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## Syrian Civil war

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*Postcolonial regimes have frequently appeared doomed to replicate the mistakes of the imperialists they replaced, a tragic irony that has been especially evident in the Middle East. To put down a tribal rebellion in Iraq in 1920, the British used poison gas against people for the first time. The latest reported utilization of compound weapons for mass homicide was in Iraq in 1988, when Saddam Hussein gassed his kin during the scandalous Anfal crusade against the Kurds. Syria, too, has been subjected to ominous asymmetry. Soon after France took the land as part of its World War I spoils, an uprising among the proud Druze of the Houran region in the south soon spread throughout the country. The colonial administration responded by using a combination of sweet propaganda and severe brutality to combat the threat. The French portrayed their adversaries as sectarian extremists, posing as supporters of development and noble guarantors of peace between Syria's many sects. They also worked hard to exacerbate the split they predicted. They brutalized others with summary killings, crop burnings, and village razing while arming and strengthening favored factions.*

**Keywords:** *post-colonial regimes, imperialists, factions, homicide.*

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## INTRODUCTION

In the ten years after protestors first mobilized against the Assad family's four-decade rule, millions of Syrians have been declared dead, and the majority of the country's community has been evacuated. Syria has devolved into a more complex civil war, with jihadists striving for a

Sunni theocracy overtaking opposition parties struggling for an independent and pluralistic Syria, and local governments helping a variety of native militias to advance their intergovernmental goals on the Syrian battleground. Despite being at the front of a coalition leading air attacks against the Islamic State, the United States suddenly withdrew a portion of its troops in 2019 ahead of Turkey's infiltration of northern Syria, a NATO partner. Turks have driven Kurdish troops out of border districts, which are the US' local companion in the battle against the Islamic State. In support of the Assad administration, Russia has undertaken air strikes in Syria, while Iran armies and Hezbollah allies have also undertaken strikes on the land. Syria is almost certainly at a condition of insecurity for a decade. Attempts to change the rules and regulations have been unsuccessful, and harmony talks are always fruitless. The administration looks to have reconquered control of the bulk of the nation, and Assad's grasp on supremacy looks to be tight. The Turkish troops are posted in the north, and portions of northeastern Syria are under the Power of Kurdish or largely uncurbed.

## **HISTORY**

Hafez al-Assad consolidated power in the presidency after taking power from a Baathist military coup in 1970. He belonged to the minority group of Alawi, a heretical Shia group that had long been oppressed in Syria and had been eminent to honoured positions following World War I by the French authority. "Hafez al-Assad" authorized the army to use force to end the Muslim Brotherhood coming at large in Hama in February 1982. Syrian soldiers have killed at least 25,000 people. Hama became a rallying cry for the regime's opponents in 2011. Hafez's son and inheritor, Bashar al-Assad, used it as a model for dealing with opposition. The Assads governed over a totalitarian and kleptocratic system that distributed patronage to keep Syrians loyal to the regime. The protest of 2011 degenerated into a civil war, still, most followers of minority communities remained faithful to the regime, whereas the other Sunnis were afraid of retaliation if forces of opposition-controlled Damascus.

## **THE WAR-UPRISING**

The government of Syria, led by "President Bashar al-Assad," encountered an exceptional challenge to its authority, as pro-democracy protests burst forth across the nation. Activists demanded an end to the Assad government's control operations, which have been in place since "Assad's father, Hafiz al-Assad", assumed power in 1971. The government of Syria hired police, military, and paramilitary troops to disperse demonstrators. Due to the creation of opposition militias in 2011, the situation had escalated into a full civil war by 2012. He swore that markets can take the place of the Baathist state's "Arab socialism," uprooting the earlier patronage networks. He also rips to pieces and denationalized state controls, but the profit was of the individuals with bonds to the government, while the abolition of subsidizations hurt countryside laborers and metropolitan employees. In the year 2006 to 2010, a deficiency that broke new records aggravated socio-economic difficulties. Due to Farmland being mismanaged and also being left unused, the farmers at large migrated to cities, leading the rate of unemployment to rise to a peak level. Assad acknowledged that many Syrians were suffering from economic hardships and that political reform had been slow and halting, but he was confident that Syria would be spared because his administration's anti-US and anti-Israel stance aligned with the Syrian people's beliefs, whereas the leaders who had already fallen had pursued a pro-Western foreign policy in defiance of their people's feelings.<sup>1</sup> The start of the anti-regime protests showed that his condition was considerably more dangerous than what he was accepting to acknowledge. In short, a multitude of long-established economic and well as political crises were making the country instability to a larger extent.

