

# Understanding the Middle East





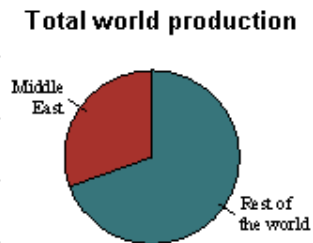
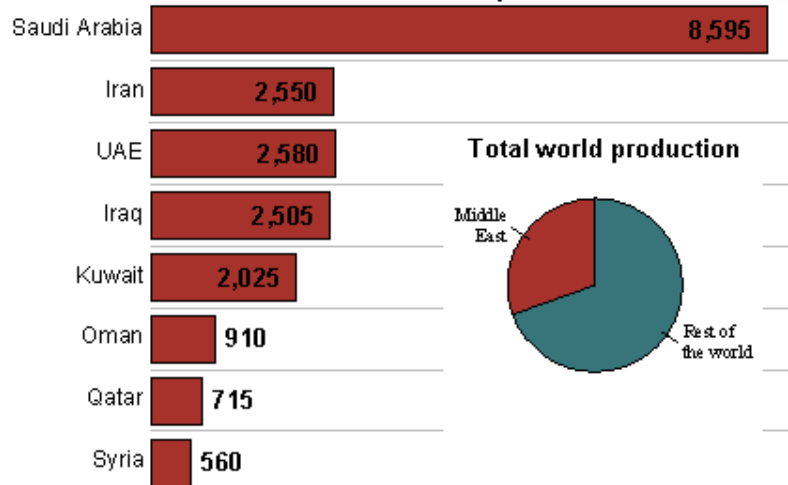


# Three Words:

## 1. Oil [Price]

### Middle East Oil Production

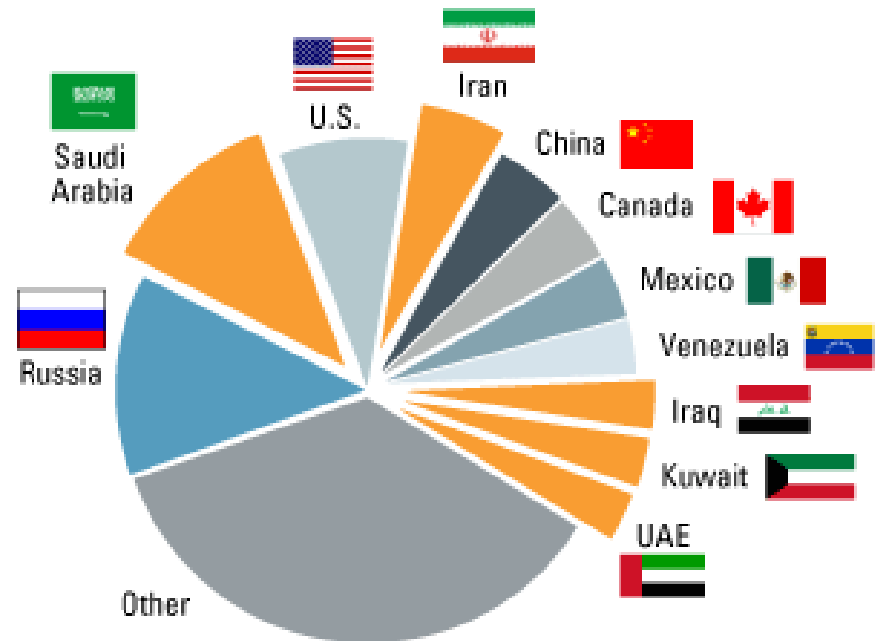
Production, 1000s of Barrels/day



Source BP (1999 figures)

