

MUNAPAC'26

H-UNSC Study Guide



Historical United Nations
Security Council

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1. Letter from the Secretary-General

Dear Participants of MUNAPAC'26,

My role as the Secretary-General grants me the distinct honor of contributing to a conference that embodies the principles of education, excellence, and collaboration. Engaging with a team of exceptionally dedicated and talented individuals, I am truly excited to help shape an event that reflects the very best of our community. Motivated by our shared vision, we strive to deliver an experience that captures the spirit and ambition of our club. Rooted in a strong tradition of Model United Nations excellence, this year's conference continues to build upon years of dedication and growth.

Every member of our academic and organizational teams has worked tirelessly to ensure that MUNAPAC'26 becomes an unforgettable experience. Not only do we aim to provide three remarkable days, but also to contribute meaningfully to your academic and personal growth. In this spirit, our conference offers a wide and dynamic range of committees designed to appeal to all styles of debate. Notably, this year we are proud to present 12 unique committees, each crafted with immense care and originality.

Among them are Historical GA1: DISEC where you can relieve the political tension of the breakup of a major state, GA4: SPECPOL which brings you an out-of-this-world debate experience; forming the backbone of our General Assembly and international governance discussions.

Moreover, our special committees consist of UNHRC in which you will be the voice of the unheard, Historical UNSC where the dust of the Middle East can be felt, Historical NATO and the desperate need for a reform, Parlamento Italiano with its unique Mediterranean atmosphere, World Trade Organization where global trade is in your hands, and the Worcester Convention where the fight for equality is born; all bringing diverse political perspectives to the table.

Keeping innovation and adrenaline at the core of our crisis committees; the Department of Homeland Security attempts to maintain public security, FCC: Small Council is challenged with the well-being of Westeros, FCC The Apocalypse of St. John plunges delegates into a world of prophecy and chaos, and JCC: Anglo-Soviet Invasion of Iran takes delegates back to WWII to relive the unjust nature of war.

On behalf of the APAC Model United Nations Team, I truly hope MUNAPAC'26 will be an unforgettable experience for each and every one of you, and eagerly anticipate welcoming you all to our conference this June.

Warm regards,
Saniyar Safari
Secretary-General, MUNAPAC'26

2. Letter from the Co-Under-Secretaries-General

Dear Delegates,

It is our great pleasure to welcome you to MUNAPAC'26 and to the Historical United Nations Security Council (H-UNSC). In this committee, you will be debating one of the most complex and controversial conflicts of the 21st century: the Syrian Civil War.

This committee will challenge you not only to understand the historical developments of the conflict, but also to actively engage in fast-paced decision-making, diplomacy, and crisis-solving. The Syrian Civil War is far more than a domestic issue—it is a conflict shaped by global powers, regional interests, and serious humanitarian consequences. As members of the Security Council, you will be expected to balance national interests with international responsibility.

We expect delegates to come well-prepared, with a clear understanding of their country's foreign policy, alliances, and overall stance on the conflict. However, beyond research, what will truly define this committee is your ability to negotiate, form alliances, and adapt to rapidly changing situations.

Do not be afraid to take initiative, be active in debate, and fully immerse yourself in your role. The Security Council is not a passive committee—it is dynamic, strategic, and often unpredictable.

We are very excited to see the level of debate, diplomacy, and creativity you will bring to this committee, and we truly hope this will be a memorable experience for all of you.

Best regards,

Alya Begüm Kanık & Selin Aygün

Co-Under-Secretaries-General of H-UNSC

3. Introduction to the United Nations Security Council

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is one of the six main organs of the United Nations and is responsible for maintaining international peace and security. Established in 1945 after the Second World War, the Security Council was created to prevent future global conflicts and to promote international cooperation and diplomacy.

The Security Council has the authority to investigate conflicts, impose sanctions, establish peacekeeping missions, and authorize the use of force when necessary. Because of these powers, it is considered the most powerful body within the United Nations.

The Council consists of 15 members: five permanent members — the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Russia, and China — and ten non-permanent members elected for two-year terms. The five permanent members hold veto power, meaning they can block any substantive resolution even if the majority supports it. This veto power plays a significant role in many international conflicts, including the Syrian Civil War.

In this Historical United Nations Security Council, you will represent countries within a specific historical timeline and will be responsible for responding to the Syrian Civil War through diplomacy, negotiation, and resolution writing in order to maintain international peace and security.

4. Historical Background of Syria

To understand the Syrian Civil War, it is important to first understand Syria's political history, government structure, and social divisions before the conflict began in 2011.

Syria gained independence from France in 1946 after the end of the French mandate. In the years following independence, Syria experienced political instability, military coups, and changes in government. This period of instability continued until 1970, when Hafez al-Assad came to power through a military coup known as the Corrective Movement. He established an authoritarian government led by the Ba'ath Party, which promoted Arab nationalism and socialism.

After Hafez al-Assad died in 2000, his son Bashar al-Assad became president. Many people initially hoped he would introduce political and economic reforms. However, Syria remained an authoritarian state with limited political freedom, restricted media, and strong

government control over society. Opposition parties were largely banned, and political dissent was often suppressed.

Syria is also a country with significant ethnic and religious diversity. The majority of the population is Sunni Muslim, while the government leadership has historically been dominated by the Alawite minority, a sect of Shia Islam to which the Assad family belongs. There are also Kurds, Christians, Druze, and other minority groups living in Syria. These ethnic and religious divisions later played an important role in the civil war.

