

Should the U.S. and Its Allies Intervene Militarily in Syria?

by [Andrew J. Tabler \(/experts/andrew-j-tabler\)](#)

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ABOUT THE AUTHORS



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Articles & Testimony

Washington Institute fellow Andrew Tabler and Syria expert Brian Fishman discuss the need for direct action. Download a PDF of the full debate.

You break it, you buy it" may have proven true for the United States in Iraq, but great powers are often forced to help clean up conflicts they did not cause but that threaten their interests. If Washington continues its "light footprint" policy of non-intervention in Syria, the American people will likely have to foot the bill for a more expensive cleanup of the spillover of the Syria conflict into neighboring states and the overall battle against international terrorism.

Every indicator of the conflict between the Alawite-dominated Assad regime and the largely Sunni opposition has taken a dramatic turn for the worse, with upwards of 65,000 killed, 30,000 missing and up to 3 million Syrians internally displaced during one of the worst Syrian winters in two decades. The Assad regime shows no sign of ending the slaughter anytime soon, increasingly deploying artillery, combat aircraft and most recently surface-to-surface missiles against the opposition... ❖

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