



ORG Newsletter February 2016

Paul Rogers' Monthly Briefing



The World as Seen from Raqqa

This briefing asks the question, what does the wider world look like when seen from within the Islamic State group? It examines some of the contemporary and historic perceptions of the West's relations with the Islamic and Arab worlds, and how these may have influenced IS strategy, particularly its 2015 shift from territorial expansion to attacks on and within Western states. [Read more.](#)

ORG News & Publications



Intervention in Libya: Why Here? Why Now? What Next?

In this ORG briefing, Richard Reeve analyses some of the drivers and likely consequences of a confrontation with Islamic State in Libya, looking at the motives of IS in Libya as well as those of its various adversaries there. It argues that, while it would not be difficult to displace IS from central Libya, such attacks risk rallying many more Libyans to IS, shifting militants to other parts of Libya or the Sahel-Sahara, and would probably exacerbate the existing conflict between armed factions for control of the Libyan state and its resources. As in Syria, it does not answer the question of who would hold and govern any territory regained from IS. [Read more.](#)



Gabrielle Rifkind Discusses Boots on the Ground to Defeat ISIS on BBC's The Big Questions

On February 14, 2016 Gabrielle Rifkind of the Oxford Research Group appeared on the BBC's The Big Questions hosted by Nick Campbell discussing whether defeating Islamic State would mean the deployment of ground troops. Featured alongside Prof Michael Clarke of the Royal United Services Institute and former British Army chief Lord Dannatt, Gabrielle argued the case against putting boots on the ground in Syria. "You may win the war with ground troops," she argued, "but you won't win the peace." Watch the programme [here](#).



New Sustainable Security Articles

The Sustainable Security blog has published a series of new articles focusing on a variety of topics during the past month. Read all the articles [here](#).



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Remote Control Project News & Publications



Remote Control project and War on Drugs article series

This series of articles explores how remote warfare is being used in the war on drugs. To date, much of the debate on remote warfare has focused on its use in the War on Terror. However, the use of drones, private military and security companies, special forces and mass surveillance are all emerging trends found in the US's other long standing war, the War on Drugs. The articles in this series explore these methods in more depth, looking at what impact and long-term consequences they may have on the theatre in which they're being used. Read the articles in the series [here](#).

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