Western Propagandists Attempt to Trigger Catastrophic Turkish-Syrian War

US and British media air unconfirmed report on "agreement" for Turkish-Syrian "buffer zone."

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Bloomberg, Guardian, Ynet, and others are all posting in their headlines an identical unconfirmed report that Turkey and Syria have "agreed" to establish a 6 mile wide "buffer zone" running the length of the Turkish-Syrian border.

The report states specifically (emphasis added):

> The Syrian government has told its military to keep aircraft at least six miles (10 kilometers) from Turkey's borders after a deadly shelling incident left five Turks dead, according to the Turkish news website Today's Zaman.
>
> The news site cited Turkey's ntvmsnbc.com, which quoted "reliable sources" yesterday as saying that Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's regime has ordered its warplanes and helicopters to honor the buffer. Neither Turkey's government nor Syrian officials confirmed the report.

Accompanying this report are stories such as Reuters' "UN: Syria buffer zone plan raises questions," which states:

> The United Nations said on Thursday proposals to set up secure safe zones in Syria to help end the 17-month conflict raised "serious questions" and would need to be studied carefully.
> Ahead of a meeting on the humanitarian situation in Syria, France and Britain warned Syria's President Bashar Assad that military action to secure buffer zones for civilians inside the country was an option.

Reuters goes on to "warn:"

> Creating a buffer zone for displaced Syrians would be difficult because a U.N. Security Council resolution would be needed to set up a no-fly zone to protect the area, and Russia and China would not approve such a move, diplomats said.
>
> It is not the first time Russia has posed difficulties for the United States and its allies on the Security Council. In the 1990s, Moscow strongly supported Serbia in the Balkan Wars and acted as Belgrade's protector on the council.
>
> After an ineffectual UN presence failed to stop genocide in the 1992-1995 Bosnian War, the United States and its European allies infuriated Russia by

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bypassing the deadlocked Security Council and turning to NATO to halt the Serbian onslaught in Kosovo with a bombing campaign against Serbia in 1999.

While the idea of a buffer zone is meant to look like a knee-jerk reaction to a still unjustified exchange of fire on the Turkish-Syrian border, with lingering conflicting reports over who was responsible for initially targeting the Turkish town of Akcacle, in reality this has been planned since at least March of this year, where the idea was proposed by the corporate-financier funded Brookings Institution in their "Middle East Memo #21" "Assessing Options for Regime Change" where it stated specifically (emphasis added):

> "An alternative is for diplomatic efforts to focus first on how to end the violence and how to gain humanitarian access, as is being done under Annan's leadership. This may lead to the creation of safe-havens and humanitarian corridors, which would have to be backed by limited military power. This would, of course, fall short of U.S. goals for Syria and could preserve Asad in power. From that starting point, however, it is possible that a broad coalition with the appropriate international mandate could add further coercive action to its efforts." –page 4, Assessing Options for Regime Change, Brookings Institution.

SABAN CENTER *at* BROOKINGS

MIDDLE EAST *memo*

MEMO #21   MARCH 2012

Saving Syria: Assessing Options for Regime Change

Daniel Byman, Michael Doran, Kenneth Pollack, and Salman Shaikh

SYRIA IS TRAPPED ON A CRUMBLING PRECIPICE, and however it might fall will entail significant risks for the United States and for the Syrian people.

The brutal regime of Bashar al-Asad is employing its loyal military forces and sectarian thugs to crush the opposition and reassert its tyranny. Even if Bashar fails, Syria may not be out of the woods: an increasingly likely alternative to the current regime is a bloody civil war similar to what we saw in Lebanon, Bosnia, Congo, and most recently in Iraq. The horrors of such a war might even exceed the brutal reassertion of Asad's control, and would cause spillover into Syria's neighbors—Turkey, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, and Israel—that could be disastrous for them and for American interests in the Middle East.[1]

But the unrest in Syria, which is now entering its second year, also offers some important opportunities, ones that would come from the fall of the regime of Bashar al-Asad, whose family has ruled the country with an iron grip for over forty years. Syria is Iran's oldest and most important ally in the Arab world, and the Iranian regime has doubled down on Asad, providing him with financial aid and military support to shore up his regime. Asad's departure would deal a significant blow to Tehran, further isolating it at a time when it has few friends in the region or the world. In addition, Damascus is steadfast in its hostility toward Israel, and Asad's regime is also a longtime supporter of terrorist groups like Hizballah and Hamas, and has at times aided al-Qa'ida terrorists and former regime

elements in Iraq. The regime's collapse, therefore, could have significant benefits for the United States and its allies in the region.

