

# Post-Asad Syria: Opportunity or Quagmire?

by [Patrick Clawson \(/experts/patrick-clawson\)](/experts/patrick-clawson)

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## ABOUT THE AUTHORS



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**The regional impact of Bashar al-Asad's eventual fate may be at least as important for American interests as the direct effects inside Syria.**

**W**hether Bashar al-Asad's government prevails or fails, it will have an enormous impact on both the Syrian people and U.S.-Syrian relations. But these are not the only considerations that should concern U.S. policymakers: the regional impact of Asad's fate may be at least as important for American interests as the direct effects inside Syria. This paper explores possible repercussions in the Middle East and their consequences for U.S. policy.

*Patrick Clawson is director of research at The Washington Institute.* ❖

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