

SYRIA BETWEEN WAR AND RECONSTRUCTION: WHAT IS THE FUTURE?

SARAH EZZEDDIN

sarahezzeddin@stu.aydin.edu.tr

sara85017@gmail.com

Masters of Political Science and International Relations
ISTANBUL AYDIN UNIVERSITY

ABSTRACT

This study looks into the reality of Syria between war and reconstruction, exploring challenges and opportunities for the country in the recovery process towards stability, it also seeks to display the effects of the Syrian conflict on all aspects of life, i.e., economy, infrastructure, society, and politics.

- Examine the political and economic impediments for reconstruction, international sanctions, lack of funding, and political instability.
- Considering the possibilities of achieving the economic and social renaissance have also been discussed- international cooperation, investment in productive sectors, and collaboration of Syrians on-ground and abroad.
- Suggest strategies for crisis resolution that will create opportunities for long-term stability, contribute to establishing a new Syria, and help Syria play an active role in the region and on the international stage.

This research aims to provide a politically, socially, and economically balanced analysis that strives to unite all planes of an integrated vision for Syria's future after the war.

Keywords:

Syria, war, future, reconstruction, conflict

INTRODUCTION

A rich-historical country in the Middle East, Syria is witnessing more than a decade of a devastating conflict and is under heavy scars in its political, economic, and social landscape. The country has been ravaged by destruction, collapse in economy, and humanitarian crises over the past ten years since the Syrian conflict breaking out in 2011. Millions of people within its borders and over millions more in displaced communities brought down the havoc caused by war. Except in December 2024 everything changed since the regime fell, and the focus of interest has shifted from war to reconstruction, which is highly challenging and has prospects for recovery.

Reconstruction in Syria is not just about everything that war destroyed, it is actually a holistic exercise that requires solution to the outstanding political, economic, and social challenges. Many factors come into play in that regard: international economic sanctions, a lack of funding, difficulties in achieving national reconciliation, and the need to set an appropriate environment for the return of refugees and contribute to the rebuilding of society. This research intends to conduct an exhaustive study of the Syrian reality between war and reconstruction facing the challenges and opportunities which the county has in its way to a better future. In addition, it aims to portray an equitable view on how to attain stable and sustainable development, whereby available resources and capabilities would be utilized to establish a new Syria, which would be empowered by the restoration of its regional and international role.

OBJECTIVES

IJETRM

International Journal of Engineering Technology Research & Management

Published By:

<https://www.ijetrm.com/>

The purpose of the research on Syria's transition from conflict to reconstruction is to assist local actors, international organizations, and policymakers think through potential answers and ways of contributing to a stable future for Syria. The primary objectives of this study are:

1. War and its consequences:
 - Discuss the social, economic, and political consequences on Syria since the outbreak of conflict in 2011.
 - Understand the way Syria has been affected in all its aspects from infrastructure to economy and society as a result of the war.
2. Identify the key challenges for reconstruction:
 - Estimate political, financial, and logistical barriers preventing Syria from making efforts regarding reconstruction.
 - Evaluation of international sanctions and political instability and the shortage of funding on initiatives-or-the-rebuilding activities.
3. Explore development opportunities
 - Highlight strategies for a given economic recovery and sustainable development in Syria.
 - Examine the roles of international cooperation, foreign investment, and regional cooperation for peacebuilding.
4. Develop future strategies:
 - Construct a set of viable as well as specific recommendations to promote political stability, economic recovery, and social reconciliation.
 - Propose policy frameworks to support peace-building, infrastructure development, and safe return of refugees.

METHODOLOGY

This research seeks to apply the qualitative research method in understanding and analyzing the multifaceted experiences of Syrian war and reconstruction. It specifically adopts a qualitative approach to achieve effective comprehension of the social, political, and economic dynamics leading to and involving nuanced perspectives of stakeholders in this process.

This study uses secondary data collection methods, more particularly the analysis of academic literature, official reports, policy documents, and media coverage as they pertain to the Syrian conflict and reconstruction efforts.