However, the expectations aroused by Assad's presidency were mostly unmet. When talking about politics, a small change towards huge participation was quickly upturned, and Assad continued to follow his father's authoritarian methods, which consisted of pervasive restriction along with reconnaissance as well as horrendous inhumaneness against suspected regime opponents. All the related liberalization of Syria's state-controlled economy was overseen by Assad, but the benefits mostly benefited a network of regime-connected crony businessmen. Syria's society remained autocratic on the eve of the rebellion, with growing wealth and

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<sup>1</sup> 'Syrian Civil War' (*Britannica*, 17 July 2020) <<https://www.britannica.com/event/Syrian-Civil-War>> accessed 10 June 2022

privilege imbalances. The first large protests took place in March 2011 in the province of Dar in southern Syria which was a penurious, drought-stricken countryside. The government department had imprisoned and brutalized a group of minors for drawing anti-regime graffiti; infuriated citizens gathered on the streets to pressure economic and political reforms. The Security forces retaliated forcefully, making arrests in bulk and shooting at protestors. The regime's retaliation was violent, giving the protestors more visibility and momentum. The Arab Spring began in December 2010 when a Tunisian fruit vendor self-immolated to protest corruption. Protests erupted in Tunisia, and then moved towards the Middle East and North Africa, forcing rulers in Egypt, Tunisia, and Yemen to resign. The people want the regime to fall, fifteen youngsters in Syria's southwestern city of Deraa spray-painted on a school wall, inspired by these hitherto inconceivable events. They were apprehended and subjected to torture. Protests erupted as demonstrators gathered behind them battled with police.<sup>2</sup> Many demonstrators called for more moderate changes, such as the discharge of political convicts, the termination of the semi-century-old position of emergency, improved independence, and the eradication of exploitation. Unlike "Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali" of Tunisia and Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, Assad reacted immediately to the protesters, making only minor concessions while ordering security forces to ruthlessly smash the demonstrations.

## CIVIL WAR

Demonstrations against the government spread fast starting in Deraa to major towns including Hama, Homs as well as Damascus. The happenings at Deraa foreshadowed what was to come elsewhere: According to human rights monitors, the Syrian army opened fire on unarmed protestors and made mass arrests, indiscriminately collecting men and boys. Torture and extrajudicial executions were routinely recorded in prison camps. In the late month of April 2011, tanks were brought in by the Syrian army to lay a blockade at Deraa. As the death toll increased for civilians, people were not provided with the basic necessity such as water, medicine, food electricity as well as no communication via telephones for eleven days. Notwithstanding global condemnation, the dictatorship made some allowances, but it was of

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<sup>2</sup> Zachary Laub, 'Syria's Civil War: The Descent Into Horror' (Council on Foreign Relations, 17 March 2021) <<https://www.cfr.org/article/syrias-civil-war>> accessed 10 June 2022

no use as it replicated the Deraa comeback elsewhere, at a far higher cost and for a much longer period, causing some to take up arms against regime opponents. Local harmonizing establishments were developed in rural communities and cities. After being formed to mobilize resistance to the government, several of the working group took on the responsibilities of public management and service supply.

