

Syrian Civil War and Its Implication on Regional Politics

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Syria's strategic location at the crossroads of the Middle East, combined with its rich cultural diversity, has long made it a key player in regional politics. The ongoing Syrian war, which is in its tenth year, has serious effects on regional stability and international security. This article explains the importance of Syria's geopolitical position, its historical background and the serious impact of the war on the political region. Examining the complexity of war, its consequences, and international cooperation, this article highlights the complexity of the conflict and its profound impact on the Middle East and beyond. Religious landscape as a concept of place also adds to the complexity of the conflict. It analyzes the role of various regional and international actors, including Iran, Russia, the United States, and the European Union, in exacerbating or easing the conflict. Additionally, the article discusses the humanitarian crisis, the rise of terrorist groups and the impact of the war on neighboring countries such as Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey. He emphasizes that a political solution is needed for long-term security and peace in the Middle East. Examining the war, its consequences, and international cooperation, this article sheds light on the ongoing conflict between Syria and the future of the region; It sheds light on policymakers, academics, and anyone trying to understand the complexity of this important issue.

1. Introduction

The Middle East has always been a victim of conflicts such as the Syrian civil war, the Yemen war, the Palestine issue, the Iran Iraq war etc. there are many reasons for the conflict in the Middle East. The most important of which is the Palestine issue and the monarchy system in Arab countries that has been going on for generations and in which the people do not the right to change the government. According to the 1923 agreement called the Treaty of Lansanne, which ignored the facts and gave independence to various countries but did not independent Kurdistan which made the region prone to further crises. In Middle East Gas, Gold and other things are there due to which this region has been the center of attention of world powers and this reason the whole region has been the center of proxy war.

The Syrian war in 2011 had a negative impact not only on Syria but also on the entire Middle East. The conflict began during a ceasefire against the government of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and has escalated violently across the country. After the conflict occurred, it attracted the attention of many regional and international actors who rushed to fight to protect their own agendas and interests. Politics has an impact. It examines the role of superpowers such as Russia, Iran, the United States, and Saudi Arabia and the rise of terrorist groups such as the Islamic State during the war crisis. Elite currency exchanges and their impact on the conflict in Syria are also analyzed. By understanding the Syrian conflict, we can understand the geopolitics of the Middle East and the challenges it faces in achieving stability and peace.

1.1 Research Question

The research question for the article could be: "What are the geopolitical implications of the Syrian Civil War, including the involvement of regional powers, terrorist groups like ISIS, and the shifting foreign policies of major players like Russia, Iran, the USA, and Saudi Arabia?"

2. Literature Review

It would not be an exaggeration to call the Syrian conflict, which started in April 2011, a "major conflict." The Arab Spring uprisings that started in the Middle East overthrew many governments. Egypt and Libya top the list. Conflicts in Syria occur for many reasons. This is the main reason why the Assad dynasty has survived for decades. Syrian lands attract the attention of world powers. Russia's ruler, Tsar Nicholas I, created a policy of expanding Russian territory. According to this policy, Russia should control the territory from the Land Fleet to Naval Rome. Syria supported the Soviet Union during the Cold War. The Russian naval base named Tartus is also in Syria. The Bosphorus is under Turkish control. Türkiye can close it if necessary. So, there will be problems in Russia. When you look at the USA, it does not take the jihadist threat in Iraq and Syria seriously. This led to the establishment of the Islamic State in Syria. World powers postponed the war in Syria for their own interests. Besides the world's great powers, other countries also destroyed Syria for their own interests. Currently, the Syrian war has become a war between different countries. Nobody knows where to go (Panayiotides, 2020).

The majority of the Syrian population is Muslim. 60% of Muslims are Sunni. In addition, there are 12% Christians and some Shiite Muslims of Alevi origin. According to the journalist, 80 percent of the officers in Assad's army belong to the Alawite group. Saudi Arabia, Iran and Türkiye are old rivals. The presence of these countries in the Syrian conflict complicates the situation. As before, there was a Cold War between the Soviet Union and the USA. The conflict in Syria is similar. Many countries are experiencing a cold war in Syria. Iran wants to become a nuclear power. The US and their ally Saudi Arabia do not want to let this happen. Türkiye is still an important player in Syria. It also joins Saudi Arabia in supporting the Syrian government's opposition. Beyond that, the Syrian war continues to affect the world. The anger between the USA and China increased further when China and Russia vetoed the agreement reached at the United Nations on the Syrian war. Both countries made serious accusations against each other. This world is called a global village. Nowadays, when conflict breaks out anywhere in the world, it has a global impact (Carpenter, 2013).

