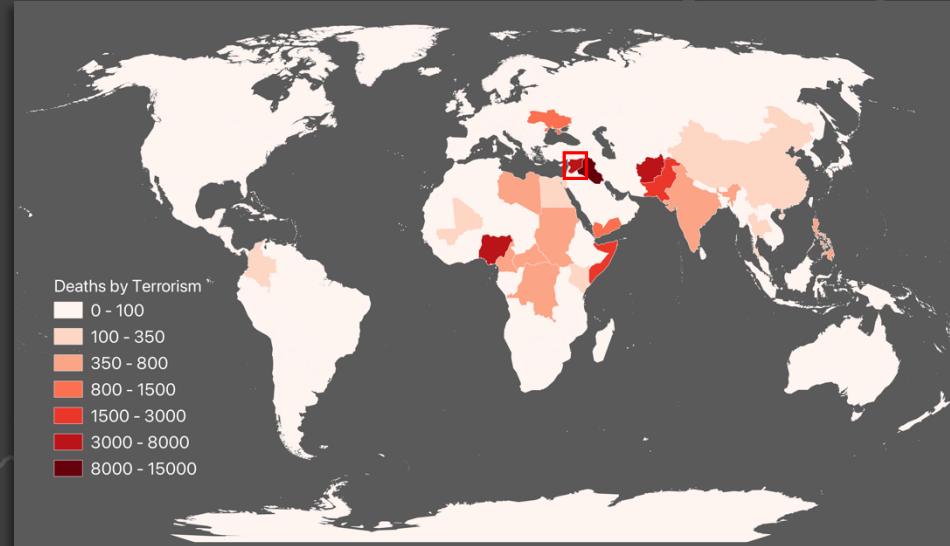
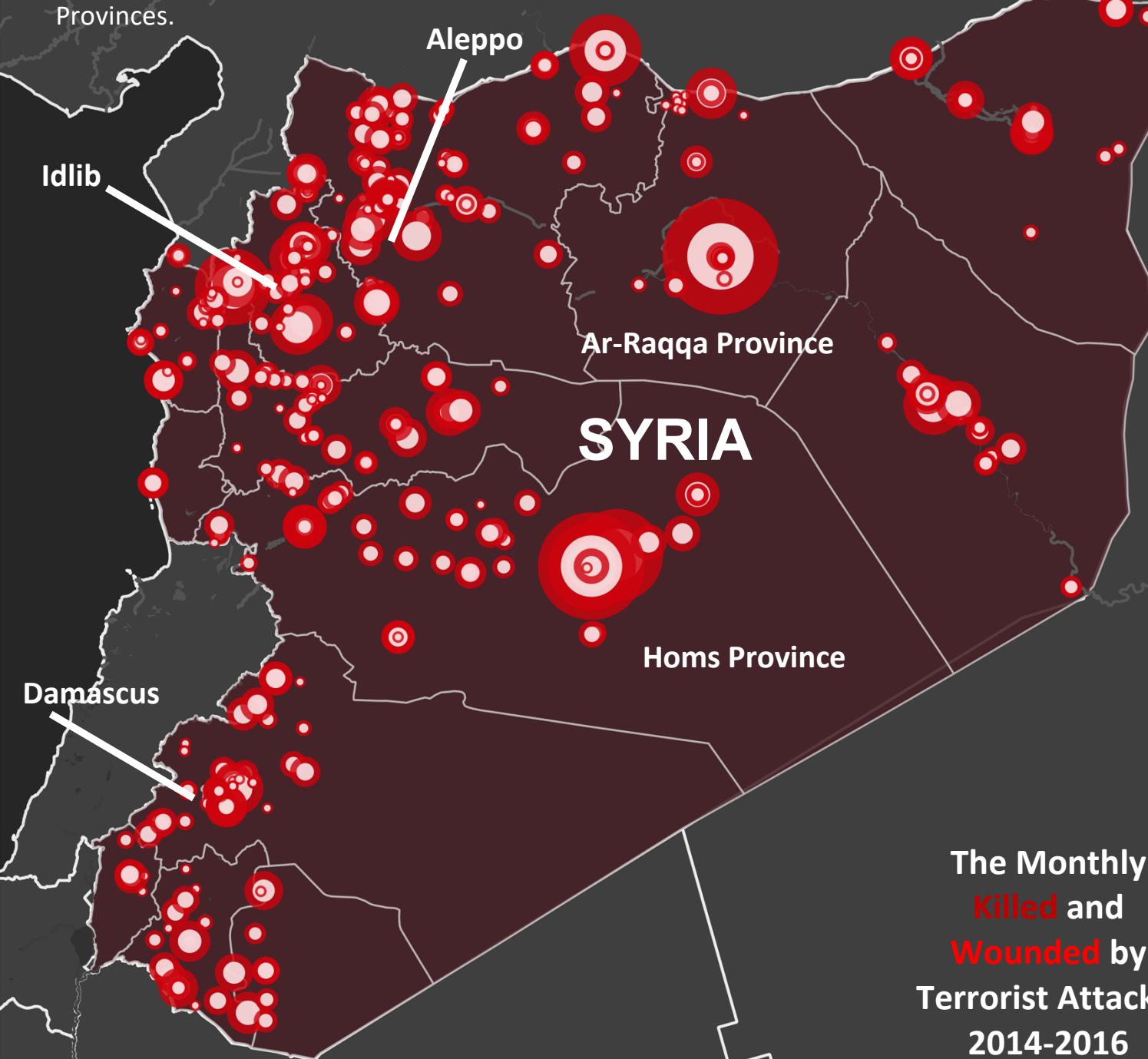


