



# Threat Assessment

## Syria Conflict

No Classification

Cleared for Public Release: 3/30/2025

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- **Score: 91**
  - **Threat Level: Catastrophic**
  - **Elevated global impact with considerable geopolitical disruption, major economic and societal consequences.**
  - **Strategic Response: Coordinated global, economic, and diplomatic response required. Focus on crisis management and reconstruction.**
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The conflict in Syria, as of 2025, remains a persistent and multifaceted crisis characterized by ongoing localized battles, deep geopolitical entanglements, and severe humanitarian consequences. While large-scale offensives have diminished, the war persists through insurgent activity, foreign military interventions, and territorial disputes involving rebel groups, Kurdish factions, and ISIS remnants. The country's economy remains crippled by war, sanctions, and corruption, exacerbating poverty and social unrest. Millions of Syrians remain displaced, both internally and abroad, with little hope for safe repatriation due to instability and repression. Proxy warfare continues, with Iran, Russia, Turkey, and Western powers maintaining vested interests, while regional spillover risks remain moderate, particularly along the Israeli, Iraqi, and Turkish borders. Though Syria no longer dominates global security concerns, it remains a volatile and destabilizing force in the Middle East, with no clear resolution in sight.

This report aims to analyze the current state of the conflict in Syria, exploring its scale and intensity, geopolitical consequences, economic disruptions, and broader global effects.

### **Expanded Conflict Threat Matrix:**

1. Scale & Intensity
  - 1.1. Score: 3 (Moderate)
  - 1.2. Description: Syria remains a large-scale war with ongoing hostilities, particularly in the northwest and eastern regions. Although major urban battles have decreased, sporadic fighting between rebel factions, ISIS remnants, and foreign-backed militias continues. Displacement remains significant, with millions still refugees or internally displaced.
  
2. Geopolitical Impact



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- 2.1. Score: 3 (Moderate)
  - 2.2. Description: While Syria no longer dominates global headlines, it continues to shape regional geopolitics. Iran, Russia, and Turkey maintain their presence, influencing Middle Eastern stability. Western nations remain diplomatically engaged but have reduced direct involvement.
3. Economic Consequences
    - 3.1. Score: 2 (Low)
    - 3.2. Description: Syria's economy is in shambles, but its impact on global markets is limited. The country's reconstruction remains stalled due to sanctions, corruption, and ongoing instability.
4. Risk of Escalation & Spillover
    - 4.1. Score: 3 (Moderate)
    - 4.2. Description: Cross-border tensions persist, particularly with Israel targeting Iranian-backed militias. However, the conflict is largely contained within Syria, with occasional regional implications.
5. Involvement of Major State & Non-State Actors
    - 5.1. Score: 3 (Moderate)
    - 5.2. Description: Syria remains a battleground for proxy warfare, with Iran, Russia, Turkey, and non-state actors like Hezbollah actively involved, while the U.S. maintains a limited presence.
6. Disruption of Critical Global Systems
    - 6.1. Score: 2 (Low)
    - 6.2. Description: Syria no longer significantly disrupts global supply chains, though regional energy routes and migration patterns are still affected.



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7. Use of Hybrid & Asymmetric Warfare

7.1. Score: 4 (High)

7.2. Description: Various actors engage in drone warfare, cyber operations, and disinformation campaigns, particularly Iran-backed groups and insurgents.

8. Cultural Identity Conflicts

8.1. Score: 3 (Moderate)

8.2. Description: Sectarian and ethnic divisions persist, with ongoing tensions between Kurds, Arabs, and religious minorities, exacerbated by foreign influence.

9. Religious Tensions

9.1. Score: 3 (Moderate)

9.2. Description: While religious extremism has declined, underlying sectarian divides between Sunni, Shia, and Alawite factions remain a key driver of conflict.

10. Socioeconomic Disparity

10.1. Score: 4 (High)

10.2. Description: Widespread poverty, economic collapse, and corruption fuel unrest, particularly in areas where resources are monopolized.

