**<h5 id="Text2">Brief</h5><br/><br/>**

Arguably, warfare convention naturalizes a narrative of urban and regional-scaled tactics, politics, and effects. Closed borders, bombing sorties, military advances, shifting boundaries of territorial control, demographic displacement, targeting of populations and vital infrastructure; all inform the customary terminology of conflict, its reporting, visualization, analysis, and public assimilation. Precision and attention dilute, however, in the presence of more localized mechanics, at a scale as consequential as any other in a conflict with so many conventional and unconventional actors. Perhaps no theater in the Syrian Civil War can validate the significance of intra-urban warfare as much as Aleppo, Syria’s largest city, and the host of a battle with equal or larger heft. Short of objection, many have described Aleppo’s importance in the conflict as ultimately decisive, stating, “He who controls Aleppo shall control Syria and define the outcome of the war”.

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Despite a formal campaign by regime forces against rebel-held areas of the city, the actual military reciprocity of the battle of Aleppo is being dictated not by the regional strategies of the Syrian government, but by the small-scale tactical capacity of the rebel forces. Counter to Bashir Al-Assad’s forces, the Free Syrian Army, the Islamic Front, and ISIS –among others, have increasingly advanced their territorial control and political influence on the city, in spite of qualitative military disadvantages and decreasing financial support. And the spatial strategies to achieve this, while largely overlooked and understudied, have been decisive in the developments of the conflict.

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The Islamic Front, the strongest rebel-force in the opposition with marked influence in what remains of city’s civic life, has become, voluntarily or not, an active actor in the shaping of Aleppo’s urban fabric. Through micro-urban interventions –selective demolition, preservation, adaptation, and ad-hoc patching and construction, the rebel group is taking part in the redrafting of a city misleadingly reported only through tropes of callous erasure. And while erasure remains a leading operation from either side, the calculated transformation of the urban fabric through dispersed but coherent strategies to sustain (and increase) territorial control, social order, and above all, military competence, alludes to a process of rebuilding that precedes any foreseeable conclusion and, to a large extent, will help define it.

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While public ignorance of these intra-urban realities owes much to the nightmarish logistics and outright impossibility of establishing a safe journalistic network (amidst a theater with no formal Western presence), a glimpse of these conditions has been disclosed by raw footage from Syrian nationals and combatants, as well as a few successful reporting ventures that have captured the conflict through the viewport of different actors. In September 2014, Vice News published a video report of a two-week stay in the war-torn city. Hosted by members of the Islamic Front, the journalists documented not only the predictable extent of Aleppo’s physical destruction, but all that eludes satellite imagery and drone footage. Virtually depopulated, the city’s built environment has been effectively hijacked by all parties and turned into what Aris Roussinos describes, with levity and accuracy on equal measure, as a playground of war.

<br/><br/> <iframe width="560" height="315" src="https://www.youtube.com/embed/8iq\_SUhGPcQ" frameborder="0" allowfullscreen></iframe> <br/><br/><br/>

**<h5 id="Text7">Snapshot Report</h5><br/><br/>**

The violent and accelerated pace of available ground footage leaves us, at best, with a dissonant portrait of the urban conditions in the Old City.

<br/><br/><video width="100%" height="100%" controls>  
 <source src="img/212.mov" type="video/mp4">  
 </video><br/><br/><br/>

(The videos in this composition need to be individually credited with links in a footnote)

However, by combining the multiple instances that lay bare the spatial tactics effected by the rebel groups, a single frame of day-to-day Aleppo can be dissected. Purposefully imprecise, this portrait of the city is far from a forensic analysis, but rather a descriptive resource meant to render a stabilized image of the combined micro-urban efforts, their relative spatial relations, and the common architectural settings in which they are performed.<br/><br/><br/>

<img src="img/121.jpg" class="img-responsive"/> <br/><a href='122.pdf'>Download Snapshot Report</a><br/><br/><br/><br/> <img src="img/GIF.gif" class="img-responsive"/> <br/><br/>

It would be helpful to explain the drawing, and the different elements in the text and not just in notations within the drawing. That way it will be more legible from the website.

Would it be possible to include a conclusion paragraph that ties the drawing back into the larger context of the war outlined

**<h5 id="Text3">Sources</h5><br/>**

If any of these sources below are used in the text above they should be credited in footnotes. Additional sources can stay in this section.

Burgess, Jane. “The Battle for Aleppo: Snipers, Tunnels and Underground Bombs”. Vocativ (16 May 2014)<br/>

Roussanis, Aris. “Ghosts of Aleppo”. Vice News (30 September 2014)<br/>

Roussanis, Aris. “A City Left in Ruins: The Battle for Aleppo”. Vice News (21 May 2014)<br/>

Spencer, Richard . "Aleppo 'is becoming Syria's Stalingrad'". The Telegraph (11 August 2012)<br/><br/>

Raw Footage<br/><br/>

"The Alsafwa Islamic Brigade Fighting in Aleppo"<br/>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WXED7xaO46s&oref=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fwatch%3Fv%3DWXED7xaO46s&has\_verified=1<br/><br/>

"Combat Footage From Aleppo 1080p HD"<br/>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mBk71y5XqPc&oref=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fwatch%3Fv%3DmBk71y5XqPc&has\_verified=1<br/><br/>

"Islamic Front/FSA terrorists blow up Carlton Hotel"<br/>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HhIUpWNzunA<br/><br/>

"Huge "Explosion Rocks Carlton Hotel in Aleppo"<br/>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LebvF\_KYa\_M