Chapter 1

Terrorist Attacks in Syria 2014-2016

The world had witnessed a surge in terrorist attacks during 2014-2016 which were concentrated in South Asia, Africa, and Middle East. One of those severest is Syria. Since 2012, Syria has been in armed conflicts which caused severe humanitarian crisis. The rise of the Islamic State (ISIS) during this time not only caused large terrorism-caused deaths but also occupied many parts of the Syrian territories. The terrorist attacks were mostly concentrated on western part, particularly in Aleppo, Idlib, and Damascus. Conversely, some most deadly attacks took place in Homs and Ar-Raqqa Provinces.

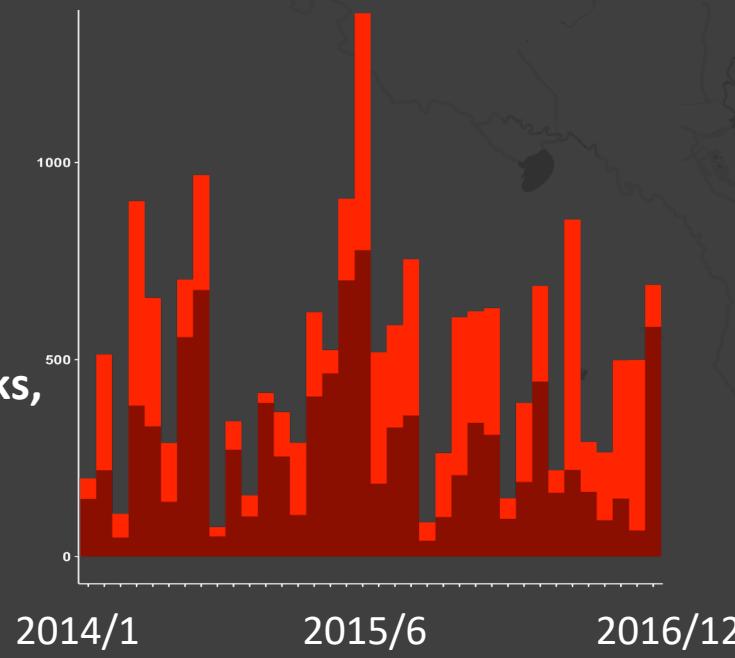


Terrorism-caused Deaths by Country, 2014

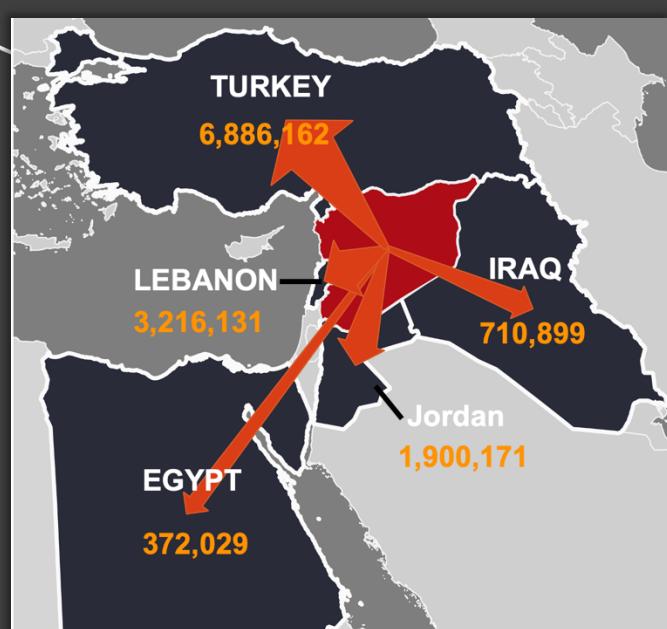
The intensities of terrorist attacks in Syria among 2014-2016 has substantial monthly fluctuations. The casualties peaked in June 2015 during which 777 people were killed by terrorism. Totally, ~10k people were killed and ~8k wounded by terrorist attacks during 2014-2016.

During 2014-2016, the humanitarian crisis caused by terrorism and other violent conflicts had made millions of Syrian people flee from their home as refugees or asylum seekers. The neighbouring countries accepted large volumes of refugees while many other moved to Europe.