Actually ousting Asad, however, will not be easy. Although the Obama administration has for months called for Asad to go, every policy option to remove him is flawed, and some could even make the situation worse—seemingly a recipe for inaction. Doing nothing, however, means standing by while Asad murders his own people, and Syria plunges into civil war and risks becoming a failed state. Already the violence is staggering: as of March 2012, at least 8,000 Syrians have died and thousands more have been arrested and tortured in trying to topple the regime. At the same time, Syria is fragmenting. The Syrian opposition remains divided, and the Free Syrian Army is more a brand than a meaningful, unified force. Al-Qa'ida is urging fighters to join the fray in Syria, and sectarian killings and atrocities are growing. Should the violence continue to intensify, Syria's neighbors may increase their meddling, and instability could spread, further weakening already-fragile neighbors like Iraq and Lebanon.

So to protect U.S. interests, Asad cannot triumph. But a failed Syria, one wracked by civil war, would be just as bad. Thus, U.S. policy must walk this tightrope, trying to remove Asad, but doing so in a way that keeps Syria an intact state capable of policing its borders and ensuring order at home. At the end of the day, however, removing Asad may not be doable

Image: The Brookings Institution, Middle East Memo #21 "[Assessing Options for Regime Change (.pdf)](#)," makes no secret that the humanitarian "responsibility to protect" is but a pretext for long-planned regime change.

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Brookings continues by describing how Turkey's aligning of vast amounts of weapons and troops along its border in coordination with Israeli efforts in the south of Syria, could help effect violent regime change in Syria:

> In addition, Israel's intelligence services have a strong knowledge of Syria, as well as assets within the Syrian regime that could be used to subvert the regime's power base and press for Asad's removal. Israel could posture forces on or near the Golan Heights and, in so doing, might divert regime forces from suppressing the opposition. This posture may conjure fears in the Asad regime of a multi-front war, particularly if Turkey is willing to do the same on its border and if the Syrian opposition is being fed a steady diet of arms and training. Such a mobilization could perhaps persuade Syria's military leadership to oust Asad in order to preserve itself. Advocates argue this additional pressure could tip the balance against Asad inside Syria, if other forces were aligned properly. –[page 6, Assessing Options for Regime Change, Brookings Institution](#).

Clearly, a "buffer zone" is the next step for Western designs aimed at exacting regime change in Syria and would be a move the Syrian government would not readily agree to. It was also a step that merely needed a pretext to move forward. It appears that the West has found (or manufactured) their pretext. The unconfirmed reports floated by allegedly "reputable" news agencies, citing "high placed sources" in the Turkish media reeks of propaganda, public perception management, and psychological warfare.

Image: A satellite image of the Turkish-Syrian border and the town of Akcacle. NATO-backed terrorists had attacked and overrun the border post, situated directly amongst the sprawl of Akcacle with extends right up to the border. Turkish PM Erdogan is solely responsible for allowing armed terrorist groups, many not even Syria, [but Libyan in origin](), to use Turkish territory to carry out attacks. The loss of Turkish civilian life is an inevitability when Al Qaeda terrorists are permitted, even encouraged and enabled to use Turkish towns as staging grounds for their activities. It is still not clear who was responsible for initial mortar rounds that allegedly landed in Akcacle, but it is certain that NATO and their proxy Erdogan are attempting to use the incident to pressure Turkey into a wider conflict with Syria.

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Additionally, it should be noted that this policy of seeking a "buffer zone" IS NOT A TURKISH POLICY. It [was imagined, planned, and is being ceaselessly promoted by]() corporate-financier interests emanating from the United States, the United Kingdom, and France, and is merely being parroted by increasingly unpopular elements within Turkish politics, specifically the government of Turkish PM Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

[Protests erupted in Turkey's capital of Ankara](), not in support of Erdogan's government, but to protest against it and attempts to use the nebulous border incident to initiate a wider conflict. The Turkish parliament has recently passed [a bill authorizing the type of cross-border military operations]() needed to establish and protect Wall Street think-tank Brooking's prescribed "buffer zone."