RESULTS AND DISSCUSSIONS

1. Analytical and Historical Perspectives:

1.1. Syria's Decade of Conflict

Technically speaking, the Syrian situation, which began in 2011 is usually called a civil war, but that is too simplistic. The war grew from peaceful protests during the Arab Uprising, and demands from the Syrians were for political reforms, freedoms or simply the downfall of the former president, Bashar al-Assad. With no recourse to reforms, an increasingly violent crackdown on dissent had its effects mirrored in the levels of violence being unleashed by both sides: the other point of view began to see armed opposition formations emerging.

As the opposition split into different factions, As the opposition split into moderate rebels, Islamist groups, and the more radical factions of the ISIS, the conflict became more intricate; external interference turned the heat up even further. Russia and Iran were critical in backing the Assad regime to recover fairly large territories, while Turkey, United States and Gulf states were interested in supporting various levels of opposition groups to undermine Assad's authority and curb extremist threats to their interests. The international dimension thus turned the Syrian war into a proxy conflict, complicating the peace and prolonging the violence.

The consequence of this war for Syrians in Syria remains huge. Hundreds of thousands have died, millions have been uprooted in search of safety, and this displacement has amounted to be one of the greatest refugee emergencies in contemporary history. Whole cities have reduced to rubble: Aleppo, Homs, Raqqa, and the economy of Syria lies in

tatters. Social disintegration has eroded social cohesion, having intensified sectarian and ethnic divisions created over years of violence and suffering.

The decade-long conflict in Syria stands witness to the reality of its devastation through wars and illustrates the complexities involved in reconciling peace. While the global community has put its thoughts and effort into reparation, the need for a well-balanced approach on the necessity of their human rights, development, and more so, inclusivity in governance, remains with great importance for a stable and prosperous future for the Syrian people.

1.2. How External Powers Affected the War in Syria

A complex and multi-fold situation itself, the Syrian war topped itself with many actors being drawn in locally, regionally, and internationally. With the Syrian government holding its ground have historically fought against opposition forces, Kurdish forces, and extremist organizations such as ISIS for control of territory. Just about at the same time, the war opened the gates to foreign interventionists as world powers began throwing their weight in, with Russia and Iran supporting the Assad regime and with the United States, Turkey, and Gulf States supporting various groups opposed to the regime. Over a decade, the war has caused untold human suffering, killing over half a million people, displacing millions, and destroying vast infrastructure (Baltes, 2016).

The Syrian revolution occurred because of many reasons, most importantly was the diversity in sects and religions, specifically the Alawite and Sunni hate for one another, and the spite and hatred that the regime has planted for decades in the minds of the Alawites. This what mostly led to the massacre of the Sunni's, other reason was the intervention from other countries as mentioned before. Iran and Russia were Bashar's Al-Assad allies, they supported him with military force (Baltes, 2016).

The Iranian alliance with Syria has its roots today since the 1980s having some common strategic interests, ideological affinities, and shared adversarial support in opposition to their common enemies. During the years of war, it became evident that Iran was one of the principal allies of the Syrian regime, sending massive military, financial and political support for the administration of President Bashar al-Assad. Iran saw Syria, since the beginning of the war, not only as a threat to Iran's regional influence but as another front of great importance in maintaining the so-called "Axis of Resistance" against anything Western or Israeli. The fact that Syria is strategically located gives Iran a crucial corridor for supplying its proxy Hezbollah in Lebanon and improving Tehran's political clout in the Levant. Thus, Iran poured massive resources into the support of Assad's regime, for fear that if Assad were to lose power, Iran would lose its strategic access, along with the possible rise of neighboring states and groups rivaling Iran and backed by Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and Western powers (Juneau, 2018).

Moreover, Iran's active international relations in Syria have largely revolved around military affairs, including the dispatch of its elite army component Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, which is complemented by thousands of mobilized Shia fighters from Hezbollah and various militia groups from Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. These forces were critically instrumental in evicting opposition groups and cementing post-regime territory consolidation. Beyond such overt military assistance, Iran has provided, transferred military training, offered advice on military strategy, and contributed to significant gains in the military capacity of the Syrian army (Kam, 2017).

Furthermore, Iran affords major economic support to Syria through credit lines, provision of fuel and investment into infrastructure projects. These have enabled the Assad regime to soften the effects of international sanctions and provide basic services for zones controlled by the government. Politically, Iran has always defended Syria before international forums by defending the regime's legitimacy and hence countering Western-sponsored diplomatic moves to isolate Damascus (Akbar, 2021).

