



ANKU COLLEGE MODEL UNITED NATIONS 2020

COMMITTEE: United Nations Security Council

ISSUE: Civil war in Syria and external interventions

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POSITION: President and Deputy Chairs

Dear delegates of the UNSC committee, I am Arman Tosun and I will be serving as the President Chair of your committee. First of all, let me say that I am really excited to meet you all and look forward to our sessions. The Security Council have always been my favourite committee and in fact, I have been a delegate in ACMUN's Security Council last year. I am an 11th grader and I am currently studying at TED Ankara College. I am a big fan of watching TV series and listening to rock music. Hope to see you soon!!!

Hello! I'm Ulaş Keskin, Deputy Chair of the UN Security Council. I am currently studying at METU Ankara High School as an 11th grader. Security Council is without a doubt my favourite committee and in order to get the most out of it we need you, the delegates, to come well prepared (especially the first-timers). We as the chair board understand that doing research and preparing is not the most fun activity but know that no MUN conference can maintain a fruitful debate flow without sufficient background knowledge. Please don't hesitate to contact us before and approach us during the conference regarding any unclarities. Hope to see you all soon!

Fellow delegates, my name is Berkan Seymen and I will be serving as the deputy chair in UNSC committee in this conference. I'm an 11th grader and I'm from Ted Ankara College. My MUN journey has started in the beginning of 10th grade and I have participated in lots of conferences in this time period as a delegate. But my favourite committee was always UNSC. I have participated in UNSC committee several times and they were the most exceptional experiences in my MUN career. I'm very excited because it will be my first chairing experience and it is a great honor for me to participate as a Student Officer in such a prestigious conference like ACMUN'20. I will do everything I can to give all the delegates of UNSC the best MUN experiences in their MUN career. I hope it will be a wonderful and memorable conference for all of us

INTRODUCTION

The civil war in Syria has been continuing for 8 years having started at 2011 with inspiration from the Arab Spring. The civil war in Syria is the second most deadliest conflict of the 21st century with a death toll of over 400.000 people and a missing toll of over 200.000. Over 5.7 million Syrians have fled the country and over 6 million displaced internally. It all started when Bashar al-Assad took over the country after the death of his father and also the former leader of Syria, Hafez al-Assad, who ruled the country from 1970 to 2000. From 2000 to 2011, the economic situation in the country grew worse while widespread corruption and low wages also created unrest among the Syrian citizens. In 2011, getting inspiration from the ongoing Arab Spring, protests erupted against the one-party regime of Bashar al-Assad demanding his resignation. The Government of Syria decided to take executive action against the protesters cracking down on them which evolved the situation evermore. First external intervention to the situation came from the United States of America in the form of economic sanctions against the Syrian Government banning the export of Syrian oil. This brought further sanctions, especially oil sanctions among other things, from forces such as European Union, Turkey and the Arab League. After the Syrian opposition unites against the Assad regime and forms The National Coalition for Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces, USA announces evidence against the usage of chemical weapons by the Assad regime against the opposition. This and the ongoing civil war in Syria causes the UN to end the arms embargo against the Syrian rebels. The USA also announces that they will support the Syrian rebels because of the usage of chemical weapons by the Assad regime. The US airforce launches airstrikes against the ISIS terrorist targets in Syria in the September of 2014 after the slow-going peace talks of 2014 in Switzerland. After the bombing of a Red Crescent warehouse and nobody claiming the responsibility, UN halts aid operations in Syria. In December of 2016 Turkey and Russia tries the broke ceasefire in the region of Aleppo in order for the civilians to evacuate the region but the ceasefire fails after one day and the Syrian Regime and the the state controlled media announces shortly after that the Regime has taken full control of the region of Aleppo as well as the city after 4 years of rebel control. In April of 2017, President Trump allows the launch of airstrikes against the Assad Regime airbases in response of the possible chemical attacks. In the April of 2018, Us, British and French forces launches airstrikes on Syrian targets in response of the chemical attacks of a week earlier by the Syrian Regime. In the September of 2018, Russian Federation And Turkey agrees on a demilitarized zone in the province of Idlib. In the december of 2018, President Trump announces the defeat of ISIS in Syria and the rapid withdrawals of US forces from Syria. In the October of 2019, Turkish forces launches a military offensive into northeastern Syria as the operation of "Peace Spring". Turkey launches the offensive in an effort to drive the Kurdish armed forces out of the region and resettle around 2 million Syrian refugees back to the area.

