

'The National Interest of Israel-Turkey Engagement on Syria Civil War Related to US Foreign Policy of Pulling out Forces'

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ABSTRACT

Since 2011, when Protests against President Assad's rule triggered a large-scale conflict between anti-government rebel groups sponsored by the US, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, and others countries. regional allies, and the Syrian government backed by Russia and Iran, the Syrian civil war has colored the international relations issue. This article focuses on US policies in Syria and Israel-Turkey's national interests in the region. The purpose of the paper is to conduct an assessment on Syria civil war related to US foreign policy of pulling out forces and theirs impacts. This research employs qualitative method . The results demonstrate that Trump's actions have exposed some unsettling truths and realities regarding US strategy toward Syria. Yes, Trump has acted as both an arsonist and a firefighter.. These developments therefore give rise to a new period of conflict between Israel and Turkey based on their respective national interests. Finally, President Donald Trump's administration's foreign policy toward Syria has considered the tragic drama in Syria

INTRODUCTION

The Geopolitics and Population of Syria

The Syrian Arab Republic is a Middle Eastern republic that shares the Mediterranean coast with Cyprus. Its neighbors are Turkey, Iraq, Jordan, Israel, and Lebanon. Syria covers an area of 185,180 km². The map depicts Syria's key cities, including its capital and infrastructure (Nations Online, n.d.). Syria's country geography difficulty is how to merge the different ethnic groups under one domestic power, as the rocky terrain and ethnics there are not in one specific border, contradicting Syria as a state with its neighbors (Goujon, 2015). Especially since Syria is surrounded by a much larger nation, making it difficult to declare its independence.

According to the World Bank, the data shown above is from Syria's current population is 17,07 million, while Iraq has 39,31 million and Afghanistan has 38,04 million. As can be observed, the Syrian Civil War caused a drop in 2010. It forced 2.7 million Syrians seeking asylum outside the country between 2011 and May 2014. Furthermore, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees predicts that the number will continue to rise, displacing Syrians (Kinninmont, 2014).

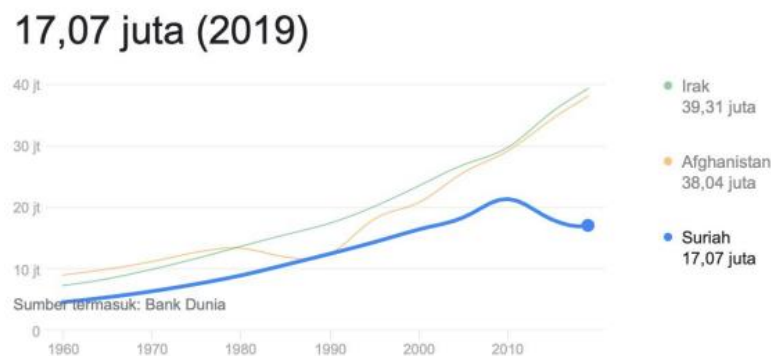


Figure 1. The Geopolitics and Population of Syria

Sunni Arabs, Kurds, Druze, Alawites, Shia, and Christians make up Syria's population. The traditional heart of Syria's Alawite minority is located in the northern coastal plain until the Jabal and Nussayrya mountains to the west, and the Anti-Lebanon mountains to the north. Sunni Arabs dominate Syria's eastern and interior regions. Otherwise, the Syrian Desert is split into two competing regions, each with its own distinct local identity. It separated Damascus, the historical capital and current seat of Alawite authority, from Aleppo, which is located on the Aleppo plateau's agricultural heartlands. The Kurds, who live in the region's apex, are separated into two groups. as shown by the purple color (Goujon, 2015).

