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Academy Securities Geopolitical SITREP

Geopolitical Flashpoints: The Macroeconomic Impact of the Geostrategic Landscape

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- U.S.-Turkey partnership history: 00:00 – 5:19
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Key Points:

- Turkey is a key ally given their geography and politics.
 - Turkey has been an important NATO partner.
- The Trump administration views the decision in northern Syria as a strategic initiative, attempting to rebuild the U.S.-Turkey alliance.
 - In this case, the counter ISIS mission does not take precedence.
- President Erdogan's authoritarian objectives have contributed to the desecularization of Turkey.
 - This shift has destabilized the U.S.-Turkey relationship and led to an attempted coup by the Turkish military in 2016.
- As Erdogan cozies up to Putin, Russia has offered to sell fighter jets to Turkey if the U.S. refuses to sell the F-35.
- Erdogan uses nationalism to help bolster his position and power.
 - The anti-Kurdish movement is part of this.
- As the U.S. minimizes its presence in Syria, past alliances and power dynamics will shift.
 - This could be destabilizing as the Kurds look to the Assad government for support and challenge our bilateral relationships in the region.
- Israel has a long-term kinship with the Kurds and will be concerned with how the events in northern Syria will impact the counter ISIS fight.
- Indicators of escalation include the continued withdrawal of U.S. forces in the region and more Turkish mechanized infantry (tanks) equipment entering Syria.
 - The U.S. will attempt to slow down the Turkish offensive, establish a no fly zone, and hopefully reestablish negotiations.
- The next few weeks will show how far Turkey is willing to go to achieve their strategic objectives – a buffer zone in northern Syria.

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Lieutenant General (Ret.) Robert S. Walsh retired from the Marine Corps in 2018 after over 35 years of service completing his career as the Commanding General of the Marine Corps Combat Development Command and the Deputy Commandant for Combat Development & Integration. A native of Chicago, Illinois, Bob is a graduate of the United States Naval Academy and he served as an F/A-18 pilot at all levels and was an instructor at the Navy Fighter Weapons School, also known as TopGun. In his last assignment, he was responsible for strategic planning and executing the reorganization of the Marine Corps to meet the new National Defense Strategy roles and missions. Bob often testifies before Congress on subjects such as modernization, acquisition, readiness and training of the Navy and Marine Corps. He created the Marine Corps Rapid Capabilities Office for rapid prototyping, experimentation, and demonstration in accordance with new legislative authorities. His operational and joint assignments as a General Officer included: serving as the Commanding General, 2d Marine Aircraft Wing leading all Marine Corps aircraft operations in Iraq, The Director of Operations, United States Northern Command responsible for ground-based missile defense, partnering with Mexico's military to support counterdrug and counterterrorism operations, and integrating U.S. military support to interagency actions during oil spills, hurricanes, wildfires, and multiple disasters.

Rachel Washburn is an Associate of Geopolitical Strategy at Academy Securities. Rachel served six years in the U.S. Army as an Intelligence Officer. While serving, Rachel deployed twice to Afghanistan; first as a member of the pioneer Cultural Support Team attached to Special Forces and second as an intelligence Platoon Leader. Since leaving the Army in 2016, Rachel continued to pursue a career addressing global security and instability, most recently acting as a regional director with a nonprofit focused on bringing relief in the wake of disasters and armed conflicts. Rachel is a graduate of Drexel University.

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