

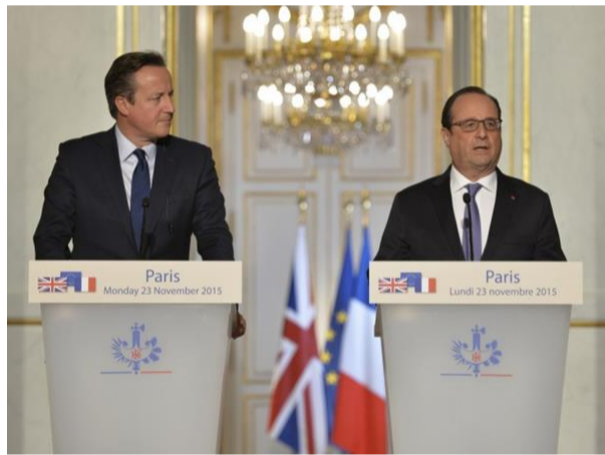


## Recent ORG Briefings on Syria & Islamic State



*As Prime Minister David Cameron lobbies for support in Parliament for the extension of British air strikes from Iraq to Syria, the Oxford Research Group's Paul Rogers publishes a new briefing on how this fits with Islamic State's strategy for wider war with the west. This special newsletter includes links to all Prof Rogers' 2015 briefings on the war in Syria and the evolving Islamic State phenomenon.*

### Paul Rogers' latest on Syria



#### **Islamic State's Plan, and the West's Trap**

In making his case for extending British military operations to Syria in the House of Commons on 26 November, Prime Minister David Cameron three times stated his determination to "learn the lessons" of the last Iraq war. In the face of the urge to respond decisively to the Paris attacks, there is little evidence that sensible conclusions have been reached or that the psychology and strategy of the Islamic State (IS) have been understood. This briefing is an initial assessment of the issues raised by the vote that is likely to be held in the Commons on British involvement in Syria.

### **ORG on Intervention in Syria**



#### **The War in Syria: Complex and More Dangerous**

November's briefing argued that the increasing number of actors in the war in Syria meant that accidental escalation was increasingly likely; shortly afterwards Turkey shot down a Russian attack aircraft, further complicating international military and diplomatic involvement in Syria.



#### **Russia's Intervention in Syria: Implications for Western Engagement**

Paul Roger's October briefing re-assessed the conflict in Syria with the added complexity of Russian and Turkish intervention, as well as the implications of the potential escalation of British involvement.



#### **The UK's Creeping Intervention in Syria**

Compared to the current high media attention paid to UK involvement in Syria, in September it was a much foggier issue. This briefing summarised Britain's involvement in the war against Islamic State and questioned whether extending air strikes to Syria would be effective.



#### **Responding to the Tunisia Attack**

July's briefing assessed the progress of the war against the Islamic State in the aftermath of the group's terror attacks in Sousse, Tunisia, which killed 30 Britons and analysed a potential expansion of Britain's role in the air war, which Defence Secretary Michael Fallon stated was being actively considered.

### **ORG on Islamic State**

#### **Islamic State and Revolts from the Margins**



Is Islamic State just one example of a wider phenomenon of 'revolts from the margins'? This was the question asked in August, which caught the eye of RTE Radio 1's 'Morning Ireland' show, who asked ORG's Prof. Paul Roger's to [discuss the subject on air](#).



### **Is Islamic State Now Evolving into a Transnational Movement?**

The third part in Paul Rogers' series on Islamic State discussed the movement's resilience as well as its potential to reach overseas, beyond the territory it held in Iraq and Syria.



### **Is Islamic State Here to Stay?**

The second part in Paul Rogers' series on Islamic State, this briefing looked at three reinforcing factors that underlie the persistent appeal of Islamic State: the Wahhabi tradition; the relevance of marginalisation; and the promotion of the narrative that Islam is under attack from the West.



### **Is Islamic State in Retreat?**

The first part in Paul Rogers' series on Islamic State examined claims that Islamic State was on the retreat, highlighting the issue of increased tensions in Western Europe, and specifically France, in the wake of the Charlie Hebdo attacks in Paris.

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