

Waging War

POL3: INTRO TO IR

I. Defining War

- War includes:
 - 1) Organized, deliberate violence by a political authority
 - 2) > 1,000 battle deaths in a year
 - 3) Both sides must have capacity to harm each other
 - not necessarily equal power

II. War Classifications:

Location of Conflict

1) Interstate: war between states

- e.g. WWII

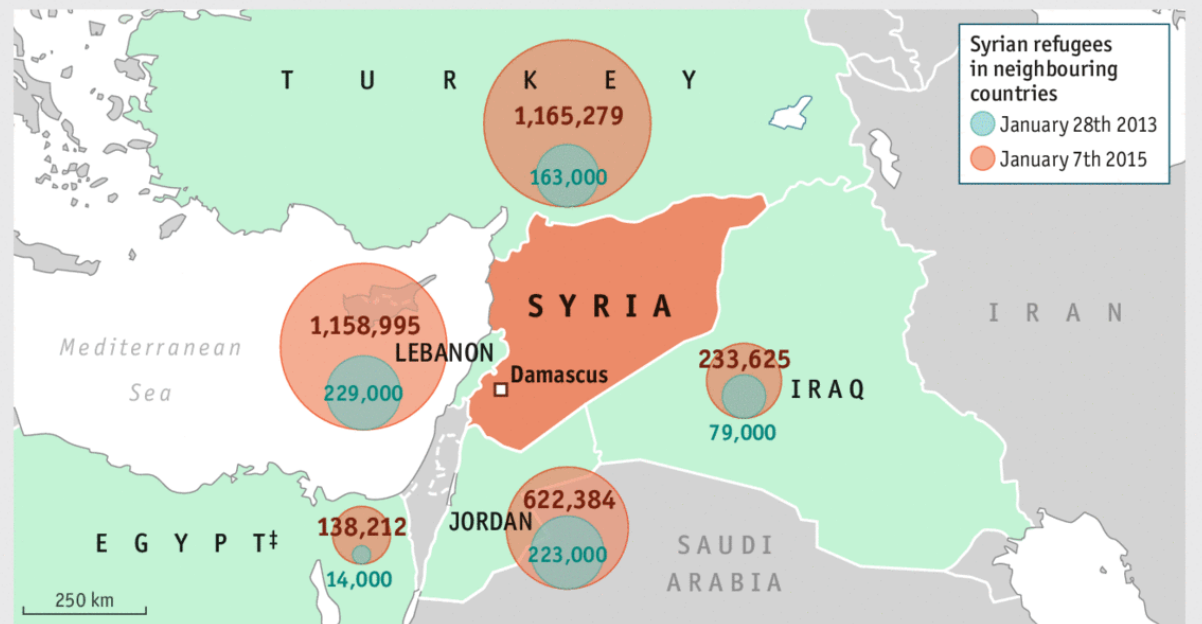
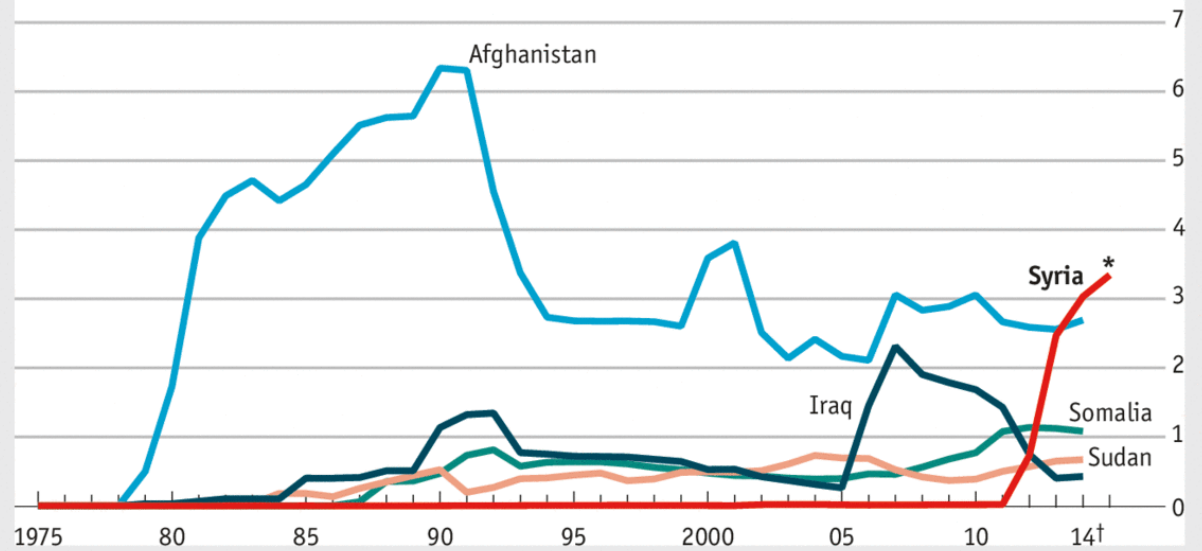
2) Intrastate: war takes place within a state (i.e. civil wars)

- Different types:
 - i. establishment of government for control of a “failed state” (e.g. Somalia)
 - ii. ethno-nationalist movements seek autonomy/secession (e.g. Chechens in Russia)
 - iii. wars between ethnic, clan, or religious groups for control of state (e.g. Rwanda)
- Intrastate wars often affect outside states
 - e.g. forced migration, rebel safe holds
- Outside states often influence intrastate wars
 - e.g. Vietnam or Lebanon

