## 1AC – INH

### Inherency

### The U.S. will provide direct aid to overthrow Assad.

Rogin, Foreign Policy, 3-6-12

Josh: “Obama administration moves to aid Syrian opposition,” The Cable - Foreign Policy, http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2012/03/06/obama\_administration\_moves\_to\_aid\_syrian\_opposition [ACG CEDA 1]

The Obama administration is moving to provide … with the opposition," one administration official said. "U.S. policy is now aligned with enabling the opposition to overthrow the Assad regime. This codifies a significant change in our Syria policy."

### State has to determine how to program aid.

Rogin 3-6-12

Josh: “Obama administration moves to aid Syrian opposition,” The Cable - Foreign Policy, http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2012/03/06/obama\_administration\_moves\_to\_aid\_syrian\_opposition [ACG CEDA 1]

As part of the new outreach, the State .. the Assad regime doesn't grant access to affected areas.

"We're leaving State and USAID to work that out. That's the million-dollar question. We're working on that now," the official explained.

**State doesn’t conduct evaluations of its assistance.**

David B. **Gootnick**, Director, International Affairs and Trade, GAO, **’10**

“Democracy Assistance: U.S. Agencies Take Steps to Coordinate International Programs but Lack Information on Some U.S. Funded Activities,” GAO-09-993, http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d09993.pdf, p. 37

52 According to State DRL officials, State DRL .. of clusters of programs but does not evaluate every grant.

### Aid will likely target the SNC, despite divisions.

Bloomberg 1-31-12

Nicole Gaouette: “Syrian Opposition Council Backed by U.S. Hindered by Divisions,” Bloomberg, <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-01-31/syrian-opposition-council-backed-by-u-s-hindered-by-divisions.html> [LVC D8T]

* US supports SNC
* “Differing strategies and goals.”

Title: Syrian Opposition Council Backed by U.S. Hindered by Divisions

Western plans to pressure [Syria](http://topics.bloomberg.com/syria/)’s regime to negotiate …, secularists and Islamists, the opposition inside and outside the country,” Landis, director of the Middle East studies program at the University of Oklahoma in Norman, said in an interview. “It’s not promising.”

**Assad’s fall is inevitable, but it will be violent now**

**Daily News & Analysis 3-10** “Syrian army close to collapse, says defecting top General,” <http://www.dnaindia.com/world/report_syrian-army-close-to-collapse-says-defecting-top-general_1660585>

The days of Syrian President Bashar … said that all top Obama administration officials were now predicting that the Syrian regime's downfall could be near.

### Knowledge of many groups is limited.

Phillips, Heritage Foundation, 2-15-12

James, Senior Research Fellow for Middle Eastern Affairs, Heritage Foundation: “Next Steps for U.S. in Syria Crisis,” 2-15-12 http://www.heritage.org/research/reports/2012/02/next-steps-for-us-in-syria-crisis [CEDA TRIP]

As Assad’s hold on the country slips, there will be opportunities … network of Local Coordination Committees that operate in an ad hoc manner.

## 1AC – ADV

### Advantage - Syria

### Assad’s going “all-in” against the opposition.

White, Washington Institute, 2-14-12

Jeffrey, Defense Fellow, Washington Institute for Near East Policy: “Bashar al-Assad vs. the Syrian People,” PolicyWatch #1900, http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/templateC05.php?CID=3451 [ACG D8T]

As mentioned above, the war has become a matter … potentially devastating effects on the population.

### Stability under Assad is impossible. Syria can’t revert to the way it was before the uprising.

* Takes out Kiss of Death: without legitimacy, Assad can’t portray opposition as tools of the U.S.

ICG 3-5-12  
International Crisis Group: “Now or Never: A Negotiated Transition for Syria,” Policy Briefing, Middle East Briefing N°32, Damascus/Brussels, http://www.crisisgroup.org/~/media/Files/Middle%20East%20North%20Africa/Iraq%20Syria%20Lebanon/Syria/B032-now-or-never-a-negotiated-transition-for-syria.pdf [JPW CEDA 4]

Even if the regime can survive for some time, .. – precludes even a semblance of normalisation.

Given enough time, the regime might be able to destroy the urban and social fabric of entire neighbourhoods, as it appears to have done in parts of Homs. But that will .. crush the other, he has forfeited any claim to nationwide legitimacy.

### Delay risks escalation and a failed transition.

Alhomayed, Editor-in-Chief, Asharq Al-Awsat, 1-19-12

Tariq: “The cost of the fall of al-Assad,” Asharq Al-Awsat, http://www.asharq-e.com/news.asp?section=2&id=28152 [CEDA 6]

The true cost of delaying the fall of al-Assad is that …d Iran’s allies in the region.

