



Dear Delegates:

My name is Sarah Quraishi and I am excited to be one of your chairs for this year's Economic and Social Council at MITMUNC! I'm currently a freshman here at MIT and I'm from Watertown, MA. Though undecided about what exactly I will be studying here, I am particularly interested in the intersection of engineering and public policy and hope to combine my interests in whatever path I choose to pursue.

Having attended MUN Conferences in high school, I knew that being on staff for a conference would be a fun and new experience. I'm eager to see what it's like to be on the other side of operations, and hope that I can make your experience here at the conference as enjoyable as mine have been in previous years.

Our topics for this session of ECOSOC are very relevant to current issues, and they consider not only what countries are actually dealing with presently, but also allow room for you to decide which direction efforts should go. I hope this background guide gives you a starting place for your research as you prepare for the conference.

My name is Oumaima. I am 21 and both French and Moroccan. After graduating from a French High School in Casablanca (Morocco), I studied Mathematics and Physics in a Classes Préparatoires in Versailles (France), then Mechanical and Industrial Engineering in Paris (France). I am currently pursuing a Master's degree in Advanced Manufacturing and Design at MIT as part of the Mechanical Engineering Department.

Last year, I helped with the organization of the 2017 PIMUN as a member of the Financial Team. It was an enriching experience and I got the chance to meet a lot of different people all passionate about this kind of conferences.

This year, I am excited to be one of your chair for the conference. I am all the more extremely happy to work on the ECOSOC's topics since they are current issues that trigger high controversies in today's world! Looking forward to meeting you all!

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me and read out for help!

See you in February!

Sincerely,

Sarah Quraishi and Oumaïma Makhlouk



Since 1945, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) has been at the heart of the United Nations as one of its six main organs. It aims to identify major challenges and achieve a balanced integration of the three pillars of sustainable development—economic, social and environmental. The ECOSOC links several UN entities, including economic and social commissions and specialized agencies and its membership is based on geographic representation. It consists of 54 members that are chosen by geographic location. Every year, ECOSOC works around a theme of global importance to sustainability. It is the central platform for fostering debate and innovative thinking, forging consensus on ways forward, and coordinating efforts to achieve internationally agreed goals. It is also responsible for the follow-up to major UN conferences and summits.

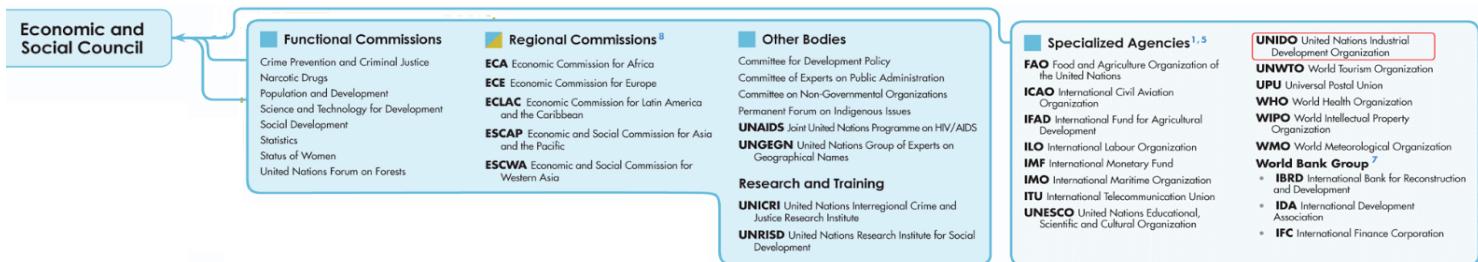


Chart of the ECOSOC

Topic A: The Humanitarian Crisis in Puerto Rico

Introduction

On September 20th, 2017, Hurricane Maria struck the U.S. island territory of Puerto Rico and destroyed territory home to over 3 million Americans. Many buildings were destroyed and much of land was flooded. Not only was the land physically devastated, but food and clean drinking water have been hard to come by for many people who have lost their homes. 100% of the island was left without electric power the day after the storm. Cellphone towers collapsed and may could not contact their family members through cellphone until almost a week after the storm. Even after the storm passed, much of the island was left without electricity. As of November, only 50% of homes had electric power restored. This forced many citizens without fuel to power their homes or workplaces. Now, the humanitarian crisis worsens as the Federal U.S. government fails to aid Puerto Rico in a swift recovery, and the people on the islands struggle to live with minimal supplies.

