Syrian Democratic Forces](#) (SDF).^{[4][5]} The YPG mostly consists of ethnic [Kurds](#), but also includes Arabs and [foreign volunteers](#); it is closely allied to the [Syriac Military Council](#), a militia of [Assyrians](#). The YPG was formed in 2011. It expanded rapidly in the [Syrian Civil War](#) and came to predominance over other armed Kurdish groups. A sister group, the [Women's Protection Units](#) (YPJ), fights alongside them. The YPG is active in [Northern and Eastern Syria](#).

ISIS

Resume 8/15

<https://www.straitstimes.com/world/middle-east/timeline-the-rise-and-fall-of-isis>



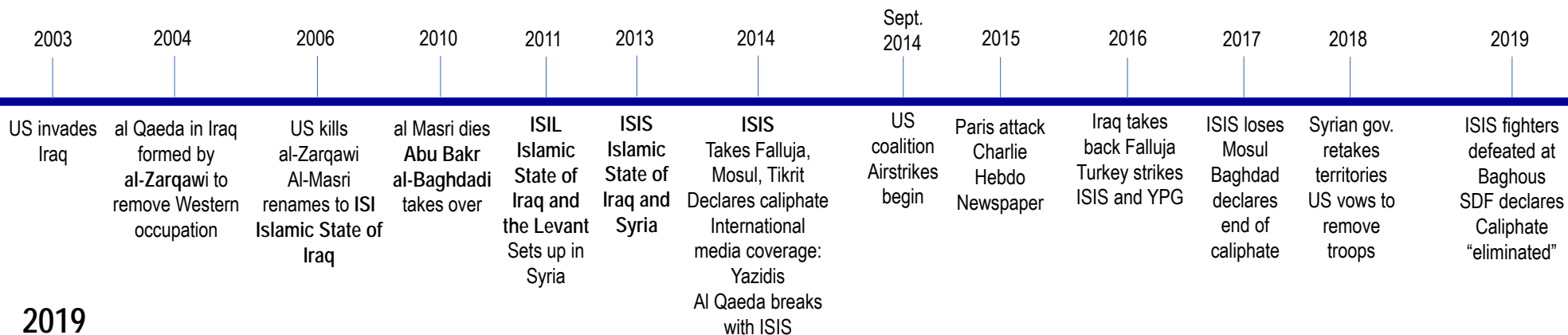
2017 - ISIS suffers a year of catastrophic defeats. In June it loses Mosul to Iraqi forces after months of fighting and Baghdad declares the end of the caliphate. In September the Syrian army races eastwards backed by Russia and Iran to relieve Deir al-Zor and re-extend state control at the Euphrates River. In October, the SDF drives ISIS from Raqqa.

2018 - The Syrian government retakes ISIS enclaves in Yarmouk, south of Damascus, and on the frontier with the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights. The SDF advances further down the Euphrates and Iraqi forces take the rest of the border region. The US vows to withdraw troops.

2019 - ISIS fighters are defeated at their last enclave on the Euphrates at the village of Baghouz, the SDF says. The SDF declares the "caliphate" eliminated.

ISIS

<https://www.npr.org/2019/03/22/701266887/analysis-the-end-of-the-caliphate-doesn-t-mean-the-end-of-isis>