The Ruling Government in Syria

Syria's current government is known officially as the Syrian Arab Republic. It is led by President Bashar Al-Assad, who was elected following the death of his father in 2000. He has had to contend with civilian protests against his government during his reign. The strict political framework and tight government control that has prolonged Hafez al-Assad's dictatorship has had an impact on the country's socio-political side. Furthermore, the minority Alawite

Shia group dominates Assad's family background (BBC News, 2019). Unquestionably, the clash of socializations has become the most challenging component of this country's cohesiveness. The 2011 "Arab Spring" wave has exacerbated the tension in his government. Throughout North Africa and the Middle East, they are widely spread. The Syrian Civil War arose as a result of this, however Iran and Russia's considerable support for President Bashar al-Assad's administration has benefited the regime since 2017 (BBC News, 2019). According to the media, President Assad's gesture during the conflict seemed to indicate how to respond. The president said that calls to reform the administration and give economic relief had been overwhelmed by saboteurs working as part of an external effort to undermine Syria's stability and unity. This reaction showed that the wave of protests was not solely motivated by the ruling government, but rather a pre-planned effort to undermine Syria by an external actor.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Defense Diplomacy Theory Defense diplomacy includes all methods and approaches for building alliances, boosting collaboration, and, most importantly, promoting trust among countries through a variety of cooperative sectors such as economics, culture, politics, defense, and diplomacy.⁵ Defense diplomacy is utilized to achieve a country's foreign policy objectives. Defense diplomacy, as defined by Gregory Winger's book *The Theory of Defense Diplomacy*, is the nonviolent use of military tools to accomplish a country's external objectives, such as officer exchanges, warship visits, and collaborative military exercises. Nonetheless, in their writings, Winger, Andre Cottey, and Anthony Foster claimed that defense diplomacy is the deployment of armed forces as a weapon of security and stability during times of peace. Foreign policy decisions. Martin Edmons backs up this claim. Diplomacy Defence is described as the employment of armed forces for objectives other than war, employing training, knowledge, and discipline to achieve national goals both within and outside the borders of the country. country.⁶ Defense diplomacy requires global, regional, and bilateral diplomacy. Bilateral diplomacy is the most significant of these. The effectiveness of a country's defense diplomacy strategy is the outcome of teamwork among diplomacy, defense, and development components. There are three components to defense diplomacy. primary qualities¹) Defensive diplomacy is used to enhance defensive capabilities; 2) Defense diplomacy is used to build trust. 3) Defense Diplomacy in the Military Industry.

Concept of Strategy

According to Tjiptono, the term "strategy" is derived from Greek and refers to the knowledge or expertise required to become a general. A strategy can also be defined as a plan to divide, use, and concentrate armed troops in a certain territory in order to achieve specific goals.⁹ Strategy, according to Rangkuti (2013:183), is "a comprehensive master plan that explains how a company will achieve all of the objectives that have been set based on a pre-determined mission."¹⁰ Strategy is defined by Anitah (2008:124) as "the knowledge and ability to employ and/or deploy all of one's resources to achieve a predetermined

goal."¹¹ Strategy, according to McNichols, is an art form, as stated by J. Salusu (2006). The ability of an organization to use its resources efficiently in order to achieve its goals. Even when ideal circumstances, one's relationship with the environment Based on the preceding, it is plausible to conclude that strategy is a plan that includes methods or procedures for achieving a certain objective while adhering to one's vision and utilizing one's resources. Concept of National Interest

In international relations studies and issues, the concept of national interest is extensively researched. Foreign policy in every country is directed by a national interest. National interests heavily influence a country's foreign policy. The state is the most powerful player in achieving these national goals. Experts are divided on how to identify and interpret national interests. Hans J. Morgenthau defines national security as the state's "interest in national security." Physical, political, and cultural circumstances When confronted with exogenous shocks, Identity must be defended and preserved. State leaders, according to Morgenthau, have either cooperative or adversarial attitudes toward foreign countries.¹³ Meanwhile, Paul Seabury distinguishes between descriptive and analytical national interest definitions. (2) normative, i.e. a set of ideals that a country aims for as a result of contacts with other countries.¹⁴ According to Daniel S. Paap, national interest encompasses a wide range of concerns such as economics, ideology, military might, security, morality, and legality.¹⁵ We could deduce from the preceding logic that national interest is a desire. These are transformed into governmental goals, with the desire embracing economic, social, and political elements. Concerns about social, defense, and security Physical, political, and cultural identities must be protected and preserved. face of external shocks. Morgenthau claims that State leaders either have cooperative or adversarial attitudes toward other countries.¹³ Meanwhile, Paul Seabury distinguishes between descriptive and analytical national interest definitions. (2) normative, i.e. a set of ideals that a country aims for as a result of contacts with other countries.¹⁴ According to Daniel S. Paap, national interest encompasses a wide range of concerns such as economics, ideology, military might, security, morality, and legality.¹⁵ We could deduce from the preceding logic that national interest is a desire. These are transformed into governmental goals, with the desire embracing economic, social, and political elements. Concerns about social, defense, and security

