

Course wrap-up

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War, peace, and political violence

UC3M, Fall 2024

Overview

1. Wars at the international level

Overview

1. Wars at the international level
2. Internal conflict

Overview

1. Wars at the international level
2. Internal conflict
3. What happens *within* conflicts

Overview

1. Wars at the international level
2. Internal conflict
3. What happens *within* conflicts
4. What happens *after* conflicts

Overview

1. Wars at the international level
2. Internal conflict
3. What happens *within* conflicts
4. What happens *after* conflicts

→ Putting it all together

Overview

	Target: State	Target: Non-State
Perpetrator: State	Interstate war	State repression Genocide Ethnic cleansing
Perpetrator: Non-State	Organized crime Mass protests (rebellion) Military coup Political assassination* Civil War Terrorism	

Connecting logics

- **i1i**
 - civil wars engender genocide, or violence against civilians

Connecting logics

- $i1i$
 - civil wars engender genocide, or violence against civilians
- $i2i$
 - intercommunal violence used as a method for genocide, terrorism employed as part of wars...

Connecting logics

- i_1
 - civil wars engender genocide, or violence against civilians
- i_2
 - intercommunal violence used as a method for genocide, terrorism employed as part of wars...
- i_3
 - civil wars and international wars, Arab Spring, ...

Connecting logics

- i1i
 - civil wars engender genocide, or violence against civilians
- i2i
 - intercommunal violence used as a method for genocide, terrorism employed as part of wars...
- i3i
 - civil wars and international wars, Arab Spring, ...
- i4i
 - proxy wars (Cold War), coup-proofing via purging, terrorism ...

Syrian rebels storm into Damascus, claim Assad has fled

With Assad's whereabouts unknown, Syrian prime minister says the government is ready to "extend its hand" to the opposition and turn its functions over to a transitional government.

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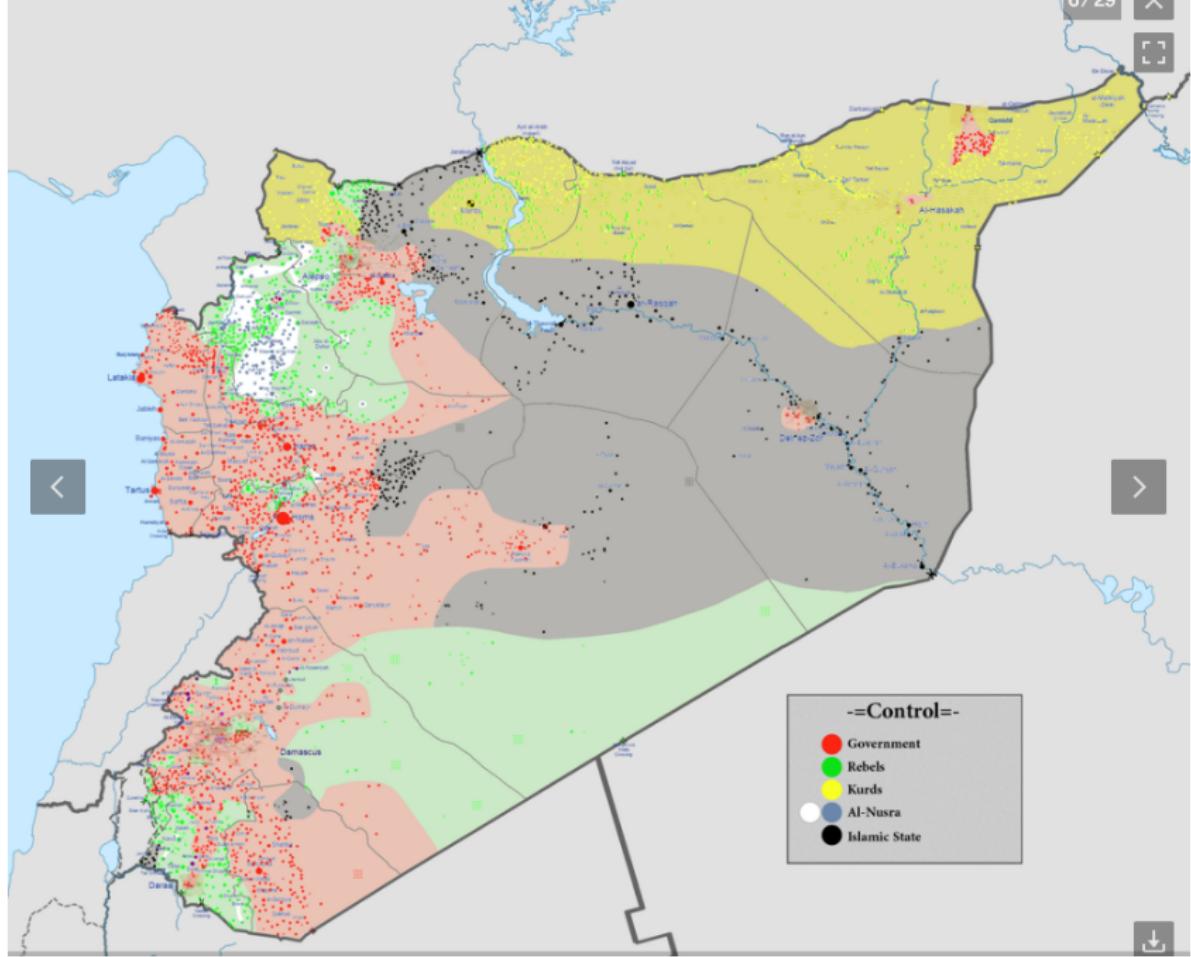
Middle East unrest: Three killed at protest in Syria