Background and History of Puerto Rico

Puerto Rico has a long and complicated history. In 1898, when it was a Spanish territory, the U.S. invaded Puerto Rico due to a combination of factors: the island's strategic position for naval bases in the middle of the Americas, the growing sugar market, and other imperialist reasons. During the war, the United States promised to protect the "life, liberty, and happiness" of the Puerto Ricans, many of whom were working-class and were looking for protection of their property. After the war, the island became a territory of the U.S.

One of the biggest outrages for Puerto Ricans was the fact that the United States did not offer them citizenship. In fact, Puerto Ricans did not become American citizens until 1917. For people on the island, not having a legal standing in the U.S. made it very difficult to gain access to American services. In 1917, the Jones-Shafroth Act imposed American citizenship on Puerto Ricans. Many scholars estimate that this was a measure to recruit more soldiers for the US's war efforts in World War I. Even then, they were not allowed to vote for president, senators, or representatives in Congress, and to this day do not have the same voting rights as citizens of U.S. states.

During the 20th century, some Puerto Ricans have sought more independence. U.S. government officials defeated their attempts to self-govern, leaving Puerto Rico controlled by the U.S., but still not recognized as a full state. This created a great deal of tension between the islands and the mainland. Today, the tension is particularly relevant when natural disasters such as Hurricane Maria devastate the islands and the mainland does not respond in a way that it would if a similar tragedy occurred in one of the states.

A few months before Hurricane Maria, Puerto Rico held a referendum for statehood. Statehood won in the referendum vote at 90%, but this vote was criticized since voter turnout was historically low, at around 10%. Unfortunately, even if the majority of the territory votes in favor of becoming a state, only Congress can put the plan into action. This is difficult to achieve, as Puerto Ricans only have one non-voting member in Congress: the resident commissioner. The resident commissioner may speak upon legislation but cannot vote for measures in any way even

if they specifically target Puerto Ricans. Therefore, it is unlikely that Puerto Rico will achieve full statehood in the near future, unless Congress decides to reevaluate the situation.

Economic Concerns

Natural disasters have a large impact on the economic standing of a region. Already economically unstable due to an ongoing 11-year recession, the damage to Puerto Rico's economy totals billions of dollars. The number does not even include damage to property that isn't insured, nor does it cover flood damage. The island is very physically devastated, and with the economy already in a bad place, it looks grim for the future.

A large part of Puerto Rico's problem stems from the destruction of the decrepit power grid. If the island did not lose power for an extended period of time, it may have been easier to begin reparations. In fact, the longer the power outage is prolonged, the more economic damage it will do to the territory. The money Puerto Rico will have to spend on reparations, though, is a large sum by itself: an estimated \$30 billion dollars, \$20 billion for physical damage and \$10 billion in lost economic productivity. That alone constitutes almost 30% of the territory's GDP of \$103 billion.

Another important issue to consider is that many Americans have commented on the fact that more aid money was sent to victims of Hurricanes Irma and Harvey, in Florida and Texas respectively, than was sent to Puerto Rico. The Federal Emergency Management Agency

(FEMA) approved \$691 million for Irma victims and \$323 million for Harvey victims, but has yet to approve funds for Maria victims. There are varied opinions as to why this may be case. For many, it seems as though the United States government is not aiding Puerto Rico because it is a territory, not a state. Furthermore, Puerto Rico's economy has been in such a long recession that according to national organizations, aid money will do little to aid the long-term problems of Puerto Rico's economic standing. However, Puerto Ricans are American taxpayers who contribute to the funds of the U.S. government, and part of their money went to disaster relief in Florida and Texas. Therefore, do they not also have a right to aid money? Experts at the U.S. Department of Energy say that disaster relief should not be based on a region's financial health, nor should Puerto Rico be ignored because it lacks statehood.

In addition, the economic crisis has been worsened by higher costs of living in the territory. According to the New York Times, the cost of living in Puerto Rico is drastically higher than in many urban area in the mainland U.S. For example, due to the Jones-Shafroth Act, cars are sometimes twice as expensive to purchase in Puerto Rico than in a mainland state. The cost of electric power in past years also almost more than half of the US mainland average. Due to the past rising housing prices, and now the lack of proper housing, many people are migrating off the islands. This will create even more economic instability and will make recovery much more difficult for the people who remain.

