

# Countdown to the Destruction in Syria? Timeline of US and Allied Interventions in Syria (1916-2016)

By [Dana Visalli](#)

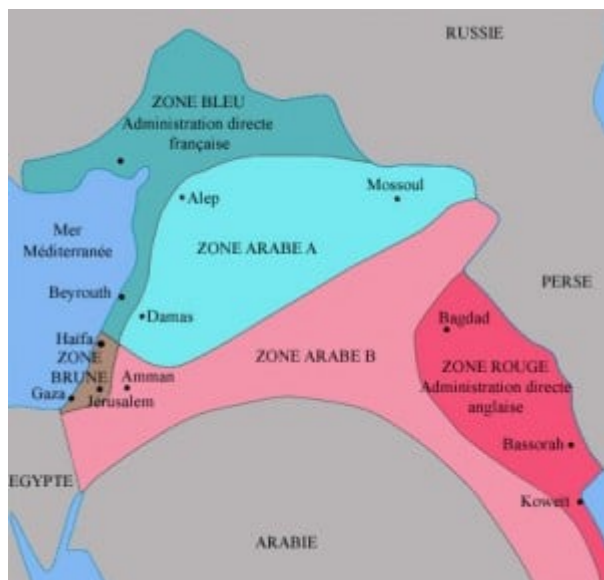
Global Research, February 22, 2016

Theme: [US NATO War Agenda](#)

In-depth Report: [SYRIA](#)

*"I want to go on record as saying that this is the stupidest, most irresponsible action a diplomatic mission like ours could get itself involved in, and that we've started a series of these things that will never end."* Dean Hinton, US State Department official pertaining to planned CIA coup against Syria in 1949 (1)

The following is a timeline of US and allied interventions over the past 100 years. (1916-2016)



Sykes-Picot (1916)

1916- Sykes-Picot Agreement, Syria 'given' to France, Iraq to Britain. (2)

1920- French defeat an independence movement in Syria. (3)

1925- France defeats a second independence movement in Syria, shells Damascus (3)

1936- France grants Syria independence, but French parliament refuses to ratify (3)

1941- Syria declares independence (3)

1944- Jewish irregular armed units operating independently of Jewish Agency control (but at times with its tacit approval) launch a campaign of terror against British personnel and Arab civilians in Palestine. (4)

1945- France tries to stop independence movement, shells Damascus, kills 400 (3)

1946- Independence from France, Syrian President is Shukri al-Quwatli (5)

1947- *The Promised Land extends from the River of Egypt up to the Euphrates, it includes parts of Syria and Lebanon*—UN testimony by Rabbi Fischmann, member of the Jewish Agency for Palestine (6)

1948- Israel created out of Palestine, Arab-Israeli War

1948- Syria participates in Arab wars against Israel in 1948, 1967 & 1973, earning U.S. enmity. (7)

1949- CIA-sponsored coup under Truman over oil pipeline through Syria, see Deane Hinton quote (1)

1949- Two more coups, CIA man overthrown in the second, another returned in third

1954- Fourth coup, CIA-supported Adib Shiskali overthrown (5)

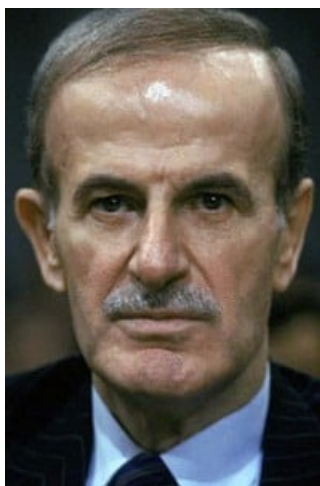
1955- Shukri al-Quwatli re-instated (see above, 1946). (5)

1956- CIA under Eisenhower tries to overthrow al-Quwatli with 'Operation Straggle' (8)

1957- Eisenhower implements 'Operation Wappen,' another coup attempt (5)

1957- Turkey masses 50,000 troops on Syrian border after the latter was claimed to be a 'Soviet Satellite' with 'not more than 123 Russian MIGs' (fighter planes). Reporter Kennett Love later said that "there were indeed 'not more than 123 Migs'. There were none." (8)

1960s- Frequent coups, military revolts, civil disorders and bloody riots



1970- Minister of Defense Hafez al-Assad (image left) seizes power in a bloodless coup

1979- Syria earns increased animosity of the U.S. government by supporting the Iranian revolution. (9)

1980- National Security Council urges President Carter's National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski to identify "possible alternative regimes to Syria's Hafez al-Assad government.

(10)

1982- *"Israel must become an imperial regional power, and must effect the division of the whole area into small states by the dissolution of all existing Arab states."* from 'A Strategy for Israel in the 1980s' (11)

1996- American Report: "Israel can shape its strategic environment by weakening Syria ." [A Clean Break: A New Strategy for Securing the Realm](#). The document proposed regime change in Iraq primarily as a "means" of "weakening, containing, and even rolling back Syria . As Pat Buchanan put it: "In the Perle-Feith-Wurmser strategy, Israel 's enemy remains Syria , but the road to Damascus runs through Baghdad ." (12)

2003- Israel launches a missile attack on Syria , the first strike into Syrian territory in 30 years. President Bush immediately condoned the attack

2004-. Labeling Syria "an extraordinary threat, US Congress passed sanctions against the country. (13)

2006- Cable from William Roebuck, chargé d'affaires at the US embassy in Damascus published later by Wikileaks. The cable outlines strategies for destabilizing the Syrian government. (14)

2007- We need to do everything possible to destabilize the Syrian regime. Cheney's Middle East adviser David Wurmser. (15)

2009- US blocks Syrian efforts to join the World Trade Organization, which along with sanctions negatively impacts the Syrian economy.(16)

\* \* \*

2011- March. Onslaught of terror attacks in the border city of Daraa, supported by US-NATO, Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Israel

2012- From Defense Intelligence Agency document: "The West, Gulf Countries and Turkey support the Syrian opposition...There is a possibility of establishing a Salfist Principality in Eastern Syria ."

2012- CIA known to be funneling weapons to Syrian opposition (17)

2016- 320,000 Syrians killed since open warfare began in 2011, with 12 million refugees (out of a total population of 22 million), and the human and ecological infrastructure of the country largely destroyed.

*Dana Visalli is n biologist living in Washington State ; he has visited Iraq and Afghanistan often and is on his way to Syria. He has essays on Iraq, Afghanistan and Vietnam at [www.methownaturalist.com](http://www.methownaturalist.com)*

Notes

1. <http://nationalinterest.org/commentary/washingtons-long-history-syria-8717>

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3. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History\\_of\\_Syria](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Syria)
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16. Sadat, Mi H and Daniel B Jones (2009) 'U.S. Foreign Policy Towards Syria: balancing ideology and national interests', Middle East Policy Council, Summer, Volume XVI, Number 2, online: <http://www.mepc.org/journal/middle-east-policyarchives/us-foreign-policy-toward-syria--balancing-ideology-and-national-interests?print>
17. [http://www.nytimes.com/2012/06/21/world/middleeast/cia-said-to-aid-in-steering-arms--to-syrian-rebels.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/06/21/world/middleeast/cia-said-to-aid-in-steering-arms--to-syrian-rebels.html?_r=0)

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