

The History of Syria after Independence

2 No Nation

before the end of First World War, Syria was only a vast area, not linked to any specific national sentiment.

"Syria" is derived from the Semitic Siryon, which appears in Deuteronomy in reference to Mount Hermon, which straddles the current frontiers of Syria, Lebanon, and Israel.

What sentiment did exist was pan- Arab.

1 A Would-be Nation

after the First World War, Anglo- French rivalry for spoils resulted in a division of Syria into six zones:

1 British Mandate: Northern Syria- a new Turkish state; Eastern Syria- Iraq; Southern Syria- Palestine and Kingdom in Transjordan.

2 French Mandate: all Left areas of Syria- further divided into Lebanon and Syria.

But it is a meaningless division for the feeling of a nation. Each of Syria's sect and religion group was- as it largely still is- concentrated in a specific geographical area, having by far deeper affinity to its relative groups in another nation, than to Damascus.

Furthermore, in order to forestall the rise of hostility to French into Arab nationalism, the colliding forces—minority self-determination and Sunni pan-Arabism—were encouraged rather than restrained by French rule.

- 1 granted special autonomous policies to the Alawites, and the Druzes.
 - 2 The minority paid lower taxes than the majority Sunnis, while getting larger development subsidies from the French government.
 - 3 the French encouraged the recruitment of Alawites, Druzes, Kurds, and Circassians into their occupation force, the Troupes Speciales du Levant.
- On the other hand, The majority Sunni Arabs, for their part, were severely repressed.

Freya Stark, a British diplomat, said of the French mandate, "I have not yet come across one spark of national feeling: it is sects and hatreds and religions."

1 Political Experiments in a Would-be Nation

—Trial 1: Democratic election

—Anarchy

As Syria has so many rival political communities...

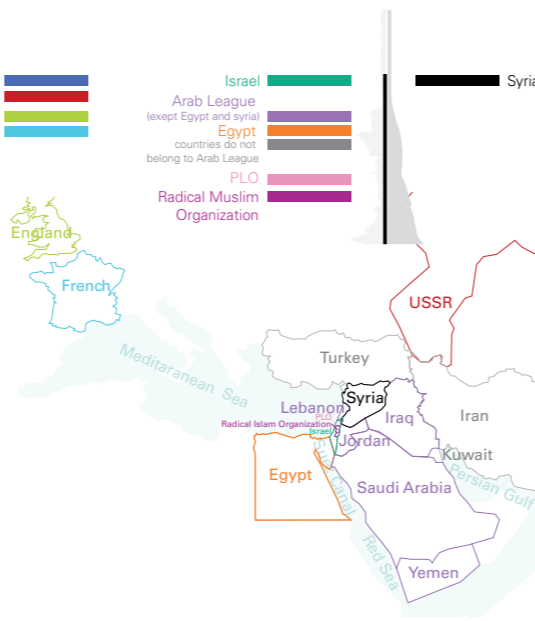
SUPERPOWER CONFLICT

LEGEND

- America (NATO)
- USSR
- England
- France

ARAB-ISRAEL CONFLICT

- Israel
- Arab League (except Egypt and Syria)
- Egypt
- countries do not belong to Arab League
- PLO
- Radical Muslim Organization
- Syria



The Muslim Brotherhood

The world's oldest and largest Islamic political group was founded by the Egyptian schoolteacher Hassan al-Banna in 1928. The Brotherhood's stated goal is to instill the Qur'an and Sunnah as the "sole reference point for ... ordering the life of the Muslim family, individual, community ... and state". Since its inception in 1928 the movement has officially opposed violent means to achieve its goals, with some exceptions such as in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict or to overthrow secular Ba'athist rule in Syria (see Hama massacre). This position has been questioned, particularly by the Egyptian government

1939 Hitler invades Poland on 1st September. Britain and France declare war on Germany two days later. **The Second World War begins.**



PRICE OF OIL (DOLLAR PER BARREL) (1947-2009)