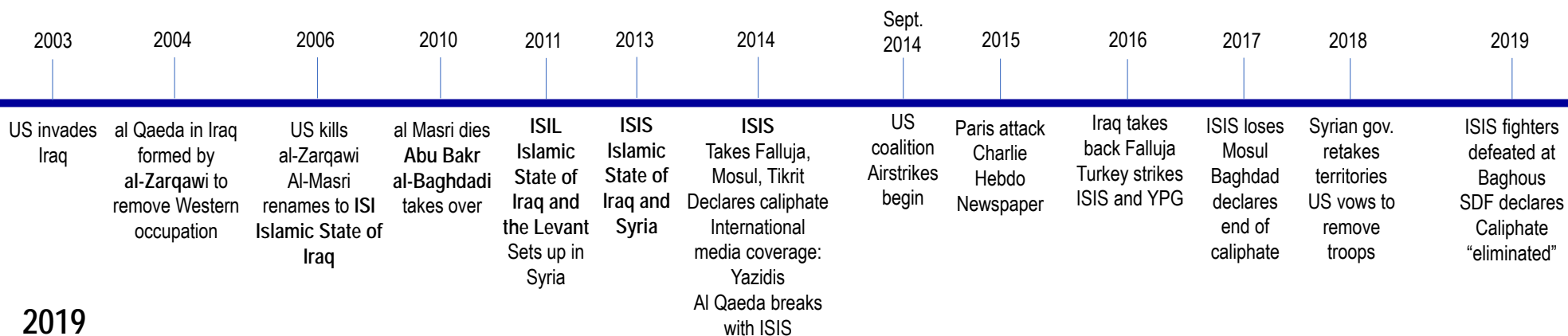


Analysis: The End Of The 'Caliphate' Doesn't Mean The End Of ISIS

Here are five things to know after the declaration of the defeat of the ISIS "caliphate."

ISIS

<https://www.npr.org/2019/03/22/701266887/analysis-the-end-of-the-caliphate-doesn-t-mean-the-end-of-isis>



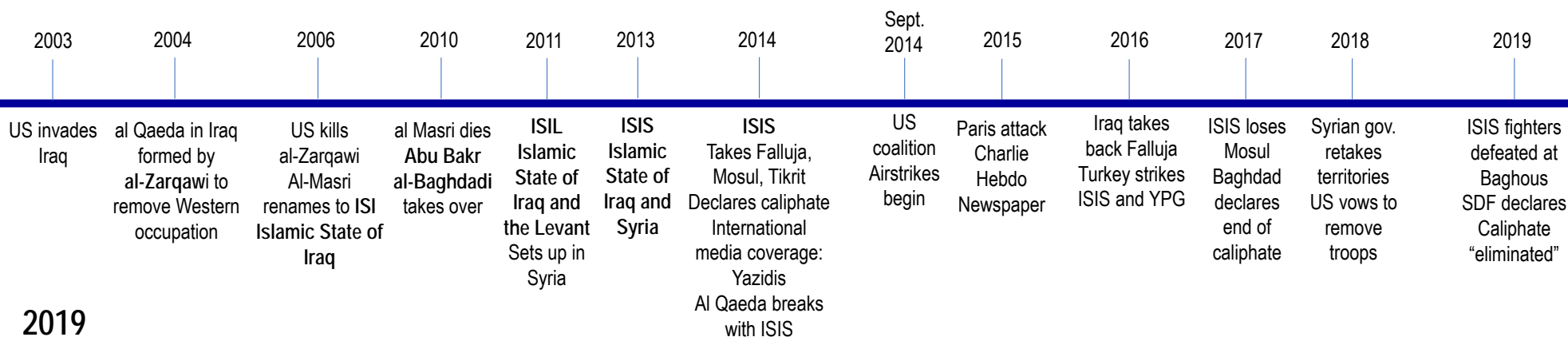
2019

ISIS is not defeated

U.S.-backed forces have retaken nearly all the small pockets in Syria that were still under ISIS control. But many ISIS fighters are believed to have blended in with the local population, according to U.S. officials. Russ Travers, the deputy director of the National Counterterrorism Center, estimates there are about 14,000 ISIS fighters still in Syria and Iraq. They remain armed and have carried out recent attacks such as the [January suicide bombing](#) in the northern Syrian town of Manbij that killed at least [16 people](#), including four Americans. What's more, ISIS' ideology remains potent and continues to inspire attacks in Europe and Afghanistan. It's unlikely there is a command structure directing terrorist attacks around the globe, but local groups identify as ISIS.