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

ISIS (Islamic State in Iraq and al-Sham): A radical Sunni Muslim organization whose aim is to restore an Islamic state, or caliphate, in the region encompassing Syria, Lebanon, Israel, Jordan, the Palestinian territories, and southeastern Turkey.

Civil War: A war between political factions or regions within the same country.

Free Syrian Army: Turkish-backed Free Syrian Army is a rebel umbrella group formed by defectors from the Syrian army in July 2011, claimed leadership over the armed opposition fighting in Syria, but its authority was largely unrecognized by the local militias.

Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF): The Syrian Democratic Forces was founded in Syria's mainly Kurdish northeastern region in October 2015, and was made up of at least 15 armed factions, most of the fighters are from the Free Syrian Army and the Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG). The fighters consist of Christians, Arabs and about 500 foreign fighters. Most of these fighters are from the Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG) which is a part of the Turkey-based Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), which has been engaged in deadly conflict with Turkish military for more than three decades.

Refugee: A refugee is someone who has been forced to flee his or her country because of persecution, war or violence.

Intervention: The action of becoming intentionally involved in a difficult situation, in order to improve it or prevent it from getting worse.

Chemical Warfare: The use of poisonous gases and other harmful chemicals against enemy forces.

Rebel: A person who is opposed to the political system in their country and tries to change it using force.

Arab League: An organization of Arab countries, (the League of Arab States)

Sanction: An official order, such as the stopping of trade, that is taken against a country in order to make it obey international law.

Arab Spring: The Arab Spring was a series of pro-democracy uprisings that enveloped several largely Muslim countries, including Tunisia, Morocco, Syria, Libya, Egypt and Bahrain.

Embargo: An order to temporarily stop something, especially trading or giving information