11. Political Instability

11.1. Score: 4 (High)

11.2. Description: The Assad regime's fall from power created internal power vacuums, economic instability. The new Syrian government has risen, being led by Ahmed al-Sharaa, a former militant.

12. Technological Dependence

12.1. Score: 2 (Low)



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12.2. Description: Syria's reliance on technology is minimal due to infrastructural damage, though cyber threats persist.

13. Cybersecurity Threats

13.1. Score: 3 (Moderate)

13.2. Description: Cyberattacks target state institutions, opposition groups, and foreign actors involved in Syria, particularly by Iranian and Russian-backed elements.

14. Military Alliances

14.1. Score: 3 (Moderate)

14.2. Description: While Syria remains tied to Iran and Russia, formal military coalitions are limited, with Turkey and Kurdish factions maintaining separate interests.

15. Industry Collapse

15.1. Score: 3 (Moderate)

15.2. Description: Syria's industrial sector is severely degraded, with agriculture, oil production, and manufacturing in ruins.

16. Environmental Crises

16.1. Score: 3 (Moderate)

16.2. Description: Years of war have led to environmental degradation, water shortages, and agricultural collapse, exacerbating food insecurity.

17. Education & Knowledge Gaps

17.1. Score: 4 (High)

17.2. Description: A generation of Syrians has been deprived of proper education due to war, displacement, and ideological indoctrination.



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18. Human Rights Violations
    - 18.1. Score: 4 (High)
    - 18.2. Description: Ongoing reports of arbitrary detentions, war crimes, and human rights abuses persist, particularly in contested territories.
  
  19. Migration & Refugee Crises
    - 19.1. Score: 4 (High)
    - 19.2. Description: Millions of Syrian refugees remain in neighboring countries and Europe, with limited prospects for safe return due to continued instability.
  
  20. Media & Information Warfare
    - 20.1. Score: 3 (Moderate)
    - 20.2. Description: Both state and non-state actors manipulate media narratives, using propaganda and disinformation to maintain control and justify actions.
  
  21. Resource Scarcity
    - 21.1. Score: 3 (Moderate)
    - 21.2. Description: Water shortages and energy deficits impact daily life, with competition over resources fueling localized conflicts.
  
  22. Financial Instability
    - 22.1. Score: 3 (Moderate)
    - 22.2. Description: Syria's currency remains highly devalued, inflation is rampant, and the economy is heavily dependent on foreign aid and illicit trade.
  
  23. Climate Change
    - 23.1. Score: 3 (Moderate)



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- 23.2. Description: Droughts and desertification exacerbate food and water scarcity, driving rural displacement.
24. Trade Wars & Sanctions
- 24.1. Score: 4 (High)
- 24.2. Description: U.S. and EU sanctions cripple Syria's economy, limiting reconstruction efforts and worsening humanitarian conditions.
25. Intellectual Property Theft
- 25.1. Score: 2 (Low)
- 25.2. Description: Limited technological development means IP theft is not a major issue, though some illicit smuggling of technology occurs.
26. Energy Security
- 26.1. Score: 3 (Moderate)
- 26.2. Description: Syria's reliance on Iranian oil and black-market fuel supplies highlights persistent energy insecurity.
27. International Law & Governance
- 27.1. Score: 3 (Moderate)
- 27.2. Description: Syria's violations of international norms, including chemical weapons use and war crimes, continue to challenge global governance structures.
28. Technological Innovation & AI
- 28.1. Score: 2 (Low)
- 28.2. Description: Syria remains technologically underdeveloped, though foreign actors use AI and cyber tools for intelligence and warfare.



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29. Nationalism & Populism

29.1. Score: 3 (Moderate)

29.2. Description: Rising nationalist rhetoric in various factions, fuels ongoing divisions and recruitment efforts.

30. Public Health Crises

30.1. Score: 3 (Moderate)

30.2. Description: The healthcare system is still in ruins, with limited access to medical care, malnutrition, and recurring disease outbreaks.

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