It appears that the West, faced with reluctant proxies along all of Syria's borders, has begun both pressuring it's own allies with increasingly belligerent moves, while attempting to stoke increased cross-border tensions between Turkey and Syria. If the unconfirmed reports of a "buffer zone" agreement turn out to be false, it would confirm that the West is engaged in a concerted propaganda campaign to stoke a mutually destructive conflict that would destroy both Turkey and Syria, while benefiting only itself. If the "buffer zone" agreement has been made, Syria will have taken the first step in opening itself up further destabilization at the hands of terrorist proxies wielded now for over a year from Turkish territory, with wider US, British, French, and NATO backing.
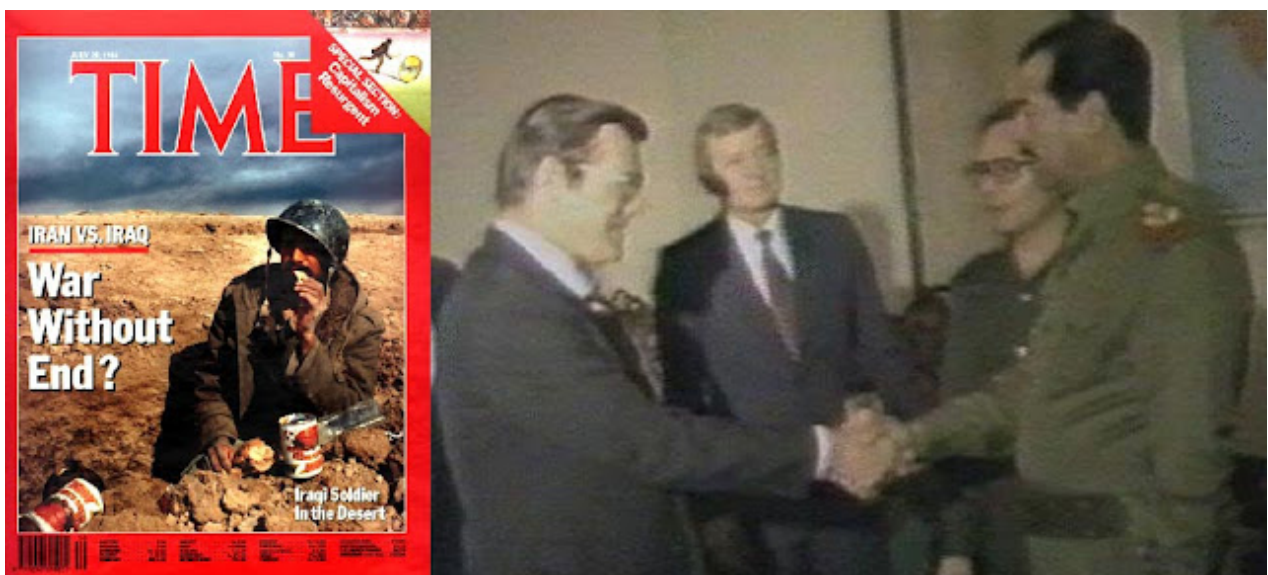

Image: (Left) Time's cover depicting the "War Without End" between Iraq and Iran which lasted 8 years and cost well over a million lives. (Right) Donald Rumsfeld sent as a US

envoy, meets with Saddam Hussein during the opening phases of the war to offer support to the man he would later play a role in killing. It may have seemed like a good idea in the beginning, with Iraq's Hussein receiving substantial support both politically and militarily from the US, Britain, and France, but ended in both the destruction of Iraq, and Saddam's eventual downfall. We can see a similar scenario developing with Turkish PM Erdogan now playing the role of an early 1980's Saddam Hussein.

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For people on both sides of the border, it would be wise to unite against the self-serving, destructive Western policies that endanger not only Syria, but Turkey as well. Like Iraq in the 1980's, when President Saddam Hussein was encouraged to begin the destructive [8 year failed invasion of Iran](#), costing over a million lives and leaving his nation permanently weakened – even setting the stage for eventual Western invasion, occupation, and decimation, Turkish PM Erdogan is likewise jeopardizing not only the security and safety of his nation [by allowing it to serve host to terrorist forces](#) invading a neighboring nation, but jeopardizes Turkey's entire existence, should he continue forward with the "Saddam option."

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