### Assad’s violence will produce sectarian wars throughout the Middle East and South Asia.

Nasr, International Politics Prof, Tufts, 11

Vali, Foreign Affairs Policy Advisory Board, State Department, Aug. 27: “If the Arab Spring Turns Ugly,” New York Times, http://www.nytimes.com/2011/08/28/opinion/sunday/the-dangers-lurking-in-the-arab-spring.html?pagewanted=1&\_r=2 [CEDA 8]

The Arab Spring is a hopeful chapter in Middle Eastern politics, but the region’s history points to darker outcomes. There are no recent examples of extended power-sharing or peaceful …, could **put an end** to the hopeful Arab Spring. Radical voices on both sides would gain. In Bahrain, Lebanon, Syria and Iraq, it is **already happening**.

### Largest threat to one-fourth of the world

Shibil Sidiqqi, Fellow, Centre for the Study of Global Power and Politics, 4-15-10

“Terrorism: The nuclear summit's 'straw man',” <http://98.130.246.96/archive_articles_details.asp?articleid=1055&typeid=3>

However, the president's assessment of global … - that clearly remains the largest global nuclear threat.

**Multiple factors make Syria the most likely scenario for global escalation.**

L.A. Times 3**-18**-12

Patrick J. McDonnell, “Syria's conflict has significance far beyond its borders,” http://articles.latimes.com/2012/mar/18/world/la-fg-syria-regional-stability-20120319 [CEDA 6]

The raging conflict in Syria that has left .. rivalries, as well as on long-running sectarian tensions, is almost dizzying to contemplate. Syria is a kind of strategic chessboard on which interests great and small are playing for their future advantage.

### Alliances embroil the U.S. in war.

Wood, Award-Winning Journalist, 1-4-12

David, 40 years reporting for Time, Los Angeles Times, Newhouse News Service, and The Baltimore Sun: “U.S.-Iran Tensions: Mideast Showdown Builds As United States Tightens Military Ties To Israel,” Huffington Post, http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/01/04/us-iran-tensions-israel-joint-military-exercises\_n\_1183952.html [CEDA 6]

Storm clouds darkening over the Middle .. to **spill over** its borders with Israel, Lebanon and Turkey, a **NATO ally**.

### Saudi Arabia will host Pakistani nuclear weapons in response to sectarian violence and deteriorating relations with the U.S.

Guzansky, Institute for National Security Studies,’11 **[Gender Modified]**

Yoel, 7-1, “Tehran tests Saudis’ nerve on nuclear weapons,” The Australian, <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/world/tehran-tests-saudis-nerve-on-nuclear-weapons/story-e6frg6ux-1226085108555>

Until recently it appeared that US security guarantees … the kingdom's unwillingness to publicly give up the right to uranium enrichment and the fact that it is in fact exempt from intrusive International Atomic Energy Agency monitoring.

### South-Asian nuclear instability would result.

**Roberts**, History Prof, Cambridge, **’11**

Andrew, Also: Royal Society of Literature Fellow, Jan. 2, “Iran’s Nuclear Domino Effect,” THE DAILY BEAST, http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2011/01/02/irans-nuclear-weapons-could-lead-to-a-saudi-and-pakistan-alliance.html [WFU]

Where Edelman goes an important stage further … that the Islamabad option will make the nuclear situation in South Asia **significantly more dangerous**.

### That ends the world

Alan **Robock** is professor of climatology at Rutgers University and associate director of the school's Center for Environmental Prediction, where he studies many aspects of climate change. He is a fellow of the American Meteorological Society and a participant in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, **and** Owen Brian **Toon** is chair of the department of atmospheric and oceanic sciences at the University of Colorado at Boulder and a fellow of the Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics there. He is a fellow of the American Meteorological Society and the American Geophysical Union. “South Asian Threat? Local Nuclear War = Global Suffering”, from the January **2010** issue of Scientific American magazine

People have several incorrect impressions about nuclear winter. .. sent into the global stratosphere. Average temperatures would remain below freezing even in the summer for several years in major agricultural regions. Even the warheads on one missile-carrying submarine could produce enough smoke to create a global environmental disaster.

## 1AC – Plan

### Plan: The United States Department of State should commission participatory evaluations of State Department democracy assistance for Syria.

### The phrase “State Department democracy assistance” refers to programs classified by the State Department as “democracy assistance”.

