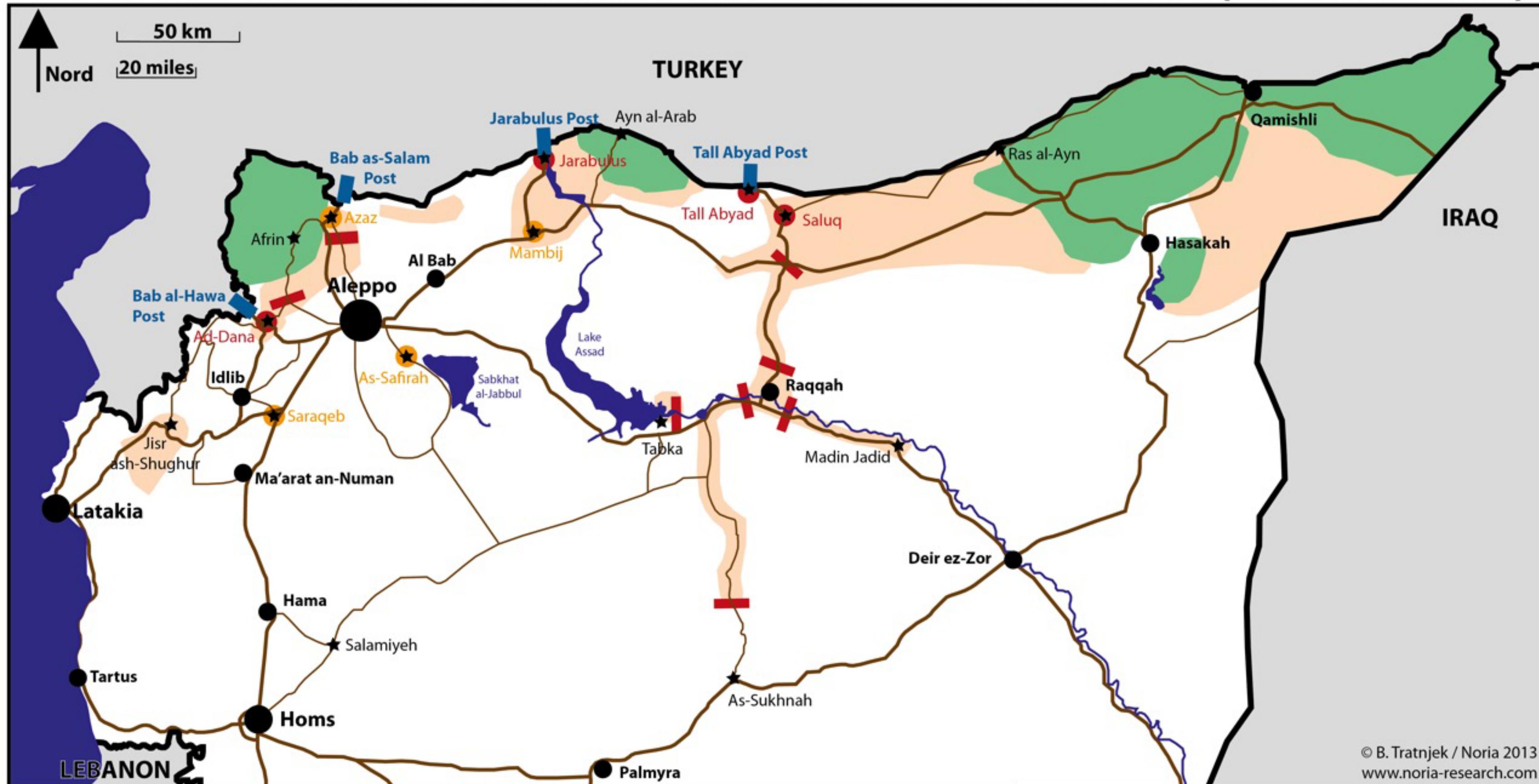


THE STRATEGY OF ISIL: CONTROLLING THE NORTHERN BORDER (OCTOBER 2013)



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BASE MAPS : Road map Syria, 1/700000, Freytag & Berndt, Vienna, 2013 ; Google Earth.
DATA : Empirical investigations : A. Baczo, G. Dorronsoro, A. Quesnay, summer 2013.

THE SYRIAN TERRITORY

- Coast
- Euphrates
- Main road
- Secondary road

↑
density

- Cities:**
- > 2 millions inhab.
 - 1-2 millions inhab.
 - < 1 million inhab.
 - ★ Small city of strategic importance

THE STRATEGIC POSITIONING OF ISIL

- Presence of ISIL fighters
- Partial control over the city
- Exclusive control over the city
- Point of control in the countryside

THE COMPETITION OVER THE BORDER

- International Border
- Border posts controlled by the Syrian insurgency
- PKK-controlled area