On the other hand, the military intervention by Russia into the Syrian conflict in 2015 has greatly swung the tide of war back in favor of the President Bashar al-Assad regime. The two countries are now bound not only on grounds of history but also along strategic interests and their mutual geopolitical gains. Russian military operations in Syria on defeating the terrorism threat and helping the legitimate government against the threats of extremism began on September 30, 2015. However, beyond counterterrorism, the real intentions of Russia were to stabilize the Assad regime and to save it from collapsing. The Russian army offered essential air support, high-tech weapons, and strategic advice for Syrian government forces in reclaiming large areas from opposition groups and ISIS. Russian bombings during airstrikes targeted rebel strongholds, and its military advisors stepped in to coordinate ground operations to turn the tide for Assad (Maher & Pieper, 2021).

However, not only military support, but Russia also played a very important diplomatic role in Syria. It made a point of being a mediator in the Astana peace process together with Turkey and Iran as an alternative to the Western-led efforts. This was the same influence Russia brought to bear in the United Nations by regularly exercising its veto of those draft resolutions that sought to impose sanctions or an intervention on the Syrian government (Seven, 2022). That way, the regime received both diplomatic protection against international pressure and the freedom to carry on with military operations on the ground.

1.3. How War Shaped Syria's Present and Future

The decade-long conflict has changed Syria's political, social, and economic fabric in a way that cannot easily be reversed as it inscribes deeply unsettled marks within the country's trajectory.

A. Impact on Syria's Present:

The effects of the war on Syrian territory were very clear, as it affected its economy, society, politics, and even its relations with other countries. Many cities were completely destroyed by bombing and using internationally banned chemical weapons on them. Basic services, such as health care, education, and public utilities were destroyed and there was no interest in their renovation. The destruction of the economy led to poverty and unemployment, and many people did not even have the most basic rights in life.

As mentioned before, this war is claimed to be one of the largest human tragedies in history. Millions have been forced to leave their homes, while many of them have fled to neighboring countries and Europe. This refugee crisis is still a great load for host nations while also putting serious obstacles on the hope of any recovery for Syria, as many of the country's educated and skilled citizens are now living abroad.

On the political side, since the Syrians had overthrown former president Bashar al-Assad. Assad was not a strong leader by any measure. His regime aimed to preserve itself as a mafia state, one that did not care much or could not provide for loyalists. He could maintain his power because of the foreign backing from Russia as well as Iran, while most of Syrian opposition groups enjoyed little or no external backing (Hall, 2025). However, unfortunately Syria is still under international sanctions, despite the previous regime fell.

B. Influence on Syria's Future:

Moving forward, the shaping of the future of Syria will depend heavily on the delicate and complicated process of reconstruction and reconciliation. While a huge amount of money has to be spent in order to rebuild the cities and infrastructures, international sanctions and restricted foreign aid further complicated such endeavors. However, to stabilize the country and make it less dependent on outside support, reconstructing the economy and creating jobs would be significant.

It is a Herculean task for Syria to heal these deeply rooted wounds socially; the most important would be reconciliation between divided communities, addressing grievances, and enhancing social cohesion-centers as the mainstays for prevention of future conflict. Education and support programs for the youth born during warfare will be critical to rebuilding a stronger and more peaceful society. In the end, there will be diplomatic negotiations for Syria, political reforms, and a balancing act with the major powers such as Russia, Iran, Turkey, and the West. Long-lasting sustainable and inclusive political solutions that embrace the aspirations of all the Syrian people are what will guarantee a long-lasting stability environment.

Even though currently unfortunate due to the effects of war, the future for Syria remains bright. Tirelessly persevering with the Syrian people and a careful, integrated strategic approach may eventually help the country become settled and prosperous. Indeed, the route is not easy, but with the proper support and vision, one can translate unfortunate present war-torn Syria into a brighter future.

2. Political and Diplomatic Dimensions:

2.1. How External Influences Shape Syria's Future

The future of Syria is tied to the ongoing power struggle and the interested act of external powers that tend to define the future path of the nation within the context of a deeply affected the war. Participation of repeating actors at international and regional levels-Moscow, Iran, Turkey, United States, with other Gulf countries-has very much decided what can be gleaned at the end of the conflict, but central to shaping the overall reconstruction, governance, and geopolitical alignments of Syria moving forward.

