

BATTLE FOR KOBANI

War, Chaos in Southwest Asia Threaten Russia and Beyond

by Jeffrey Steinberg

Oct. 12—The battle continues to rage for the Kurdish town of Kobani, Syria, on the Turkish border, between Kurdish militia, backed by U.S. airstrikes, and the Islamic State (IS). The outcome of this battle will determine who controls key points along the border connecting Turkey, Syria, and Iraq. As has been widely reported, the Turkish government is backing IS to block the creation of an autonomous Kurdish region in Syria, bordering the Kurdish region in Iraq, which has already established quasi-independence.

If Kobani does fall to IS, it is expected that there will be a massacre of its Kurdish inhabitants, which will have repercussions throughout the region and beyond. Already, there are street battles taking place in Germany between Kurds and Turkish Salafists. And the war between IS and a loose coalition of regional forces, led by the United States, has spread into Lebanon, where jihadists are conducting attacks in the mountainous region along the Syrian border, battling both the Lebanese Army and Hezbollah.

Both IS and the Nusra Front, the “official” al-Qaeda grouping in Syria, are operating from the Golan Heights, bordering on Israel. Jordan is another highly vulnerable front in the region.

There is increasing concern as well that the battles in the Persian Gulf and the Eastern Mediterranean will soon spread far beyond the region into Russia and even China. This week, Bloomberg News ran an interview with an IS commander who goes by the name



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U.S. airstrikes against IS forces in Kobani will not be sufficient to stop the holocaust in Southwest Asia. Only a U.S. alliance with the BRICS and rational forces in the region can stop the British Empire's New Dark Age.

Omar al-Shishani (Omar the Chechen). One of the most hardened of the IS fighters, al-Shishani led the assault on Fallujah, Iraq in January 2014 that began the Islamic State offensive. He is one of a reported 1,000 Chechens who are now fighting in Iraq and Syria under the black flag of IS. In some cases, the Chechens have been involved in the jihadist battle worldwide since the time of the first Chechen War in the mid-1990s. Al-Shishani is from the Pankisi Gorge region of Georgia, near the Russian border, where large numbers of fighters have been recruited to IS and other al-Qaeda affiliated organizations. They all vow to ultimately return to Russia to establish an Islamic State of the Caucasus.

While U.S. and Russian intelligence specialists are skeptical that the Chechens have the ability to carve out an independent region in the Caucasus, it is feared that they do have the ability to sow chaos in Russia, as they have done in the past.

‘Jihadists without Borders’

There are similar concerns that other elements within the IS/al-Qaeda apparatus of “jihadists without

borders” from Western China will escalate the terrorism and chaos in Xinjiang Province where the largest concentration of Uighurs reside.

All of these developments fit precisely into the picture first presented by Lyndon LaRouche in his now famous “Storm over Asia” video presentation of 1999 (see *Feature*). At that time, LaRouche warned of the growing British-led destabilization of key parts of Eurasia, highlighting the role of Turkey in promoting separatist violence, and identifying Russia and China as the prime targets of the British-led assault. LaRouche warned that the greatest threat of global war, including thermonuclear war of extinction, would arise from the coming “storm over Asia.”

Former Russian Ambassador Vinjiamin Popov gave an interview to RIA Novosti on Oct. 9, in which he called for a global campaign to destroy the Islamic State. He warned that the current strategy being pursued by President Obama was guaranteed to lose, and that the only viable approach involves U.S. cooperation with Russia and China, the other BRICS countries, along with Iran and Syria, in a genuine global effort to defeat the jihadist scourge.

Obama’s Coalition Partners Fund the Islamic State

Oct. 12—President Barack Obama has formed a “Coalition of the Willing,” ostensibly, against the Islamic State, at the same time that part of that coalition is financing the IS terrorists.

Moreover, Turkey, a NATO member, is openly abetting IS to block creation of an autonomous Kurdish region in Syria. Turkey has long been battling its own Kurdish minority.

On Oct. 9, Egyptian Foreign Affairs Minister Sameh Shouky met with Gen. John Allen, the American special envoy to the coalition. Shouky stated that Egypt’s approach to fighting terrorism in the region is to dry up the finances of “terrorist organizations,” according to *Al Ahram*.

That financing is coming from Saudi Arabia, Qatar, other Gulf States, and Turkey. Lord Dannatt, a former Chief of the General Staff of the British Armed

Forces, told the *Daily Telegraph* on Oct. 5: “It is completely unacceptable that some individuals in Qatar, Saudi Arabia and elsewhere see advantage in channeling large sums of money to the so-called Islamic State.” Dannatt demanded that the U.K. government stop allowing these countries to buy lucrative assets in Britain unless they stop funding terrorism.

Former British Defence Secretary Liam Fox recently wrote in the *Telegraph* that “money has been flowing from rich individuals in the Gulf states, if not their governments,” to IS. The *Telegraph* also cited a recent speech by the former head of Britain’s MI6 intelligence service, Sir Richard Dearlove, who cited Qatar and Saudi Arabia as culpable.

The French magazine *Marianne* revealed that certain Turkish banks based in London are funneling funds from private Saudi networks to IS. These banks accept transfers at their London branches from the jihadist financiers in the Gulf States, and then transfer them to front companies in Turkey, which then transfer them to IS. *Marianne* notes that the Turkish authorities have turned a blind eye to the activity.