ISIS

<https://www.npr.org/2019/03/22/701266887/analysis-the-end-of-the-caliphate-doesn-t-mean-the-end-of-isis>



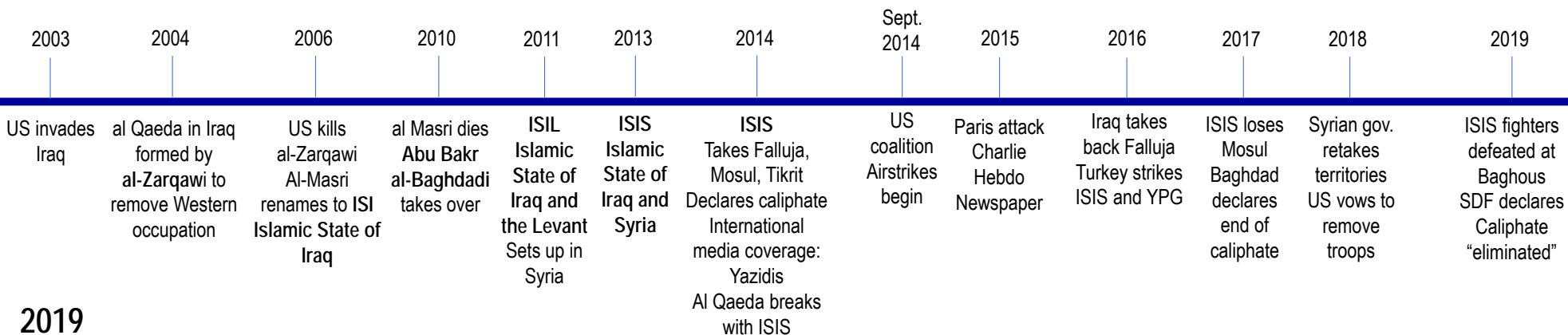
2019

Thousands of ISIS members and relatives are in limbo

There are thousands of wives and children of ISIS fighters or people loosely connected to the militants whose fate is undetermined and, in many cases, are being mistreated. A recent Human Rights Watch report says in just one corner of the war — northern Iraq — Kurdish authorities are holding [1,500 children under 18 years old in detention and torturing many](#). Also unknown is the fate of [thousands of Western men and women](#), mostly from Europe but also from North America. [About 1,800 women](#) and children from Europe and elsewhere are languishing in detention camps in northeastern Syria. Their [countries are hesitant to take them back](#) home because the authorities don't know what to do with them — whether they can prosecute them or prevent them from being domestic security threats once they return. Advocates of those detained say their home countries have a responsibility to take them back and either prosecute them or release them. They also say that letting them languish endlessly in camps just breeds more radicalism.

ISIS

<https://www.npr.org/2019/03/22/701266887/analysis-the-end-of-the-caliphate-doesn-t-mean-the-end-of-isis>



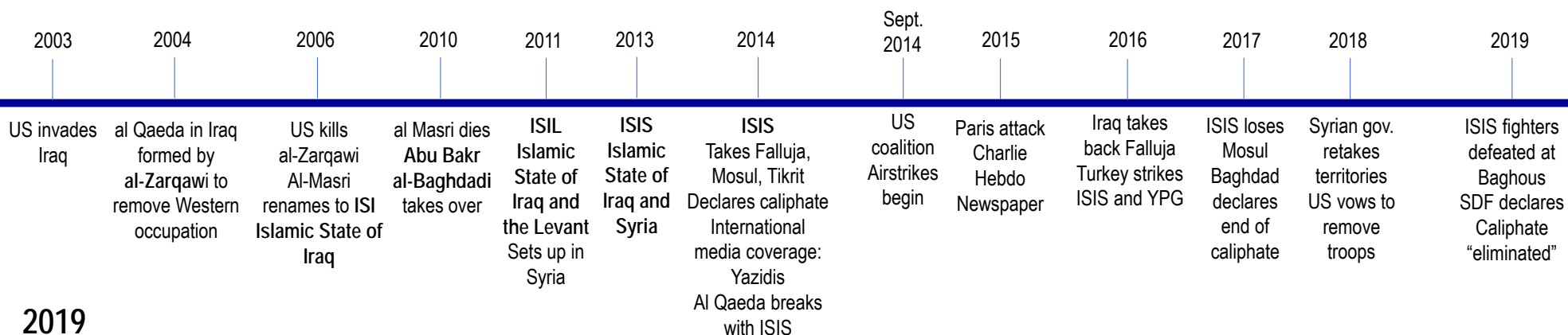
2019

U.S. troops will stay in Syria

President Trump declared in December that all U.S. troops in Syria — some 2,000 — would be withdrawn following the defeat of the territorial caliphate. The decision led to an outpouring of criticism. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis resigned; opposition in Congress was bipartisan; France and Britain, which also have troops in Syria, said they would leave with the U.S. The administration now says about 200 service members will remain in northeast Syria near the border with Turkey and another 200 or so near the Iraq border at a garrison called al-Tanf. France and Britain now say their troops will remain as well. U.S. officials say the troops' purpose is observation and counterterrorism, but their presence also serves to protect Kurdish allies who led the ground war against ISIS. Turkey has threatened to attack those forces, which it considers to be anti-Turkey terrorists.

