



## **Sunday Reads: Trump & the Qatar crisis, David Grossman's Man-Booker prize, The intermarriage wars**

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Kate Brannen, Dan De Luce, and Paul McLeary report on [the Pentagon's objections to the White House's Iran and Syria plans:](#)

Despite the more aggressive stance pushed by some White House officials, Mattis, military commanders, and top U.S. diplomats all oppose opening up a broader front against Iran and its proxies in southeastern Syria, viewing it as a risky move that could draw the United States into a dangerous confrontation with Iran, defense officials said. Such a clash could trigger retaliation against U.S. troops deployed in Iraq and Syria, where Tehran has armed thousands of Shiite militia fighters and deployed hundreds of Revolutionary Guard officers.

Benjamin Friedman and Joshua Shifrinson [take a curious look](#) at the hysteria around President Trump's attitude towards America's NATO allies:

Now that the dust has settled on President Donald Trump's first foreign trip, we can assess the damage. The conventional hysteria notwithstanding, Trump's rudeness towards NATO allies did not reveal his intention to abandon them and end U.S. global leadership. It's actually worse than that, at least from our perspective. Trump is alienating allies *without* reducing U.S. defense commitments to them. He isn't surrendering U.S. leadership so much as defiling it.