The Monthly Killed and Wounded by Terrorist Attacks, 2014-2016

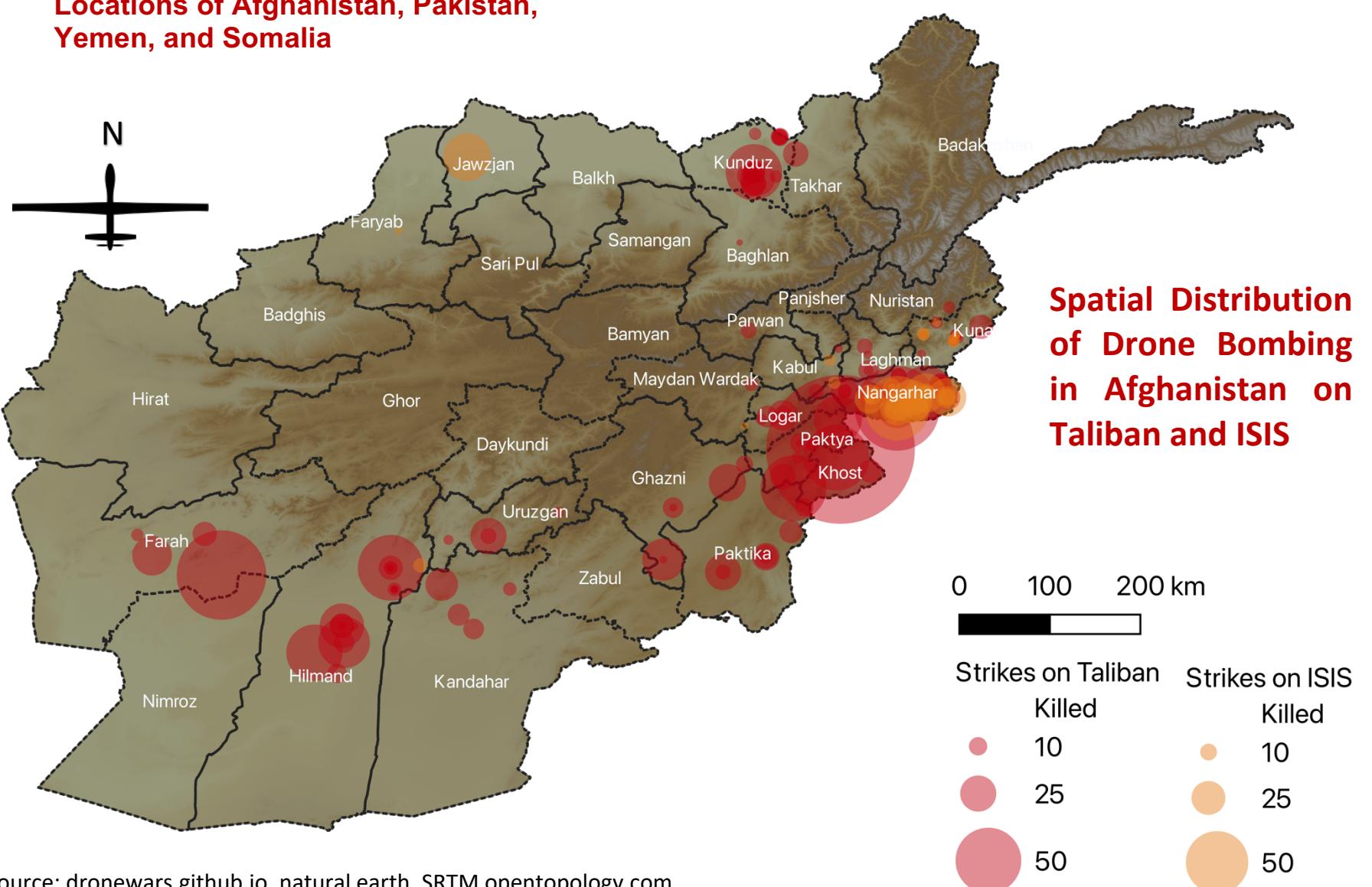


The of Syrian Refugees' Moving Toward Neighbouring Countries, 2014-2016



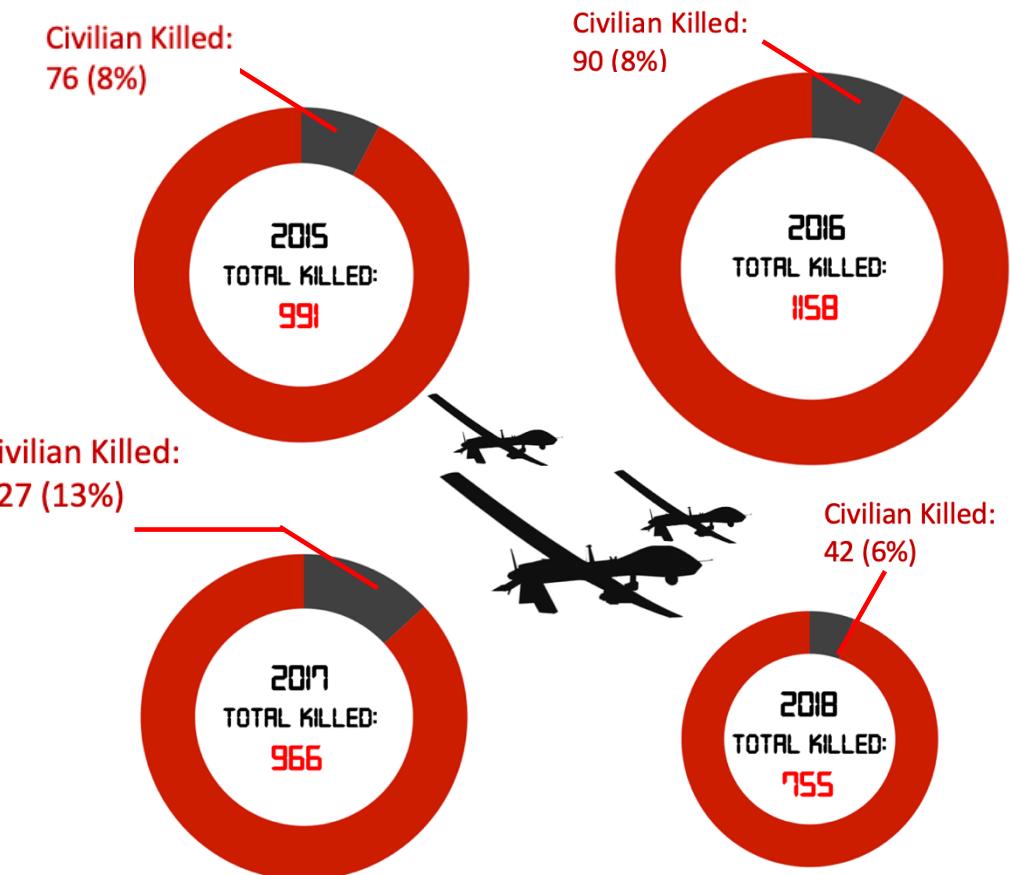


Locations of Afghanistan, Pakistan, Yemen, and Somalia



Counter Strikes on Terrorism: The US Drone Strikes in Afghanistan

- ▼ To contain terrorism, the US has launched several drone air strikes on terrorist or militant groups in Asia, Africa, and Middle East.
- ▼ Among the countries having US drone warfare operations, **Afghanistan**, **Pakistan**, **Yemen**, and **Somalia** are nations with most strikes.
- ▼ Afghanistan had highest drone strikes operations and the highest causalities in both terrorist groups and civilians