Turkey's northern Syrian participation primarily concerns the Kurdish militias that Ankara considers a security threat through their connection to the abominable Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK). Military zones and support for

opposition factions are the measures taken to establish a buffer against the Kurdish influence along the Turkish border. This involvement adds another layer of complications onto Syria's territorial integrity and future governance (Fraihat et al., 2024).

Over the past few years, when Western states, including the United States, reduced their military presence, they rather relied on sanctions, diplomatic pressure, and humanitarian assistance for influence. The U.S. primary objectives were to restrict the Iranian influence, defeat ISIS, and work with Kurdish-led forces in northeast Syria. The sanctions of the United States, especially those of the Caesar Act, have, indeed, worsened economic calamities in Syria; but more importantly, they cripple the reconstruction and cut the access of the regime to the international market (Ogunnowo, 2020).

Moreover, Gulf states, Saudi Arabia and the UAE included, were initially in support of the opposition groups but have begun showing interest in getting back to Damascus. This diplomatic rapprochement represents a much larger regional trend toward normalizing relations with Syria, primarily aimed at reducing Iranian influence and examining opportunities for reconstruction (Hokayem, 2014). Through reopening embassies, reinstating Syria's membership in the Arab League, and considering investments, the Gulf states are placing themselves as designated players in the post-war horn of Syria, not only by bringing in financial resources but also adding diplomatic weight to efforts potentially hastening rebuilding and reintegration into the regional fold. However, their influence will depend on how they balance international sanctions along with humanitarian needs against political solutions against wider regional interests.

These external influences oppose the challenges and offer opportunities for Syria's future. Foreign intervention unfortunately strengthens geopolitical rivalries on Syrian territory, hindering national sovereignty and reconciliation. Whereas, in some instances, external investments, perhaps with some conditional foreign aid and normalization of diplomatic relations, may help rebuilding and economic recovery if properly managed in inclusive and transparent frameworks. Eventually, stability in Syria would require the ability to mediate between these oppositional influences while keeping the needs and aspirations of the Syrian people at the forefront. International actors must reconsider the very conception of national interest and change their policies from a narrow set of strategic interests to a more comprehensive approach for supporting a political solution to peace, development, and the reintegration of Syria into the regional and global community.

2.2. Keys to a Stable Syria

A diplomatic and a developmental approach are both necessary for attaining a viable and prosperous Syria. After over ten years of war that laid waste to the infrastructure, economy and social fabric of Syria, the road towards stability now rests in the hands of not only the political reconciliation process but also sustainable development. The interrelatedness of diplomatic and developmental processes emphasizes the need for both international and regional cooperation for rehabilitation work in Syria and the elimination of the deeper causes of the conflict.

Diplomacy remains very much at the heart of any resolution to the political stalemate in Syria since 2011. Efforts led by the United Nations, including the Geneva peace talks and the Astana process, were meant to bring the Syrian government, opposition factions, and other stakeholders to negotiate a peaceful settlement. However, the process has been glacially slow because of entrenched suspicion, geopolitical rivalries, and differing interests of international powers (Seven, 2022). A successful diplomatic approach must be inclusive with transitional justice and even international humanitarian law. For this to happen, dialogues should be facilitated among all parties to foster national reconciliation ensuring that all future governance structures are representative and accountable. While the reintegration of Syria into the Arab League in 2023 is a step in the right direction, it has to continue extensive campaigning to normalize Syria's relations with countries, especially those of lifting economic sanctions impeding reconstruction for the country (Hall, 2025).

Development also plays a critical role in ensuring the long-term stability of Syria. The war destroyed key infrastructure such as healthcare, schools, housing, and basic services. The rebuilding of all these sectors will require enormous investments, which can be ensured through internationally conjoined efforts, regional partnerships, and private sector participation. Development programs should therefore target job creation, public service regeneration, and living condition improvements so as to prevent further displacement and provide safe return opportunities to refugees. Indeed, education and vocational training would further ignite hope in thousands of youths who, in return, can lay the foundation of nurturing human capital, the principal pillar of rehabilitation for Syria itself. Development interventions

must also promote social cohesion through equality in building resilience in communities and inclusion of displaced people into local economies.