Before 2011, Syria also faced economic problems such as unemployment, corruption, poverty, and a severe drought between 2006 and 2010, which forced many farmers to move to cities and increased social and economic tensions.

These political, economic, and social problems created growing dissatisfaction among the population, which eventually contributed to the protests that began in 2011 and later developed into the Syrian Civil War.

5. Origins of the Syrian Civil War

The Syrian Civil War began in 2011 as part of the wider regional movement known as the Arab Spring, a series of protests and uprisings across the Middle East and North Africa. These protests began in Tunisia in December 2010, when a street vendor named Mohamed Bouazizi set himself on fire after being harassed by government officials. His death sparked protests that led to the fall of the Tunisian government, and similar protests quickly spread to Egypt, Libya, Yemen, Bahrain, and Syria.

In Syria, the first major protests began in March 2011 in the southern city of Daraa. The protests started after 15 schoolboys were arrested for writing anti-government graffiti on a wall that said: "*It's your turn doctor*" The boys were arrested and reportedly tortured by security forces under the command of Atef Najib, a cousin of President Bashar al-Assad. When families demanded the release of the children, they were reportedly insulted and dismissed by local authorities, which caused public anger and protests in Daraa.

Security forces responded to the protests by opening fire on demonstrators, killing several civilians. Instead of stopping the protests, this caused demonstrations to spread across the country to cities such as Homs, Hama, Damascus, Idlib, and Aleppo. Protesters demanded political reforms, the release of political prisoners, an end to corruption, and more political freedoms.

President Bashar al-Assad initially promised some reforms, such as lifting the 48-year state of emergency, but at the same time the government continued to use military force, arrests, and violence to suppress protests. By late 2011, many protesters and defectors from the Syrian army began forming armed groups to fight against government forces. One of the most important opposition groups formed was the Free Syrian Army (FSA), founded in July 2011 by a Syrian military officer named Colonel Riad al-Asaad.

By 2012, the conflict had escalated into a full civil war between the Syrian government and opposition forces. Over time, the conflict became increasingly complex as new groups entered the war, including Islamist groups, Kurdish forces, and extremist organizations such as ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and Syria). At the same time, foreign countries began supporting different sides in the conflict, turning the Syrian Civil War into a proxy war involving major international powers such as the United States, Russia, Iran, and Turkey.

What started as peaceful protests for political reform eventually developed into one of the most devastating conflicts of the 21st century. The war resulted in over 500,000 deaths, millions of refugees, and the destruction of major Syrian cities such as Aleppo, Raqqa, and Homs. The conflict also created one of the largest humanitarian crises in modern history.

6. Major Actors in the Conflict

The Syrian Civil War is not a simple two-sided conflict. Instead, it involves many different actors, including the Syrian government, opposition groups, extremist organizations, Kurdish forces, and several foreign countries. Because of this, the conflict is often described as a proxy war, where international powers support different sides.

Syrian Government

The Syrian government is led by President Bashar al-Assad, who has been in power since 2000 after the death of his father, Hafez al-Assad, who ruled Syria from 1970 to 2000. The government is supported by the Syrian Arab Army (SAA), government security forces, and pro-government militias known as the National Defense Forces (NDF).

The Syrian government is mainly supported by Russia and Iran, as well as the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah. These allies provide military support, weapons, funding,

and training. The government's main goal throughout the conflict has been to remain in power, regain control of Syrian territory, and defeat opposition and extremist groups.

Syrian Opposition / Free Syrian Army

The Syrian opposition initially consisted of protesters, activists, and soldiers who defected from the Syrian army. In 2011, defected soldiers formed the Free Syrian Army (FSA) under the leadership of Colonel Riad al-Asaad. The Free Syrian Army aimed to overthrow Bashar al-Assad and establish a new government.

Over time, the opposition became very fragmented, with many different rebel groups operating in different regions. Some opposition groups were supported by the United States, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar, who provided weapons, training, and funding to certain rebel factions.

ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and Syria)

One of the most dangerous groups that emerged during the Syrian Civil War was ISIS, led by Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. ISIS is an extremist jihadist organization that aimed to create an Islamic caliphate across Syria and Iraq. By 2014, ISIS controlled large parts of eastern Syria, including the city of Raqqa, which became its capital.

ISIS fought against almost everyone: the Syrian government, the opposition, Kurdish forces, and international coalitions. Because of the threat ISIS posed, many countries, including the United States, France, the United Kingdom, and others, formed an international coalition to fight ISIS starting in 2014.

Kurdish Forces (YPG / SDF)

The Kurdish population in northern Syria formed their own forces known as the YPG (People's Protection Units), which later became part of the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF). Kurdish forces fought mainly against ISIS and controlled large areas in northern Syria.

The Kurdish forces were heavily supported by the United States, especially in the fight against ISIS. However, Turkey strongly opposed Kurdish forces because Turkey considers the YPG to be linked to the PKK (Kurdistan Workers' Party), which Turkey considers a terrorist organization.

Russia

Russia became directly involved in the Syrian Civil War in 2015, when President Vladimir Putin ordered Russian military intervention in support of Bashar al-Assad. Russia provided air support, weapons, and military advisors to Syrian government forces. Russian intervention played a major role in helping the Syrian government regain control of important cities such as Aleppo. Russia's main interests in Syria include maintaining influence in the Middle East, supporting an allied government, and protecting its naval base in Tartus, Syria.