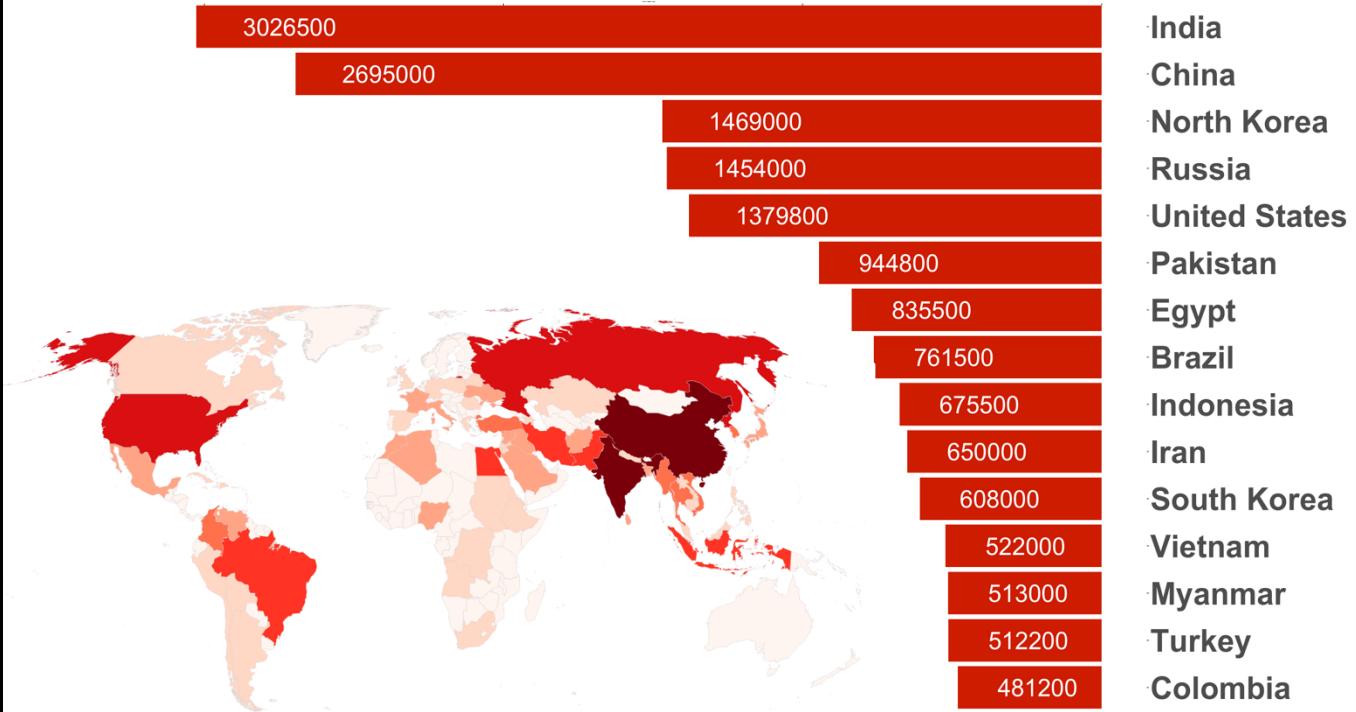


Total casualties caused by the US drone warfare were 3870 during 2015-2018 in Afghanistan. Among the killed, around 335 were estimated to be non-armed civilians, accounting for 8.7% of the total casualties. The killing of armed groups and civilians were both greatest in 2016.

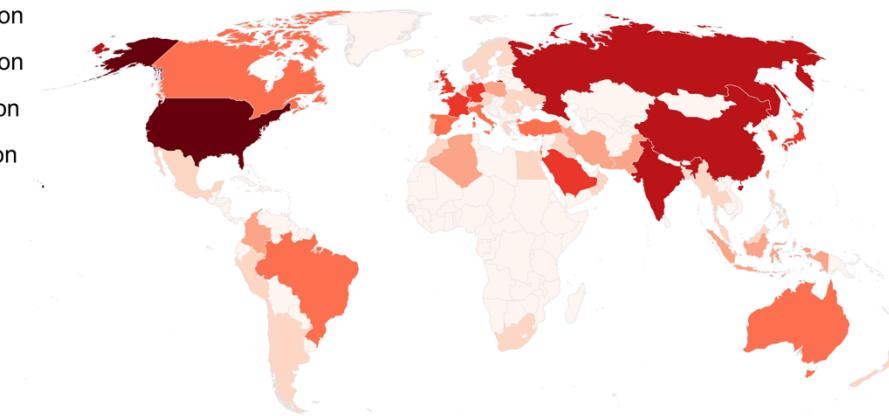
