

Turkey threatens new offensive in Syria

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan is threatening to launch a new offensive against U.S.-backed Kurdish fighters in Syria, a move likely to further strain ties between NATO allies Turkey and the United States



Turkish army tanks near Syrian border, Jan 2018



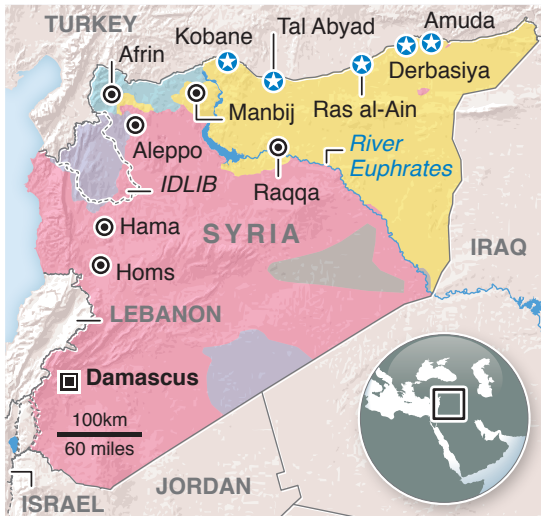
President Erdogan's threat follows U.S. decision to set up observation posts in Syria, which Turkey says are aimed at protecting Kurdish YPG militia

TURKISH MILITARY OPERATIONS IN SYRIA

■ **2016-17: Euphrates Shield** operation to clear so-called Islamic State (IS) militants from border and halt advance of Kurdish fighters

■ **Oct 2017-present**
Observer forces posted in **Idlib** region to enforce "de-escalation" deal with Russia and Iran

■ **Jan 2018-present**
Olive Branch operation in Kurdish enclave of Afrin to clear People's Protection Units (YPG) militia from border



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| ■ Syrian government | ■ Kurdish-led forces |
| ■ Turkey and allies | ■ Syrian rebels |
| ■ IS militants | ★ U.S. observation posts |