The Syrian war is ending and the Assad regime is winning the war. The ISIS threat is very real. Now it's falling very fast. In 2019, the "Islamic State" organization conquered Syria and Iraq. But their remains no longer pose a threat to the world. Most of Syria is controlled by the Syrian government and its allies. However, some regions are still in opposition hands. Syria is benefiting from Russian logistical and air support to recover. Every war can end in two ways. One is a complete victory, the other is a negotiation. Although the negotiations carried out in Syria were rejected by the government, sometimes by the opposition, and sometimes by the army. Therefore the negotiation failed. Reasons for rejecting negotiations include access to humanitarian aid, confidence building, prisoner release, and support from various anti-government groups. The USA wants the Syrian people to choose their own ruler Freedom flourishes (Ford, 2019).

The main reason for the Syrian war is the Israeli-Syrian conflict, sectarianism, the power of Bashar Assad, international powers and their interests. The Syrian conflict has been complicated by international intervention. And solving this problem is not as easy as it seems. If the government had managed the protests in Syria correctly when they broke out, the problem would not have been so serious. There is sectarianism, lack of rights and many other problems in Syria. This leads to more conflict. The conflict had a profound impact on the population. People will still be homeless in their own countries. Many go to Europe and other countries experiencing refugee influxes. (Baltes, 2016)

When anti-government protests broke out in Syria in 2011, protesters were treated harshly. According to a United Nations report, approximately 500,000 people died in the conflict (A decade of Syria war killed nearly 500,000 people, 2021). The Assad regime's forces are weak. He can't fight without the help of his friends. But neither side can win. Many groups emerged during this war. Who opposes the government? These groups are run by local people. However, the group's performance did not receive universal support. But the conflict offers local groups an opportunity to strengthen their opposition to the Assad regime. Assad's government is cracking down on these groups. The Assad regime fought well. (Phillips, 2013)

3. Theoretical Frame Work

Movements driven by national interests and civil war are seen as real revolutions. When we look at international relations, reality is important. We can look at the Syrian war from a realistic perspective. Foreign countries intervened in the Syrian war to protect their own interests and interests. US intervention in the Syrian conflict is to overthrow the Assad regime and seize oil reserves. Syria's mineral resources consist mainly of oil, but some areas are still located in the United States and oil is extracted from there. Iran is a country that intervenes in the Syrian war for its own interests abroad and supports the Assad regime. Iran and its allies are joining the war against Saudi Arabia and Israel in Syria. Thus, Saudi Arabia stepped in to protect its own interests and compete with Iran. and we support groups against Assad. Likewise, other countries have entered this field to protect their own interests. President Assad began to control the security apparatus. However, over time, Assad's control weakened. The support of anti-Assad groups is quite high (Walt, 2018).

4. Syrian Civil War and It's Implication on Regional Politics

4.1 Background History of Syrian Civil War

In 2011, peaceful protests broke out against the government of Bashar al-Assad. The situation has become very bad because the government is incompetent. According to the United Nations report, approximately 500,000 people will die in this war. Even before the Syrian civil war began, the Syrian people had many differences with the government of Bashar al-Assad. Bashar Assad has been in power since 2000. The protests of Syrians affected by the Arab Spring in the city of Deraa turned into violence. Bashar Assad used military force to suppress the uprising. For this reason, protesters also took up arms for their own safety. From the spread of the crisis. The country was dragged into civil war. As the war escalated, other countries joined the conflict to protect their own interests. On the one hand, the Syrian civil war has turned into a sectarian war. On the other hand, the terrorist organization is given the chance to develop. Kurds in Syria are independent. They are fighting for freedom with Türkiye and ISIS. They also want to attack the Syrian government. Syria's allies include Russia, Hezbollah, Iran and other groups supported by Iran. On the other hand, Saudi Arabia, the USA and their allies are involved. First of all, we are talking about the allies of the Syrian government. Why do they support Syria in its war? (Why war is happening in Syria?, 2018)

