The secret history of ISIS

* ISIS conquest started in iraq early 2014
* Originally founded by abu massab al-zarqawi, a Sunni
* Zarqawi was a thug in his youth, got out of prison, tried to join alquaeda, was rejected, moved to camp near iran iraq border in 2002 to “prove them wrong” as talks of Hussein’s overthrow were in the works
* CIA knew that they were working on chemical weapons inside this camp, and the location of said camp, but white house decided to hold off on their attack on the camp until after hussein’s overthrow. CIA was frustrated with this
  + Dick cheney instead wanted to make a link from Bin Laden to Zarqawi to Hussein to justify the coming Iraq invasion, was told no link by CIA, didn’t like the answer, wrote a speech trying to convince the UN of the link.
  + The CIA corrected this speech with the intel they’d gathered, but at the UN the speech had been altered again to reflect Cheney’s narrative
* After the start of the Iraq invasion, the US fired all 250,000 Iraqi soldiers, leaving them out of a job and frustrated
  + Zarqawi recruited these frustrated soldiers, and the insurgencies in Iraq began a few weeks later
  + After the bombing of the UN embassy in Iraq, everyone but the US pulled out of the conflict, leaving it even more black and white than before
  + Even after this, the white house continued to deny that an insurgency was brewing and that everything was under control
* After a beheading video of a US soldier, zarqawi captured the attention of the white house, bin laden offered to integrate zarqawi into al qaeda
  + Zarqawi decided to start a shia vs sunni war in order to entice sunnis to join his cause, started targeting shia
  + Bin laden was put off by the concept of killing fellow muslims and demanded that zarqawi stop
  + His response: he blows up the golden dome: the most important shia shrine
  + After this, the civil war had started in full force, and he used the internet to recruit sunni
* In 2006, the US military bombed zarqawis hideout and killed him, then ordered a surge of troops into Iraq
  + Made alliances with former al qaeda sunni tribes, started to kill zarqawis followers
  + Killed all but about 40 of them, the survivors went underground for 3 years
* After US pulled out in 2011, Al quada, led now by baghdadi, rebuilt
  + Iraq had pacified somewhat, so Al quada went into syria, which was in sectarian chaos
* The state department recommended that the US arm and train moderate Anti-Assad rebels, to influence them before al quada got to the them, but obama was reluctant
  + The rebels were decimated, a year later Obama decided to send weapons, but the rebels had already been influenced by al quada
* At this point, Baghdadi had a large enough influx of volunteer fighters to form a state, ISIS, headquartered in Raqqa, Syria
* Next, ISIS pushed into Iraq, who’s government had been antagonizing sunnis
* Until the Paris attacks on 11.13.2015, The US didn’t see ISIS as a near threat and decided not to intervene militarily
* ISIS territory is shrinking, but their influence has spread globally with the rise in terror attacks in the western world
* IR level:
  + Invasion of Iraq - Domestic
  + Destabilization of middle east following Iraq war - interstate
  + Threat of terrorism - Global
  + Rise of Isis - individual > domestic

Tanzania hero rats

* Using pavlov’s positive reinforcement, Art Veekins trains rats to sniff out landmines and tuberculosis
* IR level: individual

Mosquito Hunter

* Due to outbreak of zika in brazil, brazilian government has launched a genocidal campaign against mosquitoes
* International disease is a global issue for IR
* Brazil’s lack of proper water and sanitation - domestic
  + They have cut funding for these projects due to an economic crisis
* Peoples’ inadequate sealing and storage of water - individual

Ebola Outbreak

* Sierra Leone, Africa
* Deadliest ebola outbreak in history
* Went from domestic to international very quickly, caused a mild global panic
* In part due to poor sanitation (domestic/individual)

Children of ISIS

* Using child soldiers (no surprise here)