Foreign Policy Idea

Foreign policy is the policy adopted by a country's or other political community's government in international relations with both state and non-state entities. Foreign policy, according to Walter Carlsnaes, is "activity aimed at influencing goals, situations, and actors (both government and non-government) outside one's own territorial zone." These are stated intents, commitments, and/or demands carried out by government authorities on behalf of sovereign countries or communities.¹⁶ Foreign policy, according to K.J. Holsti, is a policy, attitude, or action done by another country to cope with a problem or impact environmental change. Foreign policy is divided into four components that range from broad to specialized in terms of responsibilities, aims, and activities: foreign

policy direction, national security, and international relations.¹⁷ In the meanwhile, foreign policy, according to Foreign policy, according to Mark R. Amstutz, is "the explicit and implicit actions of governmental officials designed to promote national interests beyond a country's territorial boundaries.¹⁸" This term refers to the efforts of government officials to develop and promote their country's national interests beyond its borders. Thus, foreign policy can be generally described as a concept that guides relations with both state and non-state entities in the external environment. Mark R. Amstutz defines foreign policy as "the explicit and implicit actions of governmental officials designed to promote national interests beyond a country's territorial boundaries.¹⁸" This word refers to government officials' efforts to develop and promote their country's national interests outside of its borders. Foreign policy can thus be defined broadly as a term that governs relations with both state and non-state actors in the external environment.

National Power

They can be found throughout North Africa and the Middle East. As a result, the Syrian Civil War erupted, but Iran and Russia's staunch support for President Bashar al-Assad's administration has aided the regime since 2017 (BBC News, 2019). President Assad's movements during the conflict appeared to indicate how he would respond, according to the media. According to the president, saboteurs acting as part of a foreign effort to disrupt Syria's stability and unity have outweighed demands to restructure the administration and provide economic relief. This reaction revealed that the wave of protests was not only the result of the Syrian government's actions, but rather of a pre-planned effort by a foreign player to harm Syria.

METHODOLOGY

Research Methodology

In this inquiry, the qualitative method was used. The qualitative research method is a method for exploring and understanding the meaning ascribed to social or humanitarian problems, and it entails several important efforts such as asking questions and procedures, collecting data from specific participants, inductively analyzing data, and interpreting the meaning of the data.. 4-5 (Cresswell, 2016).

Research Design

Creswell defines research design as "a detailed and systematic plan or procedure in a study to generate conclusions from broad assumptions using data collection and analysis techniques." There are three types of research: qualitative, quantitative, and mixed techniques research. This study is a qualitative descriptive-analytical investigation. Data and analysis technique

In qualitative research, Data gathering entails not just gaining permission, adopting sound qualitative sampling tactics, devising tools to record information both digitally and on paper, archiving data, and anticipating ethical concerns. (Creswell, 2013: 145).

Non-numerical data from a number of sources is used in qualitative research. Primary data sources were acquired from ministries/organizations connected to the research topic and sub-focus. Secondary data was the contribution of scientific knowledge and insight. Researchers gathered secondary data from books, journals, the internet, and other publicly available sources. In this study, data was gathered through open and in-depth interviews with research subjects (Sugiyono, 2010).

RESULTS

Syria is Not a Critical Interest of the United States

In nearly a decade, Washington has failed to build a durable or realistic strategy in Syria. Part of the problem is that we do not regard Syria as a key national priority. Two administrations have already made it clear by deciding to minimize, if not eliminate, US involvement in the region, except for counter-terrorism operations fighting Affiliates of ISIS and al-Qaida. Neither Congress nor the American people want to jeopardize American lives or investments in Syria. Because Syria is considerably more vital to Iran, Turkey, Russia, and the Assad government than it is to the United States, they are willing to make these compromises. Trump has exaggerated the Syrian crisis. Avoid tragedy by making the decision to cut and run as inefficiently as possible. However, US sanctions against Turkey, as well as Trump's harsh and patronizing letter to Erdogan, are unlikely to change Erdogan's resolve to protect his vital political and security interests in Syria.