### **SPLINTERS FROM A DISORGANIZED OPPOSITION**

Traitors of the Assad army declared the establishment of the “Free Syrian Army (FSA)” in July 2011 and then planned to pursue refuge in Turkey soon after. Despite this, the FSA fight back to bring its disorganized alliance under unified command and control, as it was outgunned by the regime. Because of their diverse regional sponsors, FSA militias did not always manage their actions and sometimes had opposing goals. Due to a lack of resources, they preyed on the own people whom they were meant to safeguard. In the year 2011, FSA's resident counterpart was founded at the place, Istanbul. The Syrian National Coalition (SNC) claimed to be Syria's government-in-exile, and it was quickly acknowledged as the legitimate representative of the Syrian people by the US, Turkey, and Gulf Cooperation Council countries, among others.<sup>3</sup> Yet, the SNC along with its descendant, “the National Coalition”, we're unable to provide most of the required material support to the opposition. Hence, due to this many regime's opponents in Syria saw it as untrustworthy. Rival alliances arose, and FSA troops defected to Islamist battalions that, aided by cash and equipment from Gulf sponsors, were able to defeat the regime on the battlefield.

### **AL-QAEDA AND THE ISLAMIC STATE: ON THE RISE**

Al-Qaeda members seeking to profit from Syria's disarray took advantage of the regime's torture and killings. Al-Syrian Qaeda's subsidiary, Jabhat al-Nusra, was launched in January 2012, and al-Qaeda commander Ayman al-Zawahiri called for Sunnis from throughout the area to join a jihad against the regime the following month. Jabhat al-Nusra garnered Syrian and foreign members as it outperformed competing resistance groups on the battlefield. In

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<sup>3</sup> *Ibid*

April 2013, a group called the Islamic State of Iraq arose from the remains of al-Qaeda in Iraq, outdoing even Jabhat al-Nusra in terms of brutality. Its forces took control of areas spanning eastern Syria and western Iraq in a matter of months. The rise of the Islamic State as well as other extremist groups fueled escalating sectarianism, and citizens living in the Islamic State's fiefs. It also included those who were under the control of the pro-regime militias and the FSA – who were subjected to brutality. The growth of extremist groups in Syria was aided by the regime, which intended to provide a stark option to the world between his secular rule and a jihadi alternative. To discredit the uprising, the administration freed hundreds of Islamist terrorists from prison in mid-2011. They would form extreme groups with sectarian agendas, such as Ahrar al-Sham.<sup>4</sup>

## TARGETING CIVILIANS

Together Assad's military along with opposition factions targeted neutrals in regions under their control regularly. The murder of over 1,400 civilians in the summer of 2013 as a result of the Assad regime's use of chemical weapons galvanized foreign powers to eliminate the regime's chemical arsenal. However, in the years afterward, the Syrian government has deployed lethal conventional weapons, resulting in a large number of civilian casualties.<sup>5</sup> The dictatorship has used sieges and aerial bombardment regularly. According to commentators, these collective-punishment measures serve two purposes: they increase the costs of resistance for civilians, so pressuring rebels to accept the regime's governance, and they prevent local committees from giving a credible alternative to the regime's governance. More than one million people lived in besieged or otherwise aid-inaccessible locations in 2018, according to the UN humanitarian organization.<sup>6</sup> Despite a UN Security Council resolution in 2014 aimed at securing humanitarian aid routes, aid became politicized when Assad allowed UN convoys to distribute food and medicine in government-controlled areas while denying them access to rebel-controlled areas, prompting rights activists to accuse the regime of targeting medical facilities and personnel [PDF]. Syria's partner Russia used its Security Council veto in 2020 to

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<sup>4</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid*

limit UN assistance deliveries to the rebel-held north to only one border crossing, down from four the year before.<sup>7</sup>