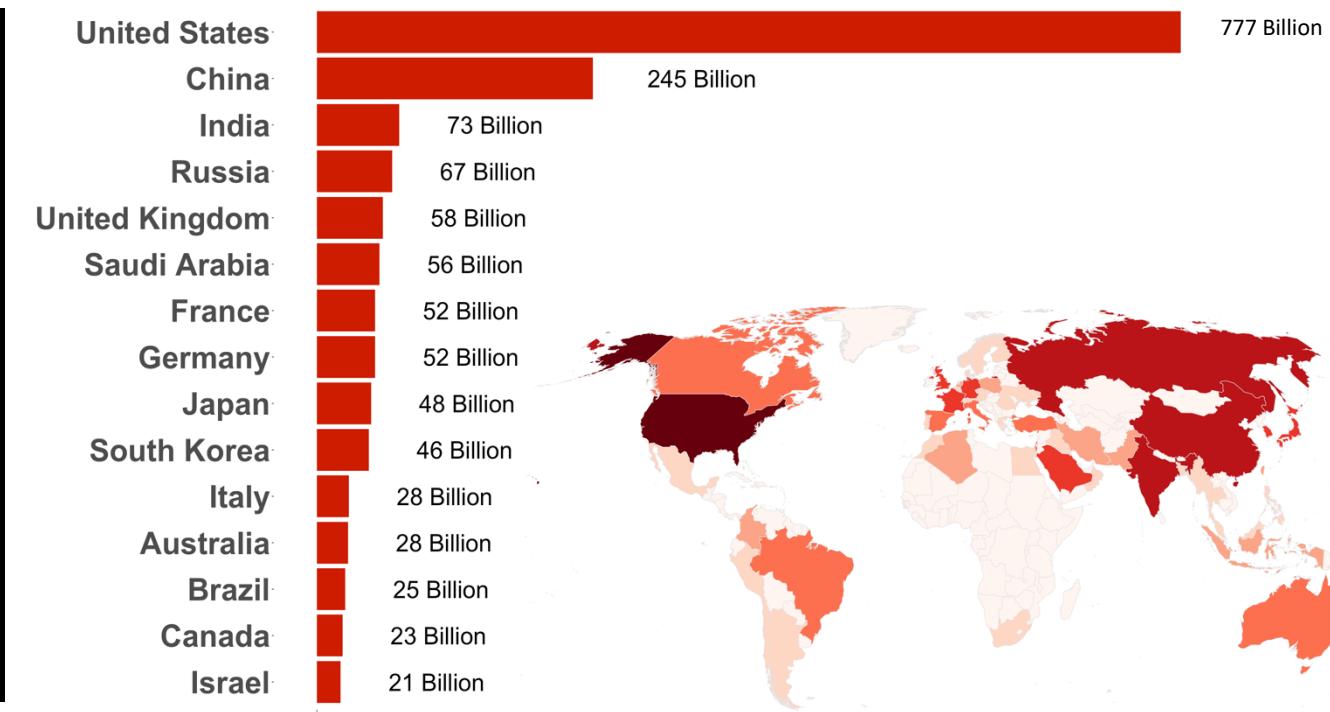
The US drone strikes were unevenly distributed and Nangarhar, Paktya, and Khost provinces that are close to Kabul had the greatest frequencies and causalities of drone air strikes. The most of areas with drone strikes are regions close to the southern border of Afghanistan with exceptions of Jawzjan and Kunduz.

