

ISIS, UKRAINE and Pakistan

Iraq Shattered, bitter fighting in Ukraine, Pakistan Launches Counter-Terrorist Offensive

As of 2014-06-17

By John Antal



FlashPoints is a monthly update on the most critical national security issues facing the United States. Author and military expert John Antal will provide you with insights and a quick synopsis of the top three flash points in the world at the time of each report. FlashPoints will list the greatest danger to the USA, and then list risks of medium and serious danger. Keep abreast of the latest impending international crisis by reviewing FlashPoints



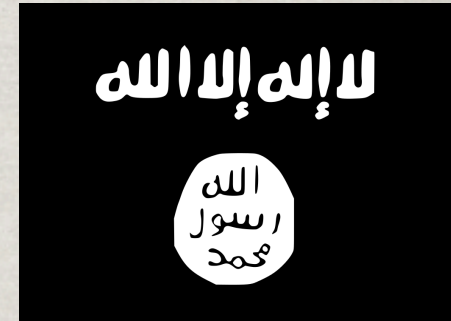
1. Iraq

2. Ukraine

3. Pakistan

IRAQ CRISIS

1. The Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (alternatively translated as Islamic State in Iraq and Syria or, sometimes, "greater Syria" — using the Arabic word "Sham"), abbreviated as ISIL or ISIS, is a battle-tested, well-financed Jihadist Wahhabi army with advanced military leadership led by Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.



ISIS Flag

2. ISIS has captured large areas of Iraqi territory in a lightning drive toward Baghdad.
3. "They have incredible command and control and they have a sophisticated reporting mechanism from the field that can relay tactics and directives up and down the line. They are well-financed, and they have big sources of manpower, not just the foreign fighters, but also prisoner escapees." Jessica Lewis Institute for the Study of War
4. "They are highly skilled in urban guerrilla warfare while the new Iraqi Army simply lacks tactical competence." Aymenn Jawad Al-Tamimi, who monitors jihadist activity for the Middle East Forum

IRAQ CRISIS

Timeline 2014

JAN 3 - ISIS took the city of Fallujah, Iraq, and proclaimed an Islamic State of Iraq. ISIS controls large areas of the Iraqi Anbar desert bordering Syria.

JAN 8 - fierce house to house fighting in the cities of Aleppo and Raqqa Syria between ISIS and Syrian Rebels. Raqqa operates as ISIS's capital.

MAR - ISIS moves forces from Syria into Iraq

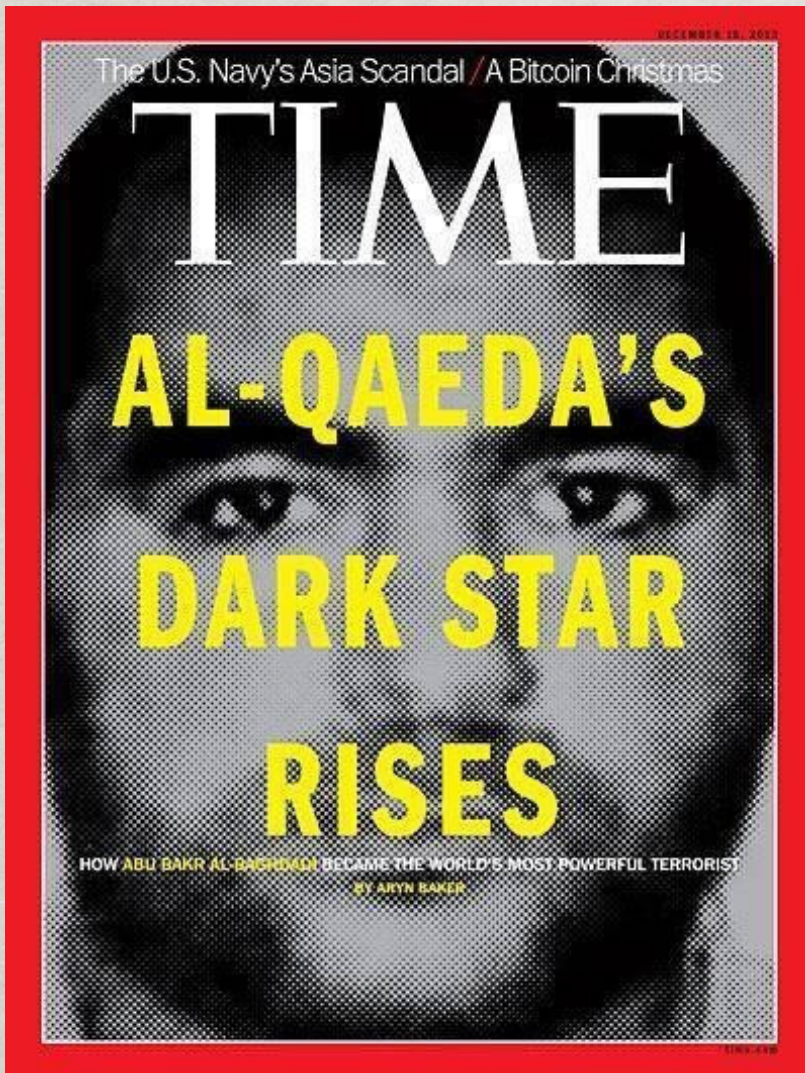
JUN 5 - Isis attacks the city of Samarra in Iraq