© 18 March 2011



| President Bashar al-Assad inherited power from his father in 2000

At least three protesters have been shot dead in the south Syrian city of Deraa as security forces clamped down on a protest rally.



Military situation in August 2016

 More details

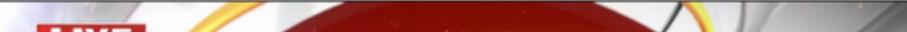
SYRIA

Abu Mohammed al-Golani, the leader at the center of Assad's fall a 'specially designated global terrorist'

Abu Mohammed al-Golani has been a specially designated global terrorist since 2013

By Michael Lee · Fox News

Published December 8, 2024 2:03pm EST



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BBC News



From Syrian jihadist leader to rebel politician: How Abu Mohammed al-Jolani reinvented himself

1 day ago

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Mina Al-Lami

Jihadist Media Specialist, BBC Monitoring



THE PATIENT EFFORTS BEHIND HAYAT TAHRIR AL-SHAM'S SUCCESS IN ALEPOO

AARON Y. ZELIN

COMMENTARY

DECEMBER 3, 2024



Policy Analysis / Articles & Op-Eds

How Syria's 'Diversity-Friendly' Jihadists Plan on Building a State

by Aaron Y. Zelin

Dec 3, 2024



[charleslister1.bsky.social](#) @charleslister1.bsky.social · 4d

But just as significant as military capabilities is the groundwork **#HTS** has done to facilitate its advance -- particularly in years of engagement with tribes, minority notables & other social bodies that exist beyond greater **#Idlib**.

This has been crucial.



Charles Lister @Charles_Lister

CYMI -- for the 1st time since 2011, **#Idlib**'s Christian community gathered on Sunday at the Church of St. Anna in al-Yacoubiya, near Jisr al-Shughour, **#Idlib** to celebrate the Orthodox St. Anna's Day.

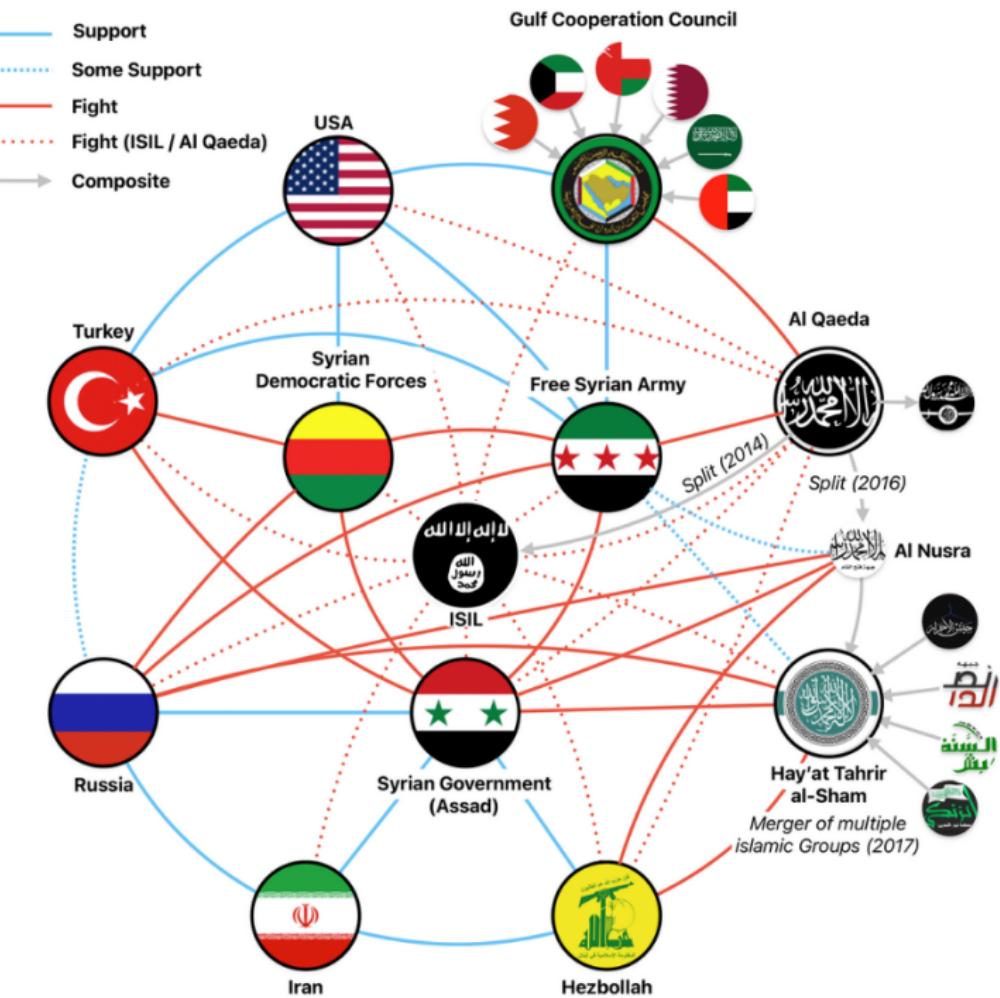
#HTS leader Jolani met with the Church's Bishop Luay al-Bisharat in July.

