

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

By [Washington's Blog](#)

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Region: [USA](#)

Theme: [Terrorism](#)

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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.

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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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