

# Why We Are Doing Fewer Interactives

Por qué estamos haciendo menos gráficos interactivos

Archie Tse · Deputy Graphics Director · The New York Times · @archietse

Some things we used to do more frequently

> Steppers

> Tabs and fixies

> Sliders

Some things we used to do more frequently

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> Tabs and fixies

> Sliders

} Often just a way  
for the reader to  
see more stuff.

Some things we used to do more frequently

> Steppers

> Tabs and fixies

> Sliders

But readers  
weren't getting to  
all of the content.

Why?

Readers just want to scroll.



# 3 rules for visual storytelling (2016 edition)

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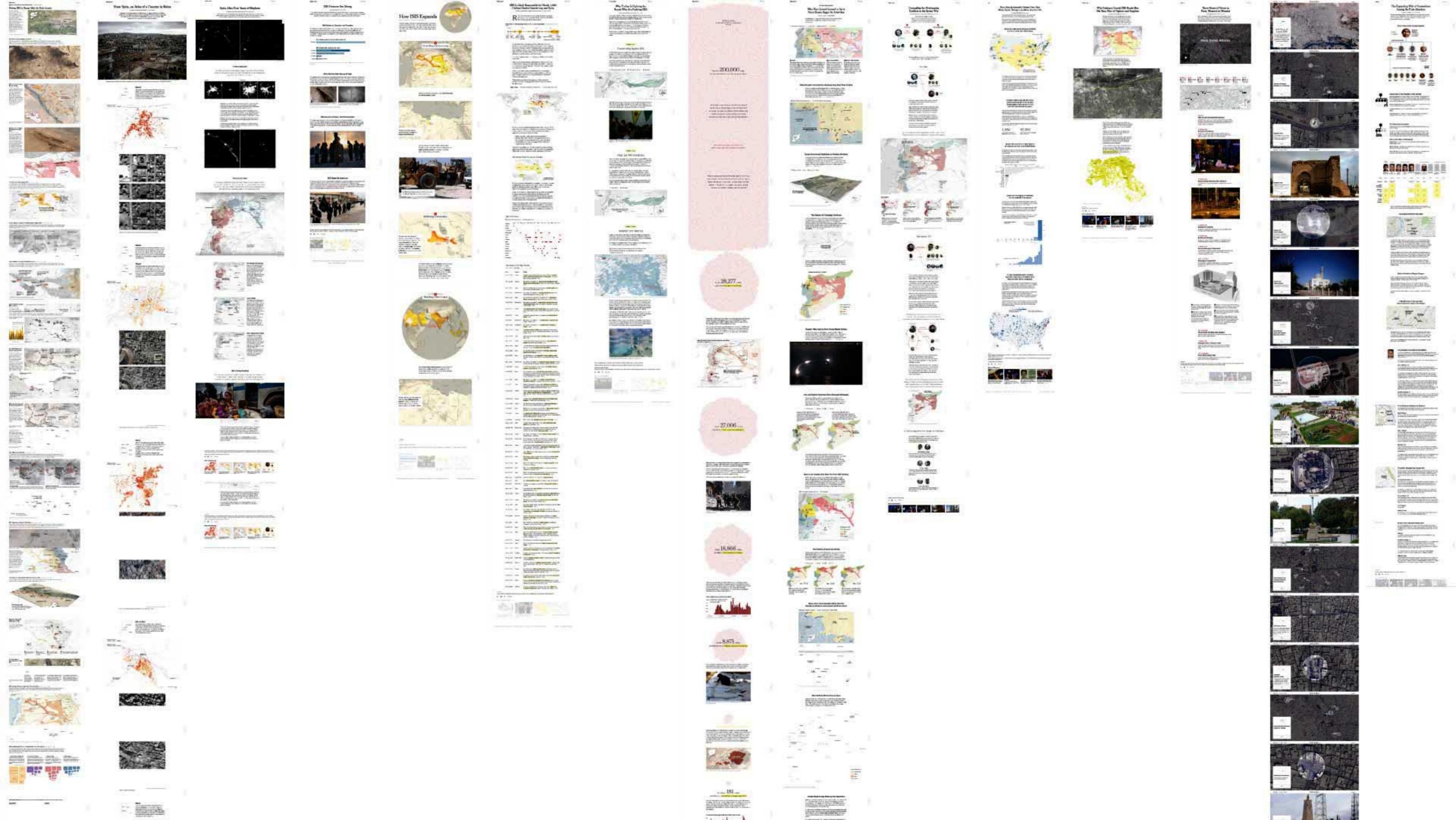
2. If you make a tooltip or rollover, assume no one will ever see it. If content is important for readers to see, don't hide it.

