

Committee:	Special Political and Decolonization Committee
Issue:	Setting the boundaries of foreign involvement in Syria
Student Officer:	Myrto Pakidi
Position:	Deputy President

INTRODUCTION

Dear delegates, my name is Myrto Pakidi, I am 16 years old and I am a student in Anavryta Model Lyceum. This year I have the honor to serve as a deputy president in the Special Political and Decolonization committee. This will be my 9th conference and my first time serving as a student officer. I am looking forward to meeting you all in person and I hope this conference will be an unforgettable one, both for you and for me.

Syrian Arab Republic is a state in the Middle East. It is a state highly authoritarian, with it being mainly controlled by its president Bashar al-Assad. Syria gained its independence as a state in 1946, after France's administration. It is a state with low economy, which tends to be characterized as "damaged" especially over the past 7 years during the Syrian civil war.

The Syrian civil war is one of the major problems that our world currently faces, not only because it is a conflict that causes problems to the country itself, but also is burdening a lot of other countries with refugees. Although there have been previous attempts to end the conflict, there is one thing that is prolonging the war and is preventing its termination and that is the foreign involvement of the states. Powerful countries are currently picking sides in the Syrian war basically in order to sub serve their own personal interests.

Thus, we should consider that foreign involvement is the main cause which keeps the conflict in Syria being an ongoing one. This conflict does not only has as a result millions of people being killed and leave their country, but also hinders the county's cultural and economic development.

This study guide will provide the delegates with all the necessary information and the basic knowledge that they need to have, as it is their first contact with the issue. Although it is a very useful tool and a big part of the things that they need to know are written in here, it is advised that the delegates do their own research as well, in order to enrich their knowledge and see different aspects of the matter. Useful links and sites are

listed in this study guide to help with the research as it is a topic that demands studying in order for it to be fully understated.

For any questions concerning either the topic or the procedure in general, please do not hesitate to contact me in my email: myrto.pakidi@gmail.com . I am looking forward to meeting you and I am sure that we will have a smooth cooperation and very fruitful debates.

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Arab Spring

“The Arab Spring was a series of anti-government protests by Tunisia, Morocco, Syria, Libya, Egypt and Bahrain, uprisings and armed rebellions that spread across the Middle East in early 2011.”¹



Protesters gather in Tahrir Square on February 1, 2011.

Source: <https://www.vox.com/2016/1/27/10845114/arab-spring-failure>

Civil War

“A civil war is a violent conflict within a country fought by organized groups that aim to take power or to change government policies”.²

Proxy War

“Proxy war is a conflict instigated by opposing powers that do not fight against each other directly. Instead, they use third parties to do the fighting for them.”³

Foreign Involvement

Foreign involvement in a war means that a country is intervening in another’s state war by supporting one of each side fulfilling their own personal interests and profit.

Hezbollah

“Hezbollah - or the Party of God - is a powerful political and military organization in Lebanon made up mainly of Shia Muslims, members of the branch of Islam that regard Ali as the legitimate successor to Mohammed. Shia Muslims is only 15% of Muslims, while the other 85% are Sunni Muslims. One of their main difference is firstly, the question of who

was to take over the leadership of the Muslim nation. Sunni Muslims agree that the new leader should be elected from among those capable of the job. For example, following Prophet Muhammad's death, his close friend and adviser. On the other hand Shia Muslims believe that following the Prophet Muhammad's death, leadership should have passed directly to his cousin and son-in-law, Ali bin Abu Talib. It emerged with financial backing from Iran in the early 1980s and began a struggle to drive Israeli troops from Lebanon.”⁴

¹) Manfreda, Primoz. “Why Were the 2011 Middle East Uprisings Called the Arab Spring?” ThoughtCo, ThoughtCo, www.thoughtco.com/definition-of-the-arab-spring-2353029.

²) “Civil War.” Jama Masjid, Delhi - New World Encyclopedia, www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Civil_war#cite_note-0.

³) “What Is a Proxy War?” The Vietnam War, 5 May 2016, www.thevietnamwar.info/proxy-war/.