## **FROM A DOMESTIC UPRISING TO A GLOBAL CIVIL WAR**

As the war, progressed, together pro- and anti-regime factions became more reliant on outside funding. Syria is now a battleground for the region's interstate rivalry as major powers have increased their engagement. As Assad's army diminished owing to casualties and desertions, the regime began to rely on Russia and Iran more heavily. The Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps, which has suffered thousands of fatalities, advises Assad's troops. The Iranian helper Basij paramilitary force and the foreign Shia militias it has organized have killed many more people. Assad has received crucial diplomatic support from Russia. Moscow used the NATO-led intervention in Libya in 2011 and the resulting instability as a reason for barring UN Security Council sanctions against the Syrian regime. In September 2015, Russia entered the fight directly with its air force's deployment. Despite Moscow's claims that the air strikes by Moscow would mainly aim at the Islamic State and al-Qaeda, political analysts say it was more expected to hit other rebellious groups, some of which were backed by the US and many of which were intermixed with al-affiliate Qaeda's near the regime's front lines. This aided Assad in strengthening his grip on the country's western population regions. Opposition groups have also received foreign support. For several years, the US has been secretly training and arming rebel forces. France and the United Kingdom have offered logistical & army assistance. Furthermore, a quick compromise between Qatar and Saudi Arabia in 2015 allowed for the establishment of the Army of Conquest, which featured a range of hostile and extreme factions but was annihilated in a few centuries.

## **AUTONOMY OF THE KURDISH BID**

Kurds sought to establish a “de facto autonomous” entity in northern Syria, making them both allies and enemies of Arab rebel forces. “The siege of Kobani”, a deliberately placed Kurdish town neighbouring the border of Turkish, by the Islamic State in 2014 was a watershed

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<sup>7</sup> *Ibid*

moment. “The Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG)” of the town demonstrated the rebellious group's efficiency in contradiction to the Islamic State. US forces helped to drive Islamic State fighters out of Kobani and continue to support the YPG-led Syrian Democratic Forces with armaments and air support. The YPG's aim shifted over time to strengthening self-governing Kurdish provinces in the country's north, named Rojava by Kurds (Western Kurdistan). In mixed Arab-Kurd regions, YPG fighters have been accused of ethnic cleansing for the sake of safeguarding fellow Kurds. The YPG is linked to the “Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK)”, which is based in Turkey and has been recognized as a terrorist organization by both Ankara and Washington. In August on the year 2016, Turkey arrayed its soldiers alongside the border of Syria to both repel Islamic State forces and prevent the Kurds from uniting their two regions into one adjoining area, working alongside Syrian Arab and Turkmen fighters. The US was confronted with the difficult task of avoiding alienating either the YPG or Turkey, a NATO ally and essential companion in the battle in opposition to the Islamic State. However, in October 2019, Washington picked Ankara, agreeing to withdraw American soldiers from Syria near the border of Turkey so that they were able to release a military operation in opposition to the Kurds.

## **THE DIPLOMATIC THICKET**

Distinctions among the permanent members of the “UN Security Council” with veto power and other states have impeded UN-backed attempts in Syria to negotiate a democratic shift that will halt the carnage. Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Turkey backed the US in its fight in opposition to the Assad regime, while Iran and Russia backed it. Russia and China have vetoed many Security Council resolutions about Syria, and the fear of veto has prevented or softened down humanitarian and human rights measures, confirming the council's reputation as ineffective. The Geneva Communiqué, a global declaration signed in June 2012, served as the starting point for one series of talks. It calls for a Syrian-led political process to begin with the formation of a transitional governing council based on the mutual accord. However, many rounds of peace discussions aimed at putting these principles into practice have yielded little. One of the most important issues is Assad himself: he has no interest in negotiating his

political demise and has the support of Russia and Iran, while the notion of Assad remaining in power in a transition is frowned upon by the opposition.<sup>8</sup> Because the chances of a diplomatic settlement are low, the US has shifted its focus to counter-terrorism while pushing for reduction. In the meantime, Iran, Russia, and Turkey have taken the political proposal, barring the United States from the UN-led process. Despite their agreement in principle to defend the integrity of the territory of Syria and accomplish a "lasting cease-fire," their agreements to de-escalate the violence through their separate local allies have come to naught.

