

Tension Building Between Russia, Iran Over Demand for Iranian Army to Withdraw From Syrian Areas

by [Benjamin Kerstein](#) / June 8, 2018 7:10 pm

A major rift has developed between Russia and Iran in Syria over the former's demand for the withdrawal of Iranian and allied forces from strategic areas of the war-torn country, a new report says.

[...]

Vera Michlin-Shapir, an Associate Research Fellow at the **Institute for National Security Studies** and a Russia expert, said such a split was not entirely unexpected due to differing Russian and Iranian views on the eventual outcome of the conflict.

“We kind of expected this change in tone,” she told *The Algemeiner*, saying a “certain discord” was inevitable.

“If we look at it from a broader perspective, from the very beginning, one of the dysfunctions of this alliance was — this alliance is all good and well, but we can observe different objectives between the Russian player and the Iranian player within this alliance that works very well during the war. When the war will start winding down, they will start thinking about what happens next, and because the objectives are not necessarily the same, a certain divergence will appear,” she said.

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For full article, see:

<https://www.algemeiner.com/2018/06/08/russia-demands-iranian-army-withdraw-from-syrian-areas-causing-rift-between-allies/>