⁴) “Who Are Hezbollah?” BBC News, BBC, 4 July 2010, www.news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/4314423.stm.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Uprising

The Syrian civil War, began in 2011. Even before the conflict started, Syrian civilians had started complaining about high unemployment, corruption and a lack of political freedom under President Bashar al-Assad. In March 6th 2011, peaceful protests erupted in Syria, after 15 boys were tortured (one of whom was tortured to death) for writing graffiti supporting Arab Spring on their school wall and on several buildings in Daraa. The Syrian government tried to suppress them with violence, which made the protests to escalate into armed conflict against the Syrian government. In August 2011, the Syrian National Council (SNC) was formed to fight the Syrian government. Their goal was to end President Assad's rule and establish a modern democratic state. *“The Syrian Civil War is arguably the worst humanitarian crisis since the Second World War, with over a quarter million killed, roughly the same number wounded or missing, and half of Syria’s 22 million population displaced from their homes. But more than that, Syria today is the largest battlefield and generator of Sunni-Shia sectarianism the world has ever seen, with deep implications for the future boundaries of the Middle East and the spread of terrorism.”*⁵ -Andrew Tabler, an expert on Syria at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy. By June 2013, the UN and other sources report that 90,000 people have been killed thus far during the Syrian Civil War. This number would double in the next year and has now reached over 450,000.

⁵¹ "Conflict Background." I AM SYRIA, www.iamsyria.org/conflict-background.html.

Foreign Involvement

Syrian War, was firstly described as a civil one, but things got another way, when in summer of 2012, foreign countries started intervening. It was then, that the definition "proxy war" was the one that started characterizing Syrian War. Many groups and countries are involved, making the situation far more complex and prolonging the fighting. At the time the war began, extremists from around the region and the world, started travelling to Syria to join the rebels. Then, Iran, Assad's most important ally, intervenes on his behalf and by the end of 2012, Iran is sending daily cargo flights and has hundreds of officers on the ground. At the same time, Arab states begin sending money and weapons to the rebels, mainly to counter Iran's influence. In 2013, the Obama administration, signs a secret order authorizing the CIA to train and equip the Syrian rebels. Throughout these years a lot of states such as Russia, Iran and Turkey, have got into the war and are still involved. At the moment, foreign involvement in Syria, refers to political, military, diplomatic and operational support to parties

involved in the War from foreign countries. "Donald Trump says he wants a U.S. troop drawdown; his advisors and Saudi Arabia's crown prince disagree. Russia's Vladimir Putin, Turkey's Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Iran's Hassan Rouhani met last week in Ankara to plot a way forward—and all that was before the Assad regime launched a chemical attack in a rebel-occupied Damascus suburb over the weekend, killing at least 42 and drawing international

Reported deaths during Syrian civil war

TOTAL KILLED IN SYRIA CIVIL WAR	
Source: Violations Documentation Center, September 14, 2015	
Total Killed	200,000
Civilians	85,404
Shootings and Mass Killings	28,277
Mortar, Artillery, and Rocket Attacks	27,006
Syrian Government Air Attacks	18,866
Kidnapped, Detained, and/or Tortured	8,871
Chemical or Toxic Substances	984
Starvation, Dehydration, or Lack of Basic Medical Care	565
American-led air campaign against ISIS	181
Medical Workers in Attacks on Hospitals	654

TOTAL KILLED IN SYRIA CIVIL WAR	
Source: Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, August 5, 2015	
Total Killed	330,000
Civilians	111,624
Rebel and Islamic fighters	36,628
Regular regime soldiers and officers	50,570
Defected soldiers and officers	2,541
Arab fighters from other countries who fight with Islamic groups	34,375
Combatants from People's Committees, Syrian Social Nationalist Party, National Defense Forces, al Shabiha, pro-regime informant, the "Syrian resistance to liberate the Sanjak of Alexandretta", al- Baath battalion, the Palestinian Liberation Army	33,839
Pro regime militiamen	3,304
Fighters from Hezbollah	903
Unidentified dead people	3,225
Estimated undocumented	90,000

cries of outrage, Trump's among them.

Source: "The Realities of Using Force to Protect Civilians in Syria." Council on Foreign Relations, Council on Foreign Relations, www.cfr.org/blog/realities-using-force-protect-civilians-syria.

These five facts give an updated state of play for Syria's competing foreign powers."⁶ According to SOHR data cited by Micah Zenko and Amelia M. Wolf of the Council on Foreign Relations, "most of the reported deaths in Syria have not been committed by forces under Bashar al-Assad's command." We can see that if the conflict had stayed a war between Bashar al-Assad and his civilians, not such a large percentage of people would have died, so the responsible for this, is the foreign involvement of the states and the troops that they send at the war zone.

⁶ Bremmer, Ian. "Syria War: The Conflict Is Becoming Even More Complex." Time, Time, 6 Apr.2018, www.time.com/5229691/syria-trump-putin-saudi-arabia/.