## 1AC – Solvency

### State Department should evaluate assistance to the Syrian opposition.

Abdel ’11

Fattah Hussein, reporter in the Middle East for “All Voices,” Apr. 19: “From Bush, EU funded Syrian opposition WikiLeaks.” [http://www.allvoices.com/contributed-news/8832596-from-bush-eu-funded-syrian-opposition-wikileaks](http://www.allvoices.com/contributed-news/8832596-from-bush-eu-funded-syrian-opposition-wikileaks" \t "_blank) [LVC D8T]

The U.S. State Department funded a secret … States supporting anti-government factions, both inside and outside Syria," said the cable.

### Opportunities for evaluating diverse groups exist.

Phillips, Heritage Foundation, 2-15-12

James, Senior Research Fellow for Middle Eastern Affairs, Heritage Foundation: “Next Steps for U.S. in Syria Crisis,” 2-15-12 <http://www.heritage.org/research/reports/2012/02/next-steps-for-us-in-syria-crisis> [CEDA TRIP]

As Assad’s hold on the country … of Local Coordination Committees that operate in an ad hoc manner.

### Meetings can take place in Lebanon.

**al-Khafaji**, MENA Fellow, NIMD, **’10**

Isam, NIMD = Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy, “Prospects for Political Parties Assistance Project in the Middle East and North Africa,” Nov. 12, http://www.nimd.org/documents/P/prospects\_for\_political\_party\_assistance\_project\_in\_the\_middle\_east\_and\_north\_africa.pdf [ACG CEDA 6]

This welcome revival, however, is taking place at a time .. idea to organize exploratory meetings with these groups under the auspices of some Beirut–based international organizations, such as the Carnegie Endowment.

### The plan solves in three ways.

### A. Unity and social capital.

### Incorporating groups on the ground will increase unity.

Tabler & Pollack, Washington Institute, 3-26-12

Andrew J., Next Generation Fellow, and David, Kaufman Fellow, Washington Institute for Near East Policy, “Not Supporting the Opposition "Within Syria" Is Supporting Assad,” PolicyWatch #1914, http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/templateC05.php?CID=3465 [ACG NDT]

Although the United States, European Union, .. of increasing unity among opposition elements.

### The plan promotes democratic learning and mutual understanding.

**Kushner**, Regional Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, UNICEF, **’6**

Saville, Officer for Latin America & the Carribbean: “Democracy and Evaluation,” in New Trends in Development Evaluation (Segone, ed.), Evaluation Working Papers #5, UNICEF Regional Office for CEE/CIS and IPEN, http://www.unicef.org/ceecis/New\_trends\_Dev\_EValuation.pdf, p. 36

* ACG PLS: Re-check for solvency.

One of the reasons for seeking such inclusive …, insofar as it creates knowledge in key areas of social action, can build bridges of communication.

### The process generates social capital.

**Kushner**, Regional Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, UNICEF, **’6**

Saville, Officer for Latin America & the Carribbean: “Democracy and Evaluation,” in New Trends in Development Evaluation (Segone, ed.), Evaluation Working Papers #5, UNICEF Regional Office for CEE/CIS and IPEN, http://www.unicef.org/ceecis/New\_trends\_Dev\_EValuation.pdf, p. 36 [ACG CSU]

Most recently, concerns like this have … or a programme manager’s concerns should not displace the concerns of other stakeholders.

### Social capital solves sectarian conflict and kiss of death.

Burnell, Democracy Assistance Guru, December

Peter, Politics & International Studies Prof, Warwick, 2011: Lessons of Experience in International Democracy Support: Implications for Supporting Democratic Change in North Africa, UNU-Wider (United Nations University - World Institute for Development Economics Research) Working Paper #2011/84, http://www.wider.unu.edu/publications/working-papers/2011/en\_GB/wp2011-084/\_files/86687158764241318/default/wp2011-084.pdf, p. 6 [ACG CSU]

Democracy support both to civil society … organizations with the task of determining allocations that will be acceptable to local partners, after guidelines have been agreed, even if one consequence is some loss of direct accountability to the donors.

### Syrian unity and international support are the keys to a stable transition.

Byman, et al, Brookings, 3-15-12

Daniel L., Director of Research, Michael Doran, Roger Hertog Senior Fellow, Foreign Policy, Kenneth M. Pollack, Senior Fellow, Foreign Policy, all at Saban Center for Middle East Policy, Brookings, and Salman Shaikh, Director, Brookings Doha Center, “Saving Syria: Assessing Options for Regime Change,” 3-15-12, <http://www.brookings.edu/papers/2012/0315_syria_saban.aspx> [CEDA]

Diplomatic “success,” moreover, may not be able … of leadership, may not bode well for a healthy political transition.