United States

The United States was involved mainly through supporting certain opposition groups and later focusing on fighting ISIS. The U.S. led the International Coalition Against ISIS starting in 2014 and worked closely with Kurdish forces (SDF). The U.S. government opposed Bashar al-Assad and called for him to step down, but did not directly intervene against the Syrian government in a large-scale military operation.

Turkey

Turkey became involved in the conflict mainly because of border security, refugees, and Kurdish forces in northern Syria. Turkey supported some Syrian opposition groups and conducted military operations in northern Syria such as Operation Euphrates Shield (2016), Operation Olive Branch (2018), and Operation Peace Spring (2019) to push Kurdish forces away from the Turkish border. Turkey also hosts millions of Syrian refugees, making it one of the most affected countries by the conflict.

Iran and Hezbollah

Iran strongly supported the Syrian government and provided military advisors, funding, and militias. Iran saw Syria as an important regional ally and wanted to maintain influence in the Middle East. The Lebanese militant group Hezbollah, which is supported by Iran, also sent fighters to support the Syrian government against opposition forces.

7. Timeline of Major Events

2011 – Beginning of the Conflict

- Protests begin in Daraa after the arrest of schoolboys.
- Government forces respond with violence, leading to nationwide protests.
- Formation of the Free Syrian Army (FSA) by defected soldiers.

2012 – Escalation into Civil War

- Conflict spreads to major cities including Aleppo and Damascus.
- Heavy fighting between government forces and opposition groups begins.
- Syria is widely recognized as being in a full civil war.

2013 – Chemical Weapons Crisis

- A major chemical attack occurs in Ghouta (near Damascus), killing over 1,000 civilians.
- The United States, under President Barack Obama, considers military intervention.
- A deal is reached between the United States and Russia for Syria to give up its chemical weapons stockpile.

2014 – Rise of ISIS

- ISIS, led by Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, declares a “caliphate.”
- ISIS captures large areas of Syria and Iraq, including Raqqa, which becomes its capital.
- The United States forms an international coalition to fight ISIS.

2015 – Russian Intervention

- Russia, under President Vladimir Putin, begins direct military intervention in support of Assad.
- Russian airstrikes help the Syrian government regain territory.
- This marks a major turning point in the war.

2016 – Battle of Aleppo

- One of the most significant battles of the war takes place in Aleppo.
- Syrian government forces, supported by Russia, capture eastern Aleppo from opposition groups.
- This is considered a major victory for Assad.

2017 – Decline of ISIS

- ISIS begins to lose most of its territory due to attacks from the SDF (Kurdish-led forces) and the U.S.-led coalition.

- Raqqa is captured from ISIS, effectively ending its control in Syria.

2018 – Continued Government Gains

- Syrian government forces retake several opposition-held areas, including Eastern Ghouta.
- Turkey launches Operation Olive Branch against Kurdish forces in northern Syria.

2019 – Territorial Defeat of ISIS

- ISIS loses its last stronghold in Baghouz.
- The group is territorially defeated, although it continues to operate as an insurgent group.
- The United States announces partial troop withdrawals from Syria.

2020–Present – Ongoing Conflict and Stalemate

- The Syrian government controls most of the country, but conflict continues in regions such as Idlib.
- Foreign powers, including Russia, Turkey, and the United States, remain involved.
- Syria continues to face a severe humanitarian crisis, economic collapse, and political instability.

8. Humanitarian Situation

The Syrian Civil War has created one of the most severe humanitarian crises of the 21st century. Since the beginning of the conflict in 2011, over 500,000 people have been killed, and millions more have been injured. Civilians have been the most affected, as fighting has taken place in major cities and populated areas.

One of the most significant consequences of the war is the mass displacement of people. More than 13 million Syrians have been forced to leave their homes. Of these, over 6 million people are internally displaced, while more than 5 million refugees have fled to other countries. Neighboring countries such as Turkey, Lebanon,

and Jordan host the largest number of Syrian refugees, placing significant pressure on their economies and social systems.

The war has also caused widespread destruction of infrastructure. Cities such as Aleppo, Homs, and Raqqa have been heavily damaged, with homes, schools, hospitals, and basic services destroyed. This has made access to healthcare, education, clean water, and food extremely limited for many civilians.

In addition, there have been numerous reports of human rights violations committed by different actors in the conflict. These include the use of chemical weapons, torture, unlawful detention, and attacks on civilians. Such actions have raised serious concerns under international law and have been widely condemned by the international community.

Children have been especially affected by the conflict. Many have lost access to education, been displaced, or experienced trauma due to violence. A generation of Syrian children is growing up in conditions of instability, which may have long-term social and psychological consequences.

Overall, the humanitarian situation in Syria remains critical. Despite international aid efforts, millions of people continue to rely on humanitarian assistance for survival, making the Syrian Civil War not only a political and military conflict but also a major human tragedy.

9. Actions Taken by the United Nations

Since the beginning of the Syrian Civil War in 2011, the United Nations has taken various actions to address the conflict, focusing on maintaining international peace and security, providing humanitarian aid, and promoting political solutions.

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has attempted to pass multiple resolutions regarding Syria. These resolutions have focused on issues such as ceasefires, humanitarian access, and the use of chemical weapons. However, many proposed resolutions have been blocked due to the use of the veto power, particularly by Russia and China, which supported the Syrian government. This has limited the ability of the Security Council to take unified and effective action.