### **THE EU IS SHAKEN BY THE REFUGEE CRISIS.**

The conflict has displaced more than half of Syria's prewar population of 22 million people, with more than six million internally displaced and another six million fleeing abroad. The burden has fallen heaviest on neighbouring countries: Lebanon, with a population of barely 4.5 million people, is hosting more than one million Syrian refugees, and Jordan, with a population of more than half a million Syrians, has been blocking would-be refugees from crossing the border for years.<sup>9</sup> More than three million Syrians live in Turkey, putting a burden on government resources. More than one million migrants have travelled to Europe, contributing to what the United Nations has called the greatest migration and refugee crisis since World War II, due to a lack of work and educational prospects and little possibility of returning safely home.<sup>10</sup> Disputes over how to settle migrants have impersonated a serious test to the European Union (EU), intimidating to disrupt the system of Schengen to open frontiers on the continent and adding to the upsurge of anti-immigrant, far-right groups. In 2016, the EU and Turkey agreed to stop refugees from migrating north, but "Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan" has repeatedly exposed to let millions of migrants enter Europe.

### **PRO-REGIME FORCES TAKE CONTROL OF EAST ALEPPO.**

After a long siege and shelling, the regime took control of the final rebel-held area in eastern Aleppo. Syria's financial engine had been disputed since 2012, and the opposition's conquest

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<sup>8</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid*

signalled a dramatic turn of events; in the year 2013, rebels had virtually ringed the regime-managed western half of the town. However, as Assad's forces deteriorated, the campaign highlighted how dependent he has become both on foreign supporters that are the Shiite militias, and the Russian air force. Hundreds of people were slaughtered in the final days of the fight, which a UN spokesperson described as "a complete meltdown of humanity." Protesters were confined to only northern Idlib province, sections in the south of the city, and small pockets nearby Damascus and Homs after their loss in Aleppo.

### **THE DEFEAT OF THE ISLAMIC STATE: IGNITING NEW CONFLICTS**

The Islamic State has been pushed back to a few small areas by the US-led coalition and the Kurdish-led SDF. According to the Pentagon, the group's territory in an area between Iraq and Syria has been reduced to around 2% of what it once held. According to data, the Islamic State which is in Syria has decreased so some terrorists, nevertheless this has come at a heavy cost in terms of civilian lives, population centre devastation, and mass displacement. More than 60,000 refugees dwell in the "al-Hol camp in northeastern Syria", which is run according to the Syrian Democratic Forces. Many have been expatriates due to the revolution, while the others are Islamic State supporters along with their families; 80% are women and children. Even though the camp is overcrowded and confrontation among victims and supporters of the Islamic State is rampant, most of the refugees have no place left to go. Most of them are foreigners who came in contact with the terrorist group and are barred from returning to their nations. As the threat posed by the Islamic State faded, simmering tensions became more intense. Turkish forces captured Afrin, a largely Kurdish region in northwest Syria, in early 2018. SDF fighters were also diverted from the war against the Islamic State and re-deployed to Afrin as a result of the Turkish escalation.

### **NORTHERN SYRIA IS IN CHAOS**

In October 2019, the civil war entered a new phase as US President Donald J. Trump ordered the removal of about a thousand US troops stationed on the Syria-Turkey border who were aiding Kurdish militants. Erdogan was able to initiate military action in Syria as a result of the

surprise manoeuvre. Turkish military along with Syrian rebel partners captured cities as well as rural communities, forcing a lot of people to evacuate to put back Kurdish forces and build a buffer zone for returned refugees which is twenty-mile-deep. The SDF sought assistance from the government of Syria, to allow soldiers to come back to regions carried by the Kurds for years. Troops of Russian troops have too arrived in the area to assist the Syrian regime. The Turkish incursion garnered widespread disapproval from around the world. Top Turkish officials were sanctioned, and taxes on steel were threatened, but a short-lived cease-fire caused Trump to suspend the restrictions just after a week, and prices stayed unaffected. Erdogan claims that the forces are not to retreat till the buffer zone for returned refugees which is twenty-mile-deep is established.