1945: February 4-11—Yalta Conference **Cold War Begins**

1945: August 6 – **first atomic bomb**

1945: August 14 – Japanese surrender **End of World War II**

1946: March – Winston Churchill delivers "Iron Curtain" Speech

1947: June – **Marshall Plan**

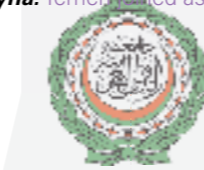
1948: February – Communist takeover in Czechoslovakia

1948: June 24 – Berlin Blockade begins

1949: July – **NATO** ratified

WWII Holocaust of the Jewish. Jewish migration into Palestine intensifies (680,000 Jews in Palestine)

1945, 22. March- **Arab League** established. six members: Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, and Syria. Yemen joined as a member on May 5, 1945.



1948, May 14 **Israel independence**

1948 **1st Middle East War:** Arab armies attack Israel but was

SYRIA TIMELINE

1932 **Sa'adah**, who was born in Lebanon, founded the **Syrian Social Nationalist Party (SSNP)** in Beirut, to oppose the French division of the region and **push for unity**. Sa'adah rejected both language and religion as defining characteristics of a nation, and instead **argued that nations develop through the common development of a people inhabiting a specific geographical region.** He was thus a **strong opponent of both Arab nationalism and Pan-Islamism.** He argued that **Syria was historically, culturally, and geographically distinct from the rest of the Arab world**, which he divided into four parts. He traced **Syrian history as a distinct entity back to the Phoenicians, Canaanites, Assyrians, Babylonians etc, and argued that Syrianism transcended religious distinctions.** Sa'adah rejected Arab Nationalism (the idea that the speakers of the Arabic language form a single, unified nation), and argued instead for **the creation of the state of**

United Syrian Nation or Natural Syria encompassing the Fertile Crescent, making up a Syrian homeland that "extends from the Taurus range in the northwest and the Zagros mountains in the northeast to the Suez Canal and the Red Sea in the south and includes the Sinai peninsula and the Gulf of Aqaba, and from the Syrian Sea in the west, including the island of Cyprus, to the arch of the Arabian Desert and the Persian Gulf in the east." (Kader, H. A.).

The party has been accused of being influenced by Italian Fascism and German National Socialism, which was reinforced by its imitation of the external symbols of the Nazi Party. But during a 1935 speech, Saadeh himself said: **"I want to use this opportunity to say that the system of the Syrian Social Nationalist Party is neither a Hitlerite nor a Fascist one, but a pure social nationalist one.** It is not based on useless imitation, but is instead the result of an authentic invention – which is a virtue of our people"



REAL GDP (Million SP) (DATA 1960-2000)

August 7, 1943: Shukri al-Quwatli of the **National Bloc** is elected President of Syria with 122- vote majority in Parliament. The National Bloc was a Syrian political party who rose in the **fight for independence at the time of French Mandate** of Syria. It was not a structured party but rather a coalition of parties hostile to the French presence in Syria. This coalition gathered the fifty most rich and powerful families of Syria. It dissolved in 1945.

July 1944: Joseph Stalin of the **USSR** recognized Syria' independence from France.

December 1944- **French dropped from school curriculums**
February 13, 1945- **Churchill promised to support Syria independence.**

April 1, 1945: Syria gained admittance to the UN.

May 29, 1945: The French Army air raids Damascus for the second time. The French fail to arrest President Quwatli and his top officials. Around 660 civilians are killed.

22.03. 1945 Syria is a **founding member of The Arab League**

August 1, 1945: **France ends its control of the armed forces.** Quwatli creates the Syrian Army

17.04. 1946 **Last French troops leave Syria. National day** of Syria

03.02. 1947 first radio broadcast with the famed line **"This is Damascus!"**

March 29, 1947: **The National Party is founded** in Damascus by President Shukri al-Quwatli.

represented the **industrialists** of Damascus, leading businessmen, and prominent landlords.