ISIS

<https://www.npr.org/2019/03/22/701266887/analysis-the-end-of-the-caliphate-doesn-t-mean-the-end-of-isis>



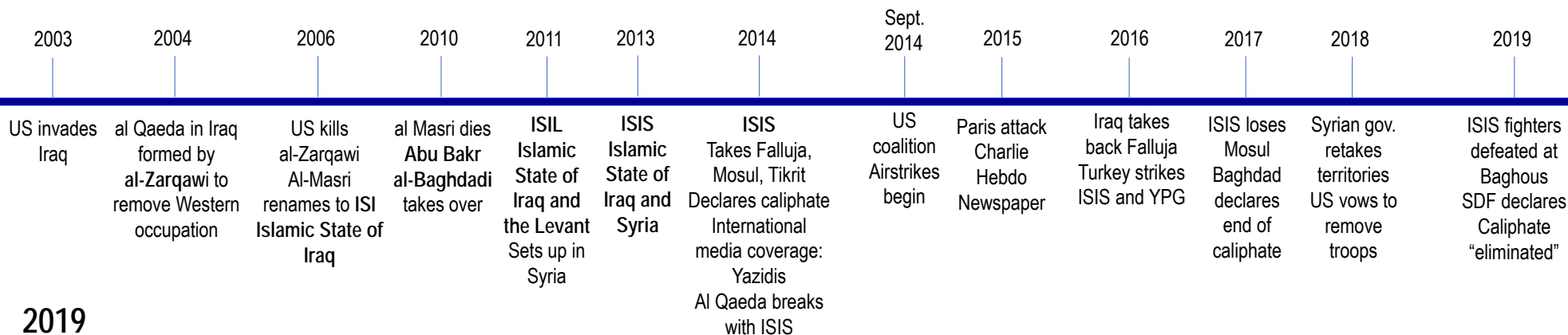
2019

Syria and Iraq are still unstable

The conditions in Iraq and Syria are still conducive to conflict and extremism. The war against ISIS ended the group's brutal rule but also came at a high cost that will continue to cause suffering. Intensive U.S. airstrikes numbering in the thousands in Mosul, Iraq and Raqqa, Syria, and other cities [killed thousands of civilians](#) — [though the totals are uncouned](#). Large areas of cities remain destroyed, with people homeless and living in refugee camps. Major reconstruction is needed and, in the case of Syria especially, there is no plan to undertake it. Many blame the U.S. and allied local fighters for the destruction as much as ISIS. In Iraq, Sunni Muslims say they're abused by Shiite militias that paint them as accomplices of the Sunni extremists in ISIS. Meanwhile, [victims of ISIS](#) want revenge. These are the kinds of conditions ISIS exploited when it rose to prominence and started taking over cities in Syria and Iraq a few years ago. In Syria, the [U.S. cut money for programs to help stabilize](#) the city of Raqqa and asked other countries, including Saudi Arabia, to pay the bill.

ISIS

<https://www.npr.org/2019/03/22/701266887/analysis-the-end-of-the-caliphate-doesn-t-mean-the-end-of-isis>



