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## American Tanks Fall Into Enemy Hands

America is spending its strength in vain, and spending it to empower its archenemy.

- Anthony Chibariwe
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Iranian soldiers are driving around in American tanks, according to a recent government audit.

In the February 2 report from the [United States Department of Defense Office of Inspector General](#), the State Department “acknowledged that some U.S.-provided military equipment sent to support the mission, including as many as nine M1 Abrams tanks, had fallen into the hands of Iranian-backed militias that fought against [the Islamic State] in Iraq.”

Since the multinational war effort against the Islamic State began in 2014, the U.S. has given at least 1,000 armored personnel carriers, 250 tanks and \$3.8 billion to the Iraqi military to help it reclaim parts of Iraq from Islamic State militants. America’s archenemy in the Middle East, Iran, supplied that same Iraqi Army with more than 100,000 troops in what are known as Popular Mobilization Units (pmu). These units are primarily Shiite Iraqis, but they also include soldiers from Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. Many pmu forces have officially integrated into the Iraqi military.

Reports indicate that the Iraqi Security Forces *and* Iranian-backed pmu militants relied heavily on American hardware when they retook Kirkuk from [pro-American Kurdish fighters](#) in October. Video [footage](#) from February 2016 showed American Abrams tanks flying a flag of an organization affiliated with Iran’s Lebanese proxy Hezbollah and Iran’s oldest proxy in Iraq, the [Badr organization](#). In February 2015, YouTube [videos](#) showed Hezbollah militants driving American tanks, personnel carriers and Humvees.

Iraq’s al-Ghad news agency reported that since December, the Abrams manufacturer, General Dynamics, has ceased providing maintenance support for the tanks in Iraq because of its concerns about how the equipment is being shared with some of America’s deadliest enemies in blatant contravention of their usage agreement.

Authorities are understandably concerned about what will happen when the U.S. withdraws its 5,200 troops from Iraq in partial exchange for \$1.3 billion to train and arm the Iraqi Army. America cannot withdraw *without* training and arming Iraqis. And it evidently cannot train and arm Iraqis *without* arming and empowering Iranian militants.

Small Arms Survey researcher Matt Schroeder told al-Monitor: “Is there any sensitive technology that could be reverse engineered, picked apart and then used by the Iranian military to attack U.S. armor? That may be the bigger concern than militias driving around in tanks.”

Consider the RQ-170 Sentinel. Iran captured the \$6 million American spy drone in 2011 and warned that it would “target all U.S. military bases around the world.” Iran’s response would be “terrifying,” said deputy head of the Iranian parliament’s Foreign Affairs and National Security Committee, Mohammad Kossari. Five years later, Iran unveiled what it claimed to be its own version of the RQ-170 Sentinel, with reported capabilities of “hitting four targets with [smart precision-guided bombs](#) with high accuracy.”

The *Trumpet* reports often about American strength being spent in vain. It’s a direct fulfillment of a biblical prophecy found in Leviticus 26:20. As we have reported on these developments, we have witnessed America not only spending its strength in

vain but spending its strength to empower its enemies. In his January article "[America's Greatest Defeat—Iran's Victory](#)," *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry wrote:

America is celebrating after helping to drive the Islamic State out of Iraq and Syria. But it should not be celebrating. The reality of the situation is being dismissed: The United States has just suffered its greatest defeat ever in the Middle East!

As shocking as that statement may sound, I can prove it to you.

America may have helped drive the Islamic State out of Iraq and Syria—but now *America's about to be driven out of Iraq and Syria* by Iran! We are about to see a vicious turnaround. In many ways, it has already started.

We must look at what is happening here in the context of the prophecies of the Bible. That shows where events are leading and why. Those prophecies describe a lot of *good news* for America's future. But that good news is preceded by very alarming news—*terrible punishment* coming on the U.S.

In a much earlier article, "[Is Iraq About to Fall to Iran?](#)" (June 2003), Mr. Flurry wrote:

After the Iraq campaign, America seems very strong.

But certain aspects of the Iraq campaign actually show American weakness. And though the current U.S. administration [of George W. Bush] is vowing not to allow an Iranian-style theocracy to gain hold in Iraq, there are also signs in the way it is rebuilding the country that show a fundamental lack of political will to see this pledge through. Perhaps it will not be during the term of the current president, but the Bible shows that America will fail to contain Iran the way it hopes to.

Already, it is clear that Iran is eyeing the situation for opportunities. It would like nothing more than to extend its influence over the majority Shiite population in Iraq, and assume control over its massive oil wealth.

Iran, we could add, is also extending its influence in Iraq to assume control over American-supplied Abrams tanks and other military hardware.

If you'd like to understand the critical significance of these developments, you need to read [America's Greatest Defeat—Iran's Victory](#) and "[Is Iraq About to Fall to Iran?](#)" Then request a free copy of Mr. Flurry's booklet [The King of the South](#). ■