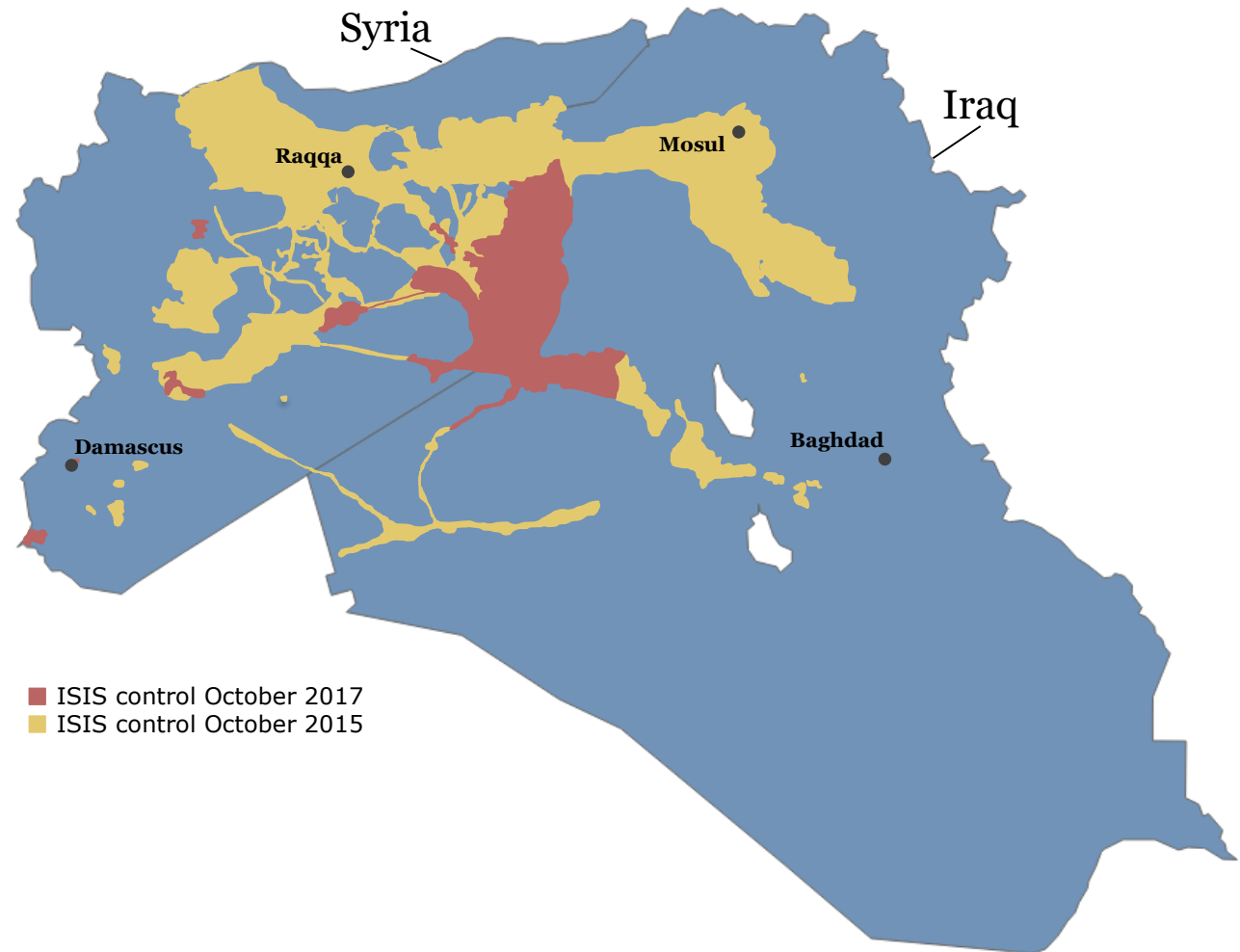


Self-proclaimed ISIS capital, Raqqa, falls to US-backed forces

- On October 17, the American-backed Syrian Democratic Forces announced they had taken control of Raqqa, the Islamic State's self-proclaimed capital
- US Central Command varied slightly in their comments, saying the SDF controlled 90% of the city
- It is estimated that 6,000 to 10,000 ISIS militants remain in Iraq and Syria



Sources: Sarah Almukhtar, Troy Griggs, K.K. Rebecca Lai, Tim Wallace, "The Islamic State: From Insurgency to Rogue State and Back," New York Times, October 2017; Anne Barnard, Hwaida Saad, "Raqqa, ISIS 'Capital' Is Captured, U.S. - backed Forces Say," New York Times, October 17, 2017.