Social Concerns

The full extent of the humanitarian crisis in Puerto Rico is still relatively unknown to many citizens in the mainland United States. First, the sheer number of people affected by Maria is alarming. 3.4 million citizens live on the island, and many in rural regions located in the middle and west parts of the island have little to eat and drink, lack proper shelter, and have little to no communication off the island. Also, Hurricane Maria was not as devastating as Hurricane Irma on the surface (as it was Category 4 while Irma was Category 5), but actually did much more damage to the small islands of Puerto Rico as it passed over the land near its peak intensity.

The death toll keeps rising with each passing day. The sick are being turned away from hospitals, mothers desperately try to keep their children from starving to death, and many people without homes are forced to reside in unsanitary and unprotected environments in the streets. More and more civilians are getting sick from dirty water or dying from heatstroke, as being outdoors for an extended period of time with little sustenance takes a large toll on their bodies.

The United States government is slowly responding to the humanitarian crisis, sending in troops, the National Guard, and supplies to people in need. However, in mid-November, most troops left the island. The FEMA reports that relief efforts are improving as meals and liters of water are distributed and medical care is provided. Even with the current efforts, some argue that the government did not respond quickly enough, nor with enough aid money and supplies.

Current Status

Two months after Hurricane Maria, many people in Puerto Rico are still without vital infrastructure. Close to 40-50% of residents still do not have power. A major problem continues to be the lack of clean water, which forces people to collect water from potentially contaminated springs and sides of mountains. Authorities warn that if clean water is not replenished, the death toll, which totals an unofficial number of 1000, could lead to a public health crisis.

Even with the reported “largest FEMA response in the Caribbean” being given to Puerto Rico, there continues to be a multitude of problems for people still living on the islands. Many residents are facing the reality of the situation: they may not have power for months and the rebuilding process will be long and difficult. Many businesses have been forced to shut down due to this.

Currently, a plethora of charities are collecting donations and supplies to send to Puerto Rico. Some organizations include: United for Puerto Rico, ConPRmetidos, American Red Cross, Global Giving, Salvation Army, and Amicares. It is now your job to decide how the United Nations ECOSOC Council must act to aid Puerto Rico’s citizens.

International Involvement

Puerto Rico is not technically a country. It is an unincorporated territory of the US. Because of this, it cannot have legal representation as ‘Puerto Rico’ in international bodies. As such, Puerto

Rico is not a member state of the UN. Its interests, therefore by international law, should be, at least in name, represented by the US.

Relevant countries to this topic include the United States. Other countries in the UN have an important role to play in deciding how much aid to give to Puerto Rico and how much the United States should contribute to their territory. Currently, the UN criticizes the U.S.' lack of action concerning the devastation of Puerto Rico, but has yet to take action to improve the situation.

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Topic B: Economic Aid for Syria

Since the beginning of the protests in March 2011, Syria had to face tremendous conflicts between rebel forces and the military army of Al-Assad. What started as peaceful uprising in the wake of the “Arab Spring” in early 2011 is now one of the deadliest and longest civil war the Modern World have ever faced. As a response to the protests, the Syrian Government directly attacked the civilians and bombed the cities. Many were tortured, oppressed, injured and killed. Because of the skyrocketing violence all over the country, civilians fled their homes and countries. It is now considered as being the most severe displacement recorded in history. They became refugees in neighboring countries. Not only did the number of refugees drastically increase, but so did the number of injured and killed civilians. Despite the increasing pressure from the international community to end the oppression, the violence is continuing. In addition to the political issues, religious conflicts have worsened the situation in Syria, since most of the Syrians are Sunnis whereas the Government is allied with the Shi'as' community.

For the thousands of Syrians who left their country as well as those who are trapped inside, the ongoing war keeps impacting their lives on a day-to-day basis. There is a clear need for the International Community to keep acting or else, the conflict will keep tearing apart both Syria and the neighboring countries.

To what extent should the International Community be involved in the conflict?