OVERVIEW

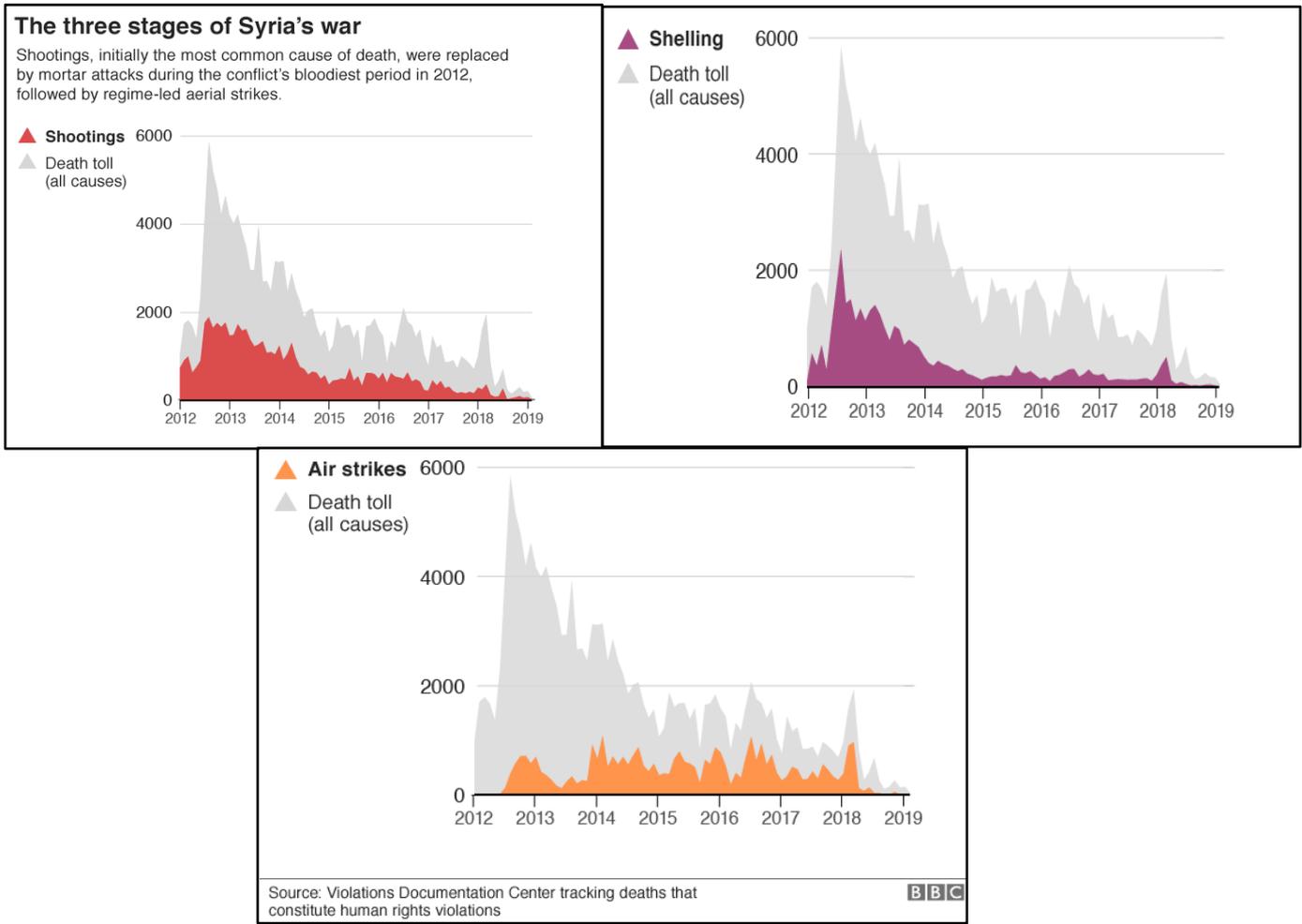
As we are in the year 2020, on March 15, the ongoing war will enter its 10th year. Today there are an estimate of 2000 U.S. troops in Syria, 5.7 million Syrian refugees and a total of 6.2 million people internally displaced in Syria.

The Syrian transformation started from multiple points of view likewise to the Egyptian one in Tahrir Square. In any case, in contrast to the unification of fighting forces in Egypt, the unease in Syria brought age-old pressures to the surface among Sunni and Shia gatherings. Ethnic, religious groups, and outside forces were additionally brought into the contention, and humanitarian atrocities started. Despite the fact that the United States considered this to be a struggle for democracy and publicly enunciated their help for the evacuation of Assad's administration in 2011, the UN Security Council declined to underwrite a political or military answer for the circumstance because of the interests of other veto-holding members. At that point, when armed opposition showed up in Syria it was clear that it would have been elusive pioneers who perceived the significance of majority rule government other than as a way to accomplish predominance over the political framework. Simultaneously regional powers began utilizing the contention as a vehicle for their political advantages: Saudi Arabia and the GCC subsidized and upheld Sunni groups, while Iran bolstered the Assad government via groups, for example, Hezbollah. Syrian Kurds likewise made a self-governing unit along the Turkish border and the Druze and Christian people group were hesitant to maintain a system change subsequent to comprehending what had befallen minorities in Egypt. The jihadist bunch ISIL, too chosen to join the war to assemble a caliphate from the region seized from Syria and western Iraq, including Damascus and Baghdad. Growing into one of the most powerful and wealthiest Terrorist groups in the Middle East, Islamic State turned into a subject of worldwide concern and subsided the fate of the Syrian people as the main issue in the region.

In the meantime, the battle turned out to be progressively between radical groups utilizing whatever techniques they could so as to gain an upper hand, and humanitarian issues began to become profoundly common. In 2013, Saudi Arabia rejected a seat on the Security Council, referring to that it would follow up on its own due to the disappointment of conventional governmental issues. China and Russia also represented an obstruction to the US's endeavour to authorize the worldwide prohibition on chemical weapons after Assad's utilization of them on the Syrian rebels, and Russia respected the groups battling against Assad to be no superior to gifted jihadists. Rather, they got keen on safeguarding the Assad government in Syria, while the US needed to be progressively mindful after its activities in Iraq also, Afghanistan. To put it plainly, the Syrian clash is one started on the longing for democratic values, what's more, a resulting implosion of provincial requests.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a UK-based monitoring group with a network of sources on the ground, had documented the deaths of 367,965 people by December 2018.