The strikes on ISIS are more spatially concentrated in Nangarhar and Jawzjan While strikes on Taliban are more widespread across the country.

Top 15 Military Personnel in 2018



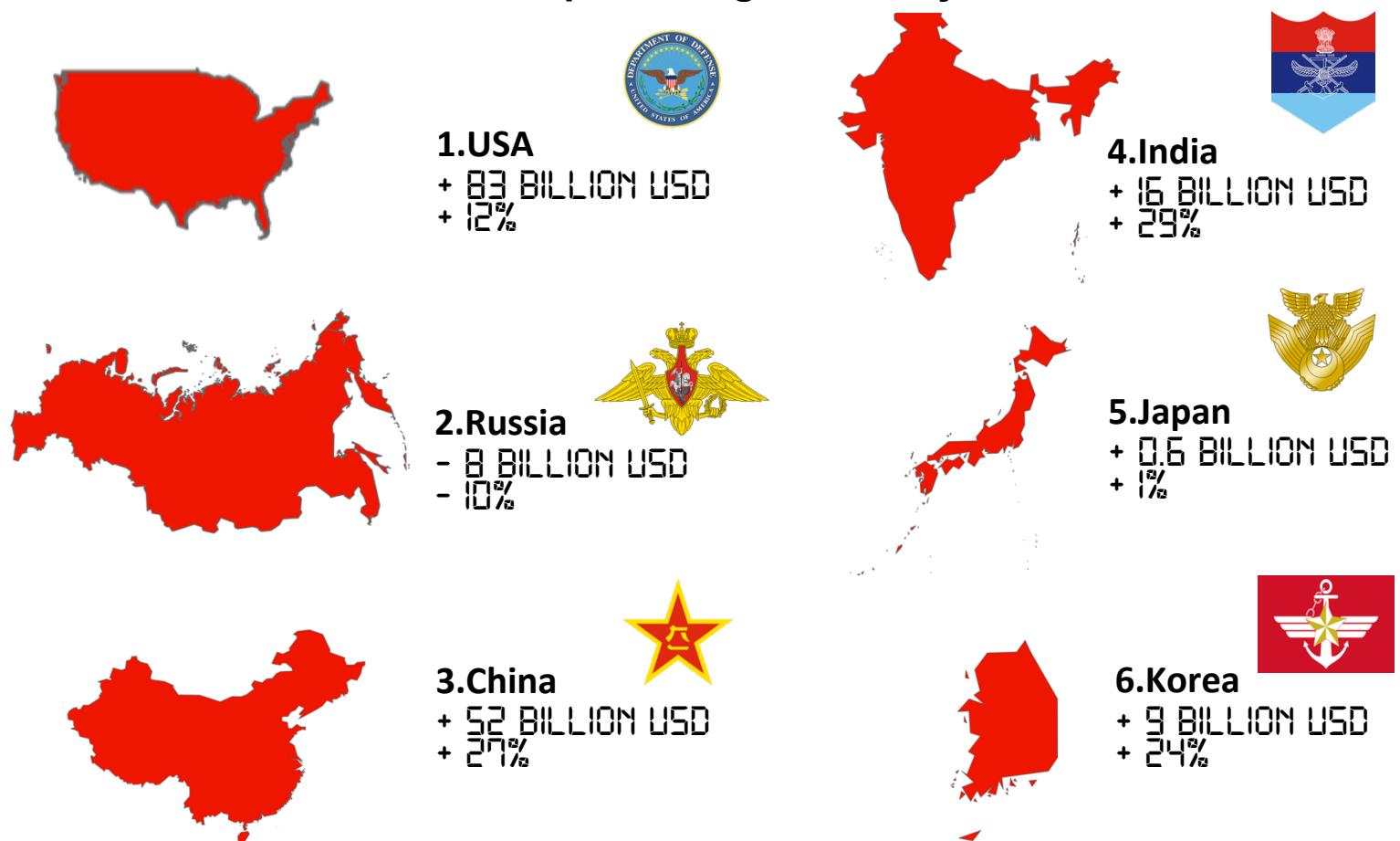
Top 15 Military Expenditure in 2020 (USD)



The military size and expenditure have substantial disparities among countries and regions. The top countries take up majority of world military personnel and spending. The US (40%) and China (13%) has the highest military budget that are several times higher than any other countries. The countries with the largest military size are mostly concentrated in Asia. Conversely, many western countries have greater military expenditures. Overall, the distributions of military power are highly imbalanced and regionally gathered. Despite the lower military budget, many Asian countries has very large military sizes.