Country profile: Syria

Syria is a Middle Eastern country, with a coastline at the eastern Mediterranean Sea. It is bordered by Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey, and it shares maritime borders with Cyprus. The country occupies an area of 185,180 km².



Map of Syria in the Middle East

Syria has a population of 21.1 million people, its capital city is Damascus and the nation's spoken languages are Arabic (official), English, French, Kurdish, Armenian and Aramaic. The Assad family have maintained power in the country for more than 45 years. Syria is a country with a plethora of landscapes such as high mountains, deserts and fertile plains. Known as the Ancient Pearl of the Middle-East, the country was considered to be at the center of the Islamic Caliphate and has been consecutively invaded and occupied by several nations over the centuries, among which the Romans, Mongols and Turks. Syria is home to diverse religious and

ethnics groups like the Kurds, Armenians, Kurds, Assyrians, Christians, Druze, Alawite Shia and Arab Sunnis.

Historical events

In the aftermath of World War I, France acquired a mandate by the League of Nations that allowed the country to administer Syria. The new country lacked political stability, however, and experienced a series of military coups during its first decades. In 1946, the French Mandate ended, and Syria acquired its independence. Afterwards, it faced a series of political instability periods due to conflicts between its various communities. In November 1970, Hafez al-Assad, a member of the Socialist Baath Party and the minority Alawite sect, conducted a coup that resulted in him taking the political power in the Syria Arab Republic. His son, Bashar al-Assad, was approved as president by popular referendum in June 2000. At that time, he came to power with the reputation of a modernist.

A Brief History of the Syrian Crisis

A Civil War

In March 2011, the first protests against the Assad regime erupted in both Deraa and Damascus. Even though those protests were aimed at peacefully asking for the release of political prisoners, the country's security forces used violence as an answer to the request. They ended up killing thousands of demonstrators. Because of that, nationwide protests were triggered with civilians asking for the resignation of President Assad. However, the government continuously used violence against the protesters whose number dramatically increased over the following months. The President refused to listen to the group of demonstrators' requests. The latter began

defending themselves in order to forcefully expel the security troops from their neighborhoods. The skyrocketing violence coming from both sides resulted in the beginning of a civil war. Brigades of rebels fought against government forces to gain control over the cities among which Aleppo and Damascus. By August 2015, more than 250,000 people were killed in the conflict. Today, the clans fighting aren't the pro-Assad one versus the one against him anymore. The groups fighting are numerous and the rise of the jihadist group Islamic State has made the situation in Syria worse.

Timeline

Since the Syrian conflict began in March 2011, the violence in the country has skyrocketed.

Below is a summary of some of the main events that happened during this civil war.

Date	Summary of the event
March 2011	Violence flares in Daraa after a group of teens and children are arrested for writing political graffiti. Many people are killed when security forces crack down on demonstrations.
March 30, 2011	Al-Assad addresses the nation in a 45-minute televised speech. He acknowledges that the government has not met the people's needs but he does not offer any concrete changes. The state of emergency remains in effect.
April 21, 2011	Al-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."

October 4, 2011	Russia and China veto a UN Security Council resolution that would call for an immediate halt to the crackdown in Syria against opponents of al-Assad. Nine of the 15-member council countries, including the United States, voted in favor of adopting the resolution.
January 6, 2013	Assad announces he will not step down and that his vision of Syria's future includes a new constitution and an end to support for the opposition, which he calls terrorists. The opposition refuses to work with Assad's government.
August 22, 2013	The UN and the United States call for an immediate investigation of Syrian activists' claims that the al-Assad government used chemical weapons in an attack on civilians on August 21. Anti-regime activist groups in Syria say more than 1,300 people were killed in the attack outside Damascus, many of them women and children. Video footage and witness reports appear to bolster claims that chemical weapons were used.
June 3, 2014	Al-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 14-15, 2015	A Pentagon spokesperson says the Russian military appears to be attempting to set up a forward operating base in western Syria, in the area around the port city of Latakia. Russian President Vladimir Putin says that Russia is supporting the Syrian government in its fight against ISIS.

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.
July 7, 2017	President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin reach an agreement on curbing violence in southwest Syria during their meeting at the G20 in Hamburg, Germany.
October 17, 2017	ISIS loses control of its self-declared capital, the Syrian city of Raqqa. US-backed forces fighting in Raqqa say "major military operations" have ended, though there are still pockets of resistance in the city.

