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# Russia Giving Syria the S-300 Is More Message Than Menace

by [Anna Borshchevskaya](#)

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**The system's familiarity and potentially minimal, nonintegrated deployment mean that U.S. and Israeli pilots have little to fear from Moscow's announcement.**

It may seem strange that Moscow has delivered its S-300 anti-aircraft system to Syria this month. The decision came after the Assad regime accidentally downed a Russian reconnaissance IL-20 plane in northern Syria on Sept. 17 using the less sophisticated S-200. Why give a more advanced version of that weapon to an incompetent ally who just shot down your plane? But for the Kremlin, the delivery is about one thing: assertion of further dominance in Syria. It is a political statement to the West, and everyone else in the region: Russia is here to stay...

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