### A broader coalition is key to a transition.

Randa Slim, adjunct research fellow at the New America Foundation and a scholar at the Middle East Institute, ‘12  
“Unite Syria’s opposition first,” http://www.kurdnas.com/en/index.php?option=com\_content&view=article&id=320:unite-syrias-opposition-first&catid=36:reports1&Itemid=56

This coalition-building process … regime will hasten its demise.

### B. Delivery and implementation of democracy assistance.

### The plan fills information gaps.

**Grim**, Senior Researcher, Pew Forum on Religious and Public Life, **’6**

Brian J., et al., “Measuring International Socio-Religious Values and Conflict by Coding US State Department Reports,” JSM Proceedings, AAPOR-Section on Survey Research Methods, American Association of Public Opinion Researchers (AAPOR) annual conference, https://www.amstat.org/sections/srms/Proceedings/y2006/Files/JSM2006-000040.pdf, p. 4125

4. Conclusions

Cross-national data on religion and socio-…e.g., Iraq and Israel), while others quite nearby are generally peaceful (e.g., the UAE and Kazakhstan)? With better data, such questions can be empirically explored.

**The plan’s effective. Statistics prove.**

**Cullen**, The Evaluation Center, **’11**

Anne E., Principal Research Associate, The Evaluation Center, Western Michigan University, et al. [Chris L. S. Coryn and Jim Rugh], Sep.: “The Politics and Consequences of Including Stakeholders in International Development Evaluation,” American Journal of Evaluation, 32 (3): 345 -361, DOI: 10.1177/1098214010396076, p. 353 [NDT]

According to the questionnaire responses, … increased stakeholder buy in (87%). However, in interviews different positive consequences were identified.

### Evaluation improves the effectiveness and efficiency of democracy assistance.

NRC Committee ’8 “DG” = “Democracy and Governance”

National Research Council Committee on Evaluation of USAID Democracy Assistance Programs: *Improving Democracy Assistance: Building Knowledge through Evaluations and Research*, <http://www.nap.edu/catalog/12164.html>, p. 27 [ACG]

It is therefore crucial, if USAID’s … which DG projects work best to accomplish specific goals in particular countries.

### Democracy assistance can be effective if it’s not overbearing. Evaluation and long-term planning are essential.

Lincoln A. Mitchell, International Politics Prof, Columbia, and David L. Phillips, Project Director, NCAFP (National Committee on American Foreign Policy), ’8

Enhancing Democracy Assistance: A Research Project of the National Committee on American Foreign Policy AND Arnold A. Saltzman Institute of War and Peace Studies, School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University AND The Atlantic Council of the United States, Jan., <http://www.acus.org/publication/enhancing-democracy-assistance>, p. 3 [WPT UPD]

Today's global setting poses several … preparation for field staff, and emphasizing more rigorous project evaluation.

### C. Political training for post-Assad government.

### **The plan promotes knowledge of participatory politics.**

Crawford and Kearton 1 [PE = Participatory Evaluation]

Gordon and Iain, Dec.: “Evaluating Democracy and Governance Assistance,” ESCOR Research Report No. 7894, <http://www.dfid.gov.uk/r4d/PDF/Outputs/Mis_SPC/R7894-FinRep.pdf>, [CEDA TRIP]

PE provides the key input of local knowledge …, in turn informing and strengthening local action for democratic change. Thus, the act of evaluation becomes an act of democratisation.

### Political inclusion and representation ensure a stable transition.

Danin, CFR, 2-21-12

Robert M., Eni Enrico Mattei Senior Fellow for Middle East and Africa Studies, Council on Foreign Relations: “Debating U.S. Options in Syria,” Council on Foreign Relations Expert Roundup, http://www.cfr.org/syria/debating-us-options-syria/p27402 [ACG CEDA 8]

The United States should pursue three parallel objectives …his requires all to compromise, but it would safeguard Russia's interests. Meanwhile, the UN Secretary General should be encouraged to appoint a special envoy to Syria to advance diplomatic efforts.

### Evaluation builds capacity in democratic governance.

Peter **Burnell**, Politics and International Studies Prof, Warwick, **’8**.

“From Evaluating Democracy Assistance to Appraising Democracy Promotion,” Political Studies 56 (2) (June 1): 414-434. doi:10.1111/j.1467-9248.2007.00653.x

One view is that the **purpose** of assessing activities …, suggests that the role of assessing democracy promotion cannot be left to the democracy promoters. As the construction of assessment methodologies must bear some relation to the policies and methods for promoting democracy, then the case for participant appraisal of strategies begins to look unassailable.

