

Is Trump's Broader War against Syria on Hold? A Member State of NATO is "Sleeping with the Enemy": America is at War with both Syria and Turkey

By [Prof Michel Chossudovsky](#)
Global Research, April 15, 2018

Region: [Middle East & North Africa](#)
Theme: [US NATO War Agenda](#)
In-depth Report: [SYRIA](#)

First published on April, 13, 2018 (prior to US led airstrikes)

UPDATE (April 15, 2018)

The US war cabinet chose to implement a face saving punitive bombing rather than an all out war against Syria. Defense Secretary Mattis was acutely aware that a punitive bombing could lead to escalation and military confrontation with Russia.

Russia's objective was to avoid a military clash while ensuring the defense of Syria. The Russians were crystal clear. They would counterattack if Russian military assets were targeted.

Washington also knew that they could not initiate at this juncture a major military campaign against Syria largely due to divisions within the Atlantic Alliance and the fact that a NATO member State, namely Turkey had become an ally of Russia and was fighting US proxy Kurdish rebel forces (integrated by French, British and US Special Forces) in Northern Syria.

What Washington decided upon was a punitive attack while putting a major theater war against Syria "on hold".

Russia did not need to respond to this attack because none of its military assets were targetted and that was part of an understanding between Moscow and Washington.

Soviet era Russian air defense technology was used by Syria. According to Russian sources, 103 missiles were launched, 71 were destroyed by Syria's air defense.

These developments do not in any way preclude the launching of a major military campaign against Syria at some future date.

(Michel Chossudovsky, April 15, 2018)

History is often the result of mistakes. Trump's hawkish cabinet is made up a diabolical group of decision-makers including John Bolton, Mike Pompeo and "Mad Dog" Jim Mattis who are firmly committed to waging war. A massive US-NATO naval deployment is unfolding in

the Eastern Mediterranean. The British government has put its Royal Air Force bombers on standby. The USS Truman aircraft carrier is en route to the Eastern Mediterranean.

At this stage it is impossible to predict what actions might be taken. President Trump's Trigger-happy threats directed against Syria (in response to the alleged chemical weapons attack) should therefore be taken seriously.

Similarly, the implications of Moscow's stance confirming that the Russian Military will forcefully respond to US missile attacks should also be addressed.

However, there is an important element which has largely been neglected in recent independent media reports regarding Syria, which suggests that the US could take the decision NOT to engage in the conduct of a major military campaign at this particular juncture.

Why?

The structure of US military alliances is in crisis.

Military Strategy 101 tells us: you do not wage a major war when one of your key allies is "sleeping with the enemy".

An understanding of the military structure of alliances including cross-cutting coalitions is absolutely crucial. So-called "enduring alliances" in support of America's "Long War" can no longer be relied upon.

NATO is in crisis: The U.S. and several NATO member states are not only at war with Syria, they are also at war with Turkey which is fighting the US sponsored Kurdish rebel forces in Northern Syria.

'We will tear them down!': Turkey launches attack on US-backed Kurds in northern Syria

By Tracey Shelton, wires

Updated 20 Jan 2018, 8:54pm



PHOTO: Turkish-backed forces from the Free Syrian Army have been moved into the area in preparation for a ground attack. (AP: DHA-Depo Photos)

In turn, Turkey –which remains NATO’s heavyweight in terms of conventional ground forces– has an alliance with both Russia and Iran, which in turn are supportive of the government of Bashar al Assad.

With regard to China-Turkey cooperation (including military affairs), “[China has expressed openness toward Turkey’s joining the Shanghai Cooperation Organization](#), a security alliance ... that is seen as a counterweight to NATO” (to which Turkey happens to be a member).

Syria’s Kurdistan

Within NATO the clash is not limited to a confrontation between Washington and Ankara. Other member states of the Atlantic alliance have been sucked into the US-Turkey showdown in Northern Syria including France and Britain, not to mention Israel (a de facto NATO member and ally of Turkey) which has been supportive of the Kurdish separatist movement mainly in Iraq but also in Syria.

France and Britain Support the Kurds against Turkey

French special forces were dispatched by President Macron to Northern Syria in support of the Kurdish rebels. De facto, France is now at war with Turkey, a partner NATO member State.

France's Macron vows support for northern Syrians, Kurdish militia

John Irish, Marine Pennetier

3 MIN READ



PARIS (Reuters) - France's president on Thursday assured the Kurdish-dominated Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) of Paris' support to stabilise northeastern Syria against Islamic State, and Kurdish officials said he had committed to sending troops to the region.

President Macron is in many regards a US proxy. Contrary to the Reuters report above, France will be working hand in glove with the US, providing military support to the Kurdish rebels who are fighting against Turkey, France's partner state of the Atlantic alliance.

Moreover, British as well as Israeli intelligence ops have also integrated Kurdish forces.

WORLD

In north Syria, British officials vow solidarity with Kurdish authorities

By [REUTERS](#) last updated: 03/04/2018

While Germany's "official" military support is limited to the Pechmerga Kurdish forces in Iraq, Berlin has established de facto "diplomatic" relations with Syria's Kurdish National Council (ENKS in Kurdish).