4.1 Allied Powers

4.1.1 Russia

After 2015, Russia's role in the ongoing war in Syria increased significantly. Why does Russia interfere in Syria's affairs so often? This is very difficult and important to understand. In Badinajar, Russia intervened in Syria to save the rule of its ally, Bashar al-Assad. People of different backgrounds have different views on Russia's involvement in the Syrian war. A group of people believed him. Russia intervened in Syria to reduce Western pressure on Bashar Assad's regime and for its own geostrategic interests. Some people think so. Russia intervened in the

Syrian war to keep the UN active. some thoughts. Russia's Islamic fundamentalism and hatred of Syrian jihadist ideology and jihadist groups forced Russia to intervene in Syria. Russia's intervention in the Syrian war means protecting its international position and opposing Western powers, as well as geopolitics. Also, Russia has its own interests. For example, its headquarters is located in Aqiya, Syria. This is necessary for protection (Oligie, 2019)

4.1.2 Iran

The day the Syrian civil war started. Therefore, on the same day, other countries in the region announced their own laws. If we analyze Iran's foreign policy towards Syria. Seems like. In Iran's eyes, Syria is very important. These attributes are both religious and geographical. Iran has invested heavily in Syria. Iran's actions in Syria are not accidental. Iran-Syria relations are historical. Nature has blessed the Middle East with many minerals. There are rocks on the ground too. This situation makes the Middle East important globally. This is the main reason why these lands are at war. Iran is such a country. Those who faced the Islamic Revolution. The eight-year war with Iraq and economic sanctions continue to weaken Iran. However, despite this, Iran is still seen as a great power in the region. There were no significant changes in Iran's policy after the Syrian war in 2011. Iran supports Bashar al-Assad's Syrian government despite its use of chemical weapons against rebels. However, now Iran's Syria policy has changed slightly. Because according to the news in May 2024, Iran requested the return of 50 billion dollars from Syria. What Iran used in the Syrian Civil War (Yolcu, 2016).

4.2 Axis Powers

4.2.1 America

It will look at US foreign policy towards the Syrian war. From the beginning of the war. Therefore, US policy changes depending on the decision. Some important points of the law are as follows. To resolve the conflict, remove Bashar al-Assad from power and elect someone else, and promote democracy so that the Syrian people have the right to elect their own president. The USA is taking steps for negotiations. However, the talks did not succeed due to the stubbornness of the Syrian government and its allies. Following this incident, the United States provided support to rebel groups against the Syrian government. We support those fighting against ISIS. The United States has also formed an international coalition to fight the Islamic State. It also provides air support to the Kurds in their fight against the Islamic State. Kurdish parties also started to support the Syrian revolution. After the emergence of ISIS in 2014, the Kurds and the USA came into contact again. and we started fighting the Islamic State. The USA declared the PKK and the Syrian opposition SDF as legitimate allies. The conflict in Syria is complicated by the influence of many national interests. From the Obama administration to the Trump administration, the US conflict in Syria has experienced many changes. The civil conflict in Syria requires all parties to sit down and resolve it. The solution to this problem also requires international agreement (Shakr, 2022).