The notion that Syria is a zero-sum game in which any US defeat results in an immediate gain for our adversaries encourages both faulty thinking and bad policy. Deeper Russian involvement in the Turkish/Kurdish/Syrian government conflict is, at most, a controllable but unresolved scenario that will not threaten critical US interests such as ensuring the free flow of oil, countering nuclear proliferation, and avoiding an American attack. While the agendas of Russia and Iran do not always coincide, Israel has been able to constrain Iran's more expansionist intentions in Syria.

Turkey's Operation Peace Spring in northern Syria: One Month on

In 2019, Turkey launched a military operation across the border in northeast Syria, seizing control of a broad swath of land. Turkey said the attack, which began on October 9, was aimed at removing Kurdish fighters from the border region and providing a "safe zone" to resettle some of the country's refugees. Ankara had been in talks with the United States for months prior to the operation to construct a jointly controlled "safe zone," and it blamed Washington for delaying the initiative, which it said was critical to Turkey's security. Days before the battle, the US abruptly withdrew its forces from the Kurdish-controlled zone that would be targeted, allowing Turkey to launch its own offensive. intervene. Execute the offensive. The operation drew harsh international condemnation from Turkey's NATO allies because the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) had been a steadfast ally of the US-led coalition

fighting the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL or ISIS) and played a critical role in defeating the group in Syria.

The SDF is led by the Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG), which Ankara regards as a branch of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), which Turkey regards as a terrorist organization. For decades, the PKK has fought the Turkish state, originally in an attempt to establish an independent Kurdish state. Its purpose has recently shifted to greater autonomy for Kurdish-majority areas in Turkey. Since the start of the fighting in the More than 40,000 people died throughout the 1980s. On the first day of the operation, US President Donald Trump issued an atypical letter to his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan, asking him not to be "a tough guy" and to talk with the SDF rather than launch a military assault. Erdogan, according to Turkish presidential authorities, rejected the letter completely and threw it away. In response to the military intervention, Trump placed limited penalties on Turkey but maintained diplomatic relations with Ankara.

The Turkish offensive was strongly condemned by Turkey's European allies, with French President Emmanuel Macron calling it "madness" and German Chancellor Angela Merkel labeling it a "invasion." Both countries, along with other European Union members, have halted arms sales to Turkey. As the operation advanced, the Syrian government and allied Russian forces pushed into Kurdish-controlled regions where Turkish and affiliated forces had not yet arrived, at the request of the SDF, to stave off a larger Turkish assault.

The Israeli Interest

While formally calling for Assad's departure early in the Syrian civil war, Israel avoided taking sides. Instead, the overarching concern in Jerusalem has been Iran's continued drive to create and enhance its military infrastructure in Syria, as well as its efforts to utilize the nation to smuggle equipment to Hezbollah as part of its Precision Guided Missile Project. To address this, Israel has been participating in an eight-year operation to combat and undermine this initiative. This initiative is commonly known as the "campaign between wars." Israeli strategists are pleased with the results and believe the Iranian project in Syria is significantly less advanced than it could have been.

Given the scope and complexity of this Iranian initiative, as well as the level to which it is highly doubtful whether it can be eliminated or removed by an aerial bombing campaign because it is interwoven in parts of the Syrian state. This is especially true given the constraints of Israel's bombing operations. In addition to avoiding strikes on Lebanon, the campaign attempts to avoid attacking targets affiliated with the Syrian government in order to avoid escalation with Hezbollah.

Following a meeting in Sochi on October 22, 2021 It was a meeting between Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett and Russian President Vladimir Putin. appears that Israel has gained Moscow's agreement to continue its aerial campaign. Russia shares Israel's desire to reduce Iran's influence in Syria. This mutual interest, however, is unlikely to extend to active Russians. Iranians are being expelled. Russia is devoted to the Assad regime's survival. The Iranians were key in this, but Russia has no interest in aiding the Iranian enterprise and

appears willing to ignore Israeli activities against Iran on Syrian land. However, Emirati, Jordanian, and Arab efforts to rehabilitate Assad appear to be countering the campaign's persistence. Assume Arab efforts succeed in completely rehabilitating the Syrian regime and removing Assad's isolation. This could eventually put international and Western pressure on Israel to end its present military assault. The current US position is significant in this regard. The United States is complicit in Israel's operations in Syria, and it is in Jerusalem's best interests to maintain this approach. The emerging regional context of protracted and fruitless talks over Iran's nuclear program provides an ideal setting for this.