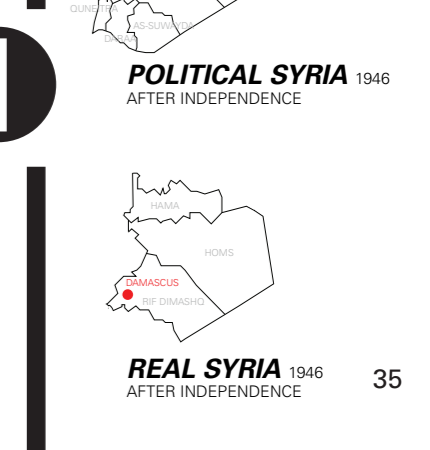
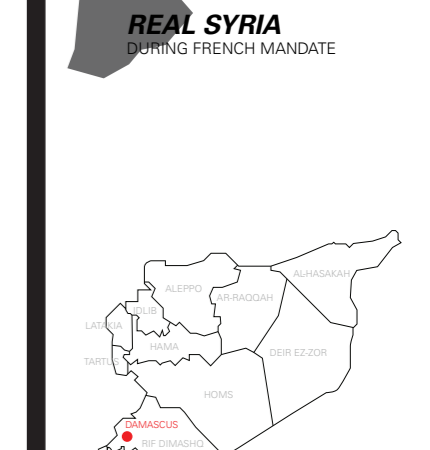
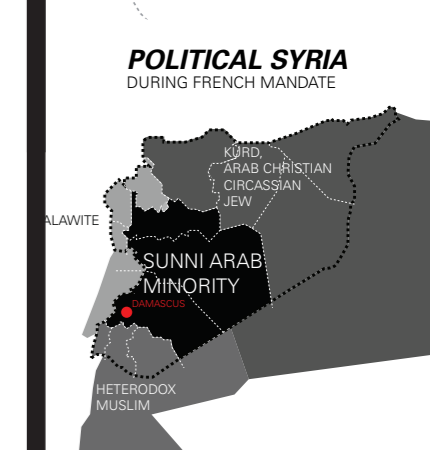
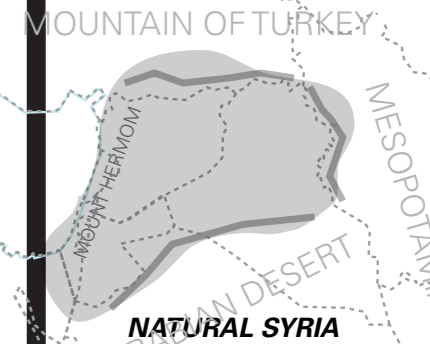
09.04. 1947 The **Baath Party was founded.** Its motto is "Unity, Freedom, and Socialism". **A single, indivisible Arab nation was central to Baathist ideology, statehood was regarded as parochial, negative, and doomed to failure.**

13. 1948: **Shukri al-Quwatli** is elected president for another 5-year term

05.05. 1948 The Syrian Army **goes to war in Palestine and is defeated**

August 1948: **The People's Party** was founded. It represented the interests of the merchants and landlords of Aleppo **against domination by Damascus**, had a strong interest in agricultural issues

03. 1949 **the first of many military takeovers** in the postcolonial Arab world. Chief of Staff General **Husni al-Za'im** seizes power in the third



ties, even a party got more votes than any other group, was able to form only a minority government. The majority of the ballots went to various independents representing sectarian interests. Israel's humiliation of Arab armies in its 1948 War of Independence further weakened the democratically elected government. A minority government, which is weak-in-power and fragile, could be overwhelmed easily. There are twenty-one changes of government in the twenty-four years before 1963, when Baathism finally came to power.

Trial 2: Baathism: Replace Religions with one Socialism.

Meanwhile, an ideological solution to Syria's contradictions began to emerge. Ba'athism, from Ba'ath, Arabic for "renaissance", sought to replace religion with socialism, creating new patriotism. It was started by two Syrian Arabs, one Christian and one Muslim.

2 United Arab Republic

Syria teetered on, with Egypt, Iraq, the Soviet Union, and the United States all interfering in its internal affairs. In January of 1958 the Syrians gave up and search to President Nasser of Egypt, for a new union-the United Arab Republic.

Nasser is well-known for his nationalist policies and version of pan-Arabism, also referred to as Nasserism, which won a great following in the Arab World during the 1950s and 1960s. He is regarded as "leader of the Arabs".