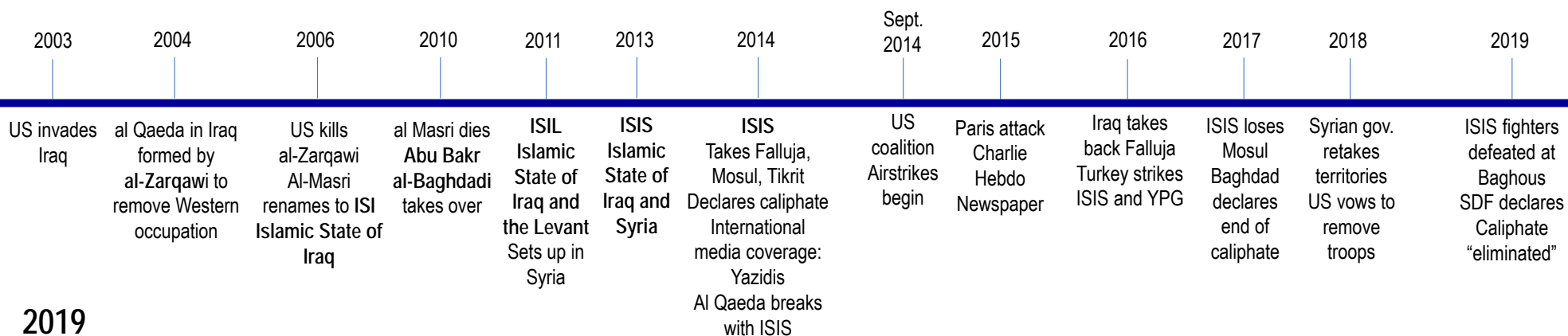
2019

Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi is alive — or not

The fate of the self-described caliph, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, remains unknown. He has been reported "killed" perhaps a half-dozen times. In 2017, a Russian [lawmaker said](#) a Russian airstrike "close to 100 percent" killed him. U.S. military officials in Syria believe he is still alive, hiding out in the desert near the Syria-Iraq border, based on communications intercepts and interviews with ISIS detainees. Last August, ISIS released an audio recording purporting to be Baghdadi, but he has not been heard from since.

ISIS

<https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/pentagon-report-al-baghdadi-death-impact-isis-leadership/story?id=68755044>



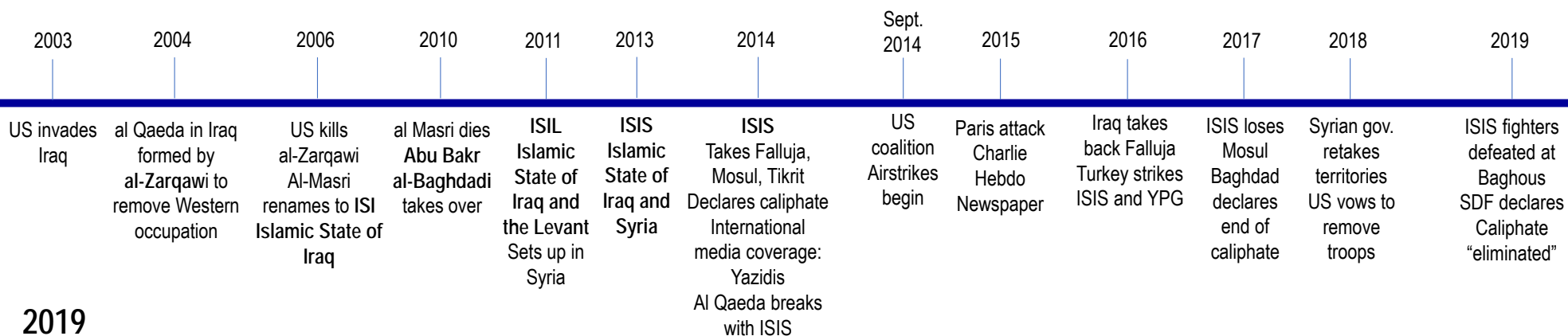
2019

"USCENTCOM and the DIA both assessed that the October death of al-Baghdadi did not result in any immediate degradation to ISIS's capabilities," the Pentagon's [report](#) -- released every three months -- said on Tuesday. "USCENTCOM told the DoD OIG that following the death of ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the group's capabilities in Syria remained the same."

The IG added, "USCENTCOM said that ISIS remained cohesive, with an intact command and control structure, urban clandestine networks, and an insurgent presence in much of rural Syria."

ISIS

<https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/pentagon-report-al-baghdadi-death-impact-isis-leadership/story?id=68755044>



2019

But the Central Command also reported that the terror group "did not significantly advance its insurgency" and has struggled to attack U.S. or coalition forces.

