

Turkish Follies, NATO-Russia Standoff, and the Fate of Syria

Global Research News Hour Episode 123

By [Michael Welch](#), [Prof. Tim Anderson](#), and [Christopher Black](#)

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Region: [Middle East & North Africa](#)
Theme: [GLOBAL RESEARCH NEWS HOUR](#),
[Media Disinformation](#), [US NATO War Agenda](#)

"The stakes are very high for the United States...they have this agenda. I think that certain factions of the United States seem to be willing to risk World War in order to achieve it!" - Christopher Black (from this week's interview.)

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In recent days, a NATO member country fired on and shot down a Russian jet for the first time in the almost 66 year history of the Western military alliance.[1]

The Turkish government claimed initially it was defending the nation's airspace in the wake of an incursion by the Russian jet.[2] The Russian government categorically refuted the claim that their Russian SU-24 jet had entered Turkish airspace, accused the Turks of being "accomplices of terrorists" and warned of "serious consequences" in the wake of the incident.[3]

As of this writing, The Russian government has leveled [economic sanctions](#) against Turkey.

To date, the facts, including the [testimony of one of the pilots](#), and a [suspicious leak from a US Official](#) seem to support Russia's version of events.

So what was the point of Turkey's action? Was it intended to protect the Islamic State militants? Will this incident spark an escalation that could lead to a major theatre war?

This week's Global Research News Hour focuses on the Syrian crisis in the context of the recent attack.

In the first half hour we hear from Christopher Black. He is an international criminal lawyer and member of the law Society of Upper Canada. He has contributed several articles for [New Eastern Outlook](#) which are re-published at the Global Research News site. Mr Black discerns the meaning of Turkish assault, the deceptions around the "campaign against ISIS" the prospects of an imminent war on Syria, and the problems of the modern anti-war

movement.

In the final half hour, we are joined by Tim Anderson. He is a Senior Lecturer at the University of Sydney in the Department of Political Economy. He is the author of a soon to be released book about the [Dirty War on Syria](#). In this interview, Anderson outlines the sophistication of the Western propaganda campaign against Syria, the resilient social factors within Syrian society, the dynamics of the 2011 political revolt which led to the current conflict, and some of the players both inside and outside Syria impacting on the situation.

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Notes:

1. [Thomas Gibbons-Neff](#)(November 24, 2015) Washington Post, “The last time a Russian jet was shot down by a NATO jet was in 1952”;
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/checkpoint/wp/2015/11/24/the-last-time-a-russian-jet-was-shot-down-by-a-nato-jet-was-in-1952/>
2. <http://beforeitsnews.com/alternative/2015/11/turkeys-letter-today-to-the-un-security-council-over-russian-jet-shootdown-3248052.html>
3. Kareem Shaheen et al (Nov.24, 2015), The Guardian, “Putin condemns Turkey after Russian warplane downed near Syria border”
<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/nov/24/turkey-shoots-down-jet-near-border-wi>

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