Brief timeline of the Syrian Crisis' main events

A Concerning Humanitarian Situation

For more than six years, the violence during the Syrian conflict has skyrocketed. The United Nations estimated that more than 400 000 Syrians have been killed and more than 6 million fled the country. The Geneva Conventions consist of four treaties and three additional protocols. Those establish the standards of international law for humanitarian treatment in war and underline that basic rules need to be respected between the oppositions during a conflict. Media coverage showed that many human rights have been violated, with NGOs showing that a lot of the civilians have been tortured and executed. Serious allegations of the use of prohibited munitions, missiles and chemical weapons in populated areas have been made over the years.

Syrian children are undeniably the greatest victims of the Syrian crisis. They have been killed, tortured, sexually abused, detained in tremendous conditions and recruited and used by armed forces to fight during the war. This led to numerous war crimes being committed on a daily basis. The Syrian war ended up having drastic consequences in neighboring countries such as Iraq, Lebanon or Turkey. Their political stability has been threatened and many Syrian civilians became refugees in those countries.

As the conflict has worsened, so did the Syrians' living conditions. Many are living under the poverty line in Syria or as refugees in other countries. Many lost their families and homes. What became even more concerning was their lack of access to humanitarian aid. The Government has showed its inability to help its citizens.

Human rights violations

Chemical Weapons

Syria began developing its own chemical weapons in the mid-1980's but have imported some from the Soviet Union and Egypt decades beforehand. By 2007, hundreds of tons of such weapons were in the Syrian territory. In December 23, 2012, the first allegation of chemical weapons use was reported. Seven people were allegedly killed in Homs by a "poisonous gas" used by the Assad regime. In March 2013, a northern village was hit with a potent chemical weapon, causing the death of 26 people and many injuries. The first UN confirmed record of the use of a chemical weapon was on August the 21st, 2013 in the Syrian city of Ghouta. The chemical attack became the worst ever in the conflict so far, causing a lot of fatalities, including hundreds of children. Allies from both camps tried to prove that their enemies were responsible

for it based upon the rare available evidence. In fact, the chemical component sarin was used and considered 20 times deadlier than cyanide was. Sarin is known for its effects upon the nervous system and might cause a respiratory failure. It can end up causing death in a few minutes. However, such a chemical agent is hard to be detected since it doesn't have taste, color nor odor.

In November 15, 2013, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons' (OPCW) Executive Council approved a plan for the gradual elimination of Syria's stockpile of chemical weapons. It consisted of transporting the chemical agents outside of Syria and destructing them in another country or place. By May 1, 2014, Syria had missed the deadline provided by the OPCW to remove all of its chemical weapons stockpile from the country since approximately 8 percent of it – largely sarin – remained in Damascus.