DISCUSSION

The U.S.-Kurdish Relationship was Never Going to Last

Trump's decision to leave the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), a largely Kurdish-led army of 70,000 men, at least 40% of whom are Syrian Arabs and other minorities, was both horrifying and expected. Trump was never satisfied with long-term investments in the SDF, and in 2017, he purportedly told Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan that he did not want to be in Syria aiding Kurds. As a result, it should come as no surprise that, having aided in the destruction of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) caliphate, Trump would be looking for a way out of what he saw (with some justification) as the Syrian quagmire. Trump was actually beaming following a phone conversation. Erdogan was elected President in December 2018. On the one hand, the United States Turkey, on the other side, is ready to remove all of its forces from the Turkish-Syrian border. Pentagon and State Department planners should have expected Trump to mention abandoning US support for the Kurds sooner or later, but they were either unwilling or unable to prepare for it. On the one hand, the United States is preparing to withdraw all of its forces from the Turkish-Syrian border. Pentagon and State Department planners should have anticipated Trump's mention of withdrawing US backing for the Kurds sooner or later, but they were either reluctant or unable to prepare for it.

The US commitment to the Kurds was unusually cost-effective and beneficial in eradicating ISIS as part of a "by, with, and through" approach to utilizing Kurdish strength on the ground. Even if America had not a lengthy history of breaching promises to the Kurds, it should have been evident that with the physical destruction of the ISIS Caliphate, the US-SDF relationship would become increasingly strained. Indeed, Washington would have had to choose between aiding a Kurdish/ Arab force and assisting the Islamic State.

The SDF did not abandon its warriors because it adored America; rather, it planned to use American strength to assist in the protection of Kurdish areas and interests. As part of a "by, with, and through" approach to exploiting Kurdish forces on the ground, the US commitment to the Kurds proved extraordinarily cost-effective and successful in destroying ISIS. Even if America did not have a long history of breaking commitments to the Kurds, it should have been obvious that the US-SDF relationship would grow increasingly strained with the physical annihilation of the ISIS Caliphate. Indeed, Washington would have had to choose between helping a Kurdish/ Arab force against the Islamic State.

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There will be no Establishment of a Second Caliphate

The United States has spent \$2.8 trillion on homeland security since 9/11. If America has suddenly become a sitting duck for ISIS, a lot of taxpayer money has been squandered. For the past 18 years, this country has been the target of a terrorist attack planned and carried out by foreign radicals. Thousands of jihadists formerly walked the streets of Iraq and Syria, and jihadists may now be found in the Middle East, Africa, South Asia, and Southeast Asia. Why should ISIS's dispersed remnants in Syria leave us more vulnerable? if the United States is present to protect us? hasn't been assaulted in nearly 20 years? Radicalized Americans or permanent legal residents may continue to target the United States. Propaganda Islamist narratives have also had an impact. However, keeping American soldiers in Syria will not fix the situation.

Furthermore, the United States has options for dealing with ISIS. The military has significant combat aircraft, drones, intelligence platforms, and logistical support throughout Syria, and would face no significant air defenses from ISIS, with Russia unlikely to intervene to protect ISIS fighters from American attacks. Attacks on ISIS targets may be fierce and frequent, but military coordination is almost certainly required. Syrians and those who back them up. Although the US's Arab partners are unlikely to contribute ground troops, they should allow the US to organize military operations from their territory and bear some of the costs. NATO allies should also supply specific military skins. After all, they have suffered the most as a result of the unrest in Syria. The British and French are at odds. In Syria, battalions and air power are being used to destroy ISIS foot soldiers. Finally, the United Nations, the United States, the European Unions, and wealthy Arab states should greatly expand their aid to Syria.