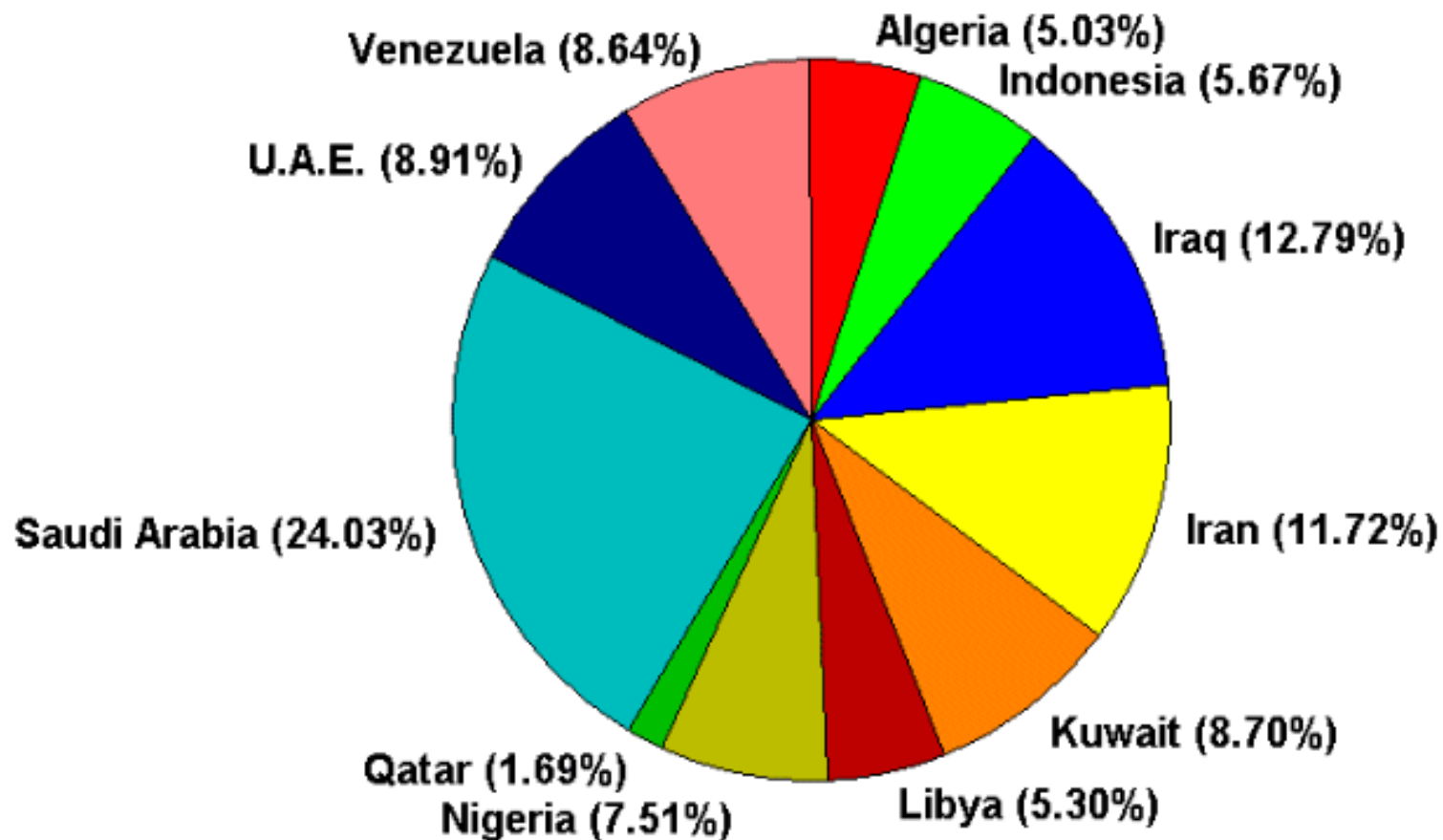
### Much of Global Oil Production Comes from the Middle East

