# Sovereignty First • August 2017

This month:

- As projected, we posted our Round 3 Syria data this month—and we made our shared platform more substantial and easier to use.  http://www.sovereigntyfirst.com/syria **Please take a few minutes to explore it, and give us feedback anyway easy for you**. The platform is immature but useful. NB: On each page of the INCA section, we give examples of what did not work in Iraq that could be corrected going forward.

    - About this Project: A description of the benefits of the platform for the buyer.

    - Prime Actor List: The actor mapping data.

    - INCA Dimensional Analysis: Arguments for what might work, and what will surely fail, in Syria—with lessons from postwar-Iraq based on our 2015 retrospective Iraq platform.

- Next step: This month we will co-lead a 3-day case study training at Kennesaw State University with Dr. Volker Franke (founder of Trends Global) and transboundary water mediator Mary Dumas. A dozen doctoral and post-doctoral conflict resolution students will apply our shared information platform and INCA to the water crisis in Georgia.

This year:

- Our task this year is to get many more prime actors to participate in interviews, and to get individuals to start using the platform. **Please connect us to anyone we should brief on the Syria platform—including yourself.**

- Based on our work with Syria, we can now define the minimum number and range of prime actor participants we need for strong data confidence: at least 3 differing prime actors from each of these 11 types of groups: local government; military-insurgent-intelligence; civil society; business; political parties; ethnic or religious subgroups; media and intelligentsia; IGOs and INGOs; international corporations; governments of neighboring countries; governments of other countries further abroad. (See the platform.)

Since January 2015:

We now know who we are and what we offer: Our shared information platforms enable local, regional, and international organizations to negotiate better multi-party agreements. To form good agreements, all actors need certain essential information about a situation: They need a common political and social operating picture. Sovereignty First generates this common picture.

- Next steps to a contract: We are building a marketing strategy. We identified 4 types of pain that require multi-party agreements to solve, worth the cost of a platform.

    - Domestic underdevelopment or deeply factionalized domestic conflicts

    - Foreign unstable environments and gray zone conflicts

    - Regional or global environmental threats

    - Large distressed ventures with high costs of exit in emerging or frontier markets.