3. When deciding whether to make something interactive, remember that getting it to work on all platforms is expensive.

And there was another big change  
in how we do things ...

Fewer small  
graphics  
embedded  
in articles.

More  
stand-alone  
visual stories.



How has this changed us?

How has this changed us?

> Most visuals are static.

How has this changed us?

> Most visuals are static.

> We are writing and editing a lot more text.

### Hitting ISIS in Raqqa After the Paris Attacks

Recent satellite imagery shows the extent of destruction in Raqqa, Syria, following the Paris attacks. The city is a mix of rubble and active military operations.

### How Kurds Captured State From ISIS

Ground forces of the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) have captured the town of Sinjar from ISIS, marking a significant military victory.

### ISIS Oil Fields Targeted By U.S. Strikes

U.S. military forces have targeted several oil fields in Syria, aiming to disrupt ISIS's primary revenue source.

### Kurdish and U.S. Launch Operation to Cut ISIS Routes

A joint operation between the SDF and the U.S. military aims to sever ISIS supply lines and control key transportation routes.

### The State of the War Against ISIS

A comprehensive overview of the conflict, showing the current territorial control of the Syrian Democratic Forces and ISIS.

### Turkey Agrees to Assist U.S. With American Against ISIS

Turkey has agreed to provide logistical support for U.S. military operations against ISIS in Syria.

### Archer Offensive Against ISIS Starts in Raqqa

The 'Archer' offensive has begun in Raqqa, with coalition forces pushing back against ISIS in the city.

### From Syria, an Atlas of a Country in Ruins

A collection of satellite images and maps showing the extensive destruction and displacement in Syria over time.

### Kobani

Timeline and satellite analysis of the battle for Kobani, showing the intense fighting and the eventual liberation of the town.

### A Country Torn Apart

Analysis of the deep divisions within Syria, showing the geographical and political split between government and rebel forces.

### Aleppo

Detailed satellite analysis of the battle for Aleppo, showing the city's strategic importance and the impact of the conflict.

### Syria After Four Years of Mayhem

Comparison of satellite images from 2012 and 2014, highlighting the massive scale of destruction across the country.

### A Nation Going Dark

Analysis of satellite night photography showing a significant increase in darkness, indicating widespread power outages and displacement.

### A Country Torn Apart

Another perspective on the geographical and political divisions in Syria, showing the impact of the conflict on the landscape.

### Pro-Government Forces

Map and analysis of the areas controlled by the Syrian government, showing their strategic positions and military movements.

### ISIS Finances Are Strong

Analysis of ISIS's financial capabilities, showing their revenue streams and how they sustain their operations.

### Oil Is Not the Main Source of Cash

Investigation into ISIS's revenue sources, revealing that oil is not their primary income source as previously believed.

### ISIS Invests in People, Not Infrastructure

Analysis of ISIS's spending habits, showing a focus on social services and infrastructure for their fighters and civilians.

### ISIS Keeps its Costs Low

Analysis of ISIS's military strategy, showing how they maintain a low cost of operations through various tactics.

### How ISIS Expands

Overview of the Islamic State's expansion strategy, showing their growth from a local group to a global caliphate.

### Controlling and Governing

Map showing the administrative and territorial control of ISIS, illustrating how they govern the areas they occupy.

### ISIS Has Continued to Expand in Iraq's Anbar Province and Oil-rich Areas in Syria

Analysis of ISIS's expansion in Iraq and Syria, showing their control over key provinces and oil fields.

