Some things you should know about the 'Syrian Revolution'

- The 'Syrian Revolution' is NOT a popular uprising, but a reactionary alliance between US-NATO, Qatar and Saudi Arabia, making use of religious extremism to turn the 'Arab Spring' to their own agenda.
- This uneasy marriage between Wahhabi, Salafi and Muslim Brotherhood extremism with US-NATO aims not only to topple President Bashar al-Assad but to destroy the independent Syrian nation.
- After Iraq and Afghanistan, US policy has returned to 'dirty wars' fought by proxy armies and drones.



Syrian national flag (left). The FSA has adopted a colonial era flag (right) along with Al Qaeda's black flag (far right)



Some important history:

The big powers have only ever been able to dominate the Middle East by keeping its peoples divided. This is why the fanatical Muslim Brotherhood has become a key ally of Washington, in many countries. Banned in most countries for their assassinations and armed uprisings over many decades they, along with allied Salafis and Wahabis, are at the core of the armed attacks in Syria, which derailed a peaceful reform movement. These extremists have falsely blamed the Syrian army for their own atrocities, in attempts to incite NATO intervention, as in Libya. Although the US fears 'blowback' they pursue this odd alliance, which Condoleeza Rice called 'creative chaos'. Watch for the new false pretexts for an expanded war: staged civilian massacres, claims of chemical weapons, supposed attacks on Turkey.



Official lies: from weapons of mass destruction to civilian massacres



The world now knows about the lies over 'weapons of mass destruction', used for the invasion of Iraq. Less well known is that the same tactics were used to bomb and dismantle **Libya**. Reports claimed a rally in Benghazi (March 17, 2011) was fired on by 'the regime', and that a 'massacre' of civilians was looming. In fact, the rally fired on was pro-government, attacked by Islamist extremists (**Youtube**: 'Libya protest: Aljazeera lies about killing in Benghazi'). Amnesty International would later retract its false claims that Gadaafi was using 'black mercenaries' to attack civilians (**Youtube**: 'Humanitarian Intervention' in Libya - the duplicitous game').

Similar 'false flag' atrocities were used to inflame international opinion over Syria. Religious extremists, armed by the Saudis, shot at police and civilians in **Daraa** in March 2011. The peaceful reform demonstrations were immediately sidelined and the army was called in. Thereafter the foreign-backed fanatics instigated a series of atrocities, blaming them on the army. Repeated claims that President Assad was slaughtering peaceful civilians became the staple of war propaganda. For example, on 10 April 2011 Al Jazeera broadcast this picture (right) of vegetable seller **Nidal Jannoud** from Banias, with 'activist' claims that he had been beaten by 'Shabiha' (pro-regime thugs). However, when his dead body was found, Al Jazeera claimed Nidal was himself 'Shabiha'.



The shocking **Houla massacre** of over one hundred civilians (mostly government supporters, in a fundamentalist area) was carried out in May 2012 by the fanatics, on the eve of a UN Security Council meeting, so it could be blamed on the Syrian Army. Sadly, the UN went along with the story. However German journalists spoke with witnesses and established the truth. (**Google**: 'Syria's 'false flag' terrorism, Houla and the United Nations'). Closely related 'false flag' killings at Aqrab were reported by a British journalist, here:

http://blogs.channel4.com/alex-thomsons-view/happened-syrian-town-agrab/3426



The 'Free Syrian Army' 'revolution' takes pride in posting its own atrocities online, shouting 'God is Great' as they chop off heads and celebrate sectarian violence.



The 'Free Syrian Army' has posted videos of the murder of post office workers, blowing up a hospital and water supplies, murdering prisoners, tribal leaders and captured soldiers. These have nothing to do with a popular revolution but everything to do with fanatical fundamentalism.







