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**MONOGRAPH**

**Syrian military and political conflict analysis.**

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## GRATITUDE

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## **SUMMARY**

In recent years we have heard news from Syria, News that probably most of us ignore, because maybe we have the idea of a selfish person, the thought that affects us because it is far or because it is not Ecuador's problem. The problem does not affect us directly but it affects humanity, the situation that exists in the Middle East is a humanitarian crisis, in fact one of the biggest that has been experienced in the last century. More than 5 million Syrians had to flee their country and the vast majorities take refuge in European countries.

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## INTRODUCTION

The following document is about the current situation in Syria, the conflicts that have been going on since 2011, the cause, the civil war that the country had and the accusations that have been made to the current prime minister of the country for the alleged use of chemical weapons against the population. It will also deal with how countries have entered the conflict and which countries are currently inside.

It will also deal with the lack of knowledge about the subject in the context of people, as people ignore a reality. For this, carry out a survey to see how much people were informed about this conflict.

## CHAPTER I

### Civil War

*“You can destroy the enemy, but not a country. And what will rise from the ashes of that country, can be even worse than your previous enemy”*

#### 1.1. Causes.

To understand the actual military conflict in Syria that had left more than half million victims and more than 4,9 million refugees in the last 7 years , we have to go back to an event in the history of some arab countries, The Arab Spring. Civil manifestations that took place in 2011 in countries like Tunisia, Libya and Egypt, and then spread to other Muslim states, including Syria, are known with this name. The objective of the protesters was to ask for more civil liberties to the Government opening towards more democratic models and respect for human rights.

Nevertheless, what started as a peaceful social movement, soon became in an armed confrontation that has already entered its seventh year. One of the main reasons for the armed conflict was the divergence between the state model represented by Bashar al-Assad and the one proposed by the group opponents. The current president defends a system of an inherited government and centralized in a single figure, while the opponents claim another where they prevail democratic guarantees, civil rights and diversity and the equality of different groups that inhabit the country. In fact, in the peace process that has begun in



Geneva (Switzerland), one of the key issues has been the concessions that should be done for a greater political and social opening.

In 2000, Hafez Al Assad died and was succeeded by his son Bashar Al Assad, President of the acting Republic, converting the military dictatorship into a dynasty. Bashar came to power as a reformer compared to the intensely dictatorial regime inherited from the father. The hopes of democratic opening, encouraged by some partial amnesties of political prisoners and an essay on freedom of expression that was known as the Damascus Spring, they soon vanished. Assad, endorsed unopposed in the post in 2007, confirmed and still reinforced the vast internal security apparatus. During the government of Bashar Al Assad the politicians parties have continued to be banned and a secular ideology has been emphasized tries to eliminate religious segmentation among laity, Shia and Sunni.

## **1.2. Other countries interested in the conflict.**

The Syrian conflict can be part of one of the processes of political-social change that currently operates on the planet. These processes of political change are increasingly frequent, short and intense, and affect everyone. According to the university of Barcelona "in the Syrian case, it is observed that the origin of the instability lies in national issues, although very influenced by the regional situation" taken from the political analysis of the syrian conflict by Dr. Xavier FERNÁNDEZ PONS

The first demonstrations against the regime in 2011 showed a change in the intensity of the demands for change on the part of society, as well as in their levels of support, although

possibly not in the content of the demands. At the same time, this has resulted in an increase in violence to a civil war situation.

The international community is divided between the countries allied with the Syrian government and the countries that support the rebel groups. Among the international actors of the conflict are, first of all, the States bordering Syria or forming part of the region, which are affected by refugees escaping the war and who, in some cases, have aligned themselves with one of the warring parties. Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, Egypt, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Israel are some States that have positioned against Assad. On the contrary, Iran has positioned itself in favor of Assad; although during September 2013 he has moderated his position and has positioned himself as a mediator between the Syrian regime and the international community. The level of intervention is difficult to determine since the actors involved they deny some of the information that emerges about their intervention, either by false information or by military strategy. Among these information has been affirmed that Lebanon and Turkey have supplied weapons to opposition groups. Iran has sold weapons to the Syrian government and has announced on July 17, 2013 that it will send to 40,000 soldiers to Syria against opponents of the Syrian regime, whom he accuses of the attack of August 21 made with chemical weapons. On May 5, 2013, Israel shoots against western Damascus, although according to Western espionage the objective was Lebanon.