Violation of Human Rights in the Region

Violence against civilians is a very common phenomenon during war. At the moment, during the ongoing conflict in Syria, more than 400,000 have died according to the World Bank, with 5 million seeking refuge abroad and over 6 million displaced internally, according to UN agencies. By June 2017, the UN also estimated that 540,000 people were still living in besieged areas. The Syrian government has launched numerous chemical weapons attacks on civilians in opposition-held areas. With Russia and Iran's support, the Syrian government has conducted deliberate and indiscriminate attacks against civilians and civilian



infrastructure, withheld humanitarian aid, employed starvation as war tactic, and forcibly displaced Syrians in contravention of international law. The Syrian government's practices of torture and ill-treatment in detention and enforced disappearances continue.

Map of Syria and targets the US, Britain, and France hit on April 13.

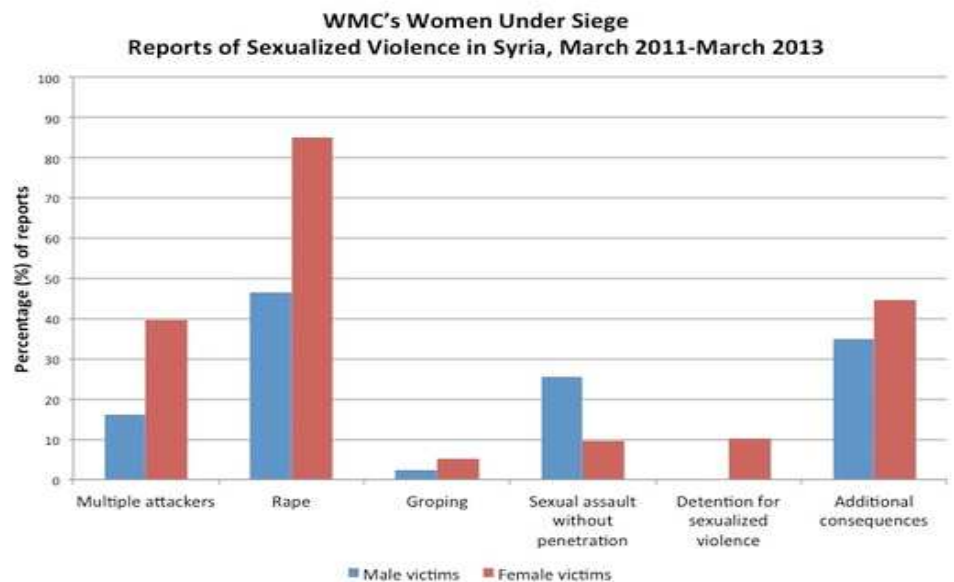
Source: <https://www.vox.com/2018/4/14/17237854/syria-bombing-trump-russia-chemical-weapons>

One of the major threats that causes a lot of damages and deaths, is bombing. In April 13, 2018 USA, UK and France, bombed Syria. The decision to strike came one week after Syrian President Bashar al-Assad used chemical weapons against civilians outside Damascus, killing at least 42 adults and children. Another country that has bombed Syria several times, is Russia. In late February 2016 Russian warplanes deliberately targeted civilians and rescue workers during their bombing campaign. Many civilians, among them hundreds of children are suffering from UAV bombing. The human rights group has documented attacks on schools, hospitals and civilian homes. USA officials repeatedly stated that hospitals in Syria were attacked by Russian forces. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reported that by mid-February 2016, Russian air strikes had killed 1,000 civilians, including 200 children, since the initiation of the intervention in September 2015.⁷

⁷⁾ <http://www.syriahr.com/en/>

Sexual Violence

In any conflict or war zone, it is a very common phenomenon that many soldiers use their armed power to inflict sexual violence on prisoners and civilians. Sexual violence can at times become systematic, targeting specific groups of combatants or civilians to intimidate and



humiliate them. Recent reports from Syria indicate that rape is being employed as a weapon in the fierce fighting of the Syrian Civil War.

Data on reported incidents of sexual violence against female and male victims

Source: "Rape in the Syrian Civil War." Brian Sandberg: Historical Perspectives, 14 Apr. 2013, www.briansandberg.wordpress.com/2013/04/14/rape-in-the-syrian-civil-war/.

MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED

United States of America (USA)

The US has repeatedly stated its opposition to the Assad government. When Barak Obama was the President of USA, in April 2013, he secretly signed an order authorizing the CIA to train and equip Syrian rebels. In 2013, the CIA began a covert programme to arm, fund and train rebel groups opposing Assad, but the programme was later shut down after it was revealed that the CIA had spent \$500m but only trained 60 fighters. In April 13, 2018, President Donald Trump announces that United States, France and Britain have launched military strikes in Syria to punish President Bashar Al Assad for a suspected chemical attack against civilians and to deter him from doing it again. The USA was originally focused in fighting ISIS and not directly Bashar al-Assad, but Donald Trump seemed to have a different opinion and that became clear in April 2017, when he carried its first direct military action against Assad's forces, launching 59 Tomahawk cruise missiles at a Syrian air force base.