The figure did not include 192,035 people who it said were missing and presumed dead. Meanwhile, the Violations Documentation Center, which relies on activists inside Syria, has recorded what it considers violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law, including attacks on civilians. It had documented 191,219 battle-related deaths, including 123,279 civilians, as of December 2018.



Causes and Effects:

Just like any other war, the circumstance in Syria also had a tension building up in the background and an ignitor. The well-known Arab Spring was the most crucial spark that ignited the civil war. Starting on 18 December 2010, numerous political and economic protests in Egypt and Tunisia broke out. These successful riots dubbed the Arab Spring and served as an inspiration for pro-democracy activists in Syria.

Even before the conflict started, numerous Syrians were griping about high unemployment, debasement and an absence of political opportunity under President Bashar al-Assad, who succeeded his dad, Hafez, after died in 2000. As the civils grew tired of the current regime, protests began. In the southern city of Deraa Pro-democracy protests erupted after the arrest and torture of some teenagers who painted revolutionary slogans on a school wall in

March 2011. When security forces opened fire on protesters, killing several, even more, took to the streets. The distress sparked nationwide protests demanding President Assad's resignation. The government's utilization of force to crush the dissent merely hardened the protesters' resolve. By July 2011, hundreds of thousands were taking to the streets across the country. Resistance supporters eventually began to take up arms, first to defend themselves and later to remove security forces from their local areas. This was the defining moment from protests seeking democratic reforms to an explicit civil war. A wide scope of groups fought for control and caused the U.S., in its worldwide War on Terror, to help different moderate rebel groups that were trying to remove Assad and more radical rebel groups at the same time. The U.S.'s involvement only heightened the Syrian warfare as Assad's allies, particularly Russia, saw it fit to step in and save its friend from destruction by radical and U.S.-backed rebel groups.



Relations of causality are crucial to developing a more profound understanding of the issue at hand since effective solutions tackle not only the outcomes of a problem but the very reasons behind it.

Evaluation of Other Issues:

Humanitarian Problem

The humanitarian crisis in Syria is without a doubt a main concern for the world. This issue needs to be addressed by not only the member states but also by international organisations. The food and water shortages, along with the lack of a proper safe place to stay, clothing and maintaining the fundamental freedoms of the public need to be addressed in this issue. The prosecution of war criminals also needs to be continued.

The Refugee Crisis

Another major problem caused by the conflict in Syria is the refugee crisis. After the peaceful protests broke out into war, civilians from Syria have fled to neighbouring countries. A considerable amount of these asylum seekers have died trying to reach Europe through illegal ways. Also, the Republic of Turkey is hosting the majority of these refugees which is causing further instability in the middle east. In addition, the lack of consensus among the topic has resulted in political divisions in the EU as well as the MENA countries. Today a reformation of refugee policies of member states seem to be vital for resolving this issue. Nevertheless, this mission should be carried out by the UNHCR or a platform that could be established between member states and not solely by the Security Council.

War Against Terrorism

The war against terrorism has been at the heart of conflict ever since the terrorist groups in Syria broke down and formed ISIS. After the 9/11 attacks fighting terrorism became policy for the United States and the world. Thus after Al-Qaeda broke down due to internal disagreements, the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria became a central piece in the Syrian war. The organisation marched across Syria and Iraq forming a caliphate. Also, many terrorist attacks which were carried out in developed countries outside of Syria linked themselves with ISIS. After an enormous effort of airstrikes, Kurdish forces and states involved in Syria, today ISIS is almost defeated. Nevertheless, it is important to understand how ISIS got so powerful in the first place. During the midst of the civil war, a power vacuum was created in Syria and Iraq which allowed ISIS to grow and spread in a considerably large area. Today, with the consecutive wins of the Assad regime, Syria has seen more stability than in decades and the power vacuum seems to be gone. However, the recent actions of the Turkish government in Northern Syria may establish a new power vacuum up in the northern parts of the country with unpredictable consequences.