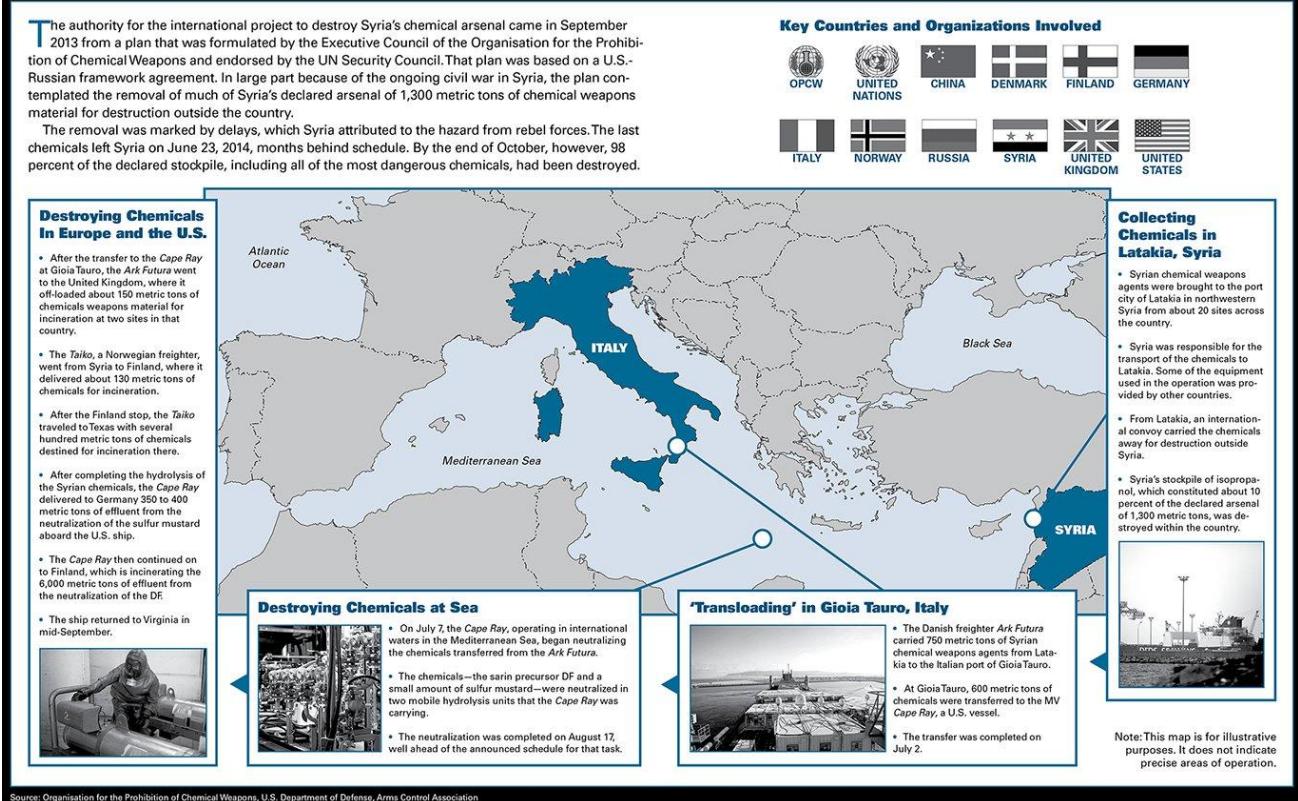
Figure 1: Eliminating Syria's Chemical Arsenal

Chart of the elimination of Syria's Chemical Arsenal

Refugees

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) announced by early 2017 that about 6.3 million Syrians fled their country. Turkey hosts over half of them, the majority of whom live in urban areas and around 260,000 in the 21 government-run refugee camps. In Lebanon, over 70% of the refugees live under the poverty line in more than 2,100 urban and rural communities. Some countries such as Jordan or Iraq have been highly pressured by the arrival of thousands of Syrians fleeing the war, with implications for the stability of the whole region. However, the exact number of refugees remains unknown as well as their needs. Other countries around the

world have also offered their help to the refugees, such as Morocco or France, by providing shelters, immigration rights or monetary aid.

The European Union has been the largest donor whilst the USA, UK or Sweden offered the refugees permanent settlement in their countries. Although their exiled lives are full of hardships, whether financial or emotional, for Syrians still at home, life is even harder.

Sieges

For laying siege to several areas of Syria controlled by rebels, the Syrian military decided to starve civilians of food, important resources and munitions. Therefore, the hospitals ended up lacking medical supplies, the diseases spread very fast and loads of people suffered from malnutrition. In addition to that, the Assad government force stirred up chemical attacks on the trapped civilians. Despite the international pressure, the government prohibited vital aid to reach the besieged areas. Therefore, the number of homeless people has drastically increased with persons escaping the conflict and fleeing their destructed houses. As of today, thousands of houses would need to be rebuilt as well as the buildings -hospitals, schools among others - needed for the population to thrive.

Geopolitical Issues

The Middle East is a region that has been known for the tremendous and regular political troubles. Insurgency in Iraq, conflicts in some areas in Turkey and the Syrian crisis clearly demonstrate the drastic geopolitical issues that worsen the situation in Syria but also impact other nearby countries. Energetics and the conflict opposing the Sunnis to the Shi'as are clear examples of the geopolitical problems in this region.