Russian Federation

In September 2015, Russia launched a bombing campaign against what it referred to as "terrorist groups" in Syria, which included ISIL as well as anti-Assad rebel groups backed by the USA. The main reason why Russia got involved in Syria on the first place, is because Syria, is Assad's closest ally in the region and if Assad would fall, then Russia would lose its key foothold in the Middle East as well as Tartus, its only Mediterranean port. There are some reasons why Russia is so involved in the Syrian war. Firstly, the permanent military presence. On 26 August 2015, Russia and Syria signed a treaty that allowed Russia's use of Syria's Hmeimim airport, indefinitely and free. The deal allows Russia to stay in Syria for another half a century as Putin ratified the air base deal with Assad regime. Another reason is maintaining strategic interest. Russia's interest in Syria is very much a political statement to the West, to project an image of Russia's strength. Economic Distraction is also motivating Russia to intervene in the war. In 2015 low oil prices and Western sanctions over Ukraine plugged Russia's economy into crisis shrinking it by 3.7%. The economic pain meant that the

Kremlin desperately needed a distraction. A Syrian war was a way of boosting national pride. Last but not least, Russia sees the war as payback for Ukraine. In February 2014 a popular uprising sent a pro-Russian government in Kiev packing bringing Ukraine into the West. Syria was proven to be a perfect place for Russia to show the West that despite economic sanctions, it has cards to play.”⁸

^{8]} “5 Reasons Why Russia Is in Syria | Russia’s Interests in Syria.” YouTube, YouTube, 13 Apr. 2018, www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yh3JSko_Plc.

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia got involved in the civil war in 2012. They supported the rebels, by sending them money and weapons, mainly to counter Iran’s influence. Syria and Saudi Arabia started having good relations after Assad Jr became president of Syria in June 2000. The Arabs wanted to consolidate young president’s status, while Assad Jr wanted to cooperate with the Arabs in order to counter the dominance of Saddam Hussein's (President of Iraq). Saudi Arabia’s support for the Syrian opposition is motivated by a decades-long desire to break the alliance between Syria and Iran. So the outbreak of the Syrian war, came as a golden opportunity for the Saudis to strike an Iran’s Arab ally. While Saudi Arabia lacks the military capacity to intervene directly and fund the rebels, it will use its oil wealth to arm Syrian rebels.

Syrian National Council (S.N.C)

“The SNC is a body whose goal is to support the Syrian people’s Revolution and their struggle for freedom, dignity, and democracy. The idea of the Syrian National Council (SNC) was inspired by previous initiatives and attempts at unifying opposition groups. It has become a pressing necessity to form a council that includes competent national figures to serve as a political umbrella for the Syrian Revolution in the international arena and support the just cause of the Syrian people, who yearn to be liberated from tyranny and create a civil democratic state.”⁹

^{9]} “Syrian National Council Information.” Syrian National Council, www.syriancouncil.org/en/about.html.

The S.D.F / Kurdish forces

The Syrian Democratic Forces are a multi-ethnic coalition of Kurdish, Arab and Assyrian militias, led by the predominantly Kurdish YPG and their women's army, the YPJ. United States are currently arming the SDF and have undoubtedly also received arms from Russia in the past. The SDF have proven themselves as the strongest fighting force in Syria after running ISIS out of Kobani. Many opposition groups accuse the YPG/J of being secretly allied with the Assad regime, or at least of coordinating with it to their own ends. While there has undoubtedly been some tactical coordination, there have also been conflicts between the two and there are regular clashes, though usually comparatively minor.

The Free Syrian Army (FSA)

"The Free Syrian Army (FSA) is the moderate armed opposition fighting across Syria, to free the Syrian people from the Assad regime, its foreign militia and Daesh. Officers and military personal started to defect from the regime to form the Free Syrian Army to protect demonstrators and fight back against the use of force being used against them. Since this time, many have joined different FSA groups across Syria to defend their areas and fight for the principles that the Syrian people went to the streets for at the start of the Revolution: for freedom, dignity and justice, to change Syria from a dictatorship into a democracy. Below is a list of FSA brigades in provinces across Syria."¹⁰

^{10]} "Maps Archive." FSA Platform, www.fsaplatform.org/maps-archive.

