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## Confronting ISIS and the Future of Iraq (Video Briefing)

by [Michael Knights \(/experts/michael-knights\)](#), [Michael Eisenstadt \(/experts/michael-eisenstadt\)](#), [Jeffrey White \(/experts/jeffrey-white\)](#)

Aug 21, 2014

### ABOUT THE AUTHORS



#### [Michael Knights \(/experts/michael-knights\)](#)

Michael Knights is the Jill and Jay Bernstein Fellow of The Washington Institute, specializing in the military and security affairs of Iraq, Iran, and the Persian Gulf states. He is a co-founder of the Militia Spotlight platform, which offers in-depth analysis of developments related to the Iranian-backed militias in Iraq and Syria.



#### [Michael Eisenstadt \(/experts/michael-eisenstadt\)](#)

Michael Eisenstadt is the Kahn Fellow and director of The Washington Institute's Military and Security Studies Program.



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Jeffrey White is an adjunct defense fellow at The Washington Institute, specializing in the military and security affairs of the Levant and Iran.

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## Washington Institute experts assess the current state of military operations in Iraq and evaluate Abadi's ability to extricate his country from deadlock, defeat, and disintegration.

Political and strategic conditions in Iraq are changing rapidly with the appointment of Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi and the initiation of [\(https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/uploads/Documents/other/Eisenstadt\\_IraqVideoSeries\\_Limited\\_But\\_LongTerm.pdf\)](#) airstrikes on Islamic State in Syria (ISIS) positions. v=video

In this new video series, Washington Institute experts assess the current state of military operations in Iraq and evaluate Abadi's ability to extricate his country from deadlock, defeat, and disintegration.

Lafer Fellow **Michael Knights** assesses ISIS' strengths and weaknesses and discusses whether Abadi can win Sunni support.

Senior Fellow **Michael Eisenstadt**, director of the Institute Military & Security Studies Program, asserts that the U.S. military effort in Iraq will be limited but long-term and that it must be accompanied by a campaign to win hearts and minds. (Download text of his video remarks in PDF:

["U.S. Effort in Iraq Will Be Limited But Long-Term](#)

[\(https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/uploads/Documents/other/Eisenstadt\\_IraqVideoSeries\\_Limited\\_But\\_LongTerm.pdf\)](#) " and

["Military Defeat of ISIS is Not Enough](#)

[\(https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/uploads/Documents/other/Eisenstadt\\_IraqVideoSeries\\_Defeat\\_Not\\_Enough.pdf\)](#) ")

Defense Fellow **Jeffrey White** addresses the ISIS threat to the Middle East and the West as a terrorist state. ❖

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