JUN 9 - ISIS takes the strategic city of Mosul, Iraq's 2d most populous city.

JUN 11 - ISIS takes Tikrit Iraq

JUN 12 - Iraqi Army abandons the oil city Kirkuk and the Iraqi Kurds take control of Kirkuk. Iraq's map is redrawn.

IRAQ CRISIS



The Leader of ISIS
TIME Magazine Cover:
al-Qaeda's Dark Star Rises
Dec. 16, 2013
Terrorism - al-Qaeda –
Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi

As he was released from a US prison
in Iraq in 2009, al-Baghdadi told his
guards:

“See you in New York.”

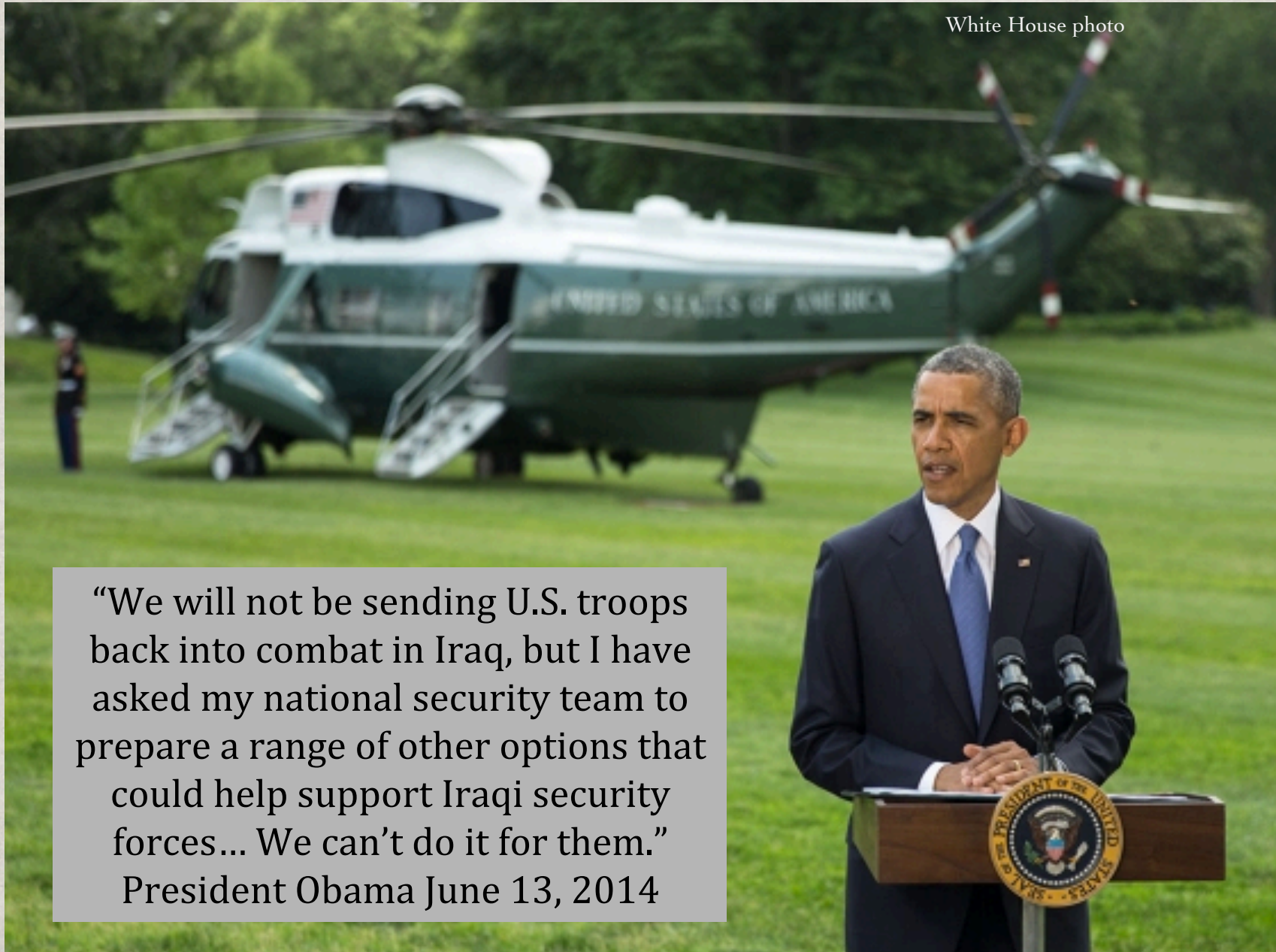
IRAQ CRISIS

Iran Intervenes in Iraq

1. The commander of Iran's Quds Force, Maj. Gen. Qasem Soleimani, went to Baghdad on June 9, 2014 to consult with the Iraqi government.
2. On June 13, Iran sent about 500 Revolutionary Guard troops to fight alongside Iraqi government security forces in Diyala province, a senior Iraqi security official in Baghdad told CNN.

IRAQ Crisis

White House photo



“We will not be sending U.S. troops back into combat in Iraq, but I have asked my national security team to prepare a range of other options that could help support Iraqi security forces... We can’t do it for them.”
President Obama June 13, 2014

UKRAINE CRISIS

1. Ukraine elected a new president, Petro Poroshenko, May 25, 2014.
2. Fighting in eastern Ukraine has intensified with casualties on both the Ukrainian and pro-Russian rebel sides.
3. On June 12, Russian forces infiltrated three T-64 tanks and rocket launchers into pro-rebel controlled territory in Ukraine and handed these over to pro-rebel forces
4. On June 14, pro-Rebel forces shot down a Ukrainian transport aircraft with surface to air missiles killing 49 Ukrainian soldiers.
5. On June 15, a Ukrainian mob threw stones and paint at the Russian embassy in Kyiv, Ukraine. The Voice of Russia called this attack a provocation for war.
6. On June 16, negotiations between Russia and Ukraine over the sale of gas failed and Russia cut off gas shipments to Ukraine.



**Obama meets with Poroshenko,
June 5th 2014**

PAKISTAN CRISIS

1. On 8 June, 10 heavily armed al Qaeda linked Taliban terrorists attacked the cargo terminal of Pakistan's international airport in Karachi, killing 26 people before the Pakistani Army killed all ten terrorists.