### Once in Control, the Islamic State Imposes Strict Shariah Law. But Unlike Some Other Jihadist Groups, It Seeks to Actively Govern, Providing Services like Water, Roads and a Judicial System.

Photograph of a construction site in a city under ISIS control, showing their efforts to provide infrastructure and services.

### Infiltrating Communities

Analysis of ISIS's tactics for infiltrating and controlling communities, showing their use of local networks and sleeper cells.

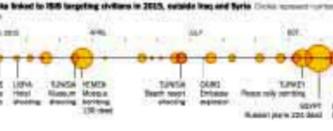
### ISIS Cells Surfaced in A'sal, Lebanon, When Local Rebel Groups Rose Up Against the Government. Analysts Believe That the Islamic State is Building Networks in South Arabia and in the Hezbiya Sector of Aleppo in

Analysis of ISIS's presence in Lebanon and other regions, showing their ability to establish cells in diverse environments.

# ISIS Is Likely Responsible for Nearly 1,000 Civilian Deaths Outside Iraq and Syria

By **MARK HANAUER**, **ANNE MARSH** and **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS** | Updated on Nov. 27, 2015

Recent terrorist attacks in Paris and the downing of a Russian passenger jet have focused the West's attention on the Islamic State's chaotic toll outside Iraq and Syria.



But the Islamic State, also known as ISIS or ISIL, has a history of attacking mosques, hotels, busy city centers and other civilian targets in nearby non-Western countries. If the Islamic State is responsible for the Paris killings and the explosion of the Russian plane, its reach on both sides of the Atlantic seems to be growing, and the death toll outside Iraq and Syria would rise to nearly 1,000 since January.

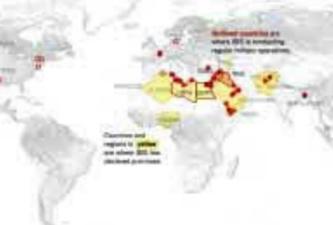
It would also signify a major leap in the group's ability to direct attacks on the West.

Until now, the Islamic State has relied mainly on "low-end" Muslims to strike Western targets with relatively low-tech attacks — shooting, the taking of hostages, kid and runs — that drew wide attention but did not cause mass casualties.

"The attacks different than a normal low-end-impromptu attack," Patrick M. Skinner, a former C.I.A. operations officer now with the Soufan Group, a security consultancy, said about the Paris attacks. "This was choreographed."

"The fact that they could do this, especially in Paris, where the intelligence service is really good, clearly there's a hole somewhere," Mr. Skinner said.

**Major events:** ● Attacks directed by/linked to ISIS ○ Attacks inspired by ISIS



The Islamic State has been expanding beyond its base in Iraq and Syria since it declared a caliphate, or Islamic state, in June 2014. The group is focused on three parallel tracks, according to Harbes Gottdiener, an analyst at the Institute for the Study of War:

- Instigating regional conflict with attacks in Iraq and Syria;
- Building relationships with jihadist groups that can carry out military operations across the Middle East and North Africa; and
- Inspiring, and sometimes helping, ISIS sympathizers to conduct attacks in the West.

"The goal," Mr. Gottdiener said, "is to get through these regional rifts and through efforts to create chaos in the wider world, the organization will be able to expand, and perhaps launch a global apocalyptic war."

## ISIS Declares Provinces Across the Region

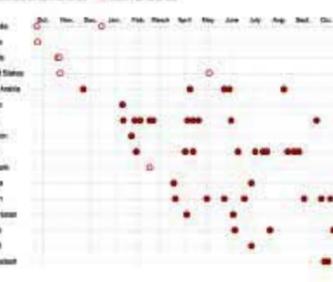


The Islamic State has declared official provinces — or wilayas — in areas of Afghanistan, Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Nigeria, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Yemen that had networks loyal to ISIS, many of which have adopted the organization's signature black flag.