Kurdish YPG

"YPG is an acronym whose translation means People's Protection Units. It is the home grown defense forces of the Kurdish area of Syria. It emerged after the Civil War erupted in Syria and started to spill over into Syrian Kurdistan, now known as Rojava, or Western Kurdistan."¹¹

^{11]} "Learn About YPG: People's Protection Units." The Kurdish Project, www.thekurdishproject.org/history-and-culture/kurdish-nationalism/peoples-protection-units-ypg/.

Iran

Iran, is Assad's most important ally and in 2012, intervenes on his behalf. By the end of 2012, Iran sends cargo flights and has hundreds of officers on the ground. After Saudi Arabia's involvement, Iran backs up Hezbollah, which starts fighting along Assad. "As the Islamic Republic of Iran has set Islam as a foundation of its rule, then, defending Islam is part of our national interests and national security. Wherever the Islamic interests are attacked,

culturally or militarily, we have to intervene and defend them. Therefore the security of Syria, Iraq and Lebanon, are part of our national security.” says Hossein Dehghan, Iran’s minister of defense.

Turkey

Ideologically opposed to Kurdish autonomy, Turkey has also long been involved with arming and training forces fighting against Assad – allegedly including ISIS and Al Nusra as well as Syrian and Turkmen FSA factions. A member of NATO, Turkey is also militarily allied with the United States and European Union countries, although decreasingly on an ideological basis. Turkey launched its “Euphrates Shield” operation in August 2016, nominally against ISIS, but broadly seen as a strategic measure against the linking of predominantly Kurdish areas in North Syria. Turkey has been occupying part of North Syria since then, despite officially ending the Euphrates Shield operation in March 2017. Clashes and incursions in SDF-held areas are ongoing.

Israel

Israel is not officially partaking in the Syrian “Civil” War, but some of its input becomes clear if we peek just a little under the surface. Israel has carried out strikes on Assad-held territory in Syria since the start of this conflict, including a military target close to Assad’s palace. Israel has also occupied the Golan Heights – a highly strategic region internationally recognized as part of Syria – since 1967 and has been technically at war with Syria since 1948. There have been reports of Israel giving hospital treatment to injured ISIS fighters.

Qatar

Part of the Global Coalition against ISIS and therefore ostensibly allied with the United States and Saudi Arabia, Qatar has strong links with the international movement of the Muslim Brotherhood, which has even been described as “a semi-formal patronage”. According to Global Security, “Qatar will continue to modernize it’s military through the purchase of US weapons systems, with continued competition from French, British, Russian, and other international firms looking to gain a foothold in this expanding lucrative market.”

UNHCR

Since the Syrian war has millions of people as victims, we can definitely say that UNHCR’s major problem and priority is to help Syrian refugees. So far, they have provided life-saving humanitarian aid for Syrian refugees, helped the most vulnerable with cash for medicine and

food, stoves and fuel for heating, insulation for tents, thermal blankets and winter clothing. For those who have been displaced but remain in Syria, they have provided shelter kits and non-food items as well as protection services and psychosocial support. At the moment over 6 million people are being displaced and 2.9 million are currently in hard-to-reach areas. The countries that Syrian refugees are seeking safety in, are mainly Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan, while a lot of people are living in camp refugees under inhumane conditions.



UNICEF

UNICEF is on the ground in Syria, mobilizing the largest relief operation in history — providing safe water, nutrition, polio vaccinations, temporary schools and more. UNICEF is an UN body/organization that is responsible for children and all the problems that they may face. They are focused on the child's rights such as education and with money from donations they build schools in regions in Syria that children do not have an access in education, they offer them school supplies and much more in order not to let the war condition deprive them of their basic needs.

UNICEF worker taking care of a child in need.

Source: "Photo Galleries." OCHA, 21 May 2018, www.unocha.org/media-centre/photo-galleries.

Refugees are taking their food supplies from a food programme from WFP.

Source: "Photo Galleries." OCHA, 21 May 2018, www.unocha.org/media-centre/photo-galleries.