Altogether, stable and prosperous Syria relies primarily on the combined efforts of diplomacy and development. Diplomacy solves political conflicts, promotes national reconciliation, and normalizes Syria's international position, but development efforts will reconstruct infrastructure, revive the economy, and enhance the living conditions of Syrians. The international community, neighbors, and local partners must work effectively for the civic empowerment of political advances into real benefits on the ground. Therefore, with diplomacy, Syria can engage into development and open the way for a future beyond war and establish the ground to build lasting peace and stability.

3. Future Scenarios and Strategic Outlooks:

3.1. Imagining the Future After Conflict: A New Era Under Syria's New President

A vision of Syria imagined for the years after years of devastating wars, indeed brings new hope for another chapter that will be marked by stability, reconciliation, and even development. New president as head of Syria, perhaps the capital of the country could make those first few steps towards what will certainly be a transforming path in addressing healing of national wounds and rebuilding destroyed infrastructure and institutions. The new leadership would face enormous challenges but would also have a rare opportunity for transformation in the face of a nation looking toward a more progressive vision, inclusive governance, and international support.

In fact, national Reconciliation is among the most critical issues for Syria's future under the new leadership. The new president has to create avenues for dialogue among the political parties, ethnic communities, and civil society organizations for the purpose of healing the very serious wounds left in the aftermath of the war. Transitional justice systems, accountability, and redress for human rights violations will be extremely instrumental in regaining trust and avoiding migrating any of the old grievances into the future. A broader form of governance that will include opposition voices and other marginalized communities would ultimately create an inclusive and yet more representative and stable political system.

However, the recovery of the economy would undoubtedly be at the forefront of the new era. The war effectively obliterated Syria's economy with high levels of poverty and unemployment and destructive infrastructure. New leadership would argue that they are going to implement much-needed economic reforms with the collaboration of foreign agencies and attract investments from international partners and trigger the reconstruction. Focusing their efforts on rebuilding basic sectors like agriculture, industry, and tourism, with the promotion of small and medium enterprises, would allow Syria to provide job opportunities for its people and increase living standards. A handful of policies that would encourage the return of refugees and sustain them would also revitalize the country's human capital. The new leadership in the international arena could re-establish the diplomatic ties of Syria and reduce geopolitical tensions and reintegrate Syria into regional and global frameworks. A balanced foreign policy, suggested willingness for peace, and stability could bless Syria with international assistance, development projects, and international goodwill.

3.2. Can Syria Achieve Lasting Peace and Stability?

The ability of Syria to achieve a lasting peace and stability is a complex issue with severe cuts for a country that has been devastated for more than a decade with wars, power plays in the region, and geopolitical entanglement. Some say recent developments-such as Syria's return to the Arab League and the newfound regional diplomatic re-engagement-may offer some hope, but the journey is strewn with enormous political as well as social challenges, not to mention the economic ones.

In Syria, there will be no enduring political peace without a true reconciliation process, one that is inclusive. All that should be done for achieving pluralistic and representative governance in Syria should be preceded by the dissolution of the old authoritarian references that have folded themselves onto much of modern Syrian history. Their establishment as transitional justice mechanisms addressing suspected war crimes and other human rights atrocities hopefully pave the way for trust-building among communities. It would require dialogue and compromise involving the previous Assad regime, the opposition, and civil society organizations, therefore creating the political space for accountability and transparency.

On the social side, restoration of trust among the disparate communities of Syria is essential. The sectarian divisions that the conflict further wrenched apart compelled millions of Syrians to abandon their homes. Reintroducing refugees to society needs security and livelihoods, as well as community-based reconciliation programs. These would form

IJETRM

International Journal of Engineering Technology Research & Management

Published By:

<https://www.ijetrm.com/>

essential steps toward healing today's wounds. Education and social programs that will enable tolerance and unity would prevent radicalization and strengthen long-term peace.

Moreover, stability in the economic sense will remain elusive without thorough development and reconstruction efforts. Mass poverty, unemployment, and a deteriorating standard of living greeted Syria as the war almost completely disassembled the infrastructure and the economy of the country. The kind of recovery that Syria expects needs international help to begin investments and implement economic reforms targeting employment generation, rehabilitation of physical infrastructure, and restoration of basic services. Success will, however, greatly depend on bypassing international sanctions, building the trust of the donor community, and proving to be transparent in the use of resources.