While it is still unclear to what extent the Islamic State's own leadership in Raqqa communicates with its affiliates, Mr. Skinner said ISIS command and control was probably involved in picking the target and the timing of the Russian plane attack after its affiliates said that they had someone who could pilot a Boeing.

However, Mr. Skinner said, in the wake of the Paris attacks, it is more troubling that ISIS leaders appear to have the ability to direct terrorist acts in distant cities. "It's a sign of terror. They control parts of Iraq and Syria, have weapons that allow to hold territory, and now they have these cells."

## Major ISIS Attacks



Descriptions of the Major Attacks

# Why Turkey Is Fighting the Kurds Who Are Fighting ISIS

By **MARK HANAUER** and **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS** | Updated on Nov. 27, 2015

On the same day that Turkey announced it would help fight the Islamic State, Turkish forces began an airstrike campaign against one of the very groups that has been crucial to stopping the advance of the Islamic State.

Since the July 24 announcement, Turkey has launched several waves of airstrikes against elements of a Kurdish separatist group known as the P.K.K., which is widely listed as a terrorist group. But that group and its ally in Syria, who have been closely working with American forces, are pushing Islamic State militants out of areas they once controlled.

So while the United States had long sought Turkey's help in fighting ISIS, the weeks since the agreement reveal the tangle of diverging interests in the region.

## ISIS vs. U.S.

Kurdish fighters have been coordinating with the American military since last October. From checkered rooms in northern Syria, members of the militia know as the Y.P.G. have played intelligence and coordination for potential airstrikes targeted to an American operations center hundreds of miles away.

The resulting strikes have in turn helped the Kurds win a broad swath of territory along the Turkish border from the Islamic State. "The role of the coalition jets has been essential to these victories," said **Edna Hanoua**, a senior Kurdish official from Kobani.

Y.P.G. control, May 28, 2015 | Y.P.G. government map | ISIS control



The Y.P.G. is perhaps America's most effective ally in Syria against the Islamic State. But American officials, though they will broadly acknowledge that they are working with the Y.P.G., who prefer not to detail just how closely the forces are working together, given the group's ties to the outlawed P.K.K.



## TURKEY vs. U.S.

### Allies, but With Conditions

The United States has sought Turkey's help in the fight against ISIS since last year. Turkey, which has been a NATO member since 1952 and is considered by America officials to be critical to weakening the Islamic State in Syria, was reluctant to participate. Turkey finally agreed to assist, but with some conditions, including the creation of an ISIS- and Kurdish-free zone in Syria on the Turkish border.

In return, the United States will be allowed to launch military operations against the Islamic State from Incirlik Air Base and other bases in Turkey "within a certain framework," according to President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. American officials have been careful not to offend Turkey and have publicly supported its campaign against the P.K.K.

In a statement on Twitter, Rep. H. McClack, President Obama's envoy to the coalition fighting the Islamic State, said, "We fully respect our ally Turkey's right to self-defense."

Y.P.G. control | ISIS control



## ISIS vs. TURKEY

### Suspicion and Violence

Analysts say that Turkey's decision to join the fight against the Islamic State was driven in part by the threat posed by the Y.P.G.'s rapid territorial gains within Syria. Kurds across the region have historically sought an independent state, which the Turkish government strongly opposes.

Mr. Erdogan has said that Turkey "will never allow the re-establishment of a new state on our southern frontier in the north of Syria."

Some areas of violence between Turkey and the P.K.K. since March 2013 | Areas of Turkey airstrikes on P.K.K. operations, July 24 to August 2 | Kurdish-controlled areas



# Who Has Gained Ground in Syria Since Russia Began Its Airstrikes

By **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS** | Updated on Nov. 27, 2015

The full impact of Russian airstrikes on the Syrian war has yet to be realized, but some shifts have occurred in recent weeks.

## DEATH IN SYRIA

More than 200,000 people have been killed in the four-and-a-half-year Syrian civil war.



