

# Twisted East-West Diplomacy: Bizarre Kerry Claim About US Not Seeking Regime Change in Syria

By [Stephen Lendman](#)

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Region: [Middle East & North Africa](#), [Russia and FSU](#), [USA](#)

Theme: [Terrorism](#), [US NATO War Agenda](#)

In-depth Report: [SYRIA](#)

*Kerry made the comment during his Tuesday Moscow visit – at Washington’s request.*

*Both countries are unable to square the circle on their differing views on Syria, despite their diplomatic rhetoric suggesting otherwise.*

*Two major issues separate both sides. Washington won’t agree to recognize certain indisputable terrorist groups, including Jabhat al-Nusra, an Al Qaeda affiliate, responsible for gruesome atrocities against civilians.*

*Russia maintains they all must be called what they are, nations worldwide united against them.*

*The second sticking point is over who should lead Syria, including its president and majority parliamentarians. Washington wants a pro-Western puppet of its choosing, supported by likeminded legislators. Russia insists it’s up to Syrians alone – with clear core international law backing.*

No nation may interfere in the internal affairs of any others for any reason except self-defense if attacked – even then only if Security Council authorized.

No Security Council resolution or Damascus permission authorized Washington and coalition allies to bomb Syrian territory and invade with small numbers of combat troops – on the phony pretext of combating ISIS.

Assad is fighting to keep what the vast majority of Syrians want, namely their sovereign independence, putting them at odds with US imperial objectives.

Syria is Obama’s war, launched in March 2011, ongoing for nearly five years, along with other US imperial wars fully responsible for the severest refugee crisis since WW II – besides the millions of corpses and dismembered bodies, a stark testimony to US barbarity.

Kerry came to Moscow for another try at getting Putin to bend to America’s will, a futile mission.

Washington escalated its military operations in Syria, exclusively bombing infrastructure and government targets along with coalition allies – supporting, not opposing ISIS.

Syrian Deputy Foreign Minister Faisal al-Mikdad blasted US-led intervention in his country, saying:

“We doubt (it’s) sincere in their fight against terrorism. They do not coordinate their actions with the Syrian Army.”

“This makes those forces illegal in Syria’s territory. One cannot say they are fighting terrorism. (It) must be a practical task, not this advertising gig that the West is engaged in.”

Mikdad blasted Saudi Arabia for forming a pro-ISIS bloc, comprised of terrorists wanting Assad forcibly ousted.

“Syria does not negotiate with terrorists,” Mikdad stressed. The only place we meet them is (on) the battlefield. He welcomed support from any groups dedicated to combating ISIS and other terrorist groups – at the same time praising Russia for achieving “significant successes.”

A Final Comment:

Iraqi parliamentarians want Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi to request Russian aid in combating ISIS. Washington is going all-out to prevent it.

On Wednesday, Defense Secretary Ashton Carter arrived in Baghdad to warn him against accepting Putin’s help. He’s stopped short of asking so far – for how long remains to be seen. Iraq has no chance to defeat its scourge without it.

US-led NATO war on Libya ravaged and destroyed the country, creating a continuing cauldron of violence in a divided country.

The West recognizes the Tobruk-based regime, led Abdullah al-Thani. A rival power headed by Prime Minister Khalifa al-Ghawi operates from Tripoli, the nation’s capital.

Days earlier, both sides agreed to a UN-brokered deal to form a unity government based in Tripoli. Earlier diplomatic efforts failed – perhaps this one as well.

General Khalifa Haftar was involved in US-led NATO’s war to oust Muammar Gaddafi. He’s now al-Thani’s armed forces commander.

On Friday, he said “(w)e welcome support from Russia in fighting terrorism.” ISIS has a foothold in Libya. Haftar commented after meeting with UNSMIL (UN peacekeeping) head Martin Kobler.

“(E)very day we wait, that you wait, is a gain for Daesh in this country,” said Kobler. “(I) am very glad to see that the general agrees on the urgency of the matter.”

Whether Russia will be asked to help (and if Putin will agree) remains to be seen. Washington will exert extreme pressure to prevent it.

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