

Mainstream U.S. Writers Call for Supporting Both Al Qaeda and ISIS

By [Washington's Blog](#)

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Region: [USA](#)

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At Best, An Insanely Stupid Policy

Sure, America's [closest allies support ISIS](#).

And admittedly, the U.S. has repeatedly fumbled, so that arms got into Al Qaeda and ISIS' hands. [Here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#).

And poor U.S. policies have undoubtedly [created more terrorists](#) than they've neutralized.

And it's true that the U.S. [knowingly supported Al Qaeda](#) in Libya in order to topple Gaddafi. But that was on the QT.

But now – for the first time – mainstream flacks are publicly calling for the United States of America to support ISIS and Al Qaeda ...

Initially, [Barak Mendelsohn](#) – an Associate Professor of Political Science at Haverford College, a Senior Fellow at the Foreign Policy Research Institute, and a five year veteran of the Israeli army – [argues](#) in the Council on Foreign Relations' publication *Foreign Affairs* that the U.S. should support Al Qaeda ... as a way to counter ISIS:

The instability in the Middle East following the Arab revolutions and the meteoric rise of the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS) require that Washington rethink its policy toward al Qaeda, particularly its targeting of Zawahiri.

Destabilizing al Qaeda at this time may in fact work against U.S. efforts to defeat ISIS.

Many mainstream players are suggesting that Al Nusra – the main Al Qaeda group in Syria – “re-brand”, so that it can pretend it is moderate ... and so receive direct U.S. backing. See [this](#), [this](#), [this](#), [this](#), [this](#) and [this](#).

Not to be outdone, influential New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman [asks](#) if we should arm ISIS to counter Iranian influence.

At best, this is an [insanely stupid strategy](#).

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