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On Syria, the U.S. Can Drive a Hard Bargain with Russia

[Dennis Ross](#)

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Putin gives nothing away without a price. To protect America's interests, neither should Trump.

The U.S., Turkey and Israel share an interest in containing Iran and its Shiite militias in Syria. Russia has the capacity to deliver that, but it would want the U.S. out of Syria in return. The Trump administration could condition an American withdrawal on the following limits for Iranian and allied militia activity: No military bases in Syria; no more surface-to-surface missiles; no fabrication of missiles or advanced guidance systems in Syria or Lebanon; no qualitatively new air defense radars or missiles; and buffer zones with no Iranian or proxy presence near Turkey, Israel or Jordan...

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