4.2.2 Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia's relations with Syria and Iran will not improve after the war. If we look at the history of Saudi Arabia's relations with Syria. For this reason, relations between the two countries became tense. After the assassination of the Lebanese Prime Minister in 2005, relations between Saudi Arabia and Syria began to improve. After the 2008 Doha agreement, Riyadh shifted its foreign policy to Damascus. Strengthening relations with Syria. Lebanon is the battleground of the ongoing cold war between Syria and Saudi Arabia. Despite the agreement, relations between Syria and Saudi Arabia could not strengthen steadily. But when there is a Syrian war. Therefore, the relationship between Saudi Arabia and Syria will not be good. Both countries recalled their ambassadors. Saudi Arabia thought. It could reduce Syria's influence in the region by overthrowing the government of Syrian President Bashar Assad. For this purpose, Saudi Arabia supports the anti-Assad group in Syria. Following the overthrow of the Assad regime, anti-Assad and Saudi-backed groups took control of Syria. To reduce Iran's influence in the region. Saudi Arabia has declared the Islamic State and other terrorist groups. Because the caliphate map published by ISIS covers part of Saudi Arabia. In addition to providing support to the anti-Assad group, Saudi Arabia has also tried to persuade the United States through diplomacy to overthrow the Assad regime. Message from the King of Saudi Arabia to the President of the USA. If Bashar Assad's government is weak. As a result, America's reputation in the region will be seriously damaged. In 2014, the attitude of the Saudi Arabian government began to change. Because the Saudi Arabian government is aware of the Syrian war. Bashar Assad is also known for his strong position. Since then, Saudi Arabia has been trying to improve relations with Iran. During the meeting, the foreign ministers of the two countries invited both sides to visit each other's countries. However, the conflict between Saudi Arabia and Iran continues. But it is like that. Iran and Saudi Arabia will not reach a final agreement. There was no clarity on Syria in the talks between Saudi Arabia and Iran. Saudi Arabia continues to provide support to the anti-Assad group despite talks with Iran (Guzansky, 2015).

4.3 Terrorist Group ISIS

After the Afghan Jihad against Russia, the Arab Mujahideen would return to their respective regions. Some of them went to Bosnia. And no Chechnya because the Arab Mujahideen would be bored sitting at home. Among them was one Abu Musab al-Zarqawi. who was a native of Jordan. And he visited Afghanistan. Met Osama in Afghanistan. And America showed its intention to create a jihadist organization when it invaded Afghanistan. So, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi went to Iran. And then when America invaded Iraq to topple Saddam Hussein's regime. So, the Zarqawi network fought against the US. When the National Army of Iraq was abolished. So, some officers of Saddam's army will also join the Zarqawi network. Samara is the name of a city. Which is located near Baghdad. In the city of Samara, there is a shrine of Imam Hasan Askari of the Shia religion. This shrine was blown up in a bomb blast. But no group has accepted the responsibility. The United States blamed the attack on a member of the Al-Badri tribe (Hashim Al-Badri). who was a close associate of al-Qaeda and Zarqawi network. Hashim al-Badri was later killed by the US in a drone strike. ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi also belonged to the

Al-Badri tribe. Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi's real name was (Ibrahim Badri). And he also had Ph. D in Islamiat. During the Afghan Jihad, the people of Saudi Arabia used to help the Mujahideen. And then the people of Saudi Arabia also gave financial support to Sunni fighters during the Iraq war. America arrested a smuggler. who worked for the Zarqawi network on the border between Syria and Jordan. The name of this smuggler was (Zayd Al Karbouli). He gave the US a lot of information about the Zarqawi network. In 2015, Zayed Al Karboli was hanged. Then a person who was in the custody of the United States. His code name was (Observer). The observer gave the US a lot of information about Zarqawi. He told America. That a young man from Baghdad named Sheikh Abdul Rahman was He and Zarqawi used to meet regularly. This information was very important for America. Then the US started spying on Sheikh Abdul Rahman. On June 7, 2006, Sheikh's car veered off course towards a farmhouse. So, America's ears will stand up. A man dressed in black came out of the farmhouse. Which was Abu Musab al-Zarqawi. A US Army general ordered Delta Force to arrest Zarqawi. But the helicopter of Delta Force turned out to be damaged. Meanwhile, the American general roamed the airspace of Iraq. 2 The American F-16 aircraft were located and ordered to drop bombs. A plane dropped two 500-pound bombs on the farmhouse. Meanwhile, an American army helicopter reached the farmhouse. When American commandos captured Zarqawi. So, he was taking his last breath. Zarqawi died on the way to the hospital. After the death of Zarqawi, Omar al-Baghdadi al-Quraishi will become the new head of the Zarqawi network (Kakakhel, 2023).

