






# Foreign involvement in Syria's civil war

As Syria's long-running civil war winds down slowly, the country is awash with weapons and a bewildering array of local militias and thousands of foreign troops, some of which may never leave



*Syria's President **Bashar al-Assad** has regained control over large parts of Syria but is heavily reliant on support from Russia and Iran*

## AREAS OF CONTROL (Nov 28)

-  Syrian government and allies
-  Syrian rebel groups
-  Turkish troops and allies
-  So-called Islamic State (IS)
-  Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (U.S.-backed)



### United States

Number of troops in north may exceed 1,500 – including special forces, Marine artillery unit and forward air controllers. Presence could be maintained until settlement for war is found



### Russia: Plans

to maintain and expand main bases at Hemeimeem and Tartus. Troop count could exceed Sep 2016 figure of 4,300, as Moscow has this year deployed military police to patrol Syria's so-called "de-escalation zones"



### Iran: Revolutionary Guards,

Iranian officers and tens of thousands of militia deployed across Syria, plus Iranian-backed Hezbollah fighters from Lebanon. Iran reportedly building permanent base in Syria



### Turkey: At least 2,500 troops

in border zone retaken from IS in 2016, plus 400 in Idlib province as part of de-escalation agreement with Russia and Iran. Key strategy is to limit expansion of Syrian Kurds