قائد بن الوليد" في حمص تستخدم الأطفال لقطع رؤوس المسكريين المخطوفين بالسطواطير +0

Corporate media lies, and Al Jazeera

Many expect war propaganda from US sources, but imagined that Al Jazeera was more 'independent'. Whatever truth there was in that, it all changed with the 'Arab Spring'. Al Jazeera is owned by the Qatari monarchy, just as Al Arabiya is owned by the Saudis. These least democratic of all regimes have a keen interest in the region. Both monarchies directly fund and arm the jhadis in Libya and Syria, while leading global war propaganda.





Al Jazeera's Palestinian-born director Wadah Khanfar (above right) built a closer relationship with the US, after the invasion of Iraq. In 2011 he drove the propaganda wars against Libya and Syria and enhanced the station's backing for the Muslim Brotherhood. Many staff resigned (left), particularly from the Beirut office, because of bias and the fabrication of stories about Syria. (**Google:** Al Jazeera's attacks on Syria: some background)

The principal media lies about Syria:

- There were peaceful demonstrations months before people took up arms (fact: armed attacks began in March 2011)
- President Bashar al Assad is a 'brutal dictator' (facts: Bashar is reforming an authoritarian but socially inclusive system and maintains high levels of public support. Google: 'The real Bashar Al-Assad' by Camille Otrakji)
- The FSA is mainly made up of army defectors (fact: it has always been led by Salafis and the Muslim Brotherhood)
- The 'Syrian Revolution' is about freedom and democracy (fact: most of the FSA want a 'caliphate', with religious law)
- 'The West' backs human rights in Syria (facts: the big powers, as always, want strategic advantage in the region; if they were interested in human rights they would have helped the Palestinians, long ago).





Who leads the Syrian 'Revolution'?



Yusuf al-Qaradawi (right), Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood leader who lives in Qatar and broadcasts on Al Jazeera. As a leading 'Takfiri' he justifies the killing of other Muslims who do not share his beliefs (see: Takfiris.com). Issued fatwas calling for the murder of Libyan and Syrian leaders.





Adnan al Aroor (left), Syrian Salafi leader and 'Godfather' of the Syrian Revolution, based in Saudi Arabia. Called a 'moderate Sunni cleric' by the Saudi press, he has said of his opponents: 'We will chop their flesh in mincing machines and feed their flesh to dogs'. Other Salafi leaders have issued genocidal fatwas against minorities, such as Christians and Alawi Muslims (see top).

Free Syrian Army (FSA) – claimed as mainly army defectors, in fact a collection of squabbling jihadi groups. Analyst Thierry Meyssan says the FSA is 'a counter-revolutionary body ... which passed from the hands of reactionary monarchies in the Gulf to those of Turkey, acting for NATO.' In late 2012 command passed from Riad al Assad (right) to Selim Idris. Neither has control of the groups.





Jabhet Al-Nusra: huge group of foreign jihadis, allied to the FSA, who want sharia law and a caliphate. Linked to Al Qaeda in Iraq, they carry out car bombings, public executions and attacks on civil infrastructure. The US has tried to ban the group, while supporting the FSA, but 29 armed FSA gangs protested 'We are all Jabhet al Nusra' (see: New York Times, 10/12/2012).

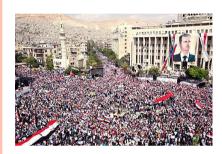
The US, Britain and France at first backed the exile **Syrian National Council** as 'legitimate representatives' of the Syrian people. Then they appointed the '**National Coalition for Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces**', led by Cairo-based Sheikh Ahmad Moaz Al-Khatib (right). Said to be a 'consensual figure' and a 'moderate cleric', he is in fact a Muslim Brotherhood member, an engineer who worked for Anglo-Dutch Shell and who considers Shiia muslims 'rejectionist heretics' and Jews 'enemies of God'.



Bashar al Assad and the Syrian system

President Bashar al-Assad, a medical doctor, was conscripted into the leadership of the Baath party after his father died. He was slow to act on promises to reform the authoritarian system, but he remains popular precisely because most Syrians believe he can do this, and because most support a pluralist, secular Syria. Syria has experienced 'state of emergency' governance for many years, because of the Muslim Brotherhood insurgencies and the regional wars.