One of the most significant actions taken by the UN was in 2013, following the chemical weapons attack in Ghouta. Through cooperation between the United States and Russia, the UN facilitated an agreement under which Syria agreed to declare and destroy its chemical weapons stockpile. This process was carried out with the support of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW).

The United Nations has also played a key role in organizing peace negotiations, most notably the Geneva Peace Talks, which began in 2012. These talks aimed to bring together representatives of the Syrian government and opposition groups to negotiate a political solution to the conflict. However, despite multiple rounds of negotiations, a lasting agreement has not been reached.

In addition, the UN has led large-scale humanitarian aid operations. Agencies such as the World Food Programme (WFP), UNICEF, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) have provided food, medical aid, education support, and shelter to millions of Syrians both داخل the country and in neighboring states.

The UN has also established investigative mechanisms to address human rights violations, including the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic, which documents war crimes and violations of international law committed by different parties in the conflict.

Despite these efforts, the United Nations has faced major challenges in resolving the conflict due to political divisions within the Security Council and the complexity of the war. As a result, while the UN has played a crucial humanitarian and diplomatic role, it has not yet been able to fully end the conflict.

10. Current Situation

- Refugees in Germany

Germany's Chancellor Friedrich Merz and the Syrian President Ahmed al-Sharaa hope that 80% of the Syrians in Germany will return home in the next three years.

During the civil war in Syria, almost a million Syrians sought refuge in Germany. Speaking after a meeting with Sharaa in Berlin, Chancellor Merz said that more than a year after the end of the war, the situation in Syria had "now changed fundamentally" and that "the need for protection must therefore be reassessed".

But there was little detail as to how the returns would come about.

The German Government has taken a tougher line on refugees and migrants as support for the anti-immigration AfD party has surged. "Looking ahead over the next three years – as Sharaa has expressed his hope – around 80% of Syrians currently residing in Germany are expected to return to their home country," Merz said.

- **Creation of New Government**

The Syrian transitional government is the provisional government of Syria, formed on 29 March 2025 under President Ahmed al-Sharaa. It succeeded the Syrian caretaker government headed by Mohammed al-Bashir.

The government was announced by Ahmed al-Sharaa at a ceremony at the Presidential Palace in Damascus, where the new ministers were sworn in and delivered speeches outlining their agendas. Two new ministries were formed: the Ministry of Sports and Youth and Ministry of Emergency and Disaster Management. The position of Prime Minister was abolished.

Syrian president Ahmed al-Sharaa stated that the new government will reform the energy sector for sustainability and reliable electricity, support farmers to ensure food production, revive the industry, protect national products, attract investment, stabilize the economy, strengthen the Syrian pound, and prevent financial manipulation

- **10 March Agreement**

On 10 March 2025, the Syrian caretaker government and the SDF signed an agreement to integrate the SDF into state institutions and bring northeastern Syria (AANES) under central government control. The agreement was preceded by months-long fighting near the Tishrin Dam between the SDF and Turkish-backed SNA. The deal includes a ceasefire, the merging of military forces, and the return of

border crossings, airports, and oil fields to Syrian state authority. According to the deal, Kurdish language rights are, for the first time in Syria, officially recognized. The specific eight points of the deal are:

1. political rights of all Syrians with no religious or ethnic discrimination
2. Kurdish society as a component of the Syrian state with citizenship and constitutional rights
3. a ceasefire throughout Syria
4. integration of all AANES civil and military institutions into the Syrian state
5. right of return and protection for displaced Syrians
6. support for the Syrian state against "Assad regime remnants" and all other security and territorial threats
7. rejection of "calls for division" and of hate speech between the components of Syrian society
8. creation of committees to implement the agreement by the end of 2025.

The agreement was welcomed by France and the European Council, among others.

- Northeastern Syria Offensive

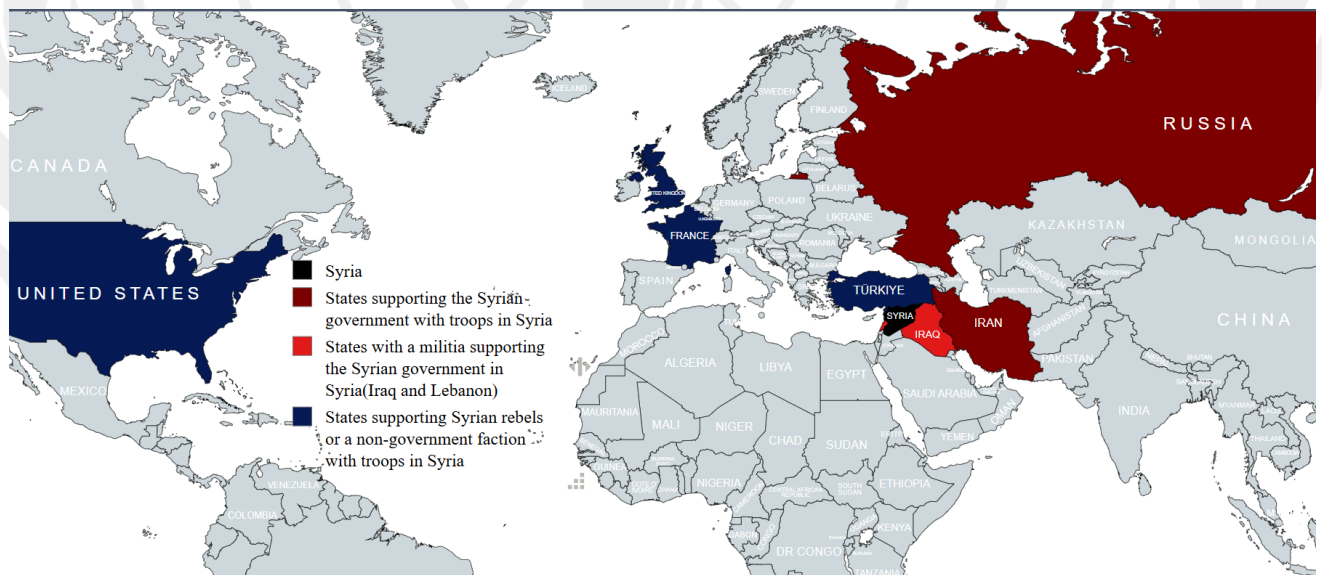
On 13 January 2026, the Syrian transitional government launched an offensive against the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) in the territories of the Democratic Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria (DAANES). Initially focused on eastern Aleppo Governorate, around the towns of Deir Hafer and Maskanah, the offensive expanded on 17 January to Raqqa, Deir ez-Zor and Al-Hasakah Governorates.

