

Republic Syrid

MAL FACT SHEET



SUMMARY

The Syrian Arab Republic is bordering the Mediterranean Sea, between Lebanon and Turkey with Jordan and Iraq to the south.

Chief of State: President Bashar al-ASAD Capital: Damascus Gov Type: presidential republic; highly authoritarian regime Population: 23,865,423

Colonial History: Syria was part of the Ottoman Empire from 1516 until the empire's decline during World War I. With the Ottoman Empire's collapse, the Sykes-Picot Agreement of 1916 set the borders for Syria. In 1920, the League of Nations mandated France to govern Syria. Although the Franco-Syrian Treaty of 1936 promised Syrian independence, it was never implemented. During World War II, Syria was controlled by the Vichy French government until British and Free French forces took over in 1941. In 1943, elections were held and Shukri al-Quwatli became Syria's first president, though full independence wasn't until April 17, 1946. The post-independence period began with a series of military coups in 1949. Between 1958 and 1961, Syria briefly merged with Egypt to form the United Arab Republic, but dissolved following a Syrian coup. In 1963, the Ba'ath Party seized power and continues to influence Syrian politics.

GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

The Republic of Tunisia is about 187,437 sq km in total area and has 1,550 sq km of water and has 193 km of coastline.

The climate is mostly desert; hot, dry, sunny summers and mild, rainy winters along coast; cold weather with snow periodically in Damascus. The terrain is mostly desert plateau with narrow coastal plains and mountains in west.

Natural resources include petroleum, phosphates, chrome and manganese ores, asphalt, iron ore, rock salt, marble, gypsum, and hydropower

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Summer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

DEMOGRAPHICS

Noun: Syrian(s) Adjective: Syrian

Ethnic Groups: Arab ~50%, Alawite ~15%, Kurd ~10%, Levantine ~10%, other ~15% (includes Druze, Ismaili, Imami, Nusairi, Assyrian, Turkoman, Armenian)

Religion: Muslim 87% (official; includes Sunni 74% and Alawi, Ismaili, and Shia 13%), Christian 10% (includes Orthodox, Uniate, and Nestorian), Druze 3% (note: the Christian population may be considerably smaller as a result of Christians fleeing the country during the ongoing civil war) Literacy: 86.4% (Male 91.7%, Female 81%) Population growth is at at 1.67%

ECONOMY AND GDP

Syria's economy is described as a low-income Middle Eastern economy; prior infrastructure and economy devastated by 11-year civil war; ongoing US sanctions; sporadic trans-migration during conflict; currently being supported by World Bank trust fund; ongoing hyperinflation

Real GDP (Purchasing Power Parity): \$50.28 billion (2015), \$55.8 billion (2014), \$61.9 billion (2013) Real GDP Growth Rate: 1.3% (2021), -0.18% (2020), 1.22% (2019) Real GDP Per Capita: \$2,900 (2015) GDP (Official Exchange Rate): \$8.97 billion (2021) Inflation Rate (Consumer Prices): 28.1% (2017), 47.3% (2016) GDP - Composition: agriculture: 20% (2017), industry: 19.5% (2017), services: 60.8% (2017) Unemployment Rate: 13.81% (2022), 15.08% (2021), 15.28% (2020) Youth Unemployment: 26.2% (2021)

MAIN POLITICAL CONTENTIONS

The Assad family has ruled Syria since 1970 when Hafez al-Assad seized power in a coup. His son, Bashar al-Assad, took over in 2000. The Assad family belongs to the Alawite sect, a minority in Syria, which has led to tensions with the Sunni majority and other minority groups. Syria is home to diverse ethnic and religious groups, including Kurds, Christians, Druze, and others. Sectarian divisions have been exacerbated by political influences.

Pro-democracy protests erupted in 2011 as part of the Arab Spring, demanding political reforms and the end of Assad's rule. The regime's violent crackdown on protesters led to a civil war. The civil war has seen various factions vying for control. The conflict has caused a massive humanitarian crisis, with hundreds of thousands killed, millions displaced, and widespread destruction of infrastructure.

Iran and Hezbollah have supported the Assad regime, while Turkey, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar have backed various opposition groups. Russia has provided significant military support to the Assad regime, while the United States and its allies have supported certain opposition factions and conducted airstrikes against ISIS.

Syrian Kurds, primarily in the northeast, have sought greater autonomy and established self-administration in areas like Rojava during the civil war. Turkey views the Kurdish autonomy movements as a threat due to its own Kurdish insurgency and has conducted military operations in northern Syria to counter Kurdish forces.

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The Syrian Arab Republic

22 March 1945 Syria joins the Arab League after gaining independence in March 1956.

1949 A series of military coups overtook the Syrian government.

1958 to 1961 Syria briefly merged with Egypt to form the United Arab Republic, but dissolved following a Syrian coup.

1967

Six Day War fought between Israel and a coalition of Arab states (Egypt, Jordan, and Syria).

27 June 1980 Muslim Brotherhood member tries to assassinate Assad

2005

Syria claims it has withdrawn all of its military forces from Lebanon, following alleged involvement in the February killing of former Lebanese PM Rafik Hariri.

2007

Syria imposes tough visa restrictions on Iraqis. Israel carries out aerial strike on a nuclear • facility in northern Syria

November 2011

Syria is suspended from the Arab League with the support of 18 of its 22 members, and, further, imposed sanctions on the regime.

May 2012

More than 100 are killed in Houla, known as the "Houla massacre".

2014

In June, ISIS declares a caliphate in territory it controls in Syria and Iraq. Followed by the US conducting airstrikes against ISIS in Syria in September.

April 4 2017

A chemical attack in Khan Sheikhoun kills dozens. The US responds with missile strikes on a Syrian airbase and safe zones come into effect in May.

October 2019 The US announces the withdrawal of its troops from northern Syria, leading to a Turkish offensive against Kurdish forces. April 17, 1946. Syria gains full independence from the French.

1954

Army officers lead a coup against al-Shishakli and return a civilian government to power.

1963

The Ba'ath Party seized power and continues to influence Syrian politics.

1973

Syria and Egypt go to war with Israel. A disengagement agreement is signed the following year in 1974.

2000

Assad dies and is succeeded by his son, Bashar.

2006

Thousands of people flee into Syria to escape the Israeli-Lebanese War. Syria and Iraq restore diplomatic relations

2011

"Day of Dignity" protest held in Damascus; "Day of Rage" protest held in Deraa. President Assad dismisses government and

accuses protesters of being Israeli agents (March).

Army tanks enter cities in an effort to crush anti-regime protests (May).

US and EU tighten sanctions on Syria (May).

2013

Syrian opposition captures Raqqa (March). On August 21, A chemical weapons attack in Ghouta, near Damascus, kills hundreds. Western countries blame the Assad regime, which denies responsibility.

September 2015

Russia launches a military intervention in support of the Assad government.

April 2018

Another suspected chemical attack in Douma prompts missile strikes by the US, UK, and France on Syrian government targets. 2020-Current Syria remains in a multifaceted crisis marked by ongoing conflict. Syria was allowed back into the Arab League in 2023.

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