Oil production as a % of world total as of 2009

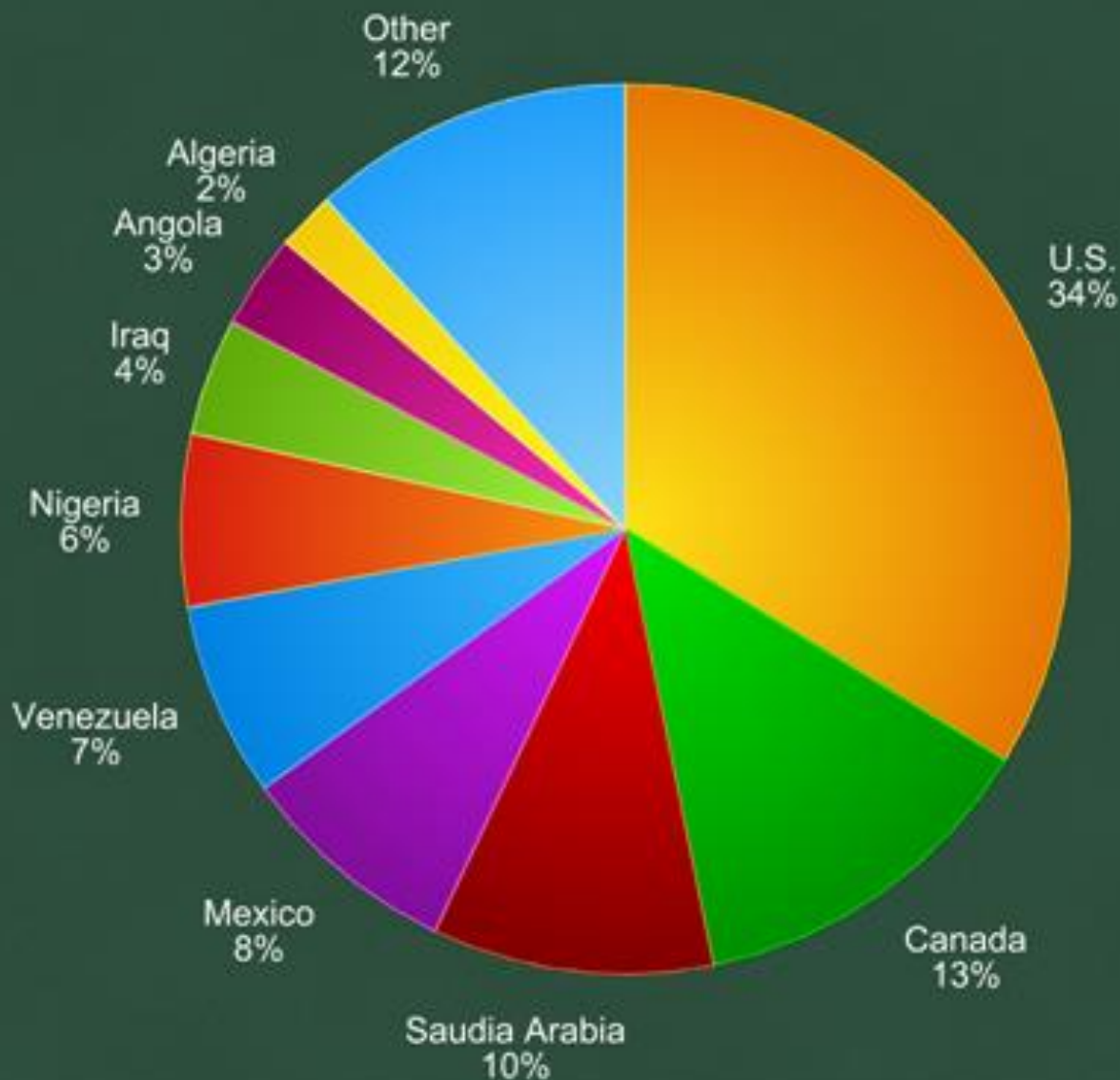


Source: BP (Statistical Review of World Energy, 2010), Barclays Capital

## Members Share of OPEC Production January 1990



**Sources of oil consumed in the United States**  
(Energy Information Administration, 2008)





# Three Words:

## 2. Waterways



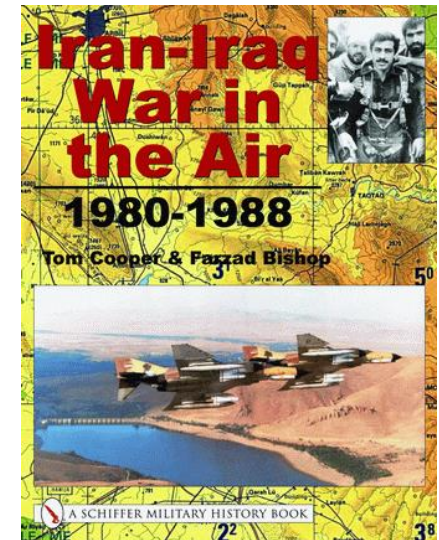
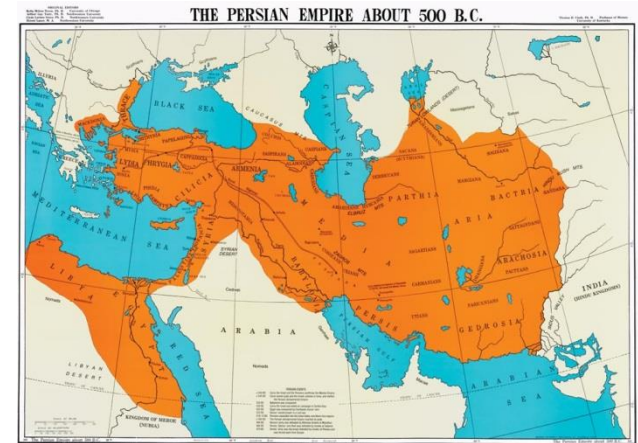
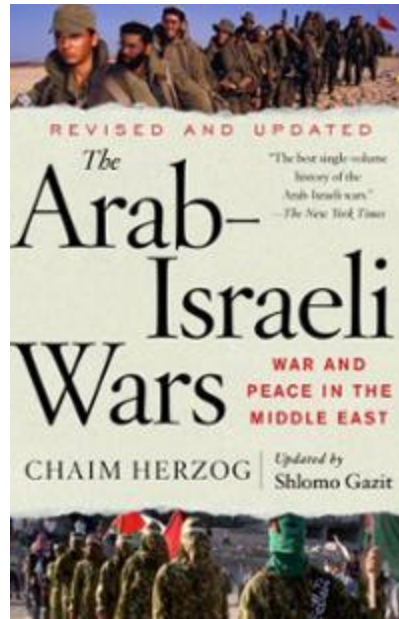