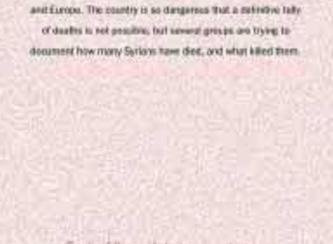
Government forces have gained ground north and east of the city as they build strategic depth around their oil-rich stronghold and push closer to **Raqqah al-Kharrab**, an important air base that ISIS has surrounded for more than a year. Deploying an off-road vehicle, ISIS launched a counterattack in the north to drive government fighters away from the air base and gained some territory in the process.

ISIS has gained control of a long stretch of road north of Hama. The road remains highly contested because it is the only overland route for government fighters away from the air base and gained some territory in the process.

Rebel and ISIS forces have continued to fight for territory along the front lines between ISIS and Hama. Rebel areas changed hands in October, but the government has yet to make significant advances.

## Where Russian and American Weapons Have Been Fired in Syria

Russian warplanes carried out more than 100 strikes in support of Syrian government troops over the weekend. In August, American forces also played a major role in the war, dropping more than 100 bombs in support of the Syrian government, according to the Pentagon. The United States and Russia are joining the list of interlocking warplanes in Syria.

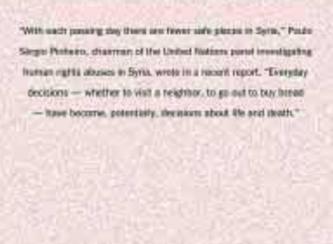


Each of these dots represents one person who was killed during the conflict.

## Syrian Government Capitalizes on Russian Airstrikes

Pro-government forces pushed north along several routes in a heavily contested region of northeastern Syria. The ground assaults were in coordination with Russian airstrikes and occurred in an area where rebels had made gains in recent months. In coordination with the aerial support, a relatively calm stronghold of the Syrian president, Bashar al-Assad, was recaptured.

Clashes on Oct. 6 | Control: ● Government ● Rebel



Where are government forces advancing

## The Russian Air Campaign Continues

Russia continued for a second day to fire cruise missiles from warships in the Caspian Sea. Five of the cruise missiles aimed at targets in Syria landed in a rural area of northern Iraq, near U.S. officials said on Thursday, though it was unclear exactly where they landed. Russia and Iraq denied the claim. Russian officials said the missiles had targeted the Islamic State in Syria, but it was unclear if they had hit the group's stronghold.



Russia has been and continues to conduct airstrikes against ISIS and other groups in an area including the province of Idlib and Hama. The largest group there do not include the Islamic State, which Russia and the United States want to defeat.

# Untangling the Overlapping Conflicts in the Syrian War

By **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS** | Updated on Nov. 27, 2015

What started as a popular uprising against the Syrian government five years ago has become a patchwork war with nearly a dozen warring factions in an overlapping conflict.



The two conflicts have won the United States and Russia as enemies in one war and potential allies in the other.

## Civil War



Rebel groups supported by the United States are focused on toppling the Syrian president, Bashar al-Assad, and restoring the Islamic State.

The United States is focused on defeating the Islamic State. While it has attacked some Islamic State targets, it has not directly attacked the Syrian government and it is backing rebel groups only with money, arms and air support.

Rebels are not the Islamic State. They are not trying to help the Assad or power. In fact, they are working with Syrian ground forces, but about the vast majority of its attention is rebel politics.

The Islamic State, meanwhile, wants to both remove the Assad and create a caliphate stretching beyond Syria's borders into Iraq and other countries.

Syria's territory has been fragmented after four years of war. The government now controls only a fraction of the country.



Rebel control since last 2014 | Control: ● Government ● Rebel



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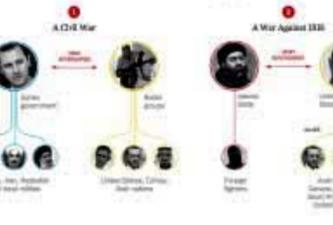
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## Paris Attacks Intensify Debate Over How Many Syrian Refugees to Allow Into the U.S.

By THE NEW YORK TIMES Staff Writers on Oct. 14, 2015

As the aftermath of the terrorist attacks in Paris, at least six prominent lawmakers have called for a review of the number of Syrian refugees who have been admitted to the United States.