Syrian Civil War: Refugees in the region

Global refugees

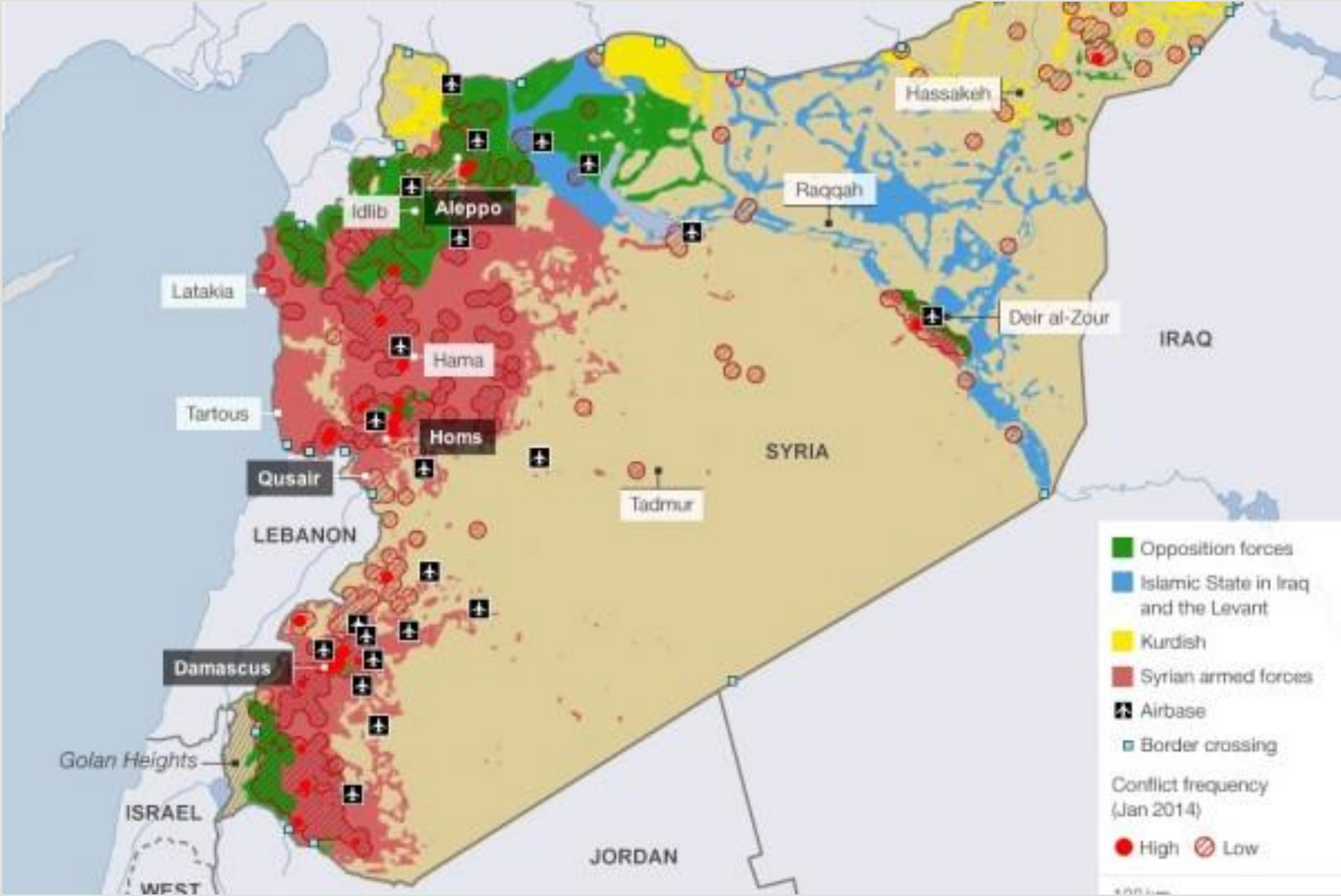
Highest number by country of origin, m



Source: UNHCR

*January 7th 2015 †June ‡November 30th 2014

Syrian Civil War: A myriad of forces



Taken from Independent Voter Network (IVN)

War Classifications:

Intensity of conflict

- 1) Total war: wars in which leaders utilize all available resources
 - Massive loss in life and widespread destruction
 - e.g. Thirty Years War, WWII, Iran-Iraq War

- 2) Limited war: wars that involve less-than-total resources
 - Initiated with limited aims (i.e. less than critical)
 - Nuclear weapons *never* deployed
 - e.g. Korean War, Gulf War I (1991)

War Classifications:

Types of conflict

- 1) Conventional warfare: uses *conventional* weapons and battlefield tactics
 - Conventional weapons → effects can be limited in space and time to those who are legitimate targets of war
 - Only combatants are legitimate targets
 - Lost or won when one side *acknowledges defeat*
- 2) Unconventional warfare: willingness to ignore conventions of war
 - Unconventional weapons → effects not limited (e.g. WMDs)
 - Flouting restrictions on legitimate targets
 - Refusing to accept traditional outcomes of battles
- 3) Asymmetric wars: one side has big advantage over the other
 - Tactics of the weak include 1) guerrilla warfare, 2) nonviolence, 3) terrorism

Unconventional warfare



*Remains of Japanese civilians after firebombing of Tokyo
(March 9-10, 1945)*



*Iranian soldier during Iran-Iraq War
(1980-1988)*

III. Just War Tradition

- Justification for entering into war (*jus ad bellum*)
 - 1) Correct intentions (e.g. not expansionist)
 - 2) Probability of success
 - likely the objectives will be met
 - 3) Last resort
 - exhausted all other options

- Just acts in war (*jus in bello*)
 - 1) Discrimination
 - target only combatants
 - 2) Proportionality
 - use equal force to combat the wrong
 - 3) Minimum force