The United Arab Republic collapsed in 1961, partly because non-Sunni Syrians increasingly resented the rule of Egypt's own Sunni Arabs.

Shukri al-Quwatli, the Syrian President, reportedly complained thus to Nasser about the Syrian people: "Half claim the vocation of leader, a quarter believe they are prophets, and at least ten percent take themselves for gods."

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28, 09, 1970: **Nasser dies.** Grief is

defeated. War results in a divided Jerusalem.

UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works **Agency for Palestine Refugees**) established

July 23, 1952: **Nasser** leads the Free Officers of the Egyptian Army seize power in Cairo, **toppling King Farouk I.** The coup is much **welcomed in Syria** and embraced by Shishakli.

April 1955 **The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)** was formed as an attempt to thwart the Cold War

2nd Middle East War **Nasser nationalized the Suez Canal.** Great Britain, France, and Israel declare war on Nasser, **Arabs was Defeated.** the war is stopped by US President

1956-1958 the **First Civil War of Lebanon** led by Muslim leaders Sa'eb Salam and Rashid Karamah, who are funded and supported by Syria, **Syria tried but failed to transform Lebanon into an Egyptian satellite.** Lebanon requests US military assistance

September 10-14, 1960, The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (**OPEC**) is created at the Baghdad Conference, on by Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela

1963 8 March - February 8, 1963: **Baath Party officers seize power in Iraq,** killing General Abd al-Karim Qasim.

1964 Palestinian Liberation Organization (**PLO**) is established "eliminating Zionism in Palestine."

Fatah, a Palestinian movement for independence, made **the first terror attack** on Israel and **initiated the armed struggle for a state.**

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June 9, 1967: Nasser resigns in Egypt, taking complete blame for the defeat. Syrian masses pour out, demanding he stay in power and lead them to victory.

1967 **political play** "Masrah al-Shawk" performed by Durrat al-Hamam.

1967 Fatah al-Moudarres, was a **contemporary art founder in Syria,** whose works were **affected, and enriched, by the Arab defeat in the Arab-Israeli War**

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1962: October – **Cuban Missile Crisis**

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1965: April – U.S. Marines sent to Dominican Republic to fight Communism

1965: July – Announcement of dispatching of **150,000 U.S. troops to Vietnam**

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1949: September – Soviets **explode first atomic bomb**

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1950: June – **Korean War begins**

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3 Hafer al- Assad Rise

In 1963 the Ba'ath Party finally came to power in Damascus in a military coup. But the coup of 1970, which brought an Alawite air-force officer, Hafer al- Assad, to power, was what finally ended the instability. Ba'athism advocated a communist-style economic program and a pro-Soviet foreign policy. But more significant than its ideology was the ethnic makeup of the corps of officers now in control- Alawites .

Why the Alawite is hated?
 1 race: The term "Alawite" means "follower of Ali," the martyred son-in-law of Mohammed who is venerated by millions of Shi'ites in Iran and elsewhere.
 2 religion: the Alawite doctrine's affinity is close with Phoenician paganism—and also with Christianity. They celebrate most of christian festivals.
 3 minority: Alawites constructed just 12% of Syrian Population. But it gains military power through the unequal recruitment of minorities (especially Alawites) during the French mandate.

"An Alawi ruling Syria is like an untouchable becoming maharajah in India..."

However, Assad has been in power for almost 30 years. How could his regime be such a longevity?
 1. Use of electronic surveillance techniques and Soviet-bloc security advisers: powerful, sometimes lethal tools that had not been available to earlier dictators.
 2. Extraordinary skill as a leader . For example, has won for himself the role of de facto military overlord in Lebanon, thus effectively undoing the French crime of separating Lebanon from the Syrian motherland.

"In Syria, we have this huge army of secret police and a complete absence of legal protections" the Syrian director Ossama

Mohammed said, in a quiet, angry voice, " You can go to jail for thirty-five years and nobody will ask about you.