### **1.3. Kurds**

In their eagerness to perpetuate themselves in power and silence voices asking for his resignation, in March 2011 Bashar al Assad promised a series of reforms. One of them was the granting of Syrian citizenship to 360,000 Kurds whom the Baath Party had never recognized during his 50 years of mandate. The alliance between Damascus and the Workers' Party of Kurdistan during the eighties and nineties with Hafez al Assad in the presidency, it was cut short in the year 2000 with the arrival of Bashar to power and his approach to Ankara. When analyzing the results and in the opinion of Meseguer from that moment the repression of the Syrian regime against the Kurdish people – the 10% of the Syrian population- increased dramatically with thousands of political prisoners and bloody episodes as the death of 30 protesters in Al Qamishli in 2004. In July 2012, the Party of the Democratic Union political arm of the PKK in Syria - and its armed militia, the Popular Protection Units, were made with the control of certain majority regions Kurdish people from the north of the country and the Kurdish neighborhoods of Aleppo after the withdrawal of the regime's troops.

The withdrawal tactical government of Bashar al Assad had a double objective: to concentrate these military forces in the battle of Aleppo and press Turkey, which offers support active to the Syrian opposition and is confronted with the PKK since 1984, in a conflict that has already left of 40,000 dead. Some analysts point out that the cession of the territories the PYD was due to a pact between the regime and the Kurdish formation, extreme that the president of the PYD, Salih Muslim has always categorically denied: "We are not allies of the regime. We are supporters of the revolution but we refuse to join the

National Coalition Syria because the historical use of the Kurds for the pursuit of national causes in Turkey or Iran has brought us bad experiences. We do not want be used and that after recognition is denied of the Kurds as a people of Syria. " Faced with the dilemma of joining a National Coalition Syria - with a marked Arab and Islamist agenda and supported by Turkey- or remain faithful to Damascus with its repressive record, the Syrian Kurds have chosen to declare autonomy and manage their own revolution. The sunset underway of self-government by the PYD has not been too complex since the training has an organizational gear and experience acquired during the Hafez al Assad era. In addition, the Democratic Union Party has maintained administrative structures and officials States that have gone from working for Damascus to do it for the Kurdish administration Despite having approximately an endorsement 50% of the Kurdish society and dispose of the main armed militia, the YPG, the PYD is aware of than to manage the revolution in the majority Kurdish regions, strengthen the struggle for recognition of the Kurdish people and guarantee their rights In a future Syrian Constitution, consensus is necessary with the rest of Kurdish political formations and For this reason, in July 2012, the Pact of Erbil was signed.



## CHAPTER II

### Chemical Weapons

#### 2.1. Use of chemical Weapons

Since the beginning of the armed conflict in Syria, both sides, the regime of Bashar al-Assad and the Syrian opposition, have accused each other of the use of chemical weapons. These allegations are not entirely strange, since they are normal in this type of conflicts seeking, in most cases, the sympathy and support from the international community. While practically none of these allegations have confirmed the use of chemical weapons, the case of the Syrian conflict is of special interest for two reasons: on the one hand, the high probability that the Syrian regime has significant amounts of chemical weapons, and, another, the complexity of the internal actors of the conflict, which include not only the Syrian Government and the Free Syrian Army, but also terrorist organizations like Jabhat al-Nusra, linked to al-Qaeda, and Hezbollah.

This situation calls into question the importance of carrying out an intervention military in Syria; even the Al-Assad government has agreed to have chemical weapons, which can be seen in the *Mission Report of the United Nations to Investigate Complaints of the Use of Chemical Weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic*. In this report, the use of this type of weapons in an attack perpetrated on August 21, 2013 against the rebels in the suburban areas of Damascus; however, the government of Al-Assad categorically denied the use of this type of weapons.