Some senators, the Turkish and European, have accepted hundreds of thousands of Syrian refugees. But the United States has for admitted only a few tens of thousands of the estimated four million refugees who have fled Syria.

### Where the 1,854 Syrian Refugees Admitted to the U.S. Since 2012 Were Placed



States whose governors and state legislatures have accepted the placement of Syrian refugees in their states:

The refugees who have arrived from the states listed have been placed in various parts of the country. They are among the most vulnerable people in the world, single mothers and their children, religious minorities, victims of violence or torture.

Some of them have reached large cities like Houston, but most have been placed in more remote, rural areas. Many are still in the care of military personnel who have helped coordinate their care. Others, like Ms. Alkhatib, have accepted care in New York and Los Angeles counties. Wisconsin, Mass., has taken in more than 100.

### President Obama has said the United States will accept five times as many Syrian refugees this year as the total admitted over the last four years.

Under pressure from Congress and other lawmakers regarding the global refugee crisis, Mr. Obama has raised the number of Syrian refugees who will be admitted legal status to at least 10,000 this fiscal year.

Some critics and some have expressed. In October, U.S.C. legislators said several officials argue that the federal government cannot possibly screen and resettle such a large number of Syrian refugees. Some have argued that the United States has admitted only a small number of Syrian refugees compared with other countries.

1,854 Syrian refugees admitted to the United States, 2012 to Sept. 2015

92,991 Syrian refugees admitted to Germany, 2012 to Sept. 2015

Syrians still account for a small share of all refugees admitted in the United States.

Syrians made up about a percent of the refugees admitted during the last fiscal year. The three largest refugee groups were from Afghanistan, Iraq and Somalia.

The United States has also admitted the largest numbers in the past. In 2011, it provided sanctuary to 1.2 million Vietnamese refugees, and it admits in added refugee programs, known for some time, the number tends to increase each year. Other refugees during the fiscal year, including admitted through the visa waiver program.

The top 20 countries of origin for refugees admitted in fiscal year 2015:



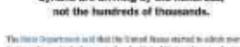
Syrians are arriving by the hundreds, not the hundreds of thousands.

The State Department said that the United States cannot admit more Syrian refugees in the last year after the United States began admitting more refugees from other countries, given its current security.

Belgium trying to reach the United States and apply through the United Nations, and before being accepted, they are returned by the U.S. and through databases run by the United States and other agencies.

The additional Syrian refugees this year would come from about 100,000 already admitted by the United States. State Department officials said that more than half of them were children.

Syrian refugees admitted by fiscal year:



Chicago Police Department said it had received information that a man who had been in the U.S. since 2012 was planning to travel to Paris.

He arrived in Paris on Oct. 13, 2015, and was identified as a suspect in the Paris attacks.

A Paris for Climate Change Report said that the Paris attacks were a "wake-up call" for climate change.

More on NYTimes.com

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## Why Cutting a Crucial ISIS Route May Not Stop Flow of Fighters and Supplies

By THE NEW YORK TIMES Staff Writers on Oct. 14, 2015

The ease of creating informal routes through the desert, north of the border, Syria could blunt the effectiveness of an American-backed offensive to cut off a key Islamic State supply route. The operation needs to be coordinated with the highway between Raqqa, the Islamic State's capital in Syria, and Hama, the largest city controlled by the group in Iraq.



The Hama-Raqqa terrain is a key supply route for the Islamic State. It is a major highway that connects the Islamic State's capital in Syria, Raqqa, to Hama, the largest city controlled by the group in Iraq.

As the Islamic State captured parts of Syria and Iraq, it would be cutting off a key supply route for the group. The operation needs to be coordinated with the highway between Raqqa, the Islamic State's capital in Syria, and Hama, the largest city controlled by the group in Iraq.

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## Three Hours of Terror in Paris, Moment by Moment

By THE NEW YORK TIMES Staff Writers on Oct. 13, 2015

Many of the attacks in Friday's coordinated terrorist assault on Paris occurred within an hour. Here are the moments that unfolded in the city.