2. On 10 June, another terrorist attack near the airport occurred.
3. The Taliban terrorists were members of the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) that is based in the tribal areas of Waziristan, Pakistan.
4. On 15 June, the Pakistani military intensified air strikes in North Waziristan, and bombed eight foreign militant hideouts. At least 105 insurgents were reported killed,
5. On 16 June, the Pakistani Army launched an all-out ground and air offensive against the Taliban tribal areas in Waziristan.



Waziristan Tribal Areas

Airport Attack 8 June, 2014

Analysis

- 1. IRAQ:** The US fears an al Qaeda-ISIS takeover of Iraq, but is not willing to commit decisive military force to change the outcome. If the US gets involved militarily, it will most likely be too little, too late.
- 2. UKRAINE:** The Russians are maneuvering to destabilize Ukraine. Russia is making deliberate moves to control Ukraine and limit US and EU influence. The US and EU will most likely not invest the money or power to deter Russia from having its way in Ukraine.
- 3. PAKISTAN:** The Pakistani Army has launched a determined attack into the Taliban controlled tribal areas, but this has been attempted before and failed. Expect a bloody, long and difficult struggle.

Analysis continued:

Commitment... it is all about who is more committed to success.

Anything we do in Iraq or Ukraine, or what Pakistan does in Waziristan, will only be successful if the actors are fully committed for the long haul. Air strikes are not decisive and show no commitment.

Who was more committed to success in the American Revolution: Great Britain or the Americans? Washington beat the British because he and his Continental Army were more committed to the war, and willing to fight for as long as it took to win, than were the British.

We have had forces in Germany, Japan and Korea since 1945. After WWII, the US was fully committed to ensuring the peace. We left in Vietnam and lost. We will leave in Iraq and Afghanistan. How can we expect a different outcome than what happened in Vietnam?

We are not committed to Iraq or the Ukraine, and Pakistan is not committed to stay in Waziristan. The prospects of success, therefore, are problematical.