European Union (EU)

European Union (EU), is deeply concerned about the ongoing conflict in Syria and is constantly thinking about how they can help with the situation. The EU is basically trying to focus on finding end to the war through a genuine political transition under the auspices of the UN Special Envoy for Syria and with the support of key international and regional actors. They also find very important to save lives by addressing the humanitarian needs of the most vulnerable Syrians across the country in a timely, effective, efficient and principled manner, as well as promoting democracy, human rights and freedom of speech by strengthening Syrian civil society organizations and accountability for war crimes with a view to facilitating a national reconciliation process and transitional justice. The EU has called for an end to the unacceptable violence in Syria, which continues to cause the suffering of millions of Syrians and immeasurable destruction of infrastructure.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

Date	Description of Event
March 15, 2011	Protests erupt in the city of Daraa over security forces
March 18, 2011	Security forces open fire on a protest in Daraa, killing four people
August 18, 2011	President Barack Obama calls on Assad to resign and orders Syrian government assets frozen.
July 18, 2012	A bombing at the Syrian national security building in Damascus during a high-level government crisis meeting kills four top officials, including Assad's brother-in-law and the defense minister.
March 19, 2013	The Syrian government and opposition trade accusations over a gas attack that killed some 26 people.
May 2013	Lebanon's Hezbollah group officially joins the Syrian conflict with government forces.
Aug. 21, 2013	A chemical attack in the eastern Ghouta suburbs of Damascus kills hundreds of people.
Sept. 27, 2013	The U.N. Security Council orders Syria to account for and destroy its chemical weapons stockpile, following a surprise agreement between Washington and Moscow, averting U.S. strikes.
Oct. 14, 2013	Syria becomes a signatory to the Chemical Weapons Convention, prohibiting it from producing, stockpiling or using chemical

	weapons.
June 30, 2014	Islamic State group declares caliphate in areas it controls in Iraq and Syria.
Sept. 23, 2014	The U.S. launches airstrikes on Islamic State targets in Syria.
Sept. 30, 2015	Russia begins launching airstrikes in Syria in support of Assad's forces.
August 2016	Turkish forces cross into northern Syria, capturing areas along the border from the Islamic State group.
April 4, 2017	At least 58 people are killed, in what doctor's say could be a nerve gas attack on the town of Khan Sheikhoun in the rebel-held Idlib province.
May 2017	Rebels withdraw from the last neighborhood they controlled in the city of Homs, once dubbed the capital of the revolution.
Jan 20, 2018	Turkey begins a major military operation against Kurdish fighters in Syria's northern enclave of Afrin.
February 2018	Syrian government forces launch a massive operation to drive rebels from eastern Ghouta.
April 14, 2018	The United States, France, and the United Kingdom carried out a series of military strikes against the Syrian Government of Bashar al-Assad.

UN INVOLVEMENT: RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS, TREATIES AND EVENTS

Since the Syrian civil war is one of the major problems that our world is facing, the UN has done a lot of things to end the war and alleviate people's pain. Security Council has also undertaken the issue, when the Syrian crisis and the government-backed assault on Eastern Ghouta were discussed. Security Council has also selected some resolutions such as but not limited to:

1. 24 February 2018, [S/RES/2401](#). This was a resolution, adopted unanimously, demanding a cessation of hostilities in Syria.
2. 19 December 2017, [S/RES/2393](#). This resolution renewed the authorization for cross-border and cross-line aid delivery.

3. 31 December 2016, [S/RES/2336](#). Welcomed efforts by Russia and Turkey to end violence in Syria and jumpstart a political process.
4. 21 December 2016, [S/RES/2332](#). This resolution renewed the authorization for cross-border aid delivery until 10 January 2018.

The UN has approved multiple resolutions and has taken a lot of humanitarian actions in order to stop the conflict and also to help the refugees recover from their physical and psychological injuries, as well as aiding them settle in shelters or refugee camps where they provide them with food, clean water, a roof and medical support. Apart from that, a necessary condition to end the war is to forbid the intervention and the involvement of the states. The UN is trying in a diplomatic level to negotiate with the states and try to persuade them to leave the situation in Syria so as it can find an end. Furthermore the UNHCR has not only made an effort in cooperation with a lot of NGOs and donations from people so as to help people in need, but has also provided us with a variety of statistics concerning refugee numbers, reported injuries and deaths, sexual assaults and a lot of other interesting statistics that are published in order to inform and sensitize people about the ongoing war in Syria.

PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

The UN has made great attempts over the past few years to not only help people during the war but also has tried to find a way to stop the conflict. Many resolutions have been suggested in order for all parties to stop intervening in Syria and try their best to cease all fires. But it is not only the UN that is trying its best to come up with a solution to the problem but also some states seem to make an effort too. “France’s president Emmanuel Macron said that he wants to launch new international talks on ending the Syrian war. Speaking on French television, Macron said, “we are preparing a political solution” aiming at ending the government and humanitarian turmoil in Syria. He said the initiative would include Western powers, as well as Russia, and Turkey. “Ten days ago President Trump wanted to withdraw from Syria. We convinced him to remain,” Macron said, suggesting that French diplomats can work with all sides in the conflict. Macron said the Russians are “accomplices” in the use of chemical weapons by the Syrian regime because they blocked Security Council efforts to stop it. A draft UN resolution being circulated by the United States, Britain, and France would condemn all use of chemical weapons in Syria. It also

seeks answers from Syria on gaps in its chemical weapons declaration to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. And it would establish a new body to determine responsibility for chemical attacks, call for a cease-fire in Syria, unimpeded access for all humanitarian aid, and an urgent resumption of negotiations on a political settlement.”¹¹ The EU has also played a significant role in both trying to stop the conflict and helping the victims. On 12 July 2017, the EU decided to provide a large amount of money to support the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism to assist in the investigation and prosecution of persons responsible for the most serious crimes under International Law committed in Syria. The European Union has responded decisively to the violent repression of anti-government protests in Syria which began in March 2011, by suspending its cooperation with the Syrian Government and gradually extending restrictive measures. These measures have been targeted and include humanitarian exemptions. “Since 2011, the Commission has responded to the dire humanitarian situation by ensuring principled assistance and protection for those populations in need. The EU supports humanitarian programmes implemented by its partners (United Nations, International Organisations and International NGOs) in respect of the humanitarian principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence, irrespective of political, religious or ethnic affiliations of beneficiaries and only responding to humanitarian needs. Through its first-line emergency response, the EU and its humanitarian partners respond to primary needs of the most vulnerable.”¹²

^{11]} “France Leads New Effort to End Civil War in Syria - The Boston Globe.” BostonGlobe.com, The Boston Globe, 15 Apr. 2018, www.bostonglobe.com/news/world/2018/04/15/france-leads-new-effort-end-civil-war-syria/hrl2p6hR5Nkg0LL2h4fr0I/story.html.

^{12]} “The EU and the Crisis in Syria - EEAS - European External Action Service - European Commission.” EEAS - European External Action Service, https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-Homepage/22664/eu-and-crisis-syria_en.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

We have to understand that foreign involvement of the states in the Syrian civil war is the cause that keeps the war still going. So in order to stop the Syrian war, the foreign involvement must stop immediately. There are not much things that can be done but the actions taken must be implemented strictly in each country. Firstly UN has played a very important role so far and so has to do from now on too. Measures must be taken such as the forbiddance of foreign troops, or air forces in Syria and the infraction of this should be punished. These measures can be implemented by the UN and more specifically by the Security Council, which must play an important role in minimizing foreign invasion. It would also be very good if the states that are involved in the war, Also diplomats should take action and by negotiating, they should conclude to decisions that profit all of us and try end foreign intervention in a diplomatic way without any other conflicts burst.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

"Syrian Civil War Fast Facts." CNN, Cable News Network, 3 May 2018, www.cnn.com/2013/08/27/world/meast/syria-civil-war-fast-facts/index.html.

"Introduction to the Syrian Civil War." JURIST - History of the Pregnancy Discrimination Act, 20 July 2013, www.jurist.org/archives/feature/an-introduction-to-the-syrian-civil-war/.

Al Jazeera. "Syria's Civil War Explained from the Beginning." Israeli–Palestinian Conflict | Al Jazeera, Al Jazeera, 14 Apr. 2018, www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/05/syria-civil-war-explained-160505084119966.html.

Manfreda, Primoz. "Why Were the 2011 Middle East Uprisings Called the Arab Spring?" ThoughtCo, ThoughtCo, 7 Feb. 2018, www.thoughtco.com/definition-of-the-arab-spring-2353029.

"Why Is There a War in Syria?" BBC News, BBC, 15 Mar. 2018, www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-35806229.

Lucas, Scott, et al. "Syria: Who's Involved, and What Do They Want?" The Conversation, The Conversation, 23 July 2018, www.theconversation.com/syria-whos-involved-and-what-do-they-want-95002.

Darwish, Musood. "How Foreign Intervention in Syria Has Made Everything Worse." Egyptian Streets, 3 Nov. 2015, www.egyptianstreets.com/2015/11/03/how-foreign-intervention-in-syria-has-made-everything-worse/.

Deutsche Welle, Alexander Pearson. "What Foreign Powers Want from the Syrian War | DW | 12.04.2018." DW.COM, 12 Apr. 2018, www.dw.com/en/what-foreign-powers-want-from-the-syrian-war/a-42686306.