Among the top 6 military powers, USA, China, India, and Korea has dramatic increases in military spending. The US had the highest increment with 83 billion USD. China, following the US, had a remarkable gain in 52 billion USD with considerable growing speed (27%). In contrast, Russia's military expenditure declined 10% with the absolute value of 8 billion USD. Generally, many top military powers have been expanding the military budget during the past decade, causing concerns for arms races

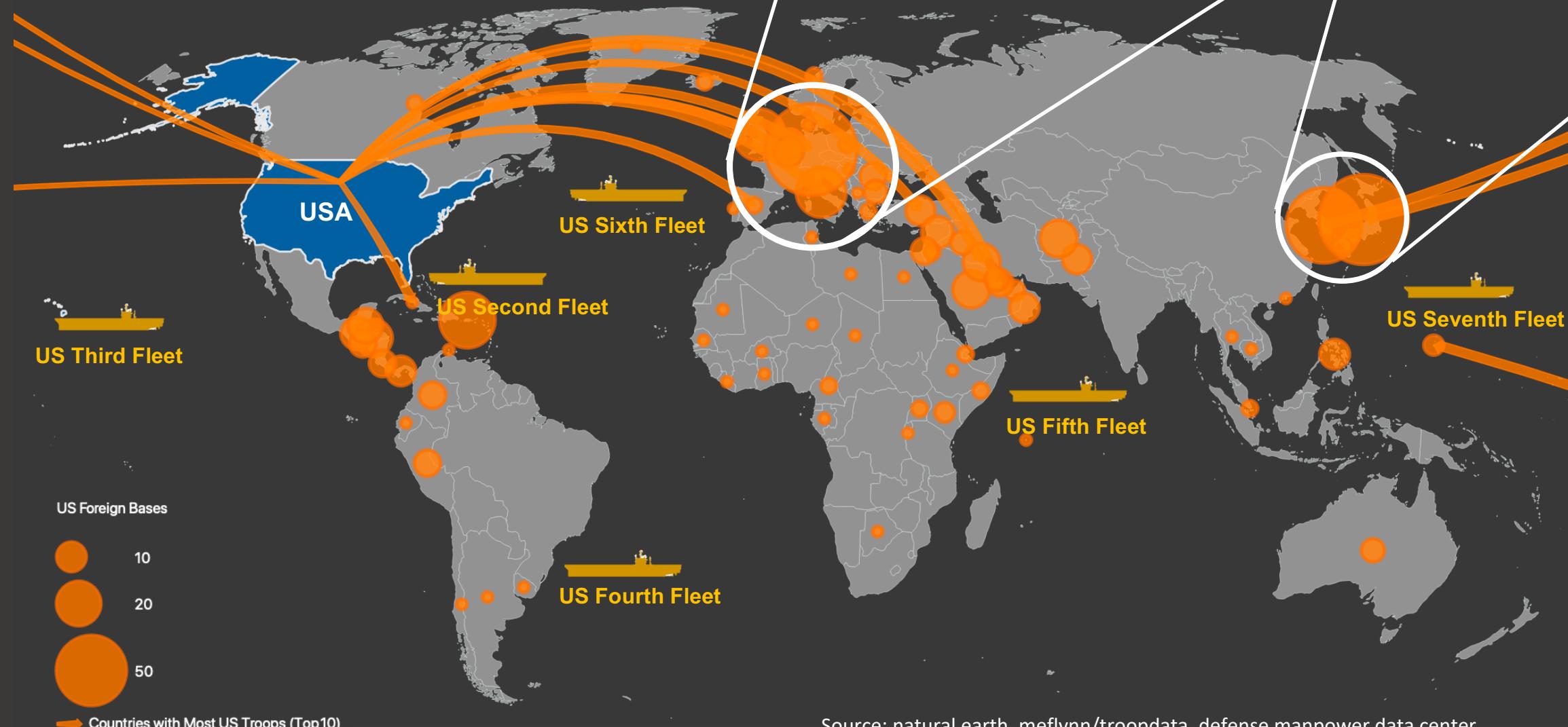
The Changes in Military Expenditure during 2010-2020 of the Top 6 Strongest Military Powers.



EAGLE AND SHIELD THE GLOBAL DEPLOYMENT OF THE US MILITARY POWER

Currently, the United States military has over 400 known military bases around the globe in over 90 countries.

In 2021, over 170,000 US military personnel were deployed aboard, accounting for 13% of its total personnel.



UNITED KINGDOM

16 US BASES
9,619 US TROOPS

GERMANY

44 US BASES
35,558 US TROOPS

JAPAN

42 US BASES
56,828 US TROOPS

SOUTH KOREA

31 US BASES
25,338 US TROOPS

Source: natural earth, mflynn/troopdata, defense manpower data center

Since WW2, the United States has started and relied on the global network of foreign military forces and bases in order to protect the security of its allies as well as its national interest¹.

