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# Trump's hasty Syria withdrawal means 'Merry Christmas' for Vladimir Putin

This is an opinion item.

**Author(s)** [The Dallas Morning News editorial board](#)

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**Quote** “ Putin, who helped tip the Syrian civil war in favor of Bashar Assad and was then able to establish a Russian presence in the Middle East for the first time in decades, will now enjoy the greater influence it attained knowing an American presence will no longer reside in Syria. We can't help but think this also gives Iran a strategic upper hand as it propped up Syria. Iran will now feel emboldened to create a greater threat to our only ally in the region, Israel, and to shore up its effort to become a regional hegemon. ”

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This item argues against the position [United States is right to withdraw its troops](#) on the topic [Syrian civil war](#).