United Nations. "Syria Emergency." UNHCR, www.unhcr.org/syria-emergency.html.

"The World Factbook: SYRIA." Central Intelligence Agency, Central Intelligence Agency, 12 July 2018, www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/sy.html.

"Conflict Background." I AM SYRIA, www.iamsyria.org/conflict-background.html.

Bremmer, Ian. "Syria War: The Conflict Is Becoming Even More Complex." Time, Time, 6 Apr. 2018, www.time.com/5229691/syria-trump-putin-saudi-arabia/.

"Monthly Archives: April 2013." Brian Sandberg: Historical Perspectives, www.briansandberg.wordpress.com/2013/04/page/2/.

Glaser, John. "Most Reported Deaths in Syria Have Not Been Committed By Assad Regime - Antiwar.com Blog." Casualties in Iraq - Antiwar.com, 16 Apr. 2014, www.antiwar.com/blog/2014/04/16/most-reported-deaths-in-syria-have-not-been-committed-by-assad-regime/.

"The Realities of Using Force to Protect Civilians in Syria." Council on Foreign Relations, Council on Foreign Relations, www.cfr.org/blog/realities-using-force-protect-civilians-syria.

Associated Press. "A Look at US Involvement in Syria." The National, The National, 14 Apr. 2018, www.thenational.ae/world/mena/a-look-at-us-involvement-in-syria-1.721352.

Hill, Christopher R. "What Does the U.S. Want in Syria?" MarketWatch, MarketWatch, 21 Feb. 2018, www.marketwatch.com/story/what-does-the-us-want-in-syria-2018-02-20.

"5 Reasons Why Russia Is in Syria | Russia's Interests in Syria." YouTube, YouTube, 13 Apr. 2018, www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yh3JSko_Plc.

voxdotcom. "Syria's War: Who Is Fighting and Why." YouTube, YouTube, 7 Apr. 2017, www.youtube.com/watch?v=JFpanWNgfQY&t=252s.

bbcnews. "Syria: Seven Years of War Explained - BBC News." YouTube, YouTube, 9 Mar. 2018, www.youtube.com/watch?v=CoL0L_DbuQQ&t=204s.

"Maps Archive." FSA Platform, www.fsaplatform.org/maps-archive.

Channel4News. "Iran's Proxy War in Syria, Explained." YouTube, YouTube, 19 May 2017, www.youtube.com/watch?v=7T25xHsQThI.

"Learn About YPG: People's Protection Units." The Kurdish Project, www.thekurdishproject.org/history-and-culture/kurdish-nationalism/peoples-protection-units-ypg/.

Myre, Greg. "What Is The U.S. Goal In Syria?" NPR, NPR, 8 Apr. 2017, www.npr.org/sections/parallels/2017/04/08/523016523/what-is-the-u-s-goal-in-syria?t=1532375062516.

"Who Is Profiting from Syria?" Libcom.org, www.libcom.org/news/who-profiting-syria-08092017.

iranianamericanforum. "Why Does Iran Fight in Syria?" YouTube, YouTube, 2 May 2017, www.youtube.com/watch?v=bcLmo_CqDdY.

Ap. "A Timeline of the Syrian Conflict as It Enters Its Eighth Year." Bloomberg.com, Bloomberg, 15 Mar. 2018, www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-03-15/timeline-of-the-syrian-conflict-as-it-enters-8th-year.

"Syria | UN News." United Nations, United Nations, www.news.un.org/en/focus/syria.

United Nations. "Syria Emergency." UNHCR, www.unhcr.org/syria-emergency.html.

"Who We Are." OCHA, 9 July 2018, www.unocha.org/about-us/who-we-are.

"Help Syrian Children Now." UNICEF USA, www.donate.unicefusa.org/page/contribute/help-syrian-children-16078.

James Cusick Political Correspondent. "UN Taking Temporary Control of Syria 'Could Provide a Solution to Civil War'." The Independent, Independent Digital News and Media, 6 Dec. 2015, www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/syria-civil-war-un-taking-control-of-war-torn-country-could-provide-solution-to-conflict-a6762061.html.

"France Leads New Effort to End Civil War in Syria - The Boston Globe." BostonGlobe.com, The Boston Globe, 15 Apr. 2018, www.bostonglobe.com/news/world/2018/04/15/france-leads-new-effort-end-civil-war-syria/hrl2p6hR5Nkg0LL2h4fr0l/story.html.

"The EU and the Crisis in Syria - EEAS - European External Action Service - European Commission." EEAS - European External Action Service, https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-Homepage/22664/eu-and-crisis-syria_en.