Under the geographic unified combatant command across the globe, the combination of foreign bases/forces and the 6 US naval fleets ensure the US's capability of swift global intervention. The aims of the foreign deployment are: defending the US homeland; maintaining military advantages; deterring or preventing enemy or adversary's aggression; protect allies' security; and prevent the act of terrorism².

Chapter 5



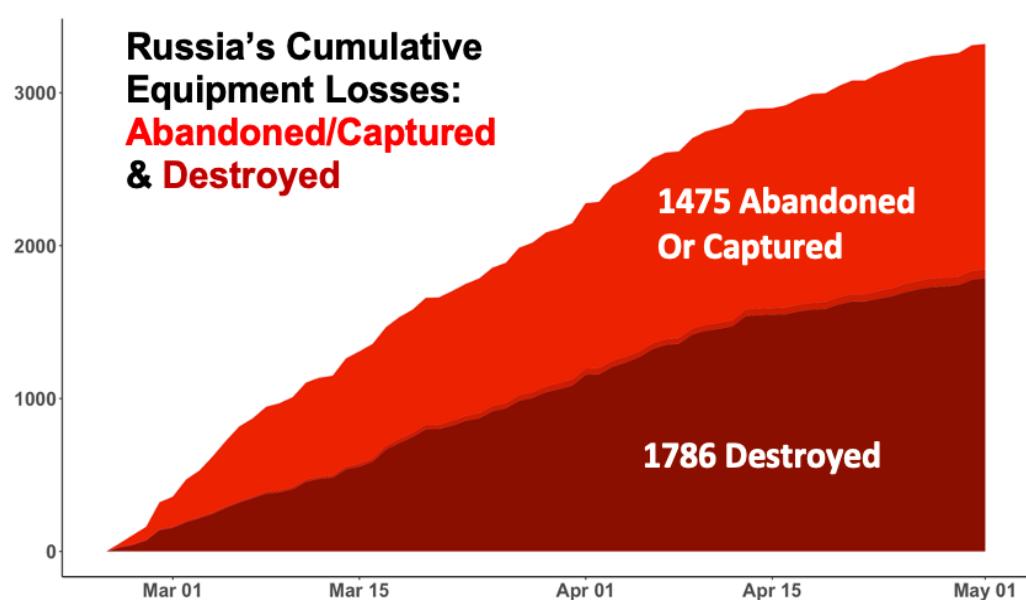
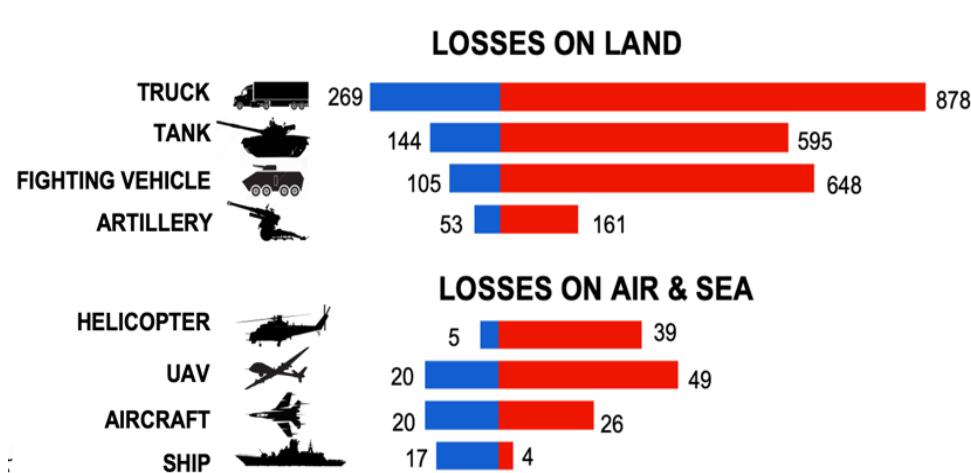
A Setback for “The Empire”?

Russian Losses and Redeployments by Apr 30, 2022

Visualisations of Battalion Tactical Groups (BTGs) indicated large Russian redeployment between Mar 31 (black) and Apr 30 (red)*. Compared to the previous offensives in Mar, the Russian invasion forces are now more focused on the Donbass region in East Ukraine¹. The BTGs previously deployed in north and northwest Ukraine have been relocated and important population centres such as Kiev and Kharkiv are relieved from the pressure from Russian ground forces. Experts believed that aims the redeployment are simplifying command controls, shortening supply chains, and concentrating combat powers as a correction for previous identified issues².

Despite the uncertainty of data collection, Russia is believed to have heavy losses in personnel and equipment. By Apr 30, more than 3000 military equipment have been destroyed, abandoned, or captured. Through the contemporary data, the Russian military has had disproportionate more equipment losses than Ukraine*. It has been estimated that more than a quarter of BTG units in Ukraine have become combat-ineffective, where elite units such as VDV suffered highest losses³.

Equipment Losses of Ukraine and Russia



Sources: @DefenceHQ, Oryx, uawardata.com, natural earth, ISW.

NB*: The Ukraine losses can be systematically underestimated; The BTGs on map only partially represent the Russian group forces.