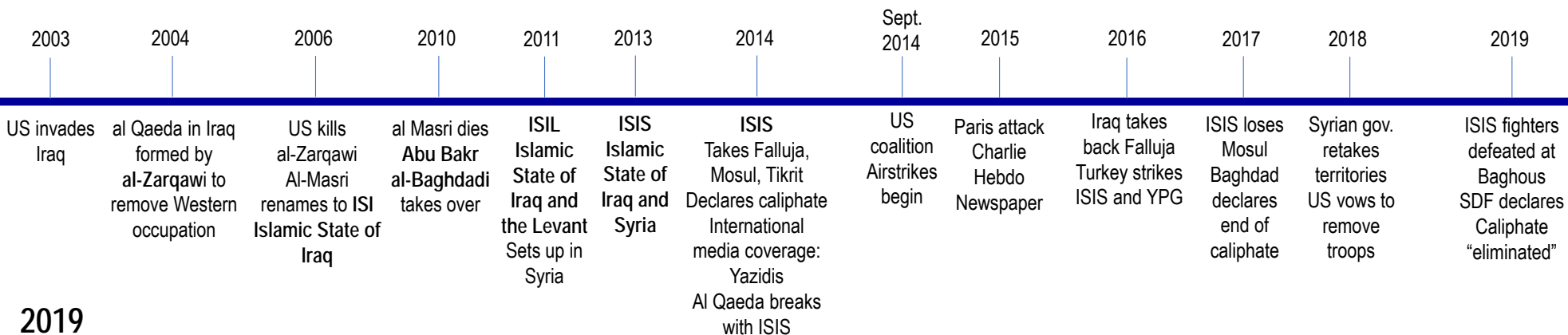
The military command said that ISIS has had more success with low-level attacks against local government and Kurdish forces in both [Iraq](#) and Syria.

Following Turkey's invasion into northern Syria, President Donald Trump initially ordered a [full withdrawal](#) of the 1,000 U.S. troops in Syria helping Kurdish forces in the fight against ISIS.

The withdrawal changed in scope after Trump said hundreds of U.S. forces would [remain in Syria](#) to prevent ISIS from regaining access to key oil fields in Kurdish held areas from which the terror group might gain revenue for its operations.

ISIS

<https://apnews.com/9b76ca4f828542f38300dd171be62497>



2019

BEIRUT (AP) — A media arm of the Islamic State group is reporting that militants from Egypt’s Sinai and Bangladesh have pledged allegiance to the new leader, who succeeded Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, in the first sign of support from the organization’s global affiliates.

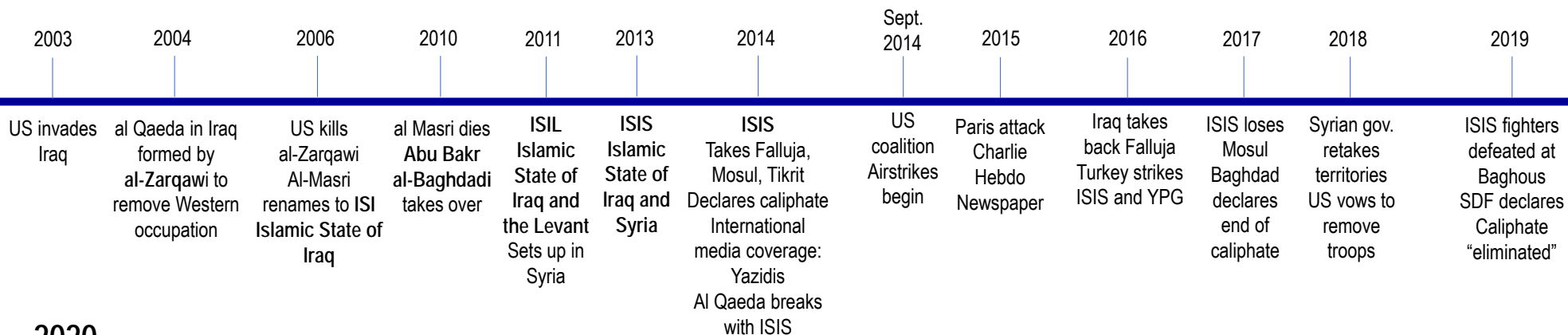
Nasher news, which carries the group’s news releases, posted pictures Saturday of a handful of militants purportedly from Bangladesh with their faces covered standing under the group’s black flag. Their index fingers were raised to pledge allegiance to new leader **Abu Ibrahim al-Hashemi Al-Qurayshi**. Other pictures showed militants purportedly from Egypt’s Sinai with their rifles and index fingers raised. The agency reports they too were pledging allegiance to the new leader.