The stability of Syria in international terms is bound to a balancing the influence of external powers. Russia, Iran, Turkey, and Western countries all have vested interests in Syria, and their cooperation is the one guarantee to reduce foreign military presence and back up a political settlement from the local populace. Syria engaging in a balanced foreign policy that refuses involvement in any conflicting regional situation and puts her own sovereignty and independence first can, in fact, be a multiplier to peace.

The achievements are difficult, yet not impossible. A very strong commitment in the form of leadership, inclusive governance, and sustained international support would give Syria a fair chance of gracefully transitioning from conflict to a stable and flourishing country. It is going to take time, perseverance, and sacrifice on the part of the Syrian people to see such patience bearing fruit into lasting peace.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the future of Syria finds itself in a critical crucible, with vestiges of war lingering still and a promise of reconstruction and renewal. Infrastructure, society, and economy have been terribly scared by war, but emerging opportunities for diplomatic engagement and development initiatives provide a semblance of stability and prosperity. The achievement of sustainable peace should engage all foreseeable efforts for political reconciliation, economic rejuvenation, and social cohesion. For preventing sustainability from returning to violence, modes of governance that are inclusive, respect for human rights, and engage the voices of the marginalized into the political process bear great importance. Furthermore, international support in the form of humanitarian assistance and reconstruction funds should be offered with provisions for transparency and accountability to ensure that trust and infrastructure will be rebuilt. The presence of local leaders, regional forces, and the international community will tread together on a road to help define whether Syria will overcome its troubled past and walk into a new future of peace, development, and hope for the people.

FURTHER STUDIES

Syria has transitioned from a state of war to reconstruction and further studies could explore specific parts of the complex process. Future research could consider the long-term influences of international sanctions on the economic recovery of Syria and how effective reconstruction efforts can promote social cohesion and reduce poverty. Study the role of grassroots organizations and civil society in community rebuilding and reconciliation- it would be valuable insights into bottom-up peacebuilding approaches. Comparative studies to other post-conflict nations will teach one about the best practices in governance, transitional justice, and economic revitalization. Research in the dramatically changing geopolitical environment on the development of regional and international powers in shaping Syria's future would also contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of what influences stability and development in the country.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Our heartfelt gratitude to all individuals and institutions that made this study a possibility through their support and contributions. First and foremost, special gratitude is due to all the staff for their invaluable assistance and skills which greatly enriched this study. We are deeply grateful to our families for their unwavering support, patience, and understanding throughout this journey. Lastly, we would like to acknowledge all the participants and contributors whose involvement made this research possible. Thank you all for your generosity and inspiration.

REFERENCES

- 1) Akbar, A. (2021). Iran's soft power in Syria after the Syrian civil war. *Mediterranean Politics*, 28(2), 227–249.
- 2) Baltes, C. M. (2016). Causes and Consequences of the Syrian Civil War.
- 3) Fraihat, E., Qaddori, H. L., Fraihat, B. O., Aljribia, A. A., & khatlan, S. hussameldeen bin. (2024). Turkish intervention strategy in Northern Syria (2011-2023 AD). *Multidisciplinary Reviews*, 7(11), 2024246.
- 4) Hall, N. (2025). With the Fall of Assad, Can Syria Rise? *Survival*, 67(1), 45–54.
- 5) Hokayem, E. (2014). Iran, the Gulf States and the Syrian civil war. *Survival*, 56(6), 59-86.
- 6) Juneau T. (2018). Iran's Costly Intervention in Syria: A Pyrrhic Victory. *Mediterranean Politics*, 25(1), 26-44.
- 7) Kam E. (2017). Iranian Military Intervention in Syria: A New Approach. *Strategic Assessment*, 20(2), 9-21.
- 8) Maher, D., & Pieper, M. (2021). Russian intervention in Syria: Exploring the nexus between regime consolidation and energy transnationalisation. *Political Studies*, 69(4), 944-964.
- 9) Ogunnowo, O. E., & Chidozie, F. (2020). International Law and Humanitarian Intervention in the Syrian Civil War: The Role of the United States. *Sage Open*, 10(2).
- 10) Seven, Ü. (2022). Russia's Foreign Policy Actions and the Syrian Civil War in the United Nations Security Council. *Journal of Balkan and Near Eastern Studies*, 24(6), 896–911.