Syrians have been polled many time on their views. They dislike the corruption and political cronyism of their system; but they like the social inclusion, foreign policy, women rights and stability (see: http://creativesyria.com/syriapage/?p=150). In late 2011 a Doha poll showed most wanted Bashar to remain in power. In February and May 2012 (despite the conflict) a majority voted for a new constitution and then a multi-party parliament. With 51% turnout, the Baath party won 60% of the seats. An open Presidential election is planned for 2014.

The other opposition – for peaceful democratic change in Syria



National Syrian Dialogue Meeting, Tehran 19 Nov 2012. Over 200 Syrian religious and political figures met, the theme was 'Violence No, Democracy Yes.' There was unanimous support for a peaceful solution and opposition to foreign interference. Delegates stressed national unity, sovereignty and the territorial integrity. They acknowledged the legitimate demands for reform, opposed violence, supported border control and inclusion of all Syrians (including the displaced). However they disagreed over the way forward, some urging a transitional government.

Qadri Jalil, head of the Popular Front for Change and Liberation - a coalition with 5 MPs which joined the Baath Party in government in 2012 - says the National Syrian Dialogue Meeting (19 Nov 2012) 'represents the dividing line between the national and the non-national opposition'.



Independent voices: Women, Christians, Kurds, others

Why do women support Syria? Look how Syrian women hold their flag, with the two green stars. The woman at right holds both Muslim and Christian symbols, a sign of a multicultural Syria. In the fundamentalist FSA camp, women are heavily veiled and have little voice.





'90% of these 'revolutionary' groups are criminals', says Armenian **Bishop Armash Nalbandian** (left). 'It is sometimes hard to understand how the Western countries support democracy in Syria if they are only going to support one party in this conflict'.

Mother Agnes Mariam (right): about 80,000 Christians had been 'cleared' by rebel forces (FSA) from their homes in Homs province. She supports the Mussalaha (Reconciliation) movement, which includes members of all ethnic and religious communities who are tired of war.



George Galloway, British MP: 'A very large number of people in Syria ... are terrified of the prospects of victory for the Syrian rebels because there is a substantial Christian population ... minority Islamic sects ... different ethnic groups, Kurdish ... terrified of the victory of Jihadist extremists.'



Saleh Muslim: Co-President of the Kurdish Democratic Union Party (PYD): opposes both the foreign jihadis and the Doha appointed 'coalition': 'a proxy for Turkey and Qatar'. Supports the reform movement but says 'the Syrian revolution should remain peaceful'. The PYD has had armed clashes with the FSA jihadis.

Lebanese Christian Leader Michel Aoun (right): 'I feel today that the Syrian regime is the one defending democracy, while the western countries want to topple it by force and do not want to refer back to the Syrian people' (Youtube: 'War in Syria Will Lead to New World Order')



Doublespeak from Canberra

Disgraceful 'diplomacy': Australia's Foreign Minister Bob Carr, while expressing shock at demonstrators in Australia who urged the 'beheading' of Islam's enemies (below), at the same time proposed the assassination of Syrian President Bashar al Assad. This has helped encourage a stream of young Australians jihadis to travel to Syria to fight this 'holy war' – at least two have been killed (top right).







While Australia sent its troops to participate in the invasions of Iraq and Afghanistan, Canberra attacks Syrian troops (right) for defending their own nation against foreign backed religious fundamentalists, most of them not even Syrian.



Self-determination means no foreign intervention

Anyone who thinks human rights have something to do with the calls for intervention in Syria should re-read the first article of the international bill of rights. The self-determination of a people stands 'apart from and before all the other rights'. Those urging intervention disregard this basic principle. The Syrian government is for the Syrian people to decide, and no-one else. If you agree, please spread this message.

More information including copies of this pamphlet are available here: http://hands-off-syria.jimdo.com/