On 18 January, the Syrian president Ahmed al-Sharaa unilaterally announced a 14-point ceasefire agreement with the SDF, negotiated through the US envoy Tom Barrack, under which the SDF is set to be integrated into the Syrian government, and the governorates of Raqqa and Deir ez-Zor immediately handed over to the government, together with the administration of prisoner-of-war camps for Islamic State members, all border crossings and oil fields. The SDF commander-in-chief

Mazloum Abdi acknowledged the agreement later that day, saying that he would visit Damascus to discuss the deal. Clashes persisted the next day, with both sides accusing the other of violating the ceasefire. Media outlets reported that the meeting between Abdi and al-Sharaa had gone poorly, with no agreement being reached.

On 20 January, the Syrian government announced a ceasefire, starting at 20:00 local time. The army would not enter the city centres of al-Hasakah and Qamishli or Kurdish villages. Sharaa granted the SDF four days to work out an integration plan. On 24 January, after initial disclaimers, the Syrian government declared a 15-day extension of the ceasefire, effective from 23:00 local time, to support the US operation to transfer Islamic State detainees from SDF prisons to Iraq. On 30 January, the government announced that it had reached a comprehensive agreement with the SDF, which includes a ceasefire, gradual military and administrative integration, and the deployment of Interior Ministry forces in al-Hasakah and Qamishli.

11. Bloc Positions



Brazil: Brazil has maintained a neutral, non-interventionist stance in the Syrian civil war, focusing on humanitarian aid and diplomatic solutions rather than military involvement. Brazil has supported initiatives like UNSC Resolution 2254, emphasizing respect for Syria's sovereignty while addressing humanitarian concerns. Brazil had condemned the use of chemical weapons by Bashar's government and called for commitment to international law.

Additionally it has issued humanitarian visas and worked with organizations like the UNHCR to provide aid under its "Open Arms" policy aiming to resettle the refugee crisis. Brazil has used diplomatic channels opposed to military involvement, to promote dialogue and highlight the humanitarian crisis, showing its commitment to global peace and human rights.

Canada: Canada welcomed the end of Syria's Assad regime, which inflicted decades of suffering on its own people. This event marked a significant turning point for the Syrian people, who endured unimaginable hardship under the rule of Bashar al-Assad and his father, Hafez al-Assad. Canada also remains committed to holding the Syrian state accountable before the International Court of Justice for the torture and cruel, inhumane, and degrading treatment and punishment of its own people during the Assad era.

China: Over the past decade, China's engagement in the Syrian conflict has received relatively little coverage. This is partly due to Beijing's intent to take a backseat role in order to avoid jeopardizing its long-term objectives in the region. In doing so, China has instead played a more proactive role behind the scenes, allowing it to fully leverage its political and economic influence to its favor. This study provides a detailed overview of China's overall involvement, interests, and foreign policy objectives within the Syrian crisis.

China vetoed UNSC resolutions relating to the Syrian civil war eight times, which is especially notable since Beijing has only ever used its veto sixteen times. That fully half of its vetoes were used to prevent efforts to oust Assad lends credibility to the idea that his government must have mattered to China.

Egypt: Since the ouster of Mohamed Morsi in 2013, Egypt expressed support for Assad, and President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi expressed open support for Assad against ISIL. However, according to the Anadolu Agency, on June 30, 2020, Egypt deployed 150 troops to Idlib. Egypt had been discussing this possibility since 2018.

France: Before the civil war, Assad was seen as a key patron by France; viewing Syria as part of its colonial legacy. The Syrian army was a major benefactor of French arms and supplies. Assad was hailed as a reformer in the French media and his authoritarian style was glossed over. Assad enjoyed close ties with French presidents and was also a recipient of *Légion d'honneur*, the foremost French order of merit. However, after the outbreak of the

Syrian refugee crisis since August 2011, France insisted, along with the US and Britain and some Arab states, that the Syrian president would step down. France—a former mandatory ruler of Syria—has been considered by *The Guardian* more active and forward than the other Western countries in its policy towards the war in Syria.

