



The Truth about Syria

by [Barry Rubin](#)

May 29, 2007

ABOUT THE AUTHORS



[Barry Rubin](#)

Barry Rubin was a senior fellow at the Institute from 1988-1993 and a visiting fellow frequently thereafter. He passed at the age of 64 in February 2014.



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Syría has long presented a serious problem for the Middle East region and Western policy. With its mix of competing religious and ethnic groups, radical ideologies, and political repression, it is a 72,000-square-mile time bomb waiting to go off. Yet surprisingly, very little is known about this country and the role it has played in shaping the destiny of the Middle East. In *The Truth about Syria*, Washington Institute visiting fellow Barry Rubin looks at the critical issues that have made the country the powderkeg of the Middle East and offers an insightful analysis of the effects of recent developments.


- **304 pages**

Advance Praise for *The Truth About Syria*

"Syría will play a major role in the years to come both as a player and an issue in world politics. This book, written by a veteran student of Middle East affairs, is the most up-to-date and reliable guide available on this subject."—Walter Laqueur, Emeritus Professor, Georgetown University, and author of *No End to War: Terrorism in the Twenty-first Century* and the classic *The Road to War*

"Barry Rubin's book is a much-needed examination that cuts through the delusions and fantasies currently in vogue about the Assad regime. Rubin nails the nature of Syria's rulers and their behavior, explaining why they are--and will always be--hard-line, chronic exporters of instability."—Tony Badran, Research Fellow (Levant), Foundation for Defense of Democracies

"Professor Rubin's book comes at a time when the debate over Syria and its regime is growing throughout Europe and America. He courageously gathers evidence showing the impossibility of dealing with Syria or changing its behavior. The merit of Rubin's book lies in the thorough dissection of the regime's psychological conduct, and of the tools this dictatorship has used in the past and uses now to remain in power. Any approach to the Syrian problem that does not take Professor Rubin's analysis into consideration will be an incomplete one."—Elie Fawaz, Lebanese

political analyst 

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