**Democracy assistance includes support for capacity-building.**

**Burnell December**

Peter, Politics & International Studies Prof, Warwick, 2011: Lessons of Experience in International Democracy Support: Implications for Supporting Democratic Change in North Africa, UNU-WIDER (United Nations University - World Institute for Development Economics Research) Working Paper #2011/84, http://www.wider.unu.edu/publications/working-papers/2011/en\_GB/wp2011-084/\_files/86687158764241318/default/wp2011-084.pdf, p. 5 [ACG CSU]

**Democracy assistance** projects and programmes can be grouped by sector… can reasonably furnish (Rakner et al. 2008). This is made more problematic by the proneness of democratization to setbacks and reversals in the early years.

**Capacity building is the philosopher’s stone.**

**Riddell**, UK Department for International Development, **’7** **[Abbrev Filled]**

Roger, Does Foreign Aid Really Work? p. 207

Aid for capacity building

Though more traditional forms of TA [… strengthening are now seen as a 'good thing'—and a good thing everywhere that aid donors are active. But what is the evidence of the impact of aid used for these purposes— does it work?

### The plan creates a space for negotiation fosters a sense of interdependence.

**Lappin**, Democracy Assistance Scholar and Practitioner, **’9**

Richard, Ph.D. Candidate, Center for Peace Research and Strategic Studies, Leuven (Belgium), Participated in over a dozen democracy assistance missions, July: “What Democracy? Exploring the Absent Centre of Post-Conflict Democracy Assistance,” Journal of Peace, Conflict, and Development, Issue 14, http://www.peacestudiesjournal.org.uk/dl/Issue%2014%20Article%203%20Final%20Version%201.pdf, pp. 23-26

Towards Democracy ‘as Process’ Assistance

Arguably, the whole democracy assistance project … the targeted states – so that steps can be taken to make the process more coherent, more comprehensible and more sustainable for all the actors involved.

### Plan solves anti-Americanism.

Tobin, Commentary, ’11

Jonathan S., Senior Online Editor, Commentary, “U.S. Support Doesn’t Taint Syrian Protests,” Commentary Magazine, http://www.commentarymagazine.com/2011/07/08/american-support-doesn%E2%80%99t-taint-syrian-protests/ [NDT]

There are no guarantees the alternatives to … perpetrating further massacres and give hope to dissidents who will now know they are not alone.

### Russia won’t obstruct U.S. efforts.

Naharnet 3-2-12

“Putin Declines to Back Assad's Syria Regime,” http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/31963 [NDT 1]

Prime Minister Vladimir Putin stopped short of backing … but make them sit down at the negotiating table and agree acceptable terms for a ceasefire and to stop the human losses," Putin added.

### Russia will retain influence after the transition.

Daily Star 3-8-12

Michael Young, Opinion Editor, “Make Vladimir Putin reassess in Syria,” http://www.dailystar.com.lb/Opinion/Columnist/2012/Mar-08/165923-make-vladimir-putin-reassess-in-syria.ashx#axzz1qYpsHZ5N [ACG NDT 1]

In that case, the United Nations … on the condition that it embrace a change of regime.

### Only the U.S. can assist the Syrian transition – the plan will build leverage over time.

Michael **Young**, Opinion Page Editor, Lebanon Daily Star, 5-19-**11**

“An Obama road map to change in Syria.” Lebanon Daily Star, http://www.dailystar.com.lb/mobile/Article.aspx?id=139016.

We’ve heard Obama administration officials declare … **S**tates can take such measures.

**Only the US can overcome geopolitical resistance to democracy.**

**Grygiel**, IR Prof, Johns Hopkins, **’11**

Jakub, Senior Fellow, Center for European Policy Analysis, and George H.W. Bush Associate Professor of International Relations, Johns Hopkins-SAIS, Oct. 6: “Democracy Promotion – A Geostrategic Contest,” Democracy Digest, http://www.demdigest.net/blog/2011/10/democracy-promotion-a-geostrategic-contest/ [NDT 5]

Finally, we cannot **outsource** democracy promotion … showed the limitations of their power), but they are not prepared to deal with the potentially dangerous geopolitical consequences of their actions.

### **Participatory evaluation facilitates critical reflexivity and awareness.**

Crawford and Kearton 1 [PE = Participatory Evaluation]

Gordon and Iain, Dec.: “Evaluating Democracy and Governance Assistance,” ESCOR Research Report No