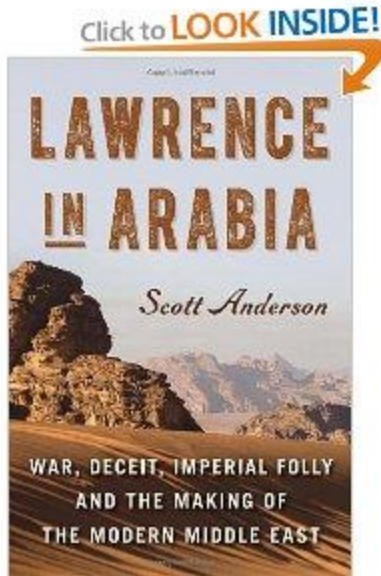
# Three Words:

## 3. Holly Places (3.4 B)





# Wars - Wars- Wars



# 1. Authoritarian



Egypt



Iraq



KSA



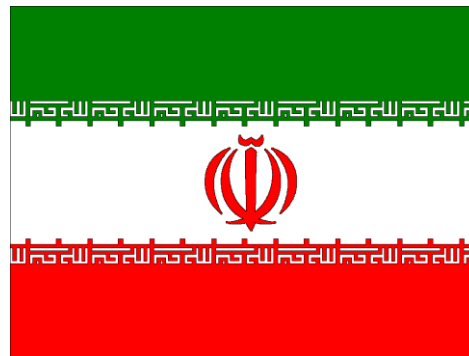
Syria



Jordan



Yemen



Iran



UEA

# 5 More...

- **Sectorial Societies, Tribal Rivalries**
- **Islamic – Shia – Sunni**
- **Failed States - Rent States - Wealth – Corruption- Mobility- Religion**
- **Minority Rule**
- **Playground for Jihad (spiritually and financially)**



Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant



Hezbollah



Islamic Jihad



Popular Front



Abdullah Azzam Brigades



Boko Haram



Al Qassam

al-Qaeda



al-Nusra Front



al-Shabaab



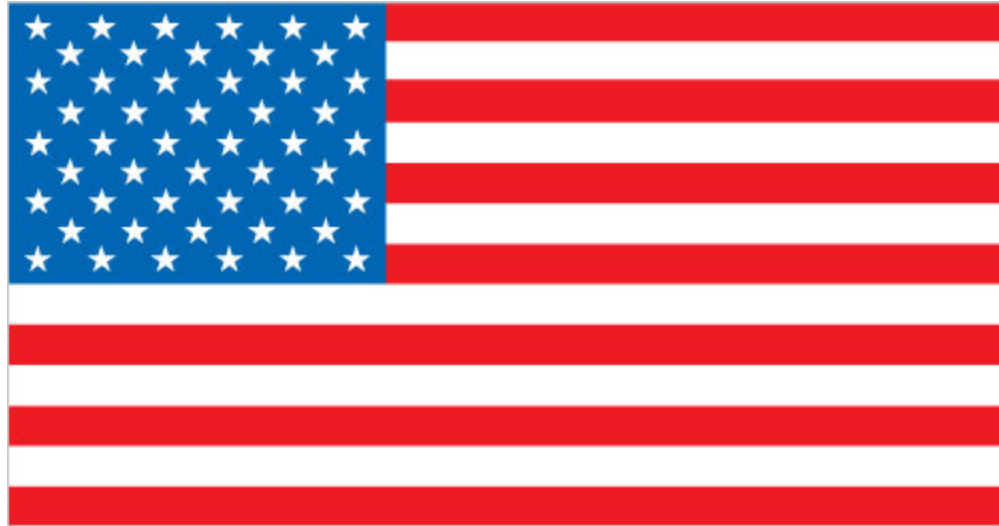
al-Aqsa Martyrs'



Hamas



# Who Cares?



**Oil Price Control  
Waterway Access      =      HEGEMONY  
Friendly Regimes**

# Who Cares?



**Assets**  
**Markets** = **Final Table**  
**Influence**

# Who Cares?



**Shia**  
**World Player**  
**Anti Israel** = **All In**

# The Arab “Spring”

- **Discontent of masses**
- **Monarchies: Law, Money, Military**
- **People: Reforms, Security – Non-Violent Protests**
- **Dictatorships: Military, secret service. Fear, Terror, executions, massacres (Black September, Hama)**
- **People: Regime Change. Armed Resistance, civil war, insurgency, flight.**
- **Army: Regime survival, economic benefits, corruption**





## Deadly blasts near Iran's embassy in Lebanon linked to Syrian war, sectarian divisions



**View Photo Gallery** — Double bombing kills at least 23, including diplomat, near Iranian Embassy in Beirut: Twin explosions are reported near facility in residential neighborhood. At least one diplomat is reported killed, 147 are wounded, in act that is escalation of sectarian violence spilling over from civil war in Syria.

By Loveday Morris and Ahmed Ramadan, Updated: Tuesday, November 19, 4:10 PM

[E-mail the writer](#)

## Overall conflict (2011–present) [edit]

 <b>Syrian government and allies</b>	 <b>Opposition government, and allies</b>	 <b>Kurdish self-administration and allies</b>	 <b>IS government and allies</b>
<p><b> Syrian government forces</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Syrian Armed Forces</li> <li> National Defense Force <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Jaysh al-Sha'bi</li> <li> Suqur al-Sahara</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Allied armed groups:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Liwa Abu al-Fadhal al-Abbas<sup>[1]</sup></li> <li> Badr Organization<sup>[2]</sup></li> <li> Haidar al-Karar Brigade<sup>[2]</sup></li> <li> Promised Day Brigades<sup>[3]</sup></li> <li> PFLP–GC<sup>[4]</sup></li> <li> Syrian Social Nationalist Party<sup>[5]</sup></li> <li> Jaysh al-Muwahhideen<sup>[5]</sup></li> <li> Palestine Liberation Army<sup>[6]</sup></li> <li> Syrian Resistance<sup>[7]</sup></li> <li> Kata'ib Hezbollah<sup>[8]</sup></li> <li> Ba'ath Brigades<sup>[9]</sup></li> </ul>	<p><b> Syrian National Coalition Armed Forces</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Free Syrian Army <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Syria Revolutionaries Front</li> <li> Hazzm Movement</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Allied armed groups</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Islamic Front</li> <li> Al-Nusra Front <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Khorasan Group<sup>[43]</sup></li> </ul> </li> <li> Army of Mujahedeen<sup>[44]</sup></li> <li> Ajnad al-Sham Islamic Union<sup>[45]</sup></li> <li> Ansar al-Deen Front<sup>[46]</sup></li> <li> Ghuraba al-Sham<sup>[47]</sup></li> <li> Jund al-Sham (Lebanese group)</li> <li> Abdullah Azzam Brigade<sup>[48]</sup></li> <li>Fatah al-Islam<sup>[48][49][50]</sup></li> <li> Ansar al-Islam</li> <li> Muhajirin wa-Ansar Alliance<sup>[51]</sup></li> <li> Turkistan Islamic Party<sup>[52]</sup></li> <li> Muslim Brotherhood of Syria<sup>[53]</sup></li> </ul>	<p><b>Kurdish Self-Administration</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> People's Protection Units (YPG)</li> <li>Asayish<sup>[80]</sup></li> <li> Jabhat al-Akrad</li> <li> Kurdistan Workers' Party<sup>[81]</sup></li> <li>Shammar tribe militias<sup>[82]</sup></li> <li>Sharabiyya tribe militias</li> <li>Zubayd tribe militias<sup>[83]</sup></li> <li>Kurdish Union Party (Yekiti)</li> </ul> <p><b> Syriac Union Party</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Syriac Military Council (MFS)<sup>[84]</sup></li> <li> Sutoro<sup>[85]</sup></li> </ul> <p><b>Armament support:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Kurdistan Regional Government<sup>[86]</sup> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Kurdistan Democratic Party<sup>[87]</sup></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b> The Islamic State</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Jaish al-Muhajireen wal-Ansar</li> <li> Green Battalion</li> </ul> <p><i>See: Syrian opposition–The Islamic State Conflict</i></p>