In 2012, France provided opposition forces with non-lethal military aid, including communications equipment and medical supplies. In August 2013, when the Assad government was accused of using chemical weapons in the Ghouta area near Damascus, Paris called for military intervention. but was isolated after the US president, Barack Obama, refused to act despite the breach of what he had earlier declared was a “red line”.

On 19 September 2013, French President François Hollande during a press conference in Bamako (capital of Mali) suggested that France was ready to begin supplying lethal aid to the Free Syrian Army in a "controlled framework". At the end of September 2015, France has begun airstrikes in Syria, on a small scale to avoid inadvertently strengthening the hand of president Bashar al-Assad by hitting his enemies. In August 2014 French President François Hollande confirmed that France had delivered arms to Syrian rebels. In mid-November 2015, in the wake of the 13 November Paris terror attacks, France, citing self-defence under Article 51 of the United Nations Charter, significantly intensified its air strikes in Syria, closely coordinating with the US military. Also mid November, France drafted a UN Security Council resolution urging UN members to "take all necessary measures" in the fight against ISIS and al-Nusra Front. The following day the French-drafted resolution was co-sponsored by the UK. On 20 November 2015, the UN Security Council unanimously passed the French-British drafted-sponsored resolution. Also on 20 November, France dismissed Russia's suggestions that the French air strikes against oil installations in Syria were illegal, saying they were "an appropriate and necessary riposte" to attacks by ISIS. On 3 December 2015 the UK started air strikes against ISIL in Syria. France welcomed the UK's military action.

Germany: Germany's intervention in the Syrian Civil War, starting in December 2015, focused on fighting ISIS through non-combat roles, including surveillance, aerial refueling, and maritime security. Following the 2015 Paris attacks, Germany joined the US-led coalition with authorized deployments of up to 1,200 soldiers. This military action was in addition to massive humanitarian aid, with Germany becoming a leading donor for Syrian refugees and advocating for a political resolution and international justice.

India: India has maintained a policy of non-military intervention in the Syrian civil war, favoring a diplomatic, "Syrian-led" resolution while supporting the sovereignty of the Bashar al-Assad regime. India's approach emphasizes stability, fighting extremism, and providing humanitarian aid, including medical supplies and aid packages.

Iran: From the 2000s until the fall of the Assad regime, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Syrian Arab Republic were close strategic allies, and Iran provided significant support for the Syrian Ba'athist government in the Syrian civil war, including logistical, technical and financial support, as well as training and combat troops. Iran saw the survival of the Assad regime as being crucial to its regional interests. When the uprising developed into the Syrian civil war, there were increasing reports of Iranian military support, and of Iranian training of the National Defence Forces both in Syria and Iran. From late 2011 and early 2012, Iran's IRGC sent tens of thousands of Iranian troops and Shi'ite foreign paramilitary volunteers in coordination with the Syrian government to prevent the collapse of the regime; thereby polarizing the conflict along sectarian lines.,

Iranian security and intelligence services advised and assisted the Syrian military in order to preserve the erstwhile Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's hold on power. Those efforts included training, technical support, and combat troops. Estimates of the number of Iranian personnel in Syria ranged from hundreds to tens of thousands. Lebanese Hezbollah fighters, backed by Iran's government, had taken direct combat roles from 2012 until 2024. From the summer of 2013, Iran and Hezbollah provided important battlefield support for Assad, allowing it to make advances on the opposition.

Iranian troops and allied militias on the ground were supported by ballistic missiles and air forces, including armed drones utilizing smart munitions. By October 2018, Iranian drones had launched over 700 strikes on ISIS forces alone. At the height of its intervention in 2015-18, an estimated 10,000 IRGC forces and 5,000 Iranian Army members were stationed in Syria alongside tens of thousands of Iranian-led foreign militias. In 2018, 2,000 officers of the Quds Forces commanded an estimated 131 military garrisons and tens of thousands of Iran-backed Shia jihadists across regime-controlled regions. In 2023, Iran maintained 55 military bases in Syria and 515 other military points, the majority in Aleppo and Deir Ezzor governorates and the Damascus suburbs; these were %70 of the foreign military sites in the

country. On December 6, 2024, after severe military setbacks due to a series of rebel offensives, Iran and its proxies withdrew from Syria.

Mexico: Since the beginning of the war, relations between both nations have become non-existent. Since the start of the civil war, Mexico's position has been to condemn the violence caused by the parties involved in it and has expressed concern about the serious consequences and humanitarian tragedy arising from the crisis in that country. Mexico has also strongly condemned the use of chemical weapons and serious violations of human rights and International Humanitarian Law. Mexico considers that the only viable solution to the conflict in Syria is one of a political nature, and has called on the international community to act responsibly and avoid sending military equipment and weapons to any of the parties.

Nigeria: Nigeria has not officially intervened militarily in the Syrian civil war, generally advocating for peaceful resolution through the United Nations rather than violent overthrow of the government. Nigerian foreign policy has focused on monitoring the conflict's implications for Africa, favoring diplomatic, African Union-led solutions to regional crises.

Pakistan: Ultimately after the start of the Syrian civil war, Pakistan adopted a policy of neutrality and pushed its non-belligerent role during the conflict. The official stance of Pakistan keenly opposes the strong use of military strikes against Syria. At the meeting of the UNSC, Pakistan abstained from voting on an anti-Syria resolution in the UN General Assembly. Conference held by Iran, Pakistan urged the international community to respect Syria's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity.