RELEVANT ACTORS AND BODIES:

United States

The involvement of the United States started in April 2013 when President Obama signed a secret order to the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) to start a training programme for the rebels. While this operation was being carried out the US was officially asking the Gulf states to stop fund extremists. After the usage of chemical weapons on the rebel groups by the Assad government, the United States officially starts taking action against the Syrian government. After this Syria truly becomes a proxy war where the Russian Federation backs the Assad regime opposed by the United States. In February 2014 the extremist groups found in Syria fracture forming the Islamist State of Iraq and Syria or ISIS. ISIS starts fighting the rebel groups in Syria and starts gaining land to the point that it establishes a caliphate. With dreadful propaganda, ISIS began gathering "troops" from all around the world and became a centre of attention to the world. Despite their different roles and positions in Syria most of the forces and countries in Syria start a war against terrorism and ISIS becomes the main focus of the US in Syria. After the election in the United States, Donald Trump changes US's foreign policy in Syria. President Trump who swore to stay out of Syria until in 2017 Assad usage of chemical weapons against the rebels. With this action, President Trump took action and bombed the Assad regime. This was the first direct action of the United States against the Syrian government. Today the United States seek to overthrow the Assad regime as well as decrease the Iranian influence in the region.

Turkey

The Republic of Turkey hosts most of the refugees coming from Syria and has been taking an active part in the war since its beginning. As of November 2019, Turkey has been hosting more than 3.6 Syrian refugees within its borders. Regarding Turkey's place in the war, the Turkish government has taken part in the fight against ISIL in the region as an ally to the United States. Also along with the Gulf states and notably Saudi Arabia, the Turkish government has been supporting the Rebel groups against Assad's regime. The relationship between the Kurdish forces and Turkey is also important for understanding the situation in Northern Syria. The PKK a terrorist group in Turkey has been fighting with the Turkish government to get autonomy for decades. Today the Turkish government is concerned about the Kurdish forces in Syria getting autonomy since it may provoke uprisings in the country. Also, the Turkish government hopes to establish a "safe corridor" in Northern Syria to ensure the security of the country. Thus the Turkish government who is allied with the United States as a NATO member has been pushing the United States and the Russian Federation to get involved in the "safe corridor" project. This wish was also stated in the speech of President Erdoğan in the United Nations General Assembly. However, being allies with the Kurds the United States never leaned on this project, until in October President

Trump with a radical decision stopped the United States support for the Kurdish forces allowing the Turkish government to take action in Northern Syria.

Russia

The Russian Federation and the Syrian government have been military allies since 1956. Since then the Russian government has not changed its foreign policy's core belief in Syria and continues to support the Syrian government. By helping the countries economy from demolishing along with sending military equipment and advisers it is clear that the Russian government is involved in the civil war. The port of Tartus is also vital for understanding the Russian policy in Syria. The port of Tartus is the only Mediterranean port of the Russian Federation and simply put the Russian government cannot afford to lose this opening to the Mediterranean.

IRAN

The Iranian government is a close ally of the Syrian government as well as the Russian Federation. Thus they have been supporting the Assad government with financial and military aid. Also, the involvement of the Iranian government in the region can be seen as a way to reduce the influence of Saudi Arabia in the middle east.

The Kurdish Forces

Kurds are the biggest ethnic minority in Syria. After the peaceful protests turned into a civil war in the country, the Kurds, mainly YPG, have taken over a region in Northern Syria and have been fighting to receive autonomy. They have also been vital for the fight against IS and had been allies with the US until President Trump changed US's foreign policy in Syria. The conflict between the Turkish government and the Kurdish forces is also an important factor in Northern Syria

The Rebel Forces

After the government's breakdown in 2011 after the peaceful protests, many groups have arisen to overthrow the Syrian government. These groups were composed of mostly civilians and army defectors. Although this militia's shared the goal of overthrowing the Syrian government they had many differences between them. Today the Assad government along with the help of the Russian Federation and Iran has almost completely abolished these rebel forces and a change in government seems unlikely.