Paris, France, Oct. 13, 2015. The attacks in Paris were coordinated and occurred within an hour.

9:20 p.m. Stadium 1 killed, 10 injured. A suicide bomber detonated an explosive device in the stadium, killing one person and injuring 10 others.

9:25 Restaurants 10 killed, 10 injured. A suicide bomber detonated an explosive device in a restaurant, killing 10 people and injuring 10 others.

9:30 Stadium 10 killed, 10 injured. A suicide bomber detonated an explosive device in the stadium, killing 10 people and injuring 10 others.

9:32 Restaurant 10 killed, 10 injured. A suicide bomber detonated an explosive device in a restaurant, killing 10 people and injuring 10 others.

9:36 Restaurant 10 killed, 10 injured. A suicide bomber detonated an explosive device in a restaurant, killing 10 people and injuring 10 others.

9:40 Restaurant 10 killed, 10 injured. A suicide bomber detonated an explosive device in a restaurant, killing 10 people and injuring 10 others.

9:40 Concert hall 10 killed, 10 injured. A suicide bomber detonated an explosive device in a concert hall, killing 10 people and injuring 10 others.

9:53 Stadium 10 killed, 10 injured. A suicide bomber detonated an explosive device in the stadium, killing 10 people and injuring 10 others.

9:20 p.m. First Suicide Bombing Near Stadium. A suicide bomber detonated an explosive device near the stadium, killing one person and injuring 10 others.

5 minutes later Restaurant Shootings. A suicide bomber detonated an explosive device in a restaurant, killing 10 people and injuring 10 others.

5 minutes later Second Suicide Bombing Near Stadium. A suicide bomber detonated an explosive device near the stadium, killing one person and injuring 10 others.

5 minutes later Restaurant Shooting. A suicide bomber detonated an explosive device in a restaurant, killing 10 people and injuring 10 others.

4 minutes later Restaurant Shooting. A suicide bomber detonated an explosive device in a restaurant, killing 10 people and injuring 10 others.

4 minutes later Suicide Bombing at Restaurant. A suicide bomber detonated an explosive device in a restaurant, killing 10 people and injuring 10 others.

At the same time Shooting at Concert Hall. A suicide bomber detonated an explosive device in a concert hall, killing 10 people and injuring 10 others.

## Inside Raqqa, the Capital of ISIS

By THE NEW YORK TIMES Staff Writers on Oct. 13, 2015

Raqqa is the Islamic State's capital in Syria. It is a city of 200,000 people, mostly Sunni Muslims, who have been living in the city since the Islamic State captured it in 2013.



Raqqa, Syria, Oct. 13, 2015. Raqqa is the Islamic State's capital in Syria.

Symbols of Raqqa's Heritage Are Threatened. The Islamic State has threatened to destroy the city's heritage, including the Great Mosque of Raqqa.

Baghdad Gate. The Baghdad Gate is a symbol of the city's heritage. It is a gate that leads to the city's center.

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## The Expanding Web of Connections Among Paris Attackers

By THE NEW YORK TIMES Staff Writers on Oct. 13, 2015

The French and Belgian authorities have established a growing list of individuals suspected of participating in the Islamic State's coordinated attacks in Paris on Oct. 13. The list includes a growing number of individuals who are believed to be involved in the attacks.

### Known Connections Among Suspects



Connections to the Organizer of the Attacks. Abou Bakr al-Baghdadi is the leader of the Islamic State. He is believed to be the organizer of the attacks.

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### Top Suspect Killed in Police Raid

French police killed a top suspect in the Paris attacks in a raid on Oct. 13. The suspect was believed to be a key figure in the attacks.

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> We are writing and editing a lot more text.

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> Most visuals are static.

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> If animation or motion is needed, try to trigger it when user scrolls.

> We still do interactives,  
but the bar is now VERY high.

# ai2html

A tool for making responsive graphics with Adobe Illustrator

Thanks, I hope you had fun!

[bit.ly/nytgraphics2015](http://bit.ly/nytgraphics2015)

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