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Facts & Logic About the Middle East

October 29, 2019



It's Time for the U.S. and NATO to Give Belligerent Turkey the Boot

Dear Friend of FLAME:

American arms control experts say the U.S. Air Force is worried about the security of some 50 American B-61 nuclear bombs in storage at the Incirlik air base in Turkey, and some believe they should be removed.

Turkey's behavior has become so incorrigible that other foreign policy experts believe it's time for the U.S. and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) to boot Turkey out of the alliance.

No wonder. Despite a long, friendly relationship with Turkey for decades, Ankara under Islamist strongman Recep Tayyip Erdogan has become increasingly belligerent toward the U.S. and our allies, especially Israel and most recently the Syrian Kurds.

Turkey's invasion of Syria this month to subdue U.S. Kurdish allies has generated condemnations from Western European and Arab nations, as well as from Russia, India, China and, surprisingly, even Iran.

But this is only the latest dust-up: Erdogan's Turkey is guilty of a string of international offenses.

- In 2015, Turkey, unprovoked, shot down a Russian fighter jet.
- To Egypt's annoyance, Turkey supports its enemy, the radical Islamist Muslim Brotherhood.
- Erdogan frequently issues anti-Semitic calumnies, is a reliable foe of Israel and in 2010 attempted to run Israel's blockade of Gaza, which ended in the deaths of 10 Turkish activists.
- Turkey deployed a team of thugs to the streets of Washington, DC to abduct anti-Erdogan Turkish activists.
- Turkey illegally occupies most of Cyprus.

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Is a Two-State Solution Still Possible?

While sympathy for Palestinian self-rule is understandable, proponents of the two-state solution must resolve seven tough questions before it can be realistic.

1. What are the facts?
Majority of Palestinian independence by the United States and... (text continues)

2. What will Palestinian Arabs recognize Israel as the...?
... (text continues)

3. What will Israel accept as more realistic to...?
... (text continues)

4. What will the Palestinians agree to as a...?
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5. What will the Palestinians agree to as a...?
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6. What would present terms of the new...?
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- After buying American F35 bombers, Erdogan contracted with Russia to purchase anti-aircraft batteries—against stern U.S. objections
- Erdogan runs Turkish politics with an authoritarian fist, just a short step from totalitarianism

To make matters worse, Turkey is a member of NATO, the alliance's only Eurasian member—all others are North American or European, but Turkey has been in the group since 1952. Under Erdogan's leadership, Turkey has moved further from the goals and policies of other NATO members, often standing in stark opposition to the body's will, as it is doing in Syria.

Vice President Mike Pence last week insisted that "The United States of America is not going to tolerate Turkey's invasion of Syria any further." Defense Secretary Mark Esper is encouraging NATO members to take "diplomatic and economic" measures against Turkey. The President threatened Erdogan with devastating economic sanctions, and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo noted that "military action" may be needed.

In other words, the U.S. is unprecedentedly threatening economic and even military war with a fellow NATO member. Some six European countries have suspended arms sales to Turkey—hardly the behavior of allies.

Erdogan, however, remains defiant, despite negotiations with Pence and the Russians. He seems determined to secure a stretch of Syrian territory currently controlled by the Kurds in order to push the Kurds back from the Turkish border and populate the region with millions of Syrian refugees now in Turkey.

In short, it's contradictory that an alliance like NATO, made up of liberal, democratic nations originally to counter the bullying threat of Russia, should count Turkey among its members.

Not only does Turkey undermine the interests of NATO members, but it is increasingly sidling up to Vladimir Putin, going so far as to purchase Russian weaponry that can be used to defeat NATO armaments.

While removing Turkey from NATO would mark a sea-change in U.S. and NATO policy—and would surely drive Erdogan more resolutely into Putin's arms—it is a step (or a threat) that would certainly get Ankara's attention. It would also increase the global security of the U.S. and other NATO members.

While we're at it, let's remove those American nuclear bombs to a more friendly country.

I hope in conversations with friends, family and colleagues, you'll point out the toxic role that Turkey plays regarding the U.S.' and Israel's global interests and that it's time to give Mr. Erdogan and Co. the boot from NATO.

In addition, I hope you'll also take a minute, while you have this material front and center, to visit FLAME's lively new Facebook page and review the P.S. immediately below. It describes FLAME's new *hasbarah* campaign—outspokenly questioning the validity and wisdom of the so-called two-state solution.

Best regards,

editorial hasbarah messages placed in media nationwide every month: The dire threats from Iran, Hamas and Hizbollah, the injustice of BDS, Palestinian anti-Semitism and more. If you support a bold voice that tells the truth about Israel in American media, please donate now.

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**FLAME'S WEEKLY
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Jim Sinkinson

President, Facts and Logic About the Middle East (FLAME)

P.S. Many politicians in the U.S., as well as in Western Europe, hold steadfastly to the notion of a two-state solution for resolving the Palestinians' conflict with Israel. However, it's become clear as stability in the Middle East deteriorates, power balances shift and the Palestinians themselves continue to reject peace initiatives, that a two-state solution may be no solution at all. That's why FLAME has created a new *hasbarah* message called "[Is a Two-State Solution Still Possible?](#)" I hope you'll review this hard-hitting paid editorial, which will run in coming months in the *New York Times* and *Washington Post*. It lays out seven tough questions that must be answered before two states can seriously be considered. This piece will also be sent to all members of Congress, Vice President Pence and President Trump. If you agree that this kind of public relations effort on Israel's behalf is critical, I urge you to support us. Remember: FLAME's powerful ability to influence public opinion—and U.S. support of Israel—comes from individuals like you, one by one. I hope you'll consider giving a donation now, as you're able—with \$500, \$250, \$100, or even \$18. (Remember, your donation to FLAME is tax deductible.) To donate online, just go to [donate](#) now. Now, more than ever, we need your support to ensure that the American people, the U.S. Congress and President Trump stay focused on realistic policies in relation to Israel, the Palestinians and the entire Middle East.

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