

If you don't regularly receive my reports, request a free subscription at [steve\\_bakke@comcast.net](mailto:steve_bakke@comcast.net) !  
Follow me on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/@BakkeSteve> and receive links to my posts and more!  
Visit my website at <http://www.myslantonthings.com> !

## **How About Turkey!**

By Steve Bakke  February 14, 2020



Turkish President Erdogan has committed military support to Ukraine in its fight against Russia. I wonder if that move by Turkey is connected to Trump's November decision to relocate troops in Northern Syria.

As I understand the situation last November, Turkey had security concerns that led to its plans for an incursion into northern Syria. The goal was to create a buffer zone for security and relocating Syrian refugees.

Trump decided not to block Turkey's move. In hindsight I think it's becoming evident he knew Turkey would end up face-to-face with Russia, and couldn't justify doing Russia's job for them by keeping Turkish forces at bay. I believe Trump's relocation of troops was prudent and opportunistic, although politically hazardous.

Turkey and Russia compete for influence in a large geographical area. Syria is on Turkey's southern border and Ukraine is across the Black Sea to Turkey's north. Perhaps Trump's decision to let Turkey face Russia in northern Syria influenced Turkey's confidence and willingness to help with Ukraine's defense against Russia.

In both cases Turkey is stepping in to "deal with" Russia, and pressure is taken off the U.S. to be the sole actor in both Syria and Ukraine.