HEZBOLLAH

Hezbollah is a strong ally and supporter of the Syrian government. In 2012 the United States sanctioned Hezbollah for their alleged role in the Syrian civil war, however, Hezbollah has denied any role in the war and stated that the fighters went to Syria on their own behalf and died doing their "jihadist duties". In addition, the leaders of Hezbollah have stated that the United States has plotted to destabilize Syria and the Middle east.

ISIS

The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria known as ISIS, IS, ISIL or DAESH is a terrorist organisation which aims to create an Islamist state in the middle east. The group has been recognized as a terrorist organisation by the United Nations and has committed numerous acts of violence. The organisation is well known for its propaganda and presence in the Syrian civil war. ISIS has committed ethnic cleansing and many other war crimes in the Syrian peninsula and was one of the four main sides in the Syrian civil war. At its height, the organisation annexed more than 34.000 square miles of land in 2014. Today after the vigorous efforts of the Kurdish forces, Global Coalition to Counter the Islamic State of Iraq

and the Levant and the Assad government ISIS poses a much lesser threat to the Syrian government.

OPCW

The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons is an international organisation with the main goal of eliminating all chemical weapons on earth. Today the organisation raises public awareness as well as uphold the Chemical Weapons Treaty. Thus it can ask for and make inspections, advise member states to take action on parties using chemical weapons such as but not limited to economic sanctions and communicates efficiently with the International Criminal Court (ICJ) which can prosecute people for committing war crimes.

TREATIES AND INITIATIVES:

statements by the president of the Security Council upon the conflict in Syria

S/PRST/2019/12
S/PRST/2015/15
S/PRST/2015/10
S/PRST/2011/16
S/PRST/2012/10
S/PRST/2012/6
S/PRST/2011/16

Security Council Resolutions Upon the conflict in Syria

S/RES/2042
S/RES/ 2043
S/RES/2118
S/RES/2139
S/RES/2165
S/RES/2175
S/RES/2191
S/RES/2209
S/RES/2235
S/RES/2254
S/RES/2258
S/RES/2268
S/RES/2286
S/RES/2332
S/RES/2336
S/RES/2393
S/RES/2401
S/RES/2449

The Geneva Conventions: The Geneva Conventions are a set of treaties/ protocols which determine the basis for international law in times of war. The Geneva Conventions outline the human aspect of war and how prisoners of war should be treated. Any breach of these conventions need to be investigated by a protecting power (a state which communicates with both sides of the conflict and is not part of the war) and necessary actions should be taken to ensure their implementation of the Geneva Conventions

The Hague Conventions: The Hauge conventions outline the laws of war and are important in the case of the Syrian conflict since they determine the rules upon the usage of

weapons along with the “Biological Weapons Convention” (1972) and “ Chemical Weapons Convention” (1993).

Convention on the Prohibition, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction (1993)

Biological Weapons Convention (1972)

SPECIFIC ANALYSIS ON RELEVANT CONFLICTS AND PROBLEMS:

Turkey’s Recent Actions in Northern Syria

As mentioned before, after the Syrian civil war broke out a power vacuum occurred in the northern parts of the country allowing ISIS to spread and grow. However, this was not the only consequence of the power vacuum. The Kurdish people who have long been fighting for autonomy in the middle east took the opportunity and fought against ISIS to create an autonomous Kurdish area. During this conflict, The Kurdish and non-Kurdish militia’s combined and formed the Syrian Democratic Forces. By 2019 IS was practically defeated up in the north and the Syrian Democratic Forces established prisons and displacement camps for ISIS members and their families. Bearing in mind the repercussions that an autonomous neighbouring Kurdish government, Turkey came up with a plan to establish a safe zone in Northern Syria. President Erdoğan has gone to, the US and the Russian Federation and the United Nations to gain support but failed. Afterwards, the Turkish government stated that the safe zone will be created with or without the support of the other member states. Throughout this process, their dialogue with the United States led to an agreement by which a safe zone of 5 km can be established in Northern Syria. However, this 5km deep zone was not enough for president Erdoğan so a month later he proposed a much larger safe zone in northern Syria at the UN. After vigorous arguments, the United States agreed to pull out its troops from northern Syria. Thus the Turkish government cracked down on the SDF. This action has displaced thousands of people and let ISIS members escape from their prisons. All of these recent actions of the Turkish government is feared by many politicians that it will cause further instability in the region. Also, many political experts believe that this safe zone may create another power vacuum in Northern Syria and cause the emergence of different powers in an already complicated proxy war.