Al-Baghdadi was killed last week in a U.S. raid in Syria. Al-Qurayshi was named his successor Thursday.

ISIS

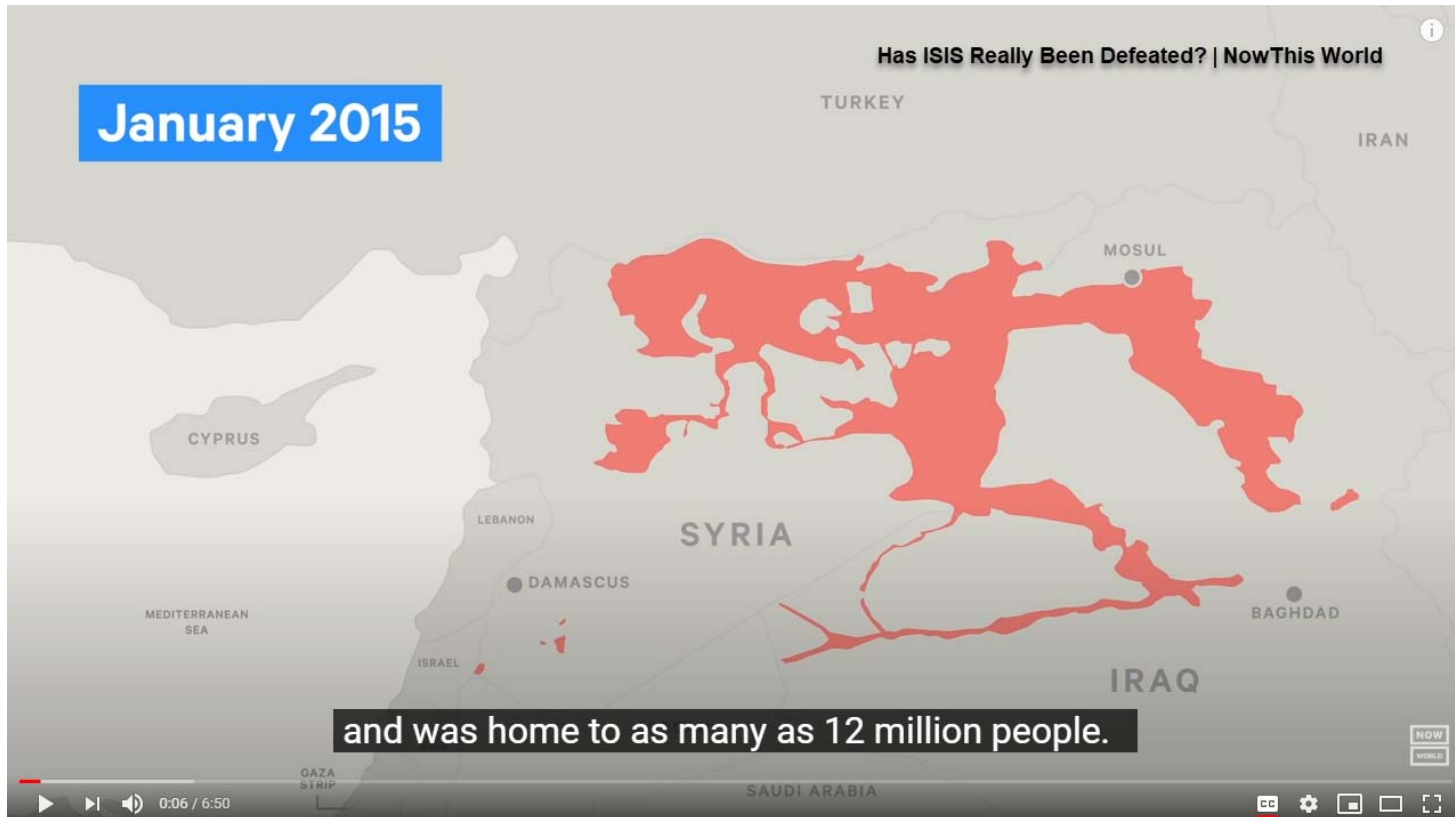
<https://www.voanews.com/middle-east/us-officials-uncover-true-identity-new-islamic-state-leader>



2020

WASHINGTON - U.S. defense officials believe they have unmasked the Islamic State terror group's current leader, until now known by his nom de guerre, Abu Ibrahim al-Hashimi al-Qurashi.