The Fracture of Syria

The fracture of Syria and Iraq is part of a longstanding US agenda which consists in redrawing the Map of the Middle East: In southern Syria, what was envisaged from the outset of the war in 2011 is regime change and the formation of a Sunni Islamic State, In North East Syria, Washington's project is to create an independent Kurdish State which would also encompass parts of Iraq, Iran and Turkey (see map below)



Note: The following map was prepared by Lieutenant-Colonel Ralph Peters. It was published in the Armed Forces Journal in June 2006, Peters is a retired colonel of the U.S. National War Academy. (Map Copyright Lieutenant-Colonel Ralph Peters 2006).

Greater Israel

The fracture of Syria and Iraq including the formation of an independent Kurdish State is intimately related to the Zionist project of a Greater Israel (see Map below which identifies the “Promised Land”)

Israeli forces are involved covertly in Northern Syria against Turkey in coordination with the US military in Rojava (Syrian Kurdistan)

The “Greater Israel” project consists in weakening and eventually fracturing neighboring Arab states as part of a US-Israeli expansionist project, with the support of NATO and Saudi Arabia. In this regard, the Saudi-Israeli rapprochement is from Netanyahu’s viewpoint a means to expanding Israel’s spheres of influence in the Middle East as well as confronting Iran. Needless to day, the “Greater Israel” project is consistent with America’s imperial design. (Michel Chossudovsky, [Global Research](#), December 2017)

“Greater Israel” consists in an area extending from the Nile Valley to the Euphrates.



Inter-NATO Divisions

One assumes that Trump’s advisory team is acutely aware of these inter-NATO divisions as well as the role of the broader structure of military alliances, which –from a strategic standpoint– has contributed to weakening the US.

Under these circumstances, one would expect that the hawkish war cabinet would advise the US Commander in Chief not to initiate at this juncture a major military campaign against Syria (i.e. similar to Iraq or Afghanistan). This course of action which consists in putting a major theater war on hold, does not however exclude the conduct of so-called punitive bombings to which both Russia and Syria would no doubt react. Nor does it exclude postponing major military action (including an invasion) to a later date.

The conduct of a military campaign led by Israel (with US support) against Lebanon, however, cannot be excluded.

The Ground War

Another factor which does not favor the conduct of a major US military intervention against Syria has to do with the nature of the ground war and the defeat of US proxy rebel forces throughout most of the country.

While the ground war opposing Turkey and America’s Kurdish proxies in Northern Syria is still ongoing, in Southern Syria, the conflict opposing Syrian government forces to al Qaeda affiliated rebels (which have been supported and financed by the Pentagon, NATO, Saudi

Arabia and Israel) is more or less over following the liberation of Eastern Ghouta.

In turn, the Syrian government forces with the support of Russia have arranged for the evacuation of most of the Al Qaeda terrorists in air conditioned buses en route to Idlib which happens to be occupied by Turkish forces who are fighting US sponsored Kurdish rebels.

Moreover, with the defeat of the Al Qaeda affiliated rebels, most of the Western military advisers (embedded within Al Qaeda “opposition” forces), have also been evacuated from Southern Syria.

The Russian military in turn is in routine consultation with their Turkish counterparts which have facilitated the exodus of US supported “rebels’ as well their Western military advisers from Eastern Ghouta. Needless to say, the absence of active Western special forces on the ground constitutes an impediment to effectively waging a broader military campaign against Syria.

Concluding Remarks

As this article goes to Press, President Trump has intimated that “a final decision on possible military strikes against Syria ... could happen “very soon or not so soon at all” following warnings by Defense Secretary Jim Mattis that “such an attack carried the risk of spinning out of control, suggesting caution ahead of a decision on how to respond to a [chemical weapons] attack against civilians last weekend [in Douma].”

NEWS

5

Trump To Discuss Syria Retaliation With Allies As Mattis Warns Of Risks Of Strike

The original source of this article is Global Research
Copyright © [Prof Michel Chossudovsky](#), Global Research, 2018

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: [Prof Michel Chossudovsky](#)

About the author:

Michel Chossudovsky is an award-winning author, Professor of Economics (emeritus) at the University of Ottawa, Founder and Director of the Centre for Research on Globalization (CRG), Montreal, Editor of Global Research. He has taught as visiting professor in Western Europe, Southeast Asia, the Pacific and Latin America. He has served as economic adviser to

governments of developing countries and has acted as a consultant for several international organizations. He is the author of 13 books. He is a contributor to the Encyclopaedia Britannica. His writings have been published in more than twenty languages. In 2014, he was awarded the Gold Medal for Merit of the Republic of Serbia for his writings on NATO's war of aggression against Yugoslavia. He can be reached at crgeditor@yahoo.com

Disclaimer: The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: publications@globalresearch.ca

www.globalresearch.ca contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: publications@globalresearch.ca