### **ISLAMIC STATE RETURNS AFTER UNPRECEDENTED DISPLACEMENT**

Using the support of international sponsors, Assad's forces encircled as well as shelled the rebels' remaining redoubts in Syria's northwest area, putting billions of civilians in peril. The regime along with its allies had marched into Idlib by December, where Russia-backed forces sprang a catastrophic air campaign, and combat among the administration and Turkish soldiers protecting opposition positions in the area revived. In January, Ankara and Moscow agreed to a cease-fire, but it was quickly broken when regime forces seized some cities along the deliberately critical M5 highway, which connected Aleppo and Damascus. Conflicts between the administration and the Turks erupted in February the year 2020, when the government of Syria forces slaughtered Turkish troops, causing the country to react with attacks in opposition to hundreds of government targets. Government officials offered opposition combatants and people the option to surrender, jeopardizing enlistment or custody or being bused north to the region, putting Idlib's three-million-strong population at risk. With the worsened bloodshed, the war's main mass dislocation to date occurred, with approximately 900,000 people being forced to flee their homes. Despite violations on both sides, a cease-fire deal signed by Moscow and Ankara in March 2020 effectively ended the fighting.

Meanwhile, shortly after the assassination of the Islamic State's leader, "Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi", by the US in October in the year 2019, the group intensified its attacks in Syria's northeast. Despite the October troop cutbacks, roughly 500 American forces were placed in the east of Syria to stop the Islamic State from obtaining access to the county's reserves of oil.

## **10 YEARS LATER**

A span period since the rebellion that started the conflict, Syria is still stuck in low-level violence, diplomatic uncertainty, and financial suffering. The cease-fire signed in 2020 has ended hostilities in Turkey's northwest, but the administration maintains control of the remainder of the nation with the support of Iran as well as Russia. Simultaneously, Israel has increased its bombing of targets in Syria thought to be linked to Iran, particularly Hezbollah. Residents are now facing an economic disaster, even though the violence has stopped. Further, more than 80% of the total population people is living in poverty. International sanctions, including the United States' Caesar Act, have mostly targeted Syrians in an attempt to force the regime to reform. Although the sanctions have had minimal impact on Assad, they have prevented countries like the United Arab Emirates from repairing relations with Syria. Peacekeeping is also a major breakdown to change Assad's regime. In 2019, an UN-facilitated constitution-drafting group gathered 150 members from civil society, the regime, and the opposition. However, the coronavirus pandemic in 2020 halted discussions for many months, and when they resumed in January 2021, the committee swiftly came to a halt. Some observers believe Assad is trying to stall development so that he can organize a presidential election without UN oversight in April 2021. According to a resolution passed by the United Nations Security Council in 2015, UN-supervised voting must take place after the establishment of a constitution, which is new. Although the UN-led talks have stalled, Iran, Russia, and Turkey are still not in a position in resolving Syria's political dilemma. In March 2021, Turkey, Qatar along with Russia, opened a fresh way for discussions on Syria's peace-making process but it only complicated the whole diplomatic background.

## HUMANITARIAN CRISIS

According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Syria remains the world's worst refugee crisis after a decade of conflict. More than half of Syria's population is displaced, with 5.5 million refugees predominantly in Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, and Egypt, and another 6.7 million internally displaced within the nation. According to the United Nations, women and children make up two-thirds of those displaced. According to the UNHCR, torrential rain and flooding in Syria's northwest have ruined tents, disrupted food supply, and displaced tens of thousands in recent months.<sup>11</sup> In a study, World Vision notes, *“Healthcare facilities and hospitals, schools, utilities, and water and sanitation infrastructure have been damaged or destroyed. Historic sites and once-bustling marketplaces have been razed to the ground. The social and economic ties that bind neighbours to their communities were severed during the war.”*