0:43 AM · Aug 30, 2022



من هو سيد نصر الله

DRG



Iran in a 'position of unprecedented weakness' after the fall of Assad in Syria

ANALYSIS ■ MIDDLE EAST

Iran finds itself isolated after the fall of Bashar al-Assad in Syria, which upended the Middle East by dismantling the "Axis of Resistance" – an informal, Iran-led alliance uniting Syria and armed groups like Hamas and Hezbollah. With key allies destroyed or weakened, Tehran will be forced to redefine its security policy and its regional role.

Issued on: 09/12/2024 - 13:57 Modified: 09/12/2024 - 14:04 | 4 min

By: Bahar MAKOOI Follow X



TODAY'S TOP STORIES

'Death camp': the haunting images from Syria's Sednaya prison

MIDDLE EAST

Live: Syria rebels to release 100 detainees
Assad officials accused of war crimes

LIVE ■ MIDDLE EAST



26-year-old suspect identified in US insurance executive's killing

Issues in Syrian civil war

- Link between non-violence and war
- Role of state repression
- Rebel group fragmentation and alliances
- Rebel governance
- Postwar power-sharing
- Internationalized civil wars
- (...)

Final exam

▼ Assignments / exams



TURNITIN ASSIGNMENT 2
DECEMBER EXAM (Deadline: Dec 20nd, 23:59h)



TURNITIN ASSIGNMENT 2
JANUARY EXAM (Deadline: Jan 15th, 23:59h)



TURNITIN ASSIGNMENT 2
BOOK REVIEW (Deadline: Jan 15th, 23:59h)

Book review

- Main idea: link what's in the book to some theory or ideas about political violence we've covered
- **Not** a summary of the book
 - Critique probably doesn't work either: many of these are journalistic books that tell what happened, not why or how (exceptions)
- Can cover one issue in depth or many more superficially
- **Word limit:** 2500 words (no formal minimum, but ca. 1000 words)
- Deadline is January 15 but can submit anytime

Take-home essay

- Two questions, 4 & 2 points each, 1000/500 words max
- I'll send the exam the previous evening

Take-home essay, short Q examples

Q1: (2 points, 500 words) Last January 6th, the US Capitol was stormed by a crowd of Trump supporters. Can we consider that event as an instance of political violence? Why or why not? Can we consider it as an example of a coup d'état attempt? Why or why not?

Take-home essay, short Q examples

Q1: (2 points, 500 words) Last year, Israel designated six Palestinian organizations who carry out NGO work as terrorist organizations (see this news article in *Haaretz*: <https://bit.ly/3GGCVeu>). The Israeli government claimed that, although these are NGOs, they “are controlled by the senior leadership of the PFLP and employ many members of the group … including activists who were involved in terrorism.” [The PFLP, or Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, is an armed organization that has been long designated as a terrorist organization by both the US and European Union, among other countries.] Do you agree with the Israeli decision? Why or why not?

Take-home essay, long Q examples

Q2: (4 points, 1000 words) Brexit, and the Northern Ireland Protocol in particular, has brought tensions to Northern Ireland. In Spring 2021 there were loyalist protests that eventually evolved into ethnic riots. Some voices now warn of the risk of larger scale political violence returning to the region. What do you think are the risk factors and/or what could be done to avoid another conflict? What is it different now than when the Troubles started in the late 1960s?

Take-home essay, long Q examples

- Q2:** (4 points, 1000 words) Protests have recently erupted in Kazakhstan and quickly escalated into violence between protesters and state forces, including Russian forces sent in by Putin, leaving more than 150 deaths, before calm returned earlier this week. What was the actual risk of large-scale violence in Kazakhstan? Should we be surprised that the protests did not escalate into e.g. a civil war? Is there risk of conflict in the short- to medium-term, like in other Central Asian countries?
- (There are many factors related to the escalation and onset of violence: structural conditions (economy, geography, ...), political relations (government/opposition dynamics, previous history of violence, ...), international politics, etc. You can focus on one of these factors or on many, and you can discuss risk factors, restraint factors (why a war is unlikely), or both. For background in Central Asia, you can check [UCDP Encyclopedia](#), [EPR ethnic data](#), Wikipedia, newspapers, etc.)

What can I help with?

Message ChatGPT



Create image

Make a plan

Surprise me

Brainstorm

More