The Usage of Chemical Weapons

In the Syrian conflict, the Assad regime has used chemical weapons against the rebels various times. In order to grasp the depth of this issue, one must first understand the “ Convention on the Prohibition, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction” (CWC). The convention, which is signed by almost all of the states present in Syria besides from Iraq. The convention prohibits the usage of chemical weapons and their stockpiling. Thus member states need to take action in order to stop the usage of chemical weapons in the civil war. Bearing in mind that the war in Syria has evolved from a basic civil war, an international action would be more beneficial.

TIMELINE OF MAJOR EVENTS

Date	Description
March 2011	Violence flares in Daraa after a group of teens and children are arrested for writing political graffiti. Dozens of people

	are killed when security forces crack down on demonstrations.
March 24, 2011	In response to continuing protests, the Syrian government announces several plans to appease citizens. State employees will receive an immediate salary increase. The government also plans to study lifting Syria's long standing emergency law and the licensing of new political parties.
April 21, 2011	Assad lifts the country's 48-year-old state of emergency. He also abolishes the Higher State Security Court and issues a decree "regulating the right to peaceful protest, as one of the basic human rights guaranteed by the Syrian Constitution."
May 18, 2011	The United States imposes sanctions against Assad and six other senior Syrian officials.
September 2, 2011	The European Union bans the import of Syrian oil.
September 23, 2011	The EU imposes additional sanctions against Syria, due to "the continuing brutal campaign" by the government against its own people.
November 12, 2011	The Arab League suspends Syria's membership, effective November 16, 2011.
November 27, 2011	Foreign ministers from 19 Arab League countries vote to impose economic sanctions against the Syrian regime for its part in a bloody crackdown on civilian demonstrators.
November 30, 2011	Turkey announces a series of measures, including financial sanctions, against Syria.
February 6, 2012	The United States closes its embassy in Damascus and recalls its diplomats.
February 26, 2012	Syrians vote on a constitutional referendum in polling centers across the country. Almost 90% of voters approve the changes to the constitution, which include the possibility of a multi-party system.
October 3, 2012	Five people are killed by Syrian shelling in the Turkish border town of Akcakale. In response, Turkey fires on Syrian targets and its parliament authorizes a resolution giving the government

	permission to deploy its soldiers to foreign countries
May 27, 2013	EU nations end the arms embargo against the Syrian rebels.
August 18, 2013	A team of UN weapons inspectors arrives in Syria to begin an investigation into whether chemical weapons have been used during the civil war.
August 22, 2013	- The United Nations and the United States call for an immediate investigation of Syrian activists' claims that the Assad government used chemical weapons in an attack on civilians on August 21
August 30, 2013	US Secretary of State John Kerry says that US intelligence information has found that 1,429 people were killed in last week's chemical weapons attack in Syria, including at least 426 children.
September 14, 2013	The United States and Russia agree to a plan to eliminate chemical weapons in Syria.
September 20, 2013	Syria releases an initial report on its chemical weapons program.
September 27, 2013	The UN Security Council passes a resolution requiring Syria to eliminate its arsenal of chemical weapons. Assad says he will abide by the resolution.
October 31, 2013	The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons announces that Syria has destroyed all its declared chemical weapons production facilities.
February 23, 2014	The UN Security Council unanimously passes a resolution boosting access to humanitarian aid in Syria.
June 3, 2014	Assad is re-elected, reportedly receiving 88.7% of the vote in the country's first election since civil war broke out in 2011.
September 22-23, 2014	The United States and allies launch airstrikes against ISIS targets in Syria, focusing on the city of Raqqa.
March 15, 2016	Russia starts withdrawing its forces from Syria. A spokeswoman for Assad tells CNN that the Russian campaign is winding down after achieving its goal of helping Syrian troops take back territory claimed by terrorists.
September 15, 2016	At least 23 people, including nine children, are killed during airstrikes in Syria, with the United States and Russia accusing each other of violating the ceasefire in effect since September 12.