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Ralph Peters, Fox News Strategic Analyst and author of
Cain at Gettysburg

If you want to raise your leadership awareness, read:

7 Leadership Lessons of the American Revolution: The Founding Fathers, Liberty, and the Struggle for Independence

Available on Amazon.com

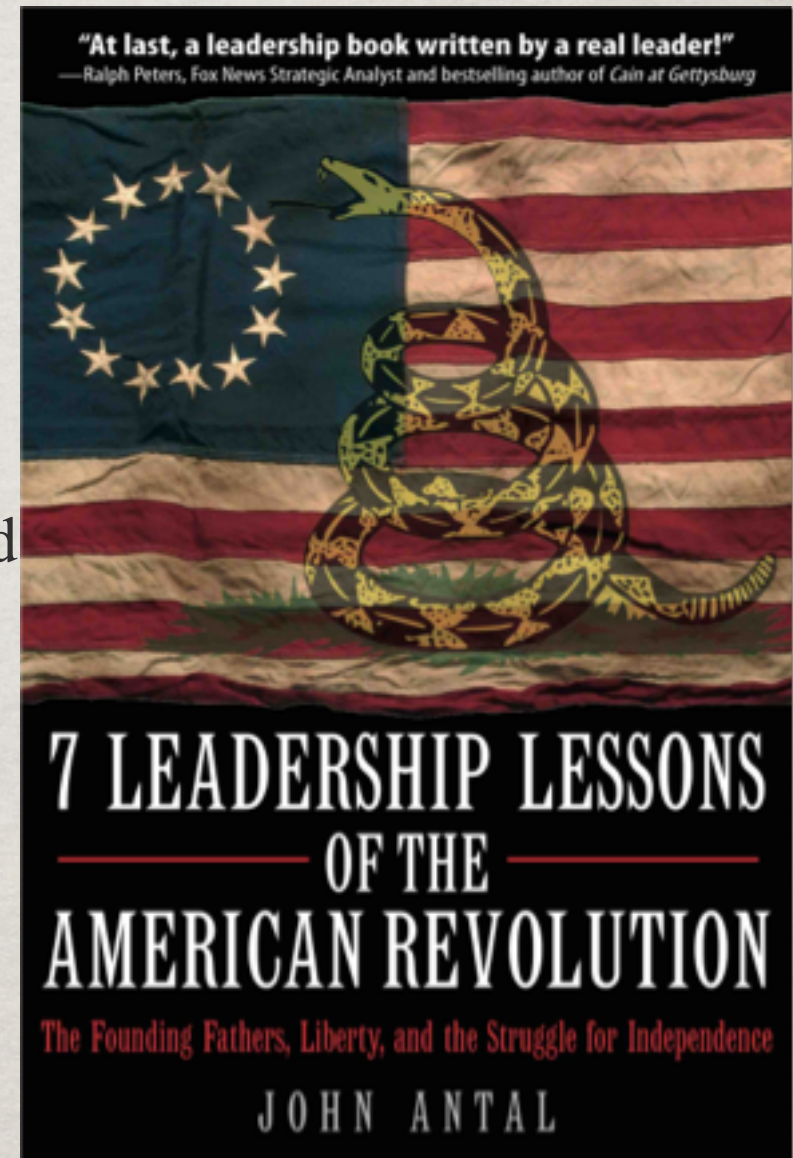
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Some more Reviews of 7 Leadership Lessons of the American Revolution

“If you want to learn about leadership, read this book. If you wish to learn about the leadership that forged the birth of the American Republic, read this book. If you want to be inspired, read this book.

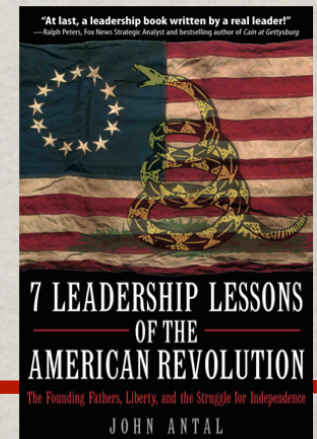
John Antal has captured seven timeless stories that will raise your leadership awareness and make you a better leader in peace or war, at home, at work or in your community.” Steven Pressfield, bestselling author of Gates of Fire and The Warrior Ethos

"John Antal's timely book, 7 Leadership Lessons of the American Revolution is succinctly written and easily understood. On the surface, it demonstrates how those who risked all to create this republic used specific leadership principles to overcome tremendous challenges in that endeavor. These same techniques are just as valid in this century as in theirs. Along the way, Antal paints these revolutionaries as living, breathing human beings with high-risk tasks to accomplish. But Antal's study actually goes much farther – because behind his straightforward storytelling lies something much more important: an examination of what principles that leadership came from, and what principles it should serve. You'll come away with the feeling that the founders of this country weren't "historical figures" but living, breathing human beings with huge problems to solve, for which they used methods available to any one of us who cares to learn."

Bradley Thompson, television writer and producer and the co-writer for the hit TV series' Battlestar Galactica and the second season of Falling Skies.

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