

# The New York Times

VOL. CLXVII ... No. 57,851

© 2018 The New York Times Company

NEW YORK, TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2018

## U.S. Watching While 2 Allies Clash in Syria

### Turks' Attack on Kurds Upsets ISIS Fight

By MARK Landler  
and CARLOTTA GALL

WASHINGTON — When President Trump met with Turkey's president, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, at the United Nations last September, he embraced him as a friend and declared, "We're as close as we've ever been." Five months later, Turkey is waging an all-out assault against Syrian Kurds, America's closest allies in the war against the Islamic State.

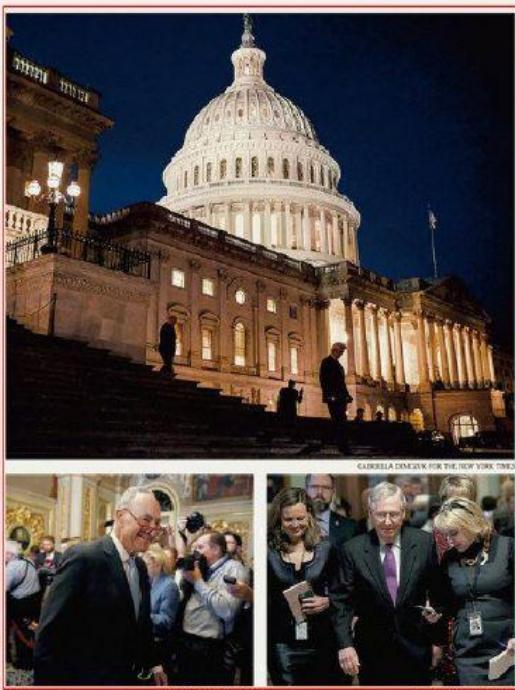
The Turkish offensive, carried out over the protests of the United States but with the apparent assistance of Russia, marks a perilous moment in the alliance between two NATO allies — one whose interests have become increasingly aligned.

As Turkish troops advanced Monday on the Kurdish town of Afrin, in northwest Syria, the White House warned Turkey not to take it off the campaign agenda. The U.S. also stopped short of rebuking Turkey and acknowledged its security concerns about the Kurds, whom Turkey considers terrorists and a threat to its territorial sovereignty.

The inherent conflict of the United States using the Kurds as its on-the-ground partner in fighting the Islamic State could be overshadowed as long as that group remained a threat. But with the American role in the fight, the White House is going to be wary of alienating relations with the Kurdish fighters without further alienating the Turks.

The Trump administration's approach has been to treat the Kurds as a border security threat in northeast Syria, ostensibly to guard against the resurgence of the Islamic State. But that has only antagonized the Turks, who view it as a staging ground for a future insurgency against their border.

"The U.S. has tried to walk a very fine line in Syria," said Ali Sofouf, a former F.B.I. counterterrorism agent who is now chair-



House members leaving the Capitol on Monday, top; Senator Mitch McConnell, right, promised Senator Chuck Schumer, left, and fellow Democrats that he would allow an immigration vote.

## Tax-Law Bonuses Veil a Bonanza for Companies

By JIM TANKERSLEY

WASHINGTON — There are good ways to start rewarding how much companies might be helping American workers. Offering the bonus amounts coming flowing from corporations is not one of them.

Those announcements, which

\$1,000 bonuses for Bank of America employees, are both real money and smart marketing. President Trump and top Republican lawmakers have praised many of the companies that are cashing out with huge bonuses and wage hikes.

For the most part, though, they are not indicative of the windfalls that com-

panies are acknowledging

this in their fourth-quarter earnings reports and other financial disclosures, which earmark just a sliver of their future tax savings for workers and other investments in workers.

Bank of America's bonuses will cost the bank \$145 million in 2018, or about 5 percent of the nearly

years to come.

## SHUTDOWN ENDS, SETTING UP CLASH OVER 'DREAMERS'

### NEWS ANALYSIS

#### Hope for Bargain in a Swift Surrender

By CARL HULSE

WASHINGTON — Senate Democrats bluffed. But the saving grace for them may be that they did it quietly.

"Should we have ever shut down the government?" asked Senator Joe Manchin of West Virginia, who played a leading role in finding a way out for Democrats. "Absolutely not."

Over the weekend it became clear that using the shutdown to insist on protections for undocumented immigrants was a serious miscalculation. By abandoning the strategy on its third day, Democrats believe they limited whatever damage there might be and avoided putting themselves in a fight about the disruption before the crucial November election.

They also won a commitment from Senator Mitch McConnell, the Kentucky Republican and majority leader, to bring a separate measure that could achieve their goal of protecting hundreds of thousands of undocumented immigrants.

But by supporting the government shutdown, McConnell faced a surge of outrage from the party's left as progressive activists and lawmakers assailed the deal as an capitulation based on a mere promise by Mr. McConnell, a moderate known for his obstruction of the Democratic agenda.

Immigration activists were furious that Senator Chuck Schumer of New York, the Democratic leader, and his fellow Democrats could not sway the centrist leverage they had to ensure that the young immigrants were protected.

"It's morally reprehensible and it's political malpractice," said Eric Lefkow, the co-executive director of Indivisible, a liberal group.

"Leader McConnell's track record of keeping his word"

### Immigration Issues Unresolved Under Senate Accord

By SHERYL GAY STOLBERG  
and THOMAS KAPLAN

WASHINGTON — Congress brought an end to a three-day government shutdown on Monday as Senate Democrats buckled under pressure to adopt a short-term spending bill to fund government operations without first addressing the fate of young undocumented immigrants.

The House quickly approved the measure — which will fund the government through Feb. 8 and extend funding for the popular Children's Health Insurance Program for six years — and President Trump signed it on Monday night.

The agreement also revealed fissures among Democrats, with about one-third of the party's members in the Senate and a majority in the House voting against it.

The passage of the measure ended an ugly, if short-lived, impasse that threatened to give a black eye to both major political parties. The deal, reached after a bipartisan group of senators pushed their leaders to come to terms, settles hundreds of thousands of federal employees who had been facing furloughs to go back to work.

But as a key part of the deal, a pledge by Senator Mitch McConnell, Republican of Kentucky and the majority leader, to allow an immigration vote in the coming weeks, set off a fierce debate over the so-called Dreamers, young undocumented immigrants who were brought to the United States illegally as children.

Lawmakers in the House and Senate are offering drastically different visions on how to resolve the issue, but those on both sides of the debate, as well as advocates for immigrants' rights, ultimately Mr. Trump does not want to get involved for VETO

the dispute to be settled.

Name of the  
newspaper

Caption

Section

Headline

Byline

Drophead

Dateline

Date

Lead

Body

Photos

LIVEWORKSHEETS