December 13, 2016	As government forces take control of most of Aleppo from rebel groups, Turkey and Russia broker a ceasefire for eastern Aleppo so that civilians can be evacuated. The UN Security Council holds an emergency session amid reports of mounting civilian deaths and extrajudicial killings. The ceasefire collapses less than a day after it is implemented.
April 6, 2017	- The United States launches a military strike on a Syrian government airbase in response to the chemical weapon attack on civilians. On US President Donald Trump's orders, US warships launch 59 Tomahawk cruise missiles at the airbase which was home to the warplanes that carried out the chemical attacks.
July 7, 2017	Trump and Putin reach an agreement on curbing violence in southwest Syria during their meeting at the G20 in Hamburg, Germany. The ceasefire will take effect in the de-escalation zone beginning at noon Damascus time on July 9.
October 17, 2017	ISIS loses control of its self-declared capital, Raqqa. US-backed forces fighting in Raqqa say "major military operations" have ended, though there are still pockets of resistance in the city.
February 24, 2018	The UN Security Council unanimously approves a 30-day ceasefire resolution in Syria, though it is unclear when the ceasefire is meant to start, or how it will be enforced.
March 6, 2018	More than 1,000 children have been killed or injured this year across Syria, UNICEF regional communications chief Juliette Touma tells CNN. In all, 342 children were killed and 803 were injured in Syria in the first two months of 2018, Touma says, citing multiple sources.
April 14, 2018	The United States, France and the United Kingdom launch airstrikes on Syria in response to the chemical weapons attack in Eastern Ghouta a week earlier.
July 27, 2018	A UN envoy says the UN has verified 7,000 cases of children either killed or maimed in Syria's seven-year war, but

	says unverified reports puts the number "way beyond 20,000."
September 17, 2018	Russia and Turkey announce they have agreed to create a demilitarized zone in Syria's Idlib province, potentially thwarting a large-scale military operation and impending humanitarian disaster in the country's last rebel stronghold. The zone, which will be patrolled by Turkish and Russian military units, will become operational from October 15.
March 23, 2019	Kurdish forces announce they have captured the eastern Syrian pocket of Baghouz, the last populated area under ISIS rule.
October 9, 2019	Turkey launches a military offensive into northeastern Syria, just days after US President Donald Trump's administration announced that US troops would leave the border area. Erdogan's "Operation Peace Spring" is an effort to drive away Kurdish forces from the border, and use the area to resettle around two million Syrian refugees.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

In order to resolve this issue our delegates must recognize the correlation between the subjects of Economy, Politics and Humanitarian Status. Thus, the house must come up with solutions that will cover or at least consider all these topics. Yet the chair board will address three propositions:

1. Utilize UN sub-bodies and NGOs as much as possible plus it would be most beneficial and professional if the council refers to IMF and/or the past UN Resolutions/Treaties.
2. Try to bear in mind all the effects mentioned in the study guide and while you are finding solutions regarding the civil war. For example, outcomes such as refugees etc. shouldn't be passed as they contribute greatly to the situation as a whole.
3. The most challenging proposition the chair board addresses are that the conflict is suggested to be resolved without further intervention of any kind of military within the nations; should the delegates wish to pursue upon this road, they may as well do so within the regulation under the UN charter.

This section has a direct impact on the debates. Your solution ideas should be open-ended to help delegates to actively produce solution proposals of their own.

USEFUL LINKS AND SOURCES

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/sy.html>
<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/tu.html>
<https://www.thoughtco.com/top-10-reasons-for-the-uprising-in-syria-2353571>
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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oUeXaPaKF50>
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