


# POLITICAL REFLECTION

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## Reflections on the Turkey Syria Conundrum

*by Assoc. Prof. Mark Meirowitz*

**The Era of Coercive  
Diplomacy in Iranian  
Nuclear Deal**  
*by Rahimullah Kakar*

**International Solidarity  
and Burden-Sharing:  
The Case of Syrian Refugees**  
*by Emrah Atar*

**Shall the Court Subject  
Counter-Terrorism Law  
to Judicial Review?  
National Security vs  
Human Rights**  
*by Dr Sharifullah Dorani*

**The Twilight Zone of  
Political Transition:  
Between Revolution  
and Democratic Change**  
*by Dr Marco Marsili*

**Rural Afghan Women  
as Agents for Change  
and the Failure of  
Liberal Peacebuilding**  
*by Sarah Edgcumbe*



# Political Reflection Magazine

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## **Note:**

The ideal **PR** article length is from **1000** to **2000** words.

References in both the text and in any endnotes should follow Harvard style.

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“ADVANCING DIVERSITY”

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# World News

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By Furkan Sahin

## Turkey Launched a Military Operation into Northern Syria



Succinctly articulated by Turkey, security threats coming from the PKK's Syria branch, PYD/YPG caused military operation by Turkey, supported by the Syrian National Army, which consists of Turkey-backed Free Syrian Army. It has been expected but how it would happen was not certain until President Trump decided to withdraw US ground forces protecting PYD/YPG control centres. That has been an unexpected move by the US, and PYD/YPG was left unprotected. Most of the countries condemn Turkey for her assault to the Northern Syria because it is thought that there would be humanitarian and migration crisis together with the possibility of re-emergence of the ISIS. More than ten thousand ISIS terrorists have been held in custody in the region, and the international community is wondering what would happen to them. Turkey agreed to take responsibility but still nothing is definite until the operation is finished.

On the one hand, the international community reports Turkey's Peace Spring Operation as if it was against Kurdish people as they mostly equate PYD/YPG with all Kurds. On the other hand, Turkey refuses the idea and claims fighting against PKK's Syrian branch, as such terrorists. Additionally, international community argues that there would be migration and humanitarian crisis, but Turkey opposes it and suggests it would establish new settlement areas for facilitating Syrian migrants to return, including more than three million Syrian migrants in Turkey.

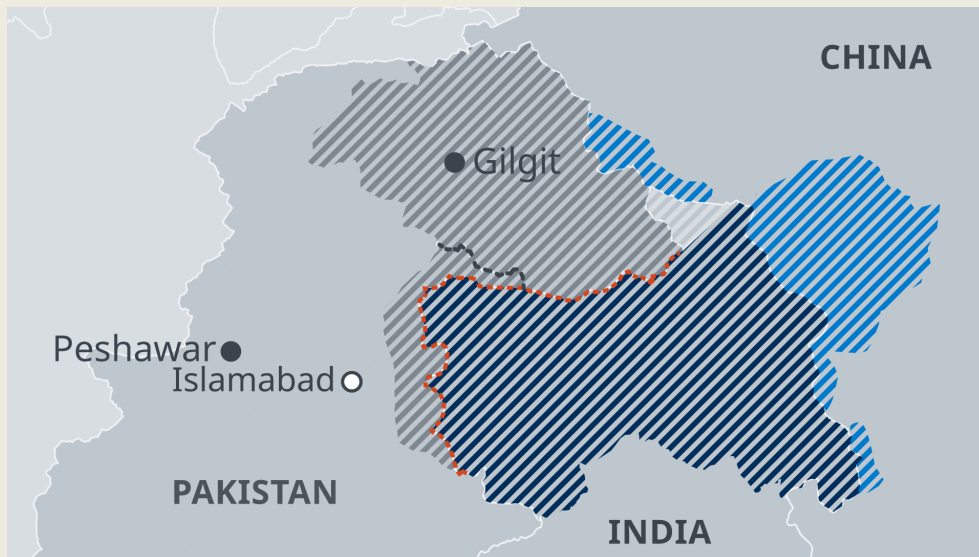
## Oil Tanker Crisis between Saudi Arabia and Iran



On 14 September 2019, the world's largest oil refinery, owned by Saudi Arabia oil company, Aramco, was hit with a drone attack by Houthi militants in Yemen. It is known that Iran has supported them and thus most think that it an indirect attack from Iran to Saudi Arabia. On 11 October 2019, almost a month later, an Iranian oil tanker, called Sabiti, was hit twice by something, which is mostly believed to be missiles. Iran implies that Saudi Arabia operated the attack because it was navigating in the Red Sea, offshore of Saudi Arabia.

It is just the tip of the iceberg. Saudi's close engagement with the US and Israel against Iran does not seem to end soon. These two regional actors consider each other sectarian rivals and so have been in the struggle in Syria, Iraq, and Yemen. Therefore, the oil tanker crisis would enlarge gradually until their struggles reach equilibrium to detent.

## India Raised a Military Control in Kashmir



India changed the status of Kashmir from autonomous to fully controlled, with a Presidential Decreed on 5 August 2019. By amending the constitutional article recognising Kashmir as autonomy, Indian President, Narendra Modi, has sent additional troops and took control of all infrastructure including telecommunication facilities. Since the detachment between India and Pakistan, the region has stayed as a disputed area, both actors, India and Pakistan, claim sovereignty over the Kashmir. As Imran Kahn, Pakistan's Prime Minister emphasised that international community has not yet appropriately responded due to the protest in Hong Kong. However, historical experience suggests that unilaterally changed status of Kashmir would not be forgotten until it worsens relations between India and Pakistan. Therefore, a new Middle East-like conflict seems possible unless proper precautions are not taken by the international community.

### **US-China Trade War is Far from Ending**



Chinese Vice Premier, Liu He met with President Trump to continue trade talks between China and the US. International media reports that two giant powers are close to penning a new comprehensive trade agreement. However, Trump's unstable stance on issues and China's responses are still significant factors creating possible uncertainties on the issue. It is expected to be completed by the end of 2019; a new trade deal would stable the international economic order if it is signed. Due to the fact that China and the US do not economically challenge each other, but their struggle ranges from Iran related issues to international corporations, it does not seem that signing a trade agreement between them would be easily completed.