COLD WAR

1972: July – (**Strategic Arms Limitation Talks Agreement**) SALT I signed

1973: January – **Cease fire in Vietnam**
 1973: September – United States **helps overthrow** Chile government
 1974: August – **President Nixon resigns**

1975: April 30 – **North Vietnam defeats South Vietnam**
 1979: **Iranian Hostage Crisis**



1978 **Camp David Accords** – through negotiations led by President Carter, Sinai returned to **Egypt** in exchange for **recognition of Israel**
Arab League expels Egypt The Arab countries divided into a "refusal front" headed by Syria and a more moderate camp.

1979 **Islamic Revolution in Iran** which is lead by Khomeini, overthrow the late Shah of Iran. Khomeini believed in Muslim unity and solidarity and the **export of Islamic revolution throughout the world**. He is considered as a "champion of Islamic revival" by both Shia and Sunni scholars.

September 1980 to August 1988. **the First Gulf War** The Iran-Iraq War

1982 **5st Middle East War** **Israel invades** Lebanon a second time and lays siege to Beirut. .
PLO moves its headquarters from Beirut to Tun
 December of 1982, **The Arab summit** tried to satisfy the goal of reuniting the Arabs along with **placating the Americans** and providing support for the Palestinians. It was not particularly satisfactory to anyone,

1983: Pre- Reagan proposes **Strategic Defense Initiative**
 1985: – Iran-Contra **Affair (U.S.sold arms to Iran, profits used to support contras in Nicaragua)**

1985: – Mikhail Gorbachev ascends to power in Soviet Union
 1986: – Gorbachev **ends economic aid to Soviet satellites**

1986: November – **Iran-Contra Affair revealed to public**
 1987: October – Reagan and Gorbachev agree to remove all medium and short-range nuclear missiles
 1989: January – **Soviet troops withdraw** from Afghanistan
 1989: November – **Berlin Wall falls**

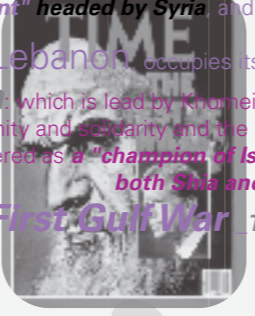
1991: Aug – **End of Soviet Union;**

unparalleled in the Arab World
 Jordan drives PLO out of Jordan

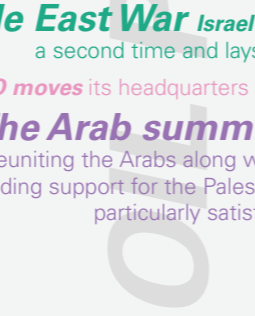
PLO forms base in southern Lebanon
 Iraq and Syria soon boke off relations with Jordan
 1973october 15th, **4st Middle East War_** Yom Kippur War: Hafez al-Asad and Anwar al-Sadat launch the third Arab-Israeli War. **Arabs was defeated**

16.10.1973 **Arab oil embargo** begins and lasts for 5 months, cutting back on oil exports to Western nations and Japan.

April 13, 1975: **Lebanon civil war**



Israel invades Lebanon, occupies its southern border.



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The First Intifada (1987–1993) (also "intifadah") was a Palestinian uprising against Israeli rule in the Palestinian territories.

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1991: Aug – **End of Soviet Union;**

Gulf War Persian Gulf War begins in response to **Iraqi invasion of Kuwait** in 1990.
Madrid Conference – Israel and Arabs begin bilateral

1967 Nizar Qabbani (1923-1998), **the greatest Syrian poet of the 20th century**, whose work was transformed after the Arab-Israeli War **from romantic into political poetry**.
 July 1970 Faranjiyya, **the leader of Faranjiyya family in Lebanon, a friend of Assad**, an Ecclesia Maronitarum **Christian, is elected as president of Lebanon**.
 November 16, 1970: **Hafez al-Asad seizes power in Syria**,

launching a "**correction movement**". He props up Ahmad al-Khatib, a civilian, as president, and makes himself Prime Minister.
 March 13, 1971: Asad releases a new constitution for Syria, which makes the **Baath Party the ruling party** of the state and society.
 1972, "**National Progressive Front**" established, making all the other parties under the lead of **Baath Party**.
 October 6, 1973: **Hafez al-Asad and Anwar al-Sadat launch the "the October War."** Syria retrieves one principal town in the **Golan Heights**.