## WHAT IMPACT DOES COVID-19 HAVE ON THE SYRIAN CRISIS?

In July of 2020, the first instances of COVID-19 were reported in the northwest. Idlib and northern Aleppo governorates, which are covered with 4 million people, many times of who are uprooted, are now confronting the devastating effects of the coronavirus. Most of the families have to live in filthy, congested temporary sites or sleep in open different places. The health and civilian infrastructures have been destroyed, and water is scarce. Only half of the facilities regarding health in this region are accessible and working, according to The World Health Organization.<sup>12</sup> The very first case of COVID19 was verified in the northeast in April 2020, raising worries about a lack of preparation. The everyday reality continues to be a lack of COVID19 checkup tests, frequently not available healthcare facilities, along with inadequate service water. Stopping the spread of the coronavirus is very challenging in the region's many congested camps and casual settlements, as it is in the northwest. Syrians in government-controlled areas, as well as refugees in neighbouring countries, are dealing with the fact that the danger of COVID19, the helplessness to do work, and the region's spiralling economic downfall are making their condition worse than before.

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<sup>11</sup> ‘Syria Refugee Crisis Explained’ (UNHCR, 5 February 2021) <<https://www.unrefugees.org/news/syria-refugee-crisis-explained/>> accessed 15 June 2022

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid*

Some groups are currently working towards decreasing the risk of COVID19 spreading by disseminating current information and providing necessities to persons fleeing conflict. They are strengthening news about cleanliness, COVID19, stigmatization that can occur with illness, and how people can use resident networks, in addition to providing water and hygiene programming to conflict-affected areas in Northeast Syria.

### WHAT IS COMING NEXT?

Syria is currently a devastated country. However, the regime has retaken much of the country, it is significantly weakened. Many of Assad's supporters have turned into warlords who now rule their fiefdoms, semi-independent of Damascus.<sup>13</sup> The economy has collapsed as a result of conflict and shrinking Western sanctions. Syrians in regime-controlled areas fight to even get the most necessities. Fuel and electricity are in low supply. Even in Damascus, most people stand in line for hours just to buy bread, a basic necessity. The Syrian people are being crushed from all sides: from the Assad dictatorship and Western sanctions, says Joshua Landis, the director of the University of Oklahoma's Center for Middle East Studies, whose wife is from Syria.<sup>14</sup>

Sanctions supporters argue that they are an essential instrument for forcing Assad to the negotiating bench and weakening its partner Iran. According to Landis, they are causing harm to the people of Syria whilst also increasing the reliance of the country on Iran. "These encircle Iran much deeper into Syria," he claims. "It impoverishes Syrians to the point where they are more reliant on the regime and its friends." The UN is still working to bring peace to the world. In recent remarks to the press, Secretary-General Guterres stated, "The message is clear: There is no military solution to the Syrian issue. The only option is for a political solution. This man-made humanitarian disaster for Syria's long-suffering people must come to an end." But, for the time being, the Syrian administration has shown no sign of going to the negotiating table. It remains to exert force on Turkish-backed rebel groups that govern the country's northern regions. Millions of civilians live in these areas; many of them are within colonial and

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<sup>13</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid*

living in camps. And ISIS strikes once more are in rising in Syria's northeast. "As long as the various players have access to resources, the fighting will be difficult to halt."

### **WHAT IMPACT HAS THIS HAD ON CHILDREN?**

The Syrian conflict is still primarily a humanitarian crisis. It resulted in great threats to children's rights, such as employment, kidnapping, murder, and, persistent unrelieved. Families are suffering because of hyperinflation, with negative coping techniques at the top. Fathers and Mothers are not eating a lot to feed their kids, also initiating them to work than study, and minor children are in danger of being married quickly or forcibly. Meanwhile, the educational system is overburdened, understaffed, and divided. In 2021, one out of every three schools in Syria would be unable to function due to destruction, damage, or can also be used for military purposes. Around 2.45 million Syrian children are not going to school, and those who have access to schools do so in overfull classrooms and buildings with inadequate necessities such as water, electricity ventilation, and sanitation.

