

Selected articles (August 16, 2019)

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1)

Killing Julian Assange Slowly

By Stephen Lendman

August 13, 2019

<https://stephenlendman.org/2019/08/killing-julian-assange-slowly/>

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2)

The Great Switch: Old Ways Fade and are Irrecoverable

By Alastair Crooke

August 14, 2019

<https://www.strategic-culture.org/news/2019/08/14/great-switch-old-ways-fade-and-irrecoverable/>

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3a)

US Axis of Aggression in Gulf

By Finian Cunningham

August 15, 2019

<https://www.strategic-culture.org/news/2019/08/15/us-axis-of-aggression-in-gulf/>

"[...] Dmitry Polyansky, Russia's acting envoy to the UN, set forth a multilateral security concept. He emphasized that the partnership would be a genuine international coalition acting within the framework of the UN Security Council. The proposal, which China has backed, would include all stakeholders for the safety of shipping through the vital Persian Gulf, including Iran. This is surely the way to go towards de-escalating the dangerous tensions in the region. The key is that any such initiative must be formulated in keeping with UN principles and international law. It is not for one, two or three nations to assume the role of naval "policemen" in an area of international waterways. Even if we take Washington's rhetoric about "protecting shipping" at face value, its deployment of force in the Gulf is an illegitimate assumption of power. It is outside UN principles and without Security Council mandate. In a word, illegal. [...]"

3b)

Russian Proposal for Gulf Security - Press Conference (8 August 2019)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yij00OWzF7M&feature=youtu.be>

"[...] Russian Ambassador Dmitry Polyanskiy today (8 Aug) presented a proposal for the creation of a "security and cooperation organization in the Persian Gulf that would include, in addition to the Gulf countries, Russia, China, the USA, the EU, India, and other stakeholders as observers or associated members." [...]"

3c)

Russia's security concept for the Gulf area

July 23, 2019

http://www.mid.ru/ru/foreign_policy/international_safety/conflicts/-/asset_publisher/xIEMTQ3OvzcA/content/id/3733575?p_p_id=101_INSTANCE_xIEMTQ3OvzcA&_101_INSTANCE_xIEMTQ3OvzcA_languageId=en_GB

3d)

US lost important military allies in the Middle East

By Jak Fraam

August 9, 2019

<http://foreignpolicynews.org/2019/08/09/us-lost-important-military-allies-in-the-middle-east/>

"[...] Paris and Berlin refused to participate in the operation, not only because it contradicts their economic interests, but also because they don't have military capabilities to influence US actions.[...]"

"[...] France and Germany, unlike South Korea and Japan, don't like naval adventures, ranging from the simplest maneuvers to a demonstration of power in a region that is extremely hot.

But from a political point of view, the refusal of Paris and Berlin to participate in the operation proves a growing split between the NATO countries. Firstly, the European parties of the nuclear deal are unhappy that the EU countries have come under secondary sanctions against Iran. Secondly, a split with Britain, which supported the US initiative, is also obvious.[...]"

3e)

Iran's dangerous deterrence policy: trading tankers- and another partial withdrawal from the JCPOA

By Elijah J Magnier

August 15, 2019

<https://ejmagnier.com/2019/08/15/irans-dangerous-deterrence-policy-trading-tankers-and-another-partial-withdrawal-from-the-jcpoa/>

3f)

Tehran works to bring neighbors onboard against US maritime coalition

By Al-Monitor Staff

August 13, 2019

Article Summary

Iran's president is intensely pursuing diplomacy with regional leaders to try to reverse US plans for an international maritime coalition in the Strait of Hormuz.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2019/08/iran-rouhani-neighbors-against-us-maritime-coalition-gulf.html>

3g)

Iran Condemns Trump Administration for 'Piracy Attempt' After Court Rejects US Effort to Seize Oil Tanker

By Jake Johnson

August 15, 2019

<https://www.commondreams.org/news/2019/08/15/iran-condemns-trump-administration-piracy-attempt-after-court-rejects-us-effort>

3h)

The Wisdom of the UAE's Retrenchment

By Paul Pillar

August 13, 2019

<https://lobellog.com/the-wisdom-of-the-uaes-retrenchment/>

3i)

How Sanctions Kill Iranians

By Daniel Larison

August 14, 2019

<https://www.theamericanconservative.com/larison/how-sanctions-kill-iranians/>

3j)

How Tehran fits into Russia-China strategy

By Pepe Escobar

August 12, 2019

<https://thesaker.is/how-tehran-fits-into-russia-china-strategy/>

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4a)

Syria - Frontline Breach Opens Door To A Deep Battle For Idlib

By Moon of Alabama

August 15, 2019

<https://www.moonofalabama.org/2019/08/syria-frontline-breach-opens-door-to-a-deep-battle-for-idlib.html#more>

4b)

Syrian Kurdish commander sets conditions for safe zone talks with Turkey

By Amberin Zaman

August 15, 2019

Article Summary

The commander of the Syrian Democratic Forces stated in an interview that a proposed safe zone between Turkey and Kurdish-controlled northeastern Syria must cover the full length of the border between them.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2019/08/syrian-kurdish-commander-conditions-us-turkey-safe-zone.html>

4c)

Syria in a Week (6 – 12 August 2019)

<https://www.jadaliyya.com/Details/39902/Syria-in-a-Week-6-%E2%80%93-12-August-2019--2019-%D8%B3%D9%88%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%A7-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D8%A3%D8%B3%D8%A8%D9%88%D8%B9-6-%E2%80%93-12-%D8%A2%D8%A8-%D8%A3%D8%BA%D8%B3%D8%B7%D8%B3>