

The Cruel Farce of “Humanitarian Intervention”

By [Civilisation 3000](#)

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Region: [Middle East & North Africa](#)

Theme: [Law and Justice](#), [Terrorism](#), [US](#)

[NATO War Agenda](#)

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[Simon Jenkins](#): *“It is a war crime to disable, maim or poison a victim by chemical or biological means, yet it is permissible to blow them to bits. Dropping chlorine evokes howls of horror. Dropping bunker busters does not. Cluster munitions, the most horrible of delayed action weapons, remain in the arsenals of NATO armies”.*

Jenkins reflects that not a week passes without some new horror emanating from the vortex of the Middle East:

“So called ‘wars among the peoples’ are, like all civil wars, distinctively terrible. Cities deaden the impact of an infantry advance. Reckless bombing takes over and accidents happen. Saudi Arabia bombs a funeral party in Sanaa. Russia bombs an aid convoy and a hospital in Aleppo. Western planes bomb friendly troops outside Mosul. There is no appetite for British troops on the ground. All talk is of bombing, intervention lite”.

Britain has already contributed too much to Syria’s hell:

- It helped America create a power vacuum in neighbouring Iraq where Isis could form and flourish.
- It then encouraged and gave material support to the rebels against Assad in 2012, ensuring that he would need support from Russia, Iran and Hezbollah.
- American and RAF aircraft killed 80 Syrian soldiers protecting the town of Deir Ezzor from Isis.
- British ‘intelligence’ has given America information, enabling them to kill many civilians alongside their stated targets.

Syria and the cruel farce of ‘humanitarian intervention: “Affecting to save people by bombing them from a great height is not just ineffective but immoral”



Many of us are now applauding this 'aid to Syria'

Jenkins gave many examples of this immorality and ineffectiveness – just four follow:

"Some 12,000 coalition bombing sorties have been directed at Isis in northern Iraq in the past two years. Tens of thousands of civilians have died in the 'collateral' carnage. In Syria, the human rights network estimates that Russian bombs have killed more Syrian civilians than Isis. Last year the Americans bombed an MSF hospital in Afghanistan. Bombs are unreliable. Stuff happens".

He explains the appeal of airborne weapons to politicians down the ages.

"For rich aggressors against poorly armed foes, they have glamour and immunity to counterattack, and have found new life in so called precision targeting and unmanned drones. In reality they have proved almost useless against fanatical soldiers with mortars and AK 47s. But they look good on television back home. They are 'something being done' ".

Jenkins describes the disintegration of the Middle East as a tragedy for Islam, but not the West's business. Here we disagree, seeing it as a result of Anglo-Saxon West intervention, using soft and hard power.



[The Scotsman](#) reports that Alex Salmond, the SNP's foreign affairs spokesman, joined

Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn who is calling for greater effort to achieve a negotiated end to the conflict:

“The British government should urge restraint on the Trump administration and throw its weight behind peace negotiations and a comprehensive political settlement.”

Corbyn: “Reconvene the Geneva peace talks and exert unrelenting international pressure for a negotiated settlement”

The Labour leader said: “Tuesday’s horrific chemical attack was a war crime which requires urgent independent UN investigation and those responsible must be held to account. But unilateral military action without legal authorisation or independent verification risks intensifying a multi-sided conflict that has already killed hundreds of thousands of people.

“What is needed instead is to urgently reconvene the Geneva peace talks and exert unrelenting international pressure for a negotiated settlement of the conflict.”

Jenkins: Nations and peoples do have a humanitarian obligation to aid those afflicted by war, to relieve suffering, not add to it, to aid those trying to comfort war’s victims and offer sanctuary to its refugees, not to take sides, guns blazing, in other people’s civil wars:

“British politicians would do better to spend their time organising relief than shouting adjectives, banging drums and dropping bombs”.

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