Pakistan has strongly urged the United States and western powers to avoid use of military force in Syria. The Pakistan Foreign ministry also strongly condemned the alleged use of chemical weapons by the Syrian government.

According to Deutsche Welle, experts were claiming that Pakistan was not only providing military equipment to anti-Assad groups, but was also helping jihadists to go fight in Syria. However, Pakistan has officially denied any claims of involvement. On 17 February 2014, Islamabad stated its support for "the formation of a transitional governing body with full executive powers enabling it to take charge of the affairs of the country".

Poland: Poland has been engaged in providing assistance since the beginning of the war in Syria. Poland has primarily engaged in the Syrian civil war through humanitarian aid, donating nearly EUR 30.8 million to support refugees and regional stability since 2017. While supporting Western-led, non-combat actions against the use of chemical weapons (e.g., 2018 missile strikes), Poland consistently ruled out direct military participation and rejected EU quotas for settling Syrian refugees.

Russian Federation: Russia supported the Ba'athist administration of former president Bashar al-Assad of Syria from the onset of the Syrian Conflict in 2011 politically with military aid, and (from September 2015 to December 2024) with direct military involvement. The 2015 deployment to Syria marked the first time since the end of the Cold War in 1991 that Russia entered an armed conflict outside the borders of the former Soviet Union.

From October 2011, Russia, as a permanent member of the UN Security Council (UNSC), repeatedly vetoed Western-sponsored draft resolutions in the UNSC that demanded the resignation of Syrian president Bashar al-Assad and would thereby open the possibility of UN sanctions against his government. The Russian leadership rejects the demands of Western powers and their Arab allies that Bashar al-Assad should not be allowed to be a participant in the Syria settlement. In January and February 2012, the opposition Syrian National Council and the Western powers dismissed Russian peace initiatives.

In September 2015, the Federation Council, (the upper house of Russia's parliament) authorized the Russian president to use armed forces in Syria. Russian air and missile strikes began targeting ISIS, the Army of Conquest, al-Nusra Front and the Free Syrian Army. Russia has also provided armament and air support to Turkey. The Russian military delivered 5 tons of ammunition and weapons to the People's Defense Units in Sheikh Maqsoud in their operations against ISIS in Syria.

During the course of the Russian intervention, Russia moved beyond bombing just military targets and began bombing hospitals and medical facilities. According to Airwars (a UK-based company that tracks and archives the international war against ISIS and other groups in the Middle East and North Africa), between four and six thousand civilians were killed by Russian military actions. Due to this, Russia's seat at the UN Human Rights Council was taken away in October 2016. A report by Airwars found a %34 increase in incidents of civilian harm caused by Russia during the first six months of 2018 compared to 2017.

Syria: Under the leadership of President Bashar al-Assad, Syria is at the center of the Syrian Civil War, fighting to maintain control over the country in the face of both internal opposition and external threats. The Assad regime, backed by Russia, Iran and Hezbollah has fought against various opposition groups, ranging from moderate rebels to radical Islamist factions. The government's strategy has been to retain control of major cities and territories using airstrikes, artillery, and ground forces to recapture areas held by opposition fighters. The regime has been accused of widespread human rights violations, including chemical weapon attacks, torture, and indiscriminately bombing civilian areas. The Assad government employs both military force and diplomatic efforts to survive, relying heavily on Russian and Iranian support. Russia's airstrikes and Iran's deployment of forces, including Hezbollah fighters, turned the war in Assad's favor. The support of Ayatollah, aiming to solidify its influence in the region through its alliance with the Assad regime, has not only been military but also strategic. Throughout the war, Syria's government has faced significant challenges from a variety of opposition groups, such as FSA, ISIS and YPG. With the help of Russia and the Islamic Republic, Assad managed to regain control of major parts of Syria. The Syrian government's ultimate goal is to reassert control over the entire country and eliminate the armed rebels, while continuing as a one-party state with a tightly controlled political system. Assad has largely regained control over the western and central parts of the country but the war remains unresolved, with significant challenges. This includes the ongoing presence of ISIS, the situation in the Kurdish region northeast, and the broader geopolitical struggle for influence in Syria.

Turkiye: Turkish involvement in the Syrian civil war began diplomatically and later escalated militarily. After a decade of relatively friendly relations with Syria from 2000 to 2010, Turkey condemned Syrian president Bashar al-Assad over the violent crackdown on protests in 2011 and, from the beginning of the war, Turkey trained defectors of the Syrian Army in its territory under the supervision of the Turkish National Intelligence Organization (MIT), among whom emerged the Free Syrian Army(FSA) in July 2011. The Turkish government's involvement further evolved into border clashes in 2012, and direct military interventions in 2016-17, 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2022 resulting in the Turkish occupation of Northern Syria since August 2016. In December 2024, Turkish proxy forces involved in the 2024 Syrian rebel offensive toppled the Assad regime in Damascus with U.S. support, turning into the most influential party during the conflict.

Until 2016, Türkiye had addressed the Syrian civil war by using more diplomatic means such as through international diplomacy and targeted sanctions. Tensions between Syria and Turkey significantly worsened after Syrian forces shot down a Turkish fighter jet in June 2012, and border clashes erupted in October 2012. On 24 August 2016, the Turkish Armed Forces began a direct military intervention into Syria by declaring Operation Euphrates Shield, mainly targeting ISIS. It had also fulfilled other pre-existing Turkish policy goals, such as limiting the influx of the refugees of the Syrian civil war.

