

Shift of power in Syria

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Context: Syrian rebels have taken over the capital, Damascus, effectively ending Bashar al-Assad's rule as president of Syria.

Timeline of the Syrian War

- **2011:** Pro-democracy protests during the Arab Spring lead to violent government repression, sparking civil war. The Free Syrian Army (FSA) is formed, and the U.S. and EU call for Assad's resignation.
 - **2012:** The conflict escalates into a multi-faction civil war, with Russia and Iran backing Assad.
 - **2013:** Extremist groups, including ISIS, gain territory, raising global concerns.
 - **2014:** A U.S.-led coalition forms to combat ISIS, while Kurdish forces, notably the YPG, play a significant role in the fight.
 - **2015:** Russia launches military intervention in Syria to support Assad; Iran increases aid.
 - **2016:** The Battle for Aleppo ends with Assad regaining control after intense bombardment.
 - **2017:** U.S. missile strikes follow a chemical attack. Syrian forces, supported by Russia, reclaim eastern territories, and ISIS is pushed back.
 - **2018-2021:** Assad regains most of Syria with Russian and Iranian aid, though parts remain under rebel control.
 - **2024:** Rebels take major cities, including Damascus, forcing Assad to flee.
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Geographical Overview of Syria

- **Location:** Middle East, west of Asia.
 - **Borders:** Turkey (north), Iraq (east), Jordan (south), Israel and Lebanon (southwest), Mediterranean Sea (west).
 - **Significance:** Acts as a link between the Levant and the Arab world, historically vital for its cultural, religious, and political importance.
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India and Syria

- **Friendly Relations:** Under Assad, Syria maintained good ties with India, supporting India's stance on Kashmir and rights to the **Golan Heights**.
- **Strategic Engagement:** India avoided sanctions on Syria and supported its sovereignty at

the UN.

Impact of the Regime Change

- **Geopolitical Shifts:** New leadership may alter Syria's alliances with Russia, Iran, and Turkey, affecting Middle East stability.
 - **Humanitarian Hope:** A new regime could bring changes in human rights policies and initiate reconstruction efforts.
 - **Regional Dynamics:**
 - **Iran:** Loss of Syria weakens its supply routes to Hezbollah.
 - **Israel:** While Assad's fall is welcomed, challenges arise with the rebel group's extremist affiliations.
 - **Turkey:** Faces uncertainty as Kurdish forces might exploit the power vacuum near its borders.
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This transition marks a significant shift in Middle Eastern geopolitics, with both risks and opportunities for regional and global players.



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