In 2004, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi was imprisoned in Camp Bucca prison near the Iraq-Kuwait border. If ISIS was created right before the eyes of the USA. It's not wrong for the US not to know this. There are people from the Zekawi network in this prison. Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi was well educated and knowledgeable about Islam. Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi joined the Zarqawi network after being released from prison. He has now left Al Qaeda. And do the job under the name "Islamic State of Iraq". He will be the Grand Mufti of this organization. In April 2010, the "Islamic State" organization held a secret meeting. This situation was reported to the USA. The USA launched a missile attack on the summit. Therefore, Omar al-Baghdadi and Ayub al-Masri will be killed. After these men died, the leader would become Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. In August 2011, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi sent some young people to Syria. To review the situation in Syria. There the children formed a political group known as the Al-Nusra Front. Nusra Front provides support to the Free Syrian Army against Bashar Assad in Syria. The two of them together to defeat the Syrian army from Raqqa (Syrian city). Jabhat al-Nusra recruits by posting advertisements on social media. The biggest dispute will be between Abu Muhammad al-Jolani and Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi of the Al Nusra Front. Baghdadi left the Nusra Front in 2013 and announced the establishment of ISIS. In April 2013, ISIS captured Raqqa. On June 29, 2014, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi declared the caliphate after capturing the city of Mosul. The mosque that declared the Caliph. Iranian General Qasim Soleimani also attended the Friday prayer (Sekulow, 2016).

After the death of Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the Islamic State almost completely disappeared. Since that date, the "Islamic State" organization has not been able to carry out any significant work and has not been able to withstand the support of enemy forces. It's obvious that ISIS is there. But

it's hard to give it up. "Lawrence of Arabia" said the rebels should be as dust. Everywhere. Not that. Islamic State is increasing its income from oil. However, having lost control of these areas, ISIS now operates its business by selling antiques. It's obvious that ISIS is there. It's not a major threat to the world right now. However, the ideology and remnants of ISIS continue to exist. This is difficult to remove.

4.4 Trump Policy in Middle East (Syrian Civil War)

When President Obama tried to intervene in Syria while in office. Trump later called for an end to America's foreign wars during his presidential campaign. When Trump came to power. Thus, in December 2018, he announced the withdrawal of US troops from Syria. But then, including US interests, Trump met with the President of Türkiye in October 2019. He announced the return of 1000 soldiers in Syria. Trump opposes America's foreign wars. Trump said the United States alone spends enough to protect its allies. The Allies did not cooperate on this issue. Trump talked about his foreign policy. This is the end of US intervention in Syria. The US presence in other countries in the region has also diminished. Trump used the United Nations as a platform for threats. and I cause harm to the world. Trump's critics hope so, too. The USA continues its presence in Syria. But they couldn't stop the president from going to war. If you look at Trump's foreign policy in the Middle East. That's why Trump eliminated the role of local police. In addition, an agreement was signed by Ibrahim between Israel and Arab countries. When we look at Iran, Trump's policy was not successful. Trump terminated the nuclear agreement with Iran and ordered the killing of Iranian Quds Force Commander Qassem Soleimani. Since then, the Syrian war has turned into a war between the USA, Iran and Israel. This still continues (Yoo, 2021).

5. Conclusion

It has always been the target of world powers after the discovery of mineral resources in the Middle East. Syria is important in terms of history and religion. The Arab Spring also affected Syria. If peaceful protests in Syria are controlled by intelligence. So, the night won't be ruined. General Qasem Soleimani visited Russia after the US intervention in Syria. and seek help from Russia. and an invitation to intervene in Syria. To save their friend Bashar AL Assad. The conflict in Syria is getting worse due to the interests of world powers. Russia, Iran and Hezbollah support the Syrian government. On the other hand, Saudi Arabia, the USA and their allies support Syria. There are bad people in this war. It takes all of these. Many new organizations were born. Among these, the most powerful organization in history, ISIS, emerged. By protecting Islam, by protecting people, a lot of fear is being spread. ISIS no longer poses as much of a threat to the world as it used to. What would have happened if the Syrian war had not used force from the beginning and instead tried to stop the struggle for peace? Then the Syrian state will not collapse.

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