

# No Troop Withdrawal: The US is Planning the "Permanent Occupation" of Syria?

By Stephen Lendman

Global Research, March 19, 2019

Region: Middle East & North Africa

Theme: Militarization and WMD, US NATO

War Agenda

In-depth Report: **SYRIA** 

Trump lied about winning against ISIS, the scourge the US created and supports, along with al-Qaeda, its al-Nusra offshoot, and other jihadist groups.

Last December, he lied saying

"(o)ur boys, our young women, our men — they're all coming back (from Syria), and they're coming back now (sic). We won (sic), and that's the way we want it."

"We have started returning United States troops home (sic) as we transition to the next phase of this campaign," White House press secretary Sarah Sanders added.

In mid-December, Trump said all US forces would be out of Syria in 30 days, in January extended to 120 days.

At the time, a State Department official said there's "no timeline" for withdrawal of US troops from the country, adding:

"The president has made the decision that we will withdraw our military forces from Syria, but that it will be done in a deliberate, heavily coordinated way with our allies and partners."

In June 2018, we reported that US combat troops were illegally occupying northern and southern parts of the country aren't leaving, their numbers likely much larger than officially reported, including elite special forces.

They're deployed to around three-fourths of world countries, CIA operatives covertly everywhere worldwide, most often masquerading as diplomats.

Center for International Policy Arms and Security Project director William Hartung earlier said

"(t)here is little or no transparency as to what (US forces and their numbers) are doing in (nations worldwide) and whether their efforts are promoting security or provoking further tension and conflict."

There's no ambiguity about their mission in US combat and other theaters. Along with propping up friendly despots, they're involved in toppling sovereign independent governments, the US wanting pro-Western puppet regimes replacing them.

Using ISIS and other jihadists as imperial proxies, Iranian and Syrian governments are targeted for regime change – NATO, Israel, and other regional rogue states in cahoots with US plans.

Earlier reports of pulling US forces from Syria were greatly exaggerated. Weeks after Trump's mid-December announcement, none were withdrawn, just redeployments from one location in the country to another, along with moving them back and forth cross-border between Syria and Iraq.

At the same time, hundreds of truckloads of weapons, munitions, and military equipment were sent to Syria by air and cross-border from Turkey, Jordan, Iraq, and Israel. They keep coming.

Statements by Pompeo and Bolton affirmed the Trump regime's intention to maintain a military presence in Syria and Iraq – Pompeo earlier saying "America will not retreat until the terror fight (it supports) is over."

Indefinite US occupation of northern and southern Syrian territory is planned, Pentagon forces operating from 18 or more bases in the country – platforms for supporting ISIS and other terrorists, along with waging endless war on the country for regime change.

In late January, hundreds more US troops were sent to northern Syria, according to Turkey's Anadolu news agency.

US envoy for regime change in Syria James Jeffrey said US forces will remain in the country for "a very long time." Withdrawal of some will likely shift them cross-border to Iraqi territory bordering Syria for easy return to the country if ordered.

US occupation of nations is permanent, true of Japan, Germany, South Korea, and other countries post-WW II – true in the Middle East, Central Asia, and North Africa post-9/11.

An earlier Pentagon statement said US forces will stay in Syria indefinitely – as long as ISIS remains a threat, its scourge supported by Republican and undemocratic Dem regimes.

In February, Senate members voted 70 - 26 against withdrawing Pentagon forces from Syria - claiming "a precipitous withdrawal" could destabilize the (already hugely destabilized) region, adding pullout would benefit Iran and Russia.

According to the <u>Wall Street Journal</u> on Sunday, the Pentagon intends "keep(ing) 1,000 forces in Syria, US officials said, a shift that comes three months after President Trump ordered a complete withdrawal and is far more than the White House originally intended."

They'll remain in northern and southern parts of the country, bordering Turkey in the north, Iraq and Jordan in the south.

In February, Trump said he intends leaving 200 US troops in the country after saying they're all coming home. Now it's a 1,000. Numbers cited are meaningless.

As long as the US maintains a military presence in Syria and elsewhere, Pentagon commanders will decide on numbers to deploy to all theaters – together with the US war secretary.

Occupation of Syria began early in the war the Obama regime launched in March 2011. Unknown numbers of US forces will remain in the country indefinitely.

\*

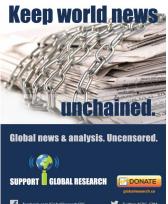
Note to readers: please click the share buttons below. Forward this article to your email lists. Crosspost on your blog site, internet forums. etc.

Award-winning author Stephen Lendman lives in Chicago. He can be reached at <u>lendmanstephen@sbcglobal.net</u>. He is a Research Associate of the Centre for Research on Globalization (CRG)

His new book as editor and contributor is titled "Flashpoint in Ukraine: US Drive for Hegemony Risks WW III."

http://www.claritypress.com/LendmanIII.html

Visit his blog site at silendman.blogspot.com.



Can you help us keep up the work we do? Namely, bring you the important news overlooked or censored by the mainstream media and fight the corporate and government propaganda, the purpose of which is, more than ever, to "fabricate consent" and advocate war for profit.

We thank all the readers who have contributed to our work by making <u>donations</u> or becoming members.

If you have the means to make a small or substantial <u>donation</u> to contribute to our fight for truth, peace and justice around the world, your gesture would be much appreciated.

The original source of this article is Global Research Copyright © Stephen Lendman, Global Research, 2019

#### **Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page**

### **Become a Member of Global Research**

## Articles by: Stephen Lendman

#### About the author:

Stephen Lendman lives in Chicago. He can be reached at lendmanstephen@sbcglobal.net. His new book as editor and contributor is titled "Flashpoint in Ukraine: US Drive for Hegemony Risks WW III." http://www.claritypress.com/LendmanIII.html Visit his blog site at sjlendman.blogspot.com. Listen to cuttingedge discussions with distinguished guests on the Progressive Radio News Hour on the Progressive Radio Network. It airs three times weekly: live on Sundays at 1PM Central time plus two prerecorded archived programs.

**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: <a href="mailto:publications@globalresearch.ca">publications@globalresearch.ca</a>

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: <a href="mailto:publications@globalresearch.ca">publications@globalresearch.ca</a>