In 1973, Syria completed construction of the **Tabaqaq Dam** on the Euphrates River, forming Lake Assad, to protect Syria against the remote possibility that Turkey might choke off Syria's water supply in an hostile political gesture. Thousands of farmers were displaced, and archeologically important villages were drown.
 1974 **political play** "Day at Tishreen" (The October Village), performed in 1974 to **glorify the Arab-Israeli War of 1973**. The play was considered **a masterpiece and a classic in modern Arabic theatre**.

May 31, 1976: The Syrian Army **enters Lebanon to end the Civil War, under pleas of Lebanese Christians, engages in war with PLO of Yasser Arafat**.

September 1978: Egypt signs the **Camp David Peace Agreement with Israel**, which is accused of treason by Asad and Syria **severs diplomatic relations with Egypt**.
 1980s As moviegoing draws people together in a communal experience, the baathist regime begin to reduce the number of cinemas in Damascus from 120 to 6 in 1996.

1980 - After the Islamic Revolution in Iran, **Muslim groups instigate uprisings and riots in Aleppo, Homs and Hama**. Assad begins to stress Syria's adherence to Islam.
 1980 **September - Iran-Iraq war. Syria backs Iran**, keeping traditional rivalry between Baathist leaderships in Iraq and Syria.

1982 February - **The Sunni Arab Muslim Brotherhood took control of the city Hama** and murdered its Alawite-appointed officials. Assad reacted by sending **12,000 Alawite soldiers into Hama, massacred** as many as **30,000 Sunni Arab civilians and leveled much of the town**.
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May 17 1981: Lebanese President Amin Gemayel signs a **peace treaty with Israel**, infuriating Hafez al-Asad, who joins ranks with rivaling Lebanese militias to bring it down. He **succeeds in foiling the May 17 Agreement**.

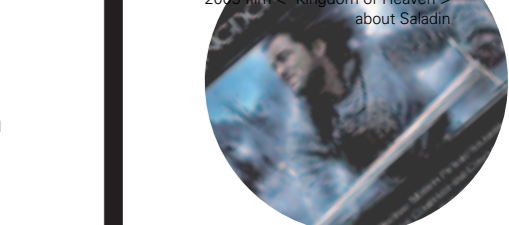
December 7, 1987: The first intifadah breaks out. **The stone-throwers become a symbol for rebellion and Arab pride**, and are eulogized in Syria by government and public alike.
 1988: film "Stars in Broad Daylight" by Ossama Mohammed, is a **merciless indictments of the baathis dictatorship**. It has won many international reputations, but could not be seen in Syria.

National Film Organization manages the production of all Syrian film, only 1-2 movies a year.
 October 1989: **Taif Agreement - Establishment of special relations between Lebanon and Syria**, with a framework for the beginning of Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon.. **bringis an end to the Lebanese Civil War**.
 October 1990: General Aoun is defeated in Beirut by the Syrian Army, enabling the civilian leader, Elias **Hrawi (backed by Asad)** to assume his responsibilities **as President of Lebanon**.

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 Syria joins the **USA**

3 about Muhammad:

The **Alawis** take their name from the cousin and son-in-law of Muhammad, who was the first Shi'a Imam and the 4th and last "Rightly Guided Caliph" of **Sunni Islam**.



2006 Film < Kingdom of Heaven > about Saladin
Saladin: he led Islamic opposition to the Franks and other European Crusaders and eventually recaptured Palestine from the Kingdom of Jerusalem
 He is a notable figure in Kurdish, Arab, Persian, Turkish and Muslim culture. Saladin was a strict practitioner of Sunni Islam. **He is the idol of Assad.**