In accordance with the events that occurred on August 21, 2013, they were presented intelligence reports that confirmed the use of chemical weapons by the regime of Bashar Al-Assad; in that attack, they were counted more than 1,400 dead, including a large number of children, so that this act was described as a 'crime against humanity', which led the executive of the United States of America to consider an intervention military that would be a 'limited action', meaning that the use of military force would be used only to respond to the use of weapons of mass destruction by the Syrian government in the conflict in that country, as well as to stop the use of such weapons in order to protect the interests of the national security of the United States of America and protect allies this State against the use of such weapons and diminish the capacity of Syria for use in the future. Situation that led to present before the Congress of the United States of America an initiative where establishes the possibility of carrying out a humanitarian intervention against of Syria, with the aim of establishing control over chemical weapons that the Syrian State has under his power.

Since then, the Security Council has insisted on investigating the use of this type of weapons to corroborate the official version of the Syrian government, since the use of this type of weapons violates, on the one hand, compliance of the Convention against the Use of Chemical Weapons.

As we can see, the use of chemical weapons and their proliferation constitute a threat to international peace and security, as well as a contravention of the Declaration of the Presidency of the Security Council carried out in January 1992, where emphasis is placed

on the obligation of control of weapons of mass destruction by stating that "Council members stress the need for all Member States comply with their obligations in relation to arms control and disarmament; avoid proliferation in all its aspects of all weapons of mass destruction; avoid accumulations and excessive transfers and destabilizing weapons ... "

It is worth mentioning that a statement by the Presidency of the Council Security is not equivalent to a resolution and, therefore, lacks character binding; However, in this type of declaration, some point of view, to which members of the Security Council have come through a consensus Likewise, these statements serve to invite the States to take into account and comply with guidelines issued by the Council. Likewise, the legal precepts established in the Protocol are violated Geneva, 1925, where the following is stated: "The high parts contracting parties, as they are no longer parties to treaties that prohibit this employment, recognize this prohibition, agree to extend this prohibition of employment to the bacteriological means of warfare and agree to consider between them in the terms of this declaration."

In the same way, as on previous occasions, the Security Council makes the suggestion to the Secretary General of the United Nations to carry out investigations as a response to complaints that are received in attention to the possibility that chemical or biological weapons have been used. The creation of the mission obeys the need to determine if the allegations about the use of chemical weapons are based on real data.



## **2.2. Syrian Chemical Program.**

The Syrian chemical capacity is understood as an unconventional dissuasive element against Israel. In fact, his interest in this weapon arises after his defeats in the War of the Six Days of 1967 and in the Yom Kippur War of 1972. The evolution of this program and It was analyzed in an Opinion Document of the IEEE published in April 2012. Intelligence services are quite cautious when assessing chemical capacity of Syria, especially after the fiasco of Iraqi chemical capacity analysis, prior to the 2003 international intervention. Even so, the Director General of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, Ahmet Üzümcü, stated in May 2013 that the Syrian arsenal would consist of about a thousand tons of agents from the families of the neurotoxic and vesicants.

The Syrian regime on its part does not clearly admit to possessing chemical weapons. The closest he has been to doing so was on July 23, 2012, when the then Foreign Ministry spokesman, Jihad Makdissi, declared that "any stock of non-conventional weapons, any chemical weapons, if any, is not will never use against the civilian population, only in the face of external aggression. " This ambiguity in the discourse of the regime has been habitual throughout history. Without going any further, months later the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Faisal Mekdad, referred to the Syrian chemical capacity, stating: "We do not know whether we have them or not." Later, in March 2013, the Syrian Information Minister, Omran al-Zoubi said: "If we had chemical weapons we would never use them for moral, humanitarian and political reasons".



The information that comes from the deserters of the regime who claim to have worked in the chemical program is also diffuse, considering that they only seem to have a partial view of this program, based on the principle of the "need to know" only what is necessary to carry out your activity. Only a small group of the regime would have a global and complete vision of the program.

Syria is one of the seven states that are not part of the Convention for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, but in 1968 it acceded to the Geneva Protocol of 1925, which prohibits the use of this type of weapon. Therefore, its use only seems to make sense in an extreme situation, in which the continuity of the regime is seriously threatened. This employment would result in the rejection of the international community, with the risk of losing the support of Russia and China, permanent members of the UN Security Council and who have already exercised their right to veto in votes of resolutions that sought to impose sanctions economic to Syria.