This section gives you the opportunity to expand intellectually on your own conclusions. Rather than presenting the results of your statistical tests, you must explain them in this part. You must structure your presentation to include academic support for your research as well as a clear overview of the specific topic you are investigating.

Geopolitics in the Post-Arab Spring Middle East

Meanwhile, significant shifts in Israel's relations with many of its Arab neighbors will continue to prevent meaningful reconciliation with Turkey. Following the Arab Spring, Israel found itself associated with a "counterrevolutionary bloc" consisted of Saudi Arabia, the unified Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and Egypt under Abdel Fattah el-Sisi; these countries were unified in their opinion that the upheavals posed a threat to regional security and stability. This partnership positioned Tel Aviv against Ankara, which staunchly supported Islamist protesters and revolutionary forces assembling throughout the region. Despite Erdoan's recent shift in stance toward the counterrevolutionary bloc, including overtures to Cairo, Abu Dhabi, and Riyadh, most Arab players' renewed, implicit support for Israel in the aftermath of the Arab Spring The signing of the Abraham Accords permanently altered Tel Aviv's

stance regarding the Palestinians. Ankara. Israel is no longer reliant on its diplomatic presence in Turkey as a launching pad into the Muslim world, thanks to restored relations with the UAE, Bahrain, Morocco, and Sudan.

Furthermore, the ongoing impasse in the Israeli-Palestinian peace process will obstruct normalization. Dr. Galia Lindenstrauss believes that "there is a correlation between how good Israel-Turkey relations are and developments in the Israel-Palestine area." In December, Erdoğan stated that Israeli efforts to strike a peace deal with the Palestinians will "undoubtedly contribute to the normalization process" between Ankara and Tel Aviv. It is no coincidence that one of the key drivers of Turkish-Israeli rapprochement in the past decade has been In addition to signing the Oslo Accords in 1993, Israel opted to engage in talks with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat. In the early 1990s, Yasser Arafat. At the same time, the Turkish-Israeli relationship has deteriorated as tensions between Israel and Palestine have increased. Both the 2008-2009 Gaza War and the 2018 Gaza border protests caused diplomatic difficulties with Ankara. Turkish politicians strongly condemned Israel's disproportionate and murderous response to Palestinian uprisings, which were generally nonviolent during the first conflict but violent during the second.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The deeper impetus for Turkey's engagement in northern Syria is the long-running conflict with the PKK and its regional offshoots. On the ground, while the employment of the Syrian National Army as a proxy army was inefficient at times, it allowed Turkey to maintain control over critical areas. Furthermore, Ankara's image and international stature have improved as a result of its actions in Syria. As a result of the operations, Turkey now has a seat at the bargaining table with Russia and the United States. Ankara has portrayed itself on these occasions as a power in the middle, a vital partner for both Moscow and Washington in establishing efficient regional arrangements. On January 4th, 2019, Israel It is now common across the Middle East, Africa, South Asia, and Southeast Asia. Why should ISIS's scattered remnants in Syria make us more vulnerable?, as well as the ramifications of the US withdrawal from Syria, the battle against terrorism, and the need to deepen bilateral coordination and cooperation through military and diplomatic channels. Netanyahu reiterated that Israel will continue to work hard to prevent Iran from establishing a presence in Syria. In recent years, Israel has carried out hundreds of airstrikes in Syria against Iran and Iran-backed militias, aiming to prevent Iran from establishing a fortification for future alleged attacks on Israel. Given the US's even relative retreat, Russia's importance to Israel in terms of what is going on in the Middle East has increased. Syria is expanding. Given the conditions, Russia appears to be the major player capable of limiting Iran in Syria in such instances.

FURTHER STUDY

Late 2021 and early 2022 had provided some cause for optimism in terms of diplomatic measures aimed at resolving Syria's long-stalled political process. The Russian invasion of Ukraine, on the other hand, has changed everything. Syria diplomacy as we know it has come to an end, and an enormous humanitarian crisis appears to be on the horizon. To adapt to this fundamentally different situation, the international community must contemplate a comprehensive a shift in strategy that prioritizes freezing current conflict lines and a more strategic deployment of aid, stability, and focused reconstruction in areas free of Assad regime power. An opportunity for new research related to the same topic could enhance the approach of dynamic's global security in our era.

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