### **WHAT STEP HAS UNICEF TAKEN TO SUPPORT SYRIAN CHILDREN AFFECTED BY THE CRISIS?**

Hundreds and thousands of children in Syria require humanitarian assistance. Children in Syria and around the region are being protected by UNICEF and partners, who are also assisting them in coping with the repercussions of battle and reclaiming their early years. Increasing academic and psychosocial assistance programs to assist children and adults recover from the shock and recapturing a sense of normalcy, as well as delivering crucial humanitarian supplies in hard-to-reach places, are all part of this strategy. UNICEF continues to assist such as hygiene kits, clean drinking water, and malnutrition testing and treatment in collaboration with partners. UNICEF and other partners have been pushing precautionary and risk awareness campaigns and resources to help stop the spread of COVID-19.

## **WHAT STEPS HAS UNHCR TAKEN TO ASSIST SYRIAN REFUGEES?**

"The UN Refugee Agency" has laid low since the crisis began, offering refuge, vital resources, drinking water, hot meals, and health care to those who were driven to abandon their houses. In addition, the "UNHCR" has aided with the repair of civilian structures such as houses, schools, and leisure facilities, as well as educational and emotional assistance for children. By sending protective equipment to health centres and hospitals, distributing medicine, and creating quarantine rooms and cleaning facilities, "UNHCR" has boosted its attempts to battle and control COVID-19 throughout the epidemic. It has also offered monetary aid to many refugees to assist them to meet their utmost simple necessities.

## **SUMMARY: CONCLUDING REMARKS**

Hence, it has been concluded that the War is perhaps the most inhumane humanitarian disaster from the starting of World War II, with about a billion people slaughtered, which is the same number as the people who are injured or are missing and counting another 22 million people who are not living at their home. Syria is also the nation's biggest battlefield and also a home for Sunni-Shia sectarianism, along with some far-reaching repercussions for the coming future of the Middle East and terrorism. What began as President Bashar's al-attempt Assad to quell Syria's largest uprising has devolved into a regionalized civil war, with the country divided into three major zones, each commanded by US-designated terrorist organizations. Syria's more diversified west is ruled by the Alawite and minority-dominated Assad regime, as well as a patchwork of Shia militias trained and backed by the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC). In the centre, Sunni moderate, Islamist, and jihadist organizations, including ISIS and the al-Qaeda spinoff Jabhat al-Nusra, coexist. In a drive to expand Rojava – Western Kurdistan – the Kurdish-based People's Protection Units (YPG) has joined two of three cantons in the northeast. As Syria's population has shrunk, neighbouring countries have carved out spheres of influence, often based on sectarian agendas that rip at the fabric of the country's society, with Iran (and now Russia) supporting the Assad regime, Turkey, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates supporting the Sunni-dominated opposition, and the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) supporting the YPG. Few could have predicted the extent

of savage brutality used by Bashar al-administration Assad to suppress his population when billions of Syrians took to the path calmly to demand political reforms. Syria's infrastructure has been destroyed, and there is no realistic chance for rehabilitation. The regime remains a worldwide pariah, accused of a seemingly infinite litany of war crimes and, according to the UN, in violation of the Chemical Weapons Convention and the accompanying 2013 disarmament agreement. Most importantly, Syria's economy is in shambles, torn apart by a decade of costly fighting, shredded by rampant corruption, and reduced to ash by Lebanon's financial collapse. Worsening food and fuel shortages are the outcomes of Russia's present refusal to bail out Syria, which is virtually insolvent. The dictatorship has continued periodic attempts to wring rich assets from other members of the crony class after shaking down longstanding regime friend Rami Makhoul in May 2020, but whatever fruits are gathered are far from sufficient. Syria's descent into an ever-deepening financial abyss has nearly wiped out the country's middle class, now living in poverty. Unsurprisingly, dissatisfaction with the dictatorship is growing, and outbursts of rage from the regime's traditional supporters are becoming louder and more frequent than ever. Due to a crippling shortage of access to US funds in Syria, the regime's economic elite is turning on one another and battling aggressively for favour in an increasingly insecure and constrained business environment. In short, Syria is in a terrible state, possibly even worse than it was during the height of the armed conflict in 2014 and 2015. The world must commit to dealing with Syria and secure, as best it can, a better future than the one promised by the current status quo.