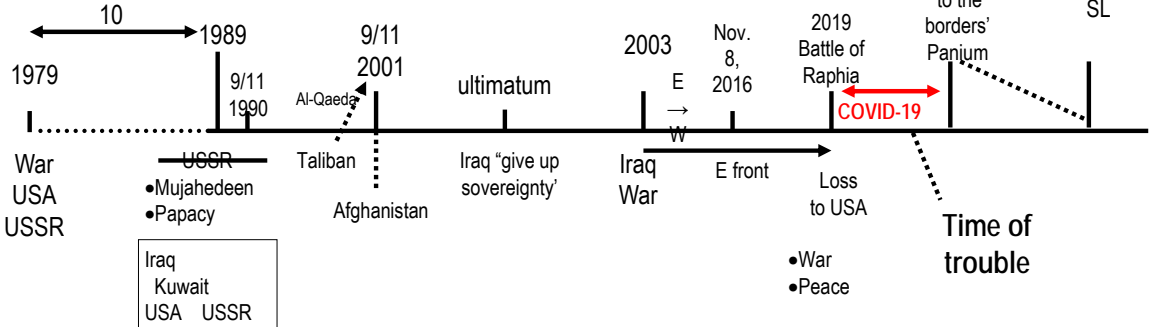
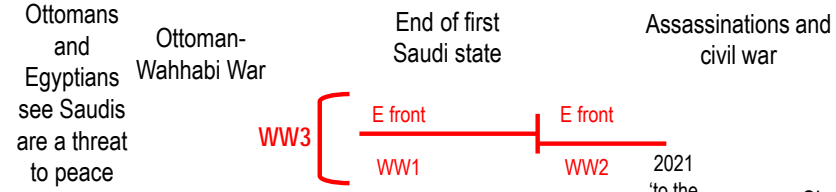
IS announced the selection of Qurashi as its new caliph this past October, just days after the death of former leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi in a U.S. raid, but his true identity has been a question.



<https://youtu.be/vxN8oEnIQ2w>



Second Saudi state
1824-1891
Emirate of Nejd
Internal family conflicts

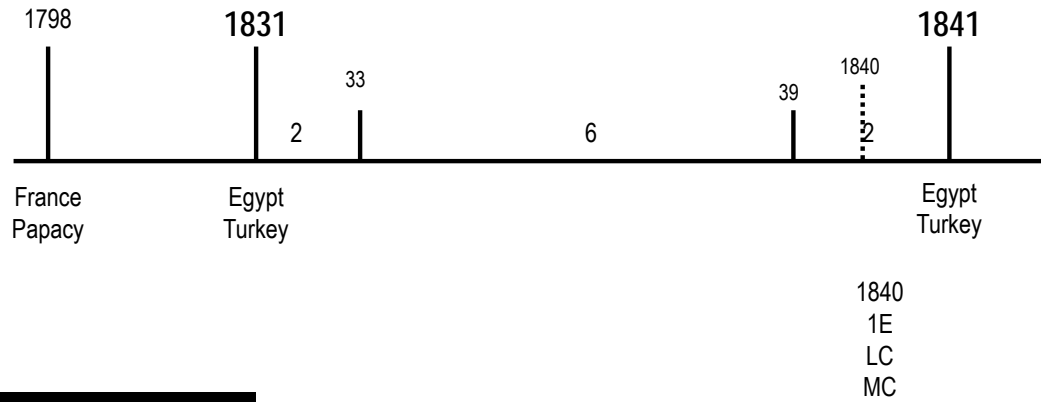


8/12/2020

Weaken Britain's access to India

10 years Proxy War
Syria

1841 JoL, APEC 98.1
KS = Egypt
KN = Syria
Him = France



Control oil in Middle east

10 years Proxy War
Syria