The denunciations of use of chemical weapons have come with videos that show remains of the alleged chemical munitions used and images of victims supposedly intoxicated by chemical agents of war. The analysis of the videos relating to the ammunition used does not seem to indicate that it is chemical weaponry. In some cases there are thermobaric aviation bombs (explosive air-fuel), artifacts that may contain some type of riot agent or smoke agents such as smoke grenades.

The videos of victims are not clear enough to make a differential diagnosis that indicates intoxication due to a war chemical agent. In some people the presence of miosis (contracted pupils) is observed, a clinical sign present in poisonings by neurotoxic agents, which could also be consequence of exposure to other types of toxic chemical substances, there being even eye drops capable of also inducing the appearance of miosis. In many other cases the videos they are clearly products of propaganda operations, in which no type of toxic syndrome is appreciated.

### **2.3. United States**

Previous US efforts to stop the conflict have been ineffective. When Assad used chemical weapons against his own population in 2013, defying a US threat of reprisals, the United States' inaction made the regime dare to continue to despise the lives of civilians. In April, the Trump government responded to the use of nerve agent sarin against civilians by launching cruise missile attacks that destroyed 20% of Assad's air force. What they did to degrade the ability of Syrian military forces to carry out chemical weapons attacks, protect innocent civilians and deter the Syrian regime from continuing the use or proliferation of chemical weapons. The United States believes that the issue of chemical weapons is a very serious issue, and they cannot remain passive and allow its use to normalize.



## CHAPTER III

### 3.1. How to intervene into the debate

From a strategic perspective, the governments of the international community raise the costs and benefits of military intervention in Syria. to economic level, the balance is clear: military intervention in Syria represents a cost. But at the political level it is more complex to determine: on the one hand, the impact that military intervention may have on domestic politics, that is, if a military attack in Syria legitimizes or delegitimizes the government that carries it to term. In this meaning, recent experiences in Iraq and Afghanistan undermine social support for the attack. In the United Kingdom, only 25% of the population is in favor of the military attack in Syria (according to the polls). In the United States the percentage is higher, but only arrives to 42%. In France, 64% of the population opposes military intervention in Syria, and in Germany, Turkey and Egypt the situation is similar.

On the other hand, the consequences in terms of foreign policy and relations are analyzed international that an attack could have. The Middle East is a region politically unstable that has been the scene of many of the conflicts of the contemporary era. He Considers it a geographically strategic region due to its location between the East and West and its natural resources (although Syria is not one of the richest countries in these resources). But this attraction is not enough to decide an intervention military, which would entail many risks, including military and political failure.



After the chemical weapons attack of August 21, 2013, United States. He tried to attack in Syria with the support of several Western countries. With the attack on Syria, The United States could demonstrate that it continues to perform its work as a world power and, At the same time, prevent the Syrian opposition from gaining more power than desired of the supply of weapons that receives.

The attempt to form an international coalition to attack is key in its strategy about military intervention in Syria, since share the decision with a group countries would be a way to try to legitimize the intervention, even if illicit from the moment there are permanent members in the Security Council that veto any resolution that proposes the attack. Without the authorization of the Council Security, armed intervention would not be lawful, but it could be legitimate from a political point of view if supported by enough States. The main obstacle that has prevented this attack from occurring has been that the United States has not obtained the expected support, only France has been firmly in favor of an attack on Syria. The United States and France have ruled out acting bilaterally so as not to repeat a situation as criticized as the war in Iraq, in which a few powers use the armed force without the consent of the Security Council and without the support of a important group of countries.

### **3.2. Survey application in Unidad Educativa Javier**

## CONCLUSIONS

At the end of this monographic work it is concluded that misinformation is one of the biggest problems we have in this era, we think that the things that happen in other countries, far from ours do not affect us and that is why we ignore them. People only care about what happens in first world countries, since it would not be the same as a terrorist attack in London where only ten people die than an attack that happens in Baghdad where a hundred got killed, people would pay more attention to what happens in London.

Regulation for the news can control the consumers of this, for example, political newspapers unconsciously can be shaping a way of thinking that the same politicians want the readers to have.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

At the end of this work it is recommended that the world is not a peaceful place, as human beings tend to have conflicts between us, whether ideological, political, religious or cultural, this is never going to be an absolute truth, one of the most important things that I learned while doing this monograph is that the basis of everything is respect.



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