1967 Film <The Message>

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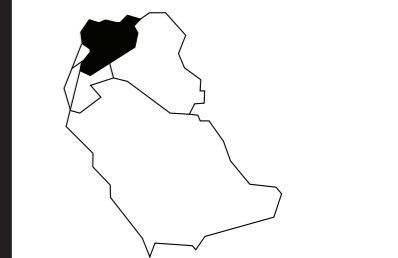
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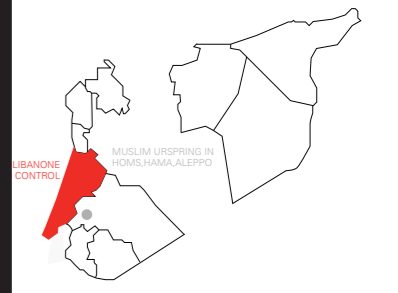
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REAL GDP (Million SP) (DATA 1960-2000)

POPULATION (000) (DATA 1960-2000)



DREAM SYRIA of Assad ash-Shām (the Greater Syria) The natural larger Syria region was annexed to the Islamic Caliphate after the **Muslim Rashidun victory over the Byzantine Empire** at the Battle of Yarmouk, and became known afterwards by its Arabic name, **ash-Shām**.



REAL SYRIA 1989 UPSRING IN HAMAS AREA SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH LEBANON

The History of Syria after Independence

4 Bashar al-Assad Assad succession

Syria looks more moderate than before: participation in the peace talks, its more civilized attitude toward Syrian Jews, and its seeming abstinence from anti-Western terrorism, eagerness for economic reform.

But the old problem still exist: nation-hood "boundary."

"A huge quantity of time has been lost by holding on to illusions- the illusions of heroism, religion, Arab nationalism- and not dealing with the Other. The Other is not Israel. It is inside our home. It is inside everybody." Syrian film director Mohammed

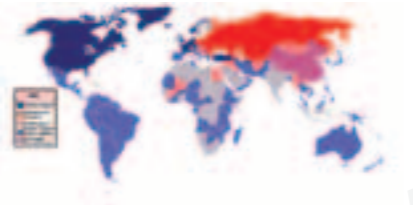
the government effectively smothered the reform movement, even as it maintained the appearance of liberalizing by releasing elderly political prisoners and allowing the publication of new journals with

minimal political content. "The development of civil-society institutions must come at a later stage."

Bashar said in an interview with the pan-Arabic newspaper Al Sharaq al-Awsat.



Soviet Union; Cold War Ends



2001 September 11 Attacks

"War on Terrorism" begins, U.S. invades Afghanistan to depose

the Taliban. January 29, 2002 "Axis of

evil" including Iran, Iraq and North Korea. "Beyond the Axis" of Evil" uncluding Syria

and Arabs begin bilateral and multilateral negotia-

1992 Israel expels 415

Palestinians suspected of pro-Islamist sympathies to South

1993 Oslo Peace Process, Yasser Arafat signs a

peace deal with Israel at the White House.

First Hamas suicide attack

1996 Palestinians elect Yasser Arafat as President

1999 Sharm el Sheik memorandum signed between Israel and PLO, final status of Peace talks begin.

2000 Camp David II - Clinton-led negotiations between Barak and Arafat breakdown, largely over the issue of Jerusalem.

Israeli Likud leader Ariel Sharon makes provocative visit to Temple Mount. Protesting Israeli-Arabs shot by Israeli police

2001 Second Intifada, a violent and sustained uprising, begins.

2003 Saudi Crown Prince peace plan, endorsed by Arab League, promises recognition of Israel for ending

2003 US initiated war in Iraq.

Occupation of Iraq begins. 2004 Sharon announces unilateral Gaza withdrawal plan and gains U.S. support. Palestinian Authority

President Yasser Arafat dies.

2005 Mahmoud Abbas elected President of the Palestinian Authority

Second Intifada ends

Hamas, a Palestinian Islamist designated foreign terrorist organization, wins majority in the Palestinian Legislative Council elections. Escalation of Israeli-Palestinian

violence in Gaza and abduction of Israeli Corporal Gilad Shalit.

2007 Mecca Agreement between Hamas and Fatah, leads to formation of Palestinian unity government in March.

Arab League relaunches its Peace Proposal.

Hamas takeover of Gaza in June, leads to breakup of unity government

In December, Hamas-Israel cease-fire expires and violence breaks out.



