

Beware of Pundits Who Would have Fed Kurds to the Islamists

by Robert Sklaroff and Sherkoh Abbas



Recalling sequels of the movie *Jaws*, it remains unsafe for Kurds to wade freely into the polluted waters of Middle East politics despite the [recommitment](#) by President Donald Trump to [maintain](#) a military presence in Syria and the subsequent [defeat](#) of the Islamic State.

What was unmasked in the interim must unnerve perceptive readers, for neo-isolationists abound in both political parties. Ironically, while Kurds suffered in purgatory, this

chronology unmasked defeatist pundits who must now be outed lest they undermine an unabashedly fruitful process.

Trump Disrupts Precipitously

Kurds felt [quick](#) withdrawal had been conveyed to “America’s [partners](#) in northeast Syria, namely the Kurdish People’s Protection Units (YPG),” for this portended [resignation](#) of Javad Zarif as Foreign Minister following the visit to Tehran of President Bashar-al-Assad, Zarif’s influence was apparently [strengthened](#). After Trump signed legislation [reclaim](#) land within a year without military pressure; a pullout would carry [csecurity](#) and controlling the Syrian-Turkish border (“Rojava”) matters for Israel .

“History,” which will forever recall that Jimmy Carter lost Iran, was poised to suggest “Trump” as the answer to the question, “Who lost Syria?”

Willy Loman: “Attention must be paid” to the Kurds.

Trump-supporters searched for a silver-lining without stretching credulity and gleeful never-Trumpers from across the political spectrum trashed his substance and/or style.

We chimed-in, discussing why Kurdistan is a [linchpin](#) to America’s Middle East Policy; how any Syrian withdrawal must [protect](#) Syrian withdrawal must protect the Kurds; how to [resolve](#) the Turkish-Kurdish standoff, and how to apply a flexible model for a reconstructed Middle East. Indeed, that latter piece presaged [Trump’s historic decision to acknowledge intent to redraw Syria’s borders](#), for recognizing Israeli control over the Golan Heights for more than a half-century [segues](#) into recognizing Kurdish roots in their homeland for three millennia.

Also prescient was introduction of two Senate Amendments, one that generically declared the Islamic State and Al-Qaeda remained [remain](#). This may explain why Israeli Prime

Minister Netanyahu has frequently visited Russian President Putin, for reminding him of Islamist Chechens threatening domestic tranquility may forestall his providing opportunistic military backing to their colleagues abroad.

Conflicted Republicans Agonize

Right-wingers advanced a philosophical non-interference posture, among them the [Reason Foundation](#), the [Cato Institute](#) and [The Federalistliberation](#), overlooking the potential for empowered Kurds to thwart Iranian expansion via this puppet-state.

[Neo-conservatives](#) joined the blame-game, trumpeting the view that the [2012](#) "Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq" legislation passed in the wake of 9-11 has been stretched to encompass Syria.

The claim that America should not prioritize dealings with substate actors such as Kurdistan was conveyed in essays (and confirmed orally) by former presidential antiterrorism adviser and current radio personality Sebastian [Gorka](#), who twice claimed conversationally (in 2017 and 2018) that it remains premature to side with the Kurds. Evolving perhaps, he has subsequently observed that the [Trump-Doctrine](#) of Strategic-Realism mandates that America will reliably help friends (particularly Sunnis) who do not need nation-building, and he has more recently recognized that the "War Against ISIS [isn't](#) over yet."

He need not fret. Trump covets coalitions whose members don't passively depend upon America and would presumably support the Kurds' unique potency and reliability against Islamists. This circumstance contrasts with America's misappropriation (assisted by Turkey) to train the Free Syrian Army, most of whom are now Islamists who implement Erdo?an's desire to fight Kurds.

Sebastian Gorka, who is no longer a *FoxNews* [stymied](#) America's

pro-Israel groups and individuals, observing that well-referenced pro-Trump crusaders such as [Pamela Geller](#) withheld critique. This dynamic was dramatized by customarily-brilliant [Caroline Glick](#), who conjured a tortured set of “positive” facets of withdrawal, forgetting that all she had posited could be achieved without the withdrawal. {It is possible that Glick was quietly self-aware of her lapse in critical thinking ability when attempting to find any justification for the Syrian withdrawal; this may, in turn, have prompted her to seek a new career as a politician with Israel’s “New Right” party, thereby having to maintain responsibility solely to “self” when engaging in punditry.}

Countering such concerns and consistent with our [plan](#) is Dr. Walid Phares’ [introduced](#) on *Al Arabiya* that would [separate](#) Turkey and Syria by empowering a third-party multinational force – perhaps under the United Nations (Chapter 7) – to regulate a security zone (including parts of both countries), thereby supplanting any Turkish [Erdo?an](#).

A Reasonable Battle-Plan

Erdo?an wants to [Joel Pollak](#) and storied organizations such as the [Sen. Mitt Romney \(Ut, R.\)](#) stressed the need to protect allies including the Kurds and were highly critical of Trump’s potential withdrawal.

They advocate reducing the influence of groups linked to Assad/PKK and increasing the influence of groups aspiring to implement a Western-style representative-democracy. Just as occurred in Iraqi Kurdistan in September 2017, Syrian Kurds must be empowered to hold an election that will determine their fate; groups such as Kurdnas should be included in this process.

Tension has not appreciably abated.

Just as politicos and politicians are finally being [holding](#) at least 2000 suspected Islamist terrorists and protecting

minorities such as the [without](#) putting more boots on the ground.



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