Turkey has strongly supported Syrian dissidents, as it became increasingly hostile to the Assad government's policies and encouraged reconciliation among dissident factions. Turkey financed the National Coalition of Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces, also known as the Syrian National Coalition, and facilitated the establishment of the Syrian National Army.

United Kingdom: Playing a significant but cautious role in the Syrian Civil War, the UK primarily focused on counterterrorism, humanitarian aid, and diplomatic efforts. As a strong critic of Assad and his regime, a supporter of the opposition's calls for his removal, UK showed international efforts to hold the Syrian government accountable for human rights violations, including the use of chemical weapons. The UK made sure to provide non-lethal support, such as training, humanitarian aid and intelligence to moderate Syrian opposition groups while also participating in airstrikes against ISIS as part of the U.S.-led coalition. However, the UK has never directly intervened in the conflict on the ground, maintaining a focus on supporting peace talks and political solutions. It has supported various international diplomatic initiatives, including those led by the UN, and called for a negotiated end to the war.

The UK followed complex politics, also taking into consideration the factions in Syria, particularly with its concerns over the rise of extremist groups like ISIS and its relationship with regional powers such as Turkey and Saudi Arabia.

United States of America: On 22 September 2014, the United States officially intervened in the Syrian civil war with the stated aim of fighting ISIS militant organization in support of the international war against it, code named Operation Inherent Resolve. The US currently continues to support the Syrian Armed Forces under the transitional government and the YPG-led Syrian Democratic Forces.

Shortly after the start of the civil war in 2011, the Obama administration placed sanctions against Syria and supported the Free Syrian Army rebel faction by covertly authorizing Timber Sycamore under which the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) armed and trained rebels. Following the Islamic State's occupation of Eastern Syria in August 2014, the United States conducted surveillance flights in Syria to gather intelligence regarding the Islamic State. In September 2014, the United States-led coalition—which involves the United Kingdom, France, Jordan, Turkey, Canada, Australia, and others—launched an air campaign against the Islamic State and al-Nusra Front inside Syria.

The US missile strike on Shayrat Airbase on 7 April 2017 was the first time the US deliberately attacked Syrian government forces during the war, and marked the start of a series of direct military actions by US forces against the Syrian government and its allies via airstrikes and aircraft shoot-downs, mainly in defense of either the Syrian Democratic Forces or the Syrian Free Army opposition group based in al-Tanf. In mid-January 2018, the Trump administration indicated its intention to maintain an open-ended military presence in Syria to accomplish US political objectives, including countering Iranian influence and ousting Syrian president Bashar al-Assad. However, on 19 December, President Trump unilaterally ordered the withdrawal of the 2,000–2,500 US ground troops in Syria at the time, which was to be completed in 2019. With proliferating concerns over a potential power vacuum, the US announced on 22 February 2019 that instead of a total withdrawal, a contingency force of around 400 US troops would remain garrisoned in Syria indefinitely, and that their withdrawal would be gradual and conditions-based, returning to a policy of open-ended American military presence in the country.

In 2019, the coalition saw decisive results in its intervention against the Islamic State; the terror group lost its last remaining territory in Syria during the battle of Baghuz Fawqani, and its leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi died during a US special forces raid in Idlib in October 2019. The Trump administration ordered all US forces to withdraw from Rojava in early October ahead of a Turkish incursion into the region, a controversial move widely seen as a renegeing of the US's alliance with the SDF in favor of NATO ally Turkey. However, by November 2019, US troops instead repositioned to eastern Syria, reinforcing their presence in the al-Hasakah and Deir ez-Zor governorates, with the subordinate mission of securing SDF-controlled oil and gas infrastructure from the IS insurgency and the Syrian government. On 23 November 2019, the head of US Central Command stated there was no "end date" on the US's intervention in Syria.

The US Department of Defense stated that there were around 900 US soldiers operating in Syria as of February 2021. On 19 December 2024, after the fall of the Assad regime, the Pentagon revealed that there were around 2,000 US troops in Syria, adding that the increase was temporary and occurred in recent months. However, the U.S. military continues to withdraw in 2025, leaving less than 1,000 troops to work with allies to fight the Islamic State militants. In February 2026, U.S. President Donald Trump ordered the complete withdrawal of American forces from Syria within the next two months.

12. Questions to Be Answered

- How can the United Nations Security Council respond to the unrest in Syria before it escalates into a full-scale civil war?
- What measures should be taken to protect civilians and prevent mass casualties in major Syrian cities?
- How can the international community pressure the Syrian government and opposition groups to engage in meaningful political dialogue?
- Should the United Nations impose sanctions, and if so, under what conditions?
- What role should foreign powers such as Russia, the United States, Turkey, and Iran play in resolving the conflict?
- How can the spread of extremist groups be prevented while still supporting legitimate opposition movements?
- What steps can be taken to ensure humanitarian aid reaches civilians without being blocked by conflict parties?
- Should the Security Council authorize peacekeeping forces or observer missions in Syria?
- How can the sovereignty of Syria be respected while also addressing human rights violations?
- What long-term political solution can be created to ensure stability and prevent future conflict in Syria?

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