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January 1991: the Second Gulf War **Syria joins the USA** in Operation **Desert Storm**, with an international coalition created to **liberate Kuwait**.
 October 1991: **Madrid Peace Conference**, held under auspices of the USA, where **Syria agrees, for the first time since 1949, to have round table talks with Israel**.
 December 25, 1991: The USSR, Syria's **strategic ally** since 1956, collapses, **prompting Asad to open channels with the USA**.
 September 13, 1993: The Oslo Peace Process Accord **is highly criticized by Syria** and Asad accuses Arafat of having divided the Arab World by conducting a separate peace with Israel.
 1996 Summer Olympics: Shouaa won Syria's **first and only Olympic gold medal**.
 March 2000: Asad holds a meeting **with US President** in Geneva, aimed at solving the Syrian-Israeli gridlock. The **Geneva Conference fails**, and Asad refuses to normalize **with Israel** before the Golan Heights are returned to Syria according to the pre-June 4, 1967 borders.
 May 24, 2000: **Israel withdraws from occupied South Lebanon**. The resistance of Hizbullah, supported by Syria, declares victory over Israel, and this is largely attributed to Asad's unwavering support for the Lebanese resistance since 1978.
 2000 Mar, The new government **cut taxes on new joint stock companies from 56% to 25%**.
 June 10, 2000: President **Hafez al-Asad dies**. Assad had given Alawites powerful positions in the army and Baath party while the Sunnis were given a free rein in trade and industry.
 July 17, 2000: **Bashar Assad, son of Hafez Assad**, began a seven-year term as Syria's 16th head of state.
 2000 Sep 27: **99 intellectuals published a demand for more democracy and freedom of expression**. The regime responded by **releasing 600 political prisoners**.
 2001 September - Detention of MPs and other pro-reform activists, **crushing hopes of a break with the authoritarian** past of Hafez al-Asad
 2001 Jan 21, Syria **approved private banking and ended artificial exchange rates**.
 2001 May 6, **the 1st time a pontiff prayed in a Muslim house of worship**.
 2001 November - British PM and President Assad **fail to agree on a definition of terrorism**.
 2002 May - "axis of evil", including Syria, **says Damascus is acquiring weapons of mass destruction**.
 2003 Oct 8, **Israeli warplanes bombed the Ein Saheb base northwest of Damascus, Israeli military called it an Islamic Jihad training base**.
 2004 January - the end of decades of frosty relation between Syria and **Egypt**.
 2004 May - 2004 May 11: The Bush administration ordered **economic sanctions against Syria for supporting terrorism**.
 2005 February-March - after the **killing of former Lebanese PM Hariri**, Washington cites Syrian influence in Lebanon. **Syria is urged to withdraw its forces from Lebanon**.
 2005 Mar 5, Arab League meeting opened. Saudi Arabia told Syria to withdraw its troops.
 2005 Apr 26, **Syria ended its 29-year military domination of Lebanon**. Since 1976 15,000 Syrian troops were killed in the Lebanese civil war.
 2006 December - The Iraq Study Group makes recommendations to the US government **says neighbours should form a support group to reinforce security and national reconciliation in Iraq. Syria welcomes the chance to participate**.
 2007 May - Leading dissident Kamal Labwani and **prominent political writer Michel Kilo are sentenced to a long jail terms**, after human rights lawyer Anwar al-Bunni is jailed.
 2007 September - **Israel made an aerial strike** against a military site in northern Syria.
 2008 May - President Assad **announces a 25% pay rise for public sector workers to offset effects of rising food and heating oil prices**.
 2009 March - Trading launches on Syria's stock exchange in sign of **gradual liberalisation of state-controlled economy**.
 16 Mar 2009, **First Lebanese Embassy Opens In Syria**
 2009 June - The UN nuclear watchdog, the IAEA, said traces of undeclared man-made uranium were found at a second site in Syria - a reactor in Damascus.



REAL SYRIA 2000



DREAM SYRIA of Bashar

4

REAL GDP (Million SP) (DATA 1960-2000)
POPULATION (000) (DATA 1960-2000)