-  Liwa Al Quds
-  Arab Democratic Party<sup>[11]</sup>
-  Houthis<sup>[12]</sup>
-  Popular Committees (2012)
-  RPLP-F<sup>[13]</sup>
-  Mavros Krinos<sup>[14][15]</sup>
-  Arab Nationalist Guard<sup>[16]</sup>
-  Liwa Dhu al-Fiqar<sup>[17][18]</sup>
-  Slavonic Corps<sup>[19]</sup> (2013)
-  Faylak Wa'ad al-Sadiq<sup>[20]</sup>
-  al-Berri clan<sup>[21][22]</sup>
-  Tayy tribe militias<sup>[23]</sup>
-  al-Jihesh tribe militias<sup>[24]</sup>

 **Hezbollah**<sup>[25]</sup>

 **Iran**<sup>[26][27][28]</sup>

-  Quds Force<sup>[29]</sup>
-  Basij<sup>[30][31][32]</sup>

**Armament support:**

-  Russia<sup>[33][34]</sup>
-  North Korea<sup>[35][36]</sup>
-  Iran<sup>[37]</sup>

-  Authenticity and Development Front<sup>[54][55]</sup>
-  Free Syrian Union<sup>[56]</sup>
-  Junud al-Sham<sup>[57]</sup>
-  Jaysh al-Sunnah wal-Jama'ah
-  Deir-ez Zor Sharia Court<sup>[58]</sup>
-  Brigade of al-Qaka
-  Revolutionary Council
-  Tawafiq<sup>[59]</sup>
-  Fajr al-Islam<sup>[60]</sup>
-  Kurdish Katibat al-Taliban
-  Liwa al-Tawhid wal-Jihad<sup>[61]</sup>
-  Liwa al-Asifa<sup>[62]</sup>
-  Ansar al-Khalifa Brigade<sup>[63]</sup>
-  People's Liberation Faction<sup>[64]</sup>
-  Harakat Nour al-Din al-Zenki
-  Sham Legion<sup>[65]</sup>
-  Shields of the Revolution Council<sup>[66]</sup>
-  Alwiya al-Furqan<sup>[67]</sup>
-  Group of the One and Only<sup>[68]</sup>
-  Northern Sun Battalion<sup>[69]</sup>

**Armament support:**















# Summary

- **People lost fear – gained power and are empowered**
- **Islamisation spreads**
- **Demographic de-stabilization**
- **Watch out for Jordan**
- **Risk of regional (global) war**
- **Iran isolation**
- **Early indicator: regime reforms**
- **Best predictor: Army refuses to shoot civilians**
- **Best lesson: nothing is what it seems**