- Syria's regional allies

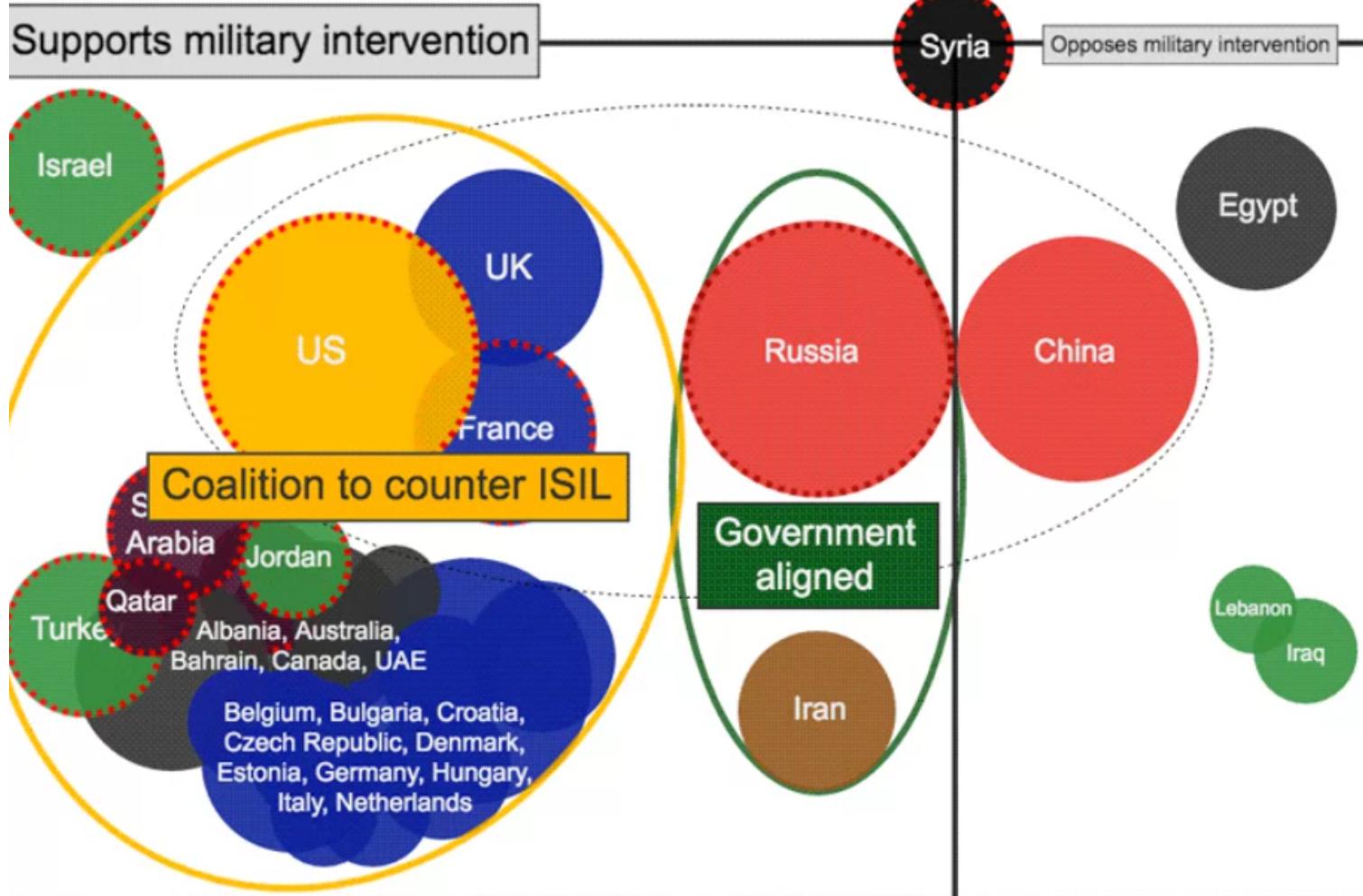
Sunnis and Shi'as are the two major branches of Islam. Following the Syrian crisis, that was mainly led by Sunni Muslims, the Shi'a dominated Iran and Lebanon's Hezbollah sided up with Al Assad's Syrian Government. This ended up adding a religious dimension to the war. On the rebels' side, stood Sunni dominated Qatar or Saudi Arab. They have been helping the Syrian Government, even though the latter denied being supported by them. Iran's ties with Syria as a political power has been a long-timed one because of their shared strategic interests, including fighting against the US and Israeli power in the Middle-Eastern region. Also, the Syrian regime is dominated by members of the Alawites, that is distantly related to the Shi'a religion, which is dominant in Iran. Furthermore, China, along with Russia, has thwarted UN Security Council resolution proposals against Syria at many times.

- Opposition groups

Since the beginning of the conflict, the amount of opposition groups to the Syria's Government has increased. For instance, one of the rebel groups supported by Turkey is the **Syrian National Council (SNC)**. It is against a military intervention but is calling for international support to protect Syrian citizens. The **National Co-ordination Committee (NCC)**, is also strongly opposed to any kind of military intervention. They are calling for strong diplomatic pressure on the Assad regime and are the only to talk with the government under certain conditions. As far as the **Free Syrian Army, (FSA)** is concerned, it was formed in August 2011 by army deserters based in Turkey and led by a former air force colonel Riyad al-Asaad. It is now a coalition of many rebels' groups. Most of the fighters from this group have a very basic military training but

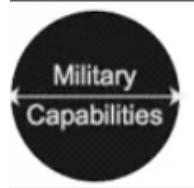
have to fight against a bigger and better trained Syrian army. Qatar has been a major ally of the groups of rebels and has provided them financial and diplomatic support since the rebellion began.

Connecting Syria's allies and enemies



Syrian refugees: **4,900,000**

Civilians killed: **240,000**



- Neighbour to Syria
- Is leading a coalition to strike Syria
- EU member which has supported an embargo and sanctions on Syria
- Permanent member of the UN Security Council

- Reportedly funding the rebels
- Active trading partner with Syria
- Ally of Syria

Data sources:
Refugees - UNHCR | Deaths - SOHR



Map of Syria's allies and enemies as of March 2016

International Involvement

Since its beginning, nations from all around the world have been involved in the Syrian War. Whether in terms of arguing against the humanitarian crisis or discussing about the geopolitical interests, countries tried to have an impact on the conflict.

- The Middle East

As explained previously, since Turkey is a bordering country, it was involved in the conflict especially when it came to take care of the refugees. Many of them have entered Turkey and impacted the country's economy and politics. Turkey is definitely a staunch supporter of the rebels and wants Al Assad to be impeached. The Israeli forces have bombed Syrian areas and seem to be mainly supporting the rebels. Both Turkey and the Israeli forces want the conflict to end. On the contrary, Iran is siding up with Al Assad, whilst Qatar provide the rebels with munitions to allow them to fight back.

- Europe

In the wake of the uprising, France has been supportive of the efforts of the opposition forces, calling for democracy. France tried to develop international resolutions to force Assad to withdraw from his position and install a government in Syria. The country recognized the opposition as a true form of rebellion against the Government. Great Britain has also showed its support to the opposition. Germany has also recognized the Syrian rebellion as Syria's real government and has been hoping for it to defeat Al Assad.

On the contrary, Russia has supported Bashar al-Assad's Government. During the UN several meetings on the Syrian War, Russia has halted resolutions that could have put a lot of pressure on Assad, when most countries were in favor of such resolutions. This is mainly due to Russia's interests in the region.

- Asia

China partnered up with Russia in order to keep Bashar al-Assad in power by standing up against almost the entire international community because of economic interests.

- America

Because of the long-time history of the United States in the Middle East, the country hesitated to get involved in the conflict in Syria. However, because of the country's strong views about democracy, the American government has supported international actions condemning Assad's actions. As far as Canada is concerned, it has joined the other international powers to recognize the Syrian opposition as the right government.

International Organizations

The United Nations has been organizing international debates to discuss about how to support in the Syrian Civil War since its start in 2011. As an international organization aiming at ensuring a peaceful and fair world, the UN made it their objective to choose what exactly to do. Allies of Al-Assad's Government, China and Russia have been the two main countries to show their opposition to every new resolution or sanction discussed. On the other hand, France, Great Britain or the United States showed their dedication to help the opposition forces. Because of the huge divisions among the powerful nations, the UN hasn't had a powerful impact in the Syrian Civil War. Nonetheless, the few resolutions have been passed in order to help the opposition. As for the Arab League, it has showed a clear support to the opposition forces since the very beginning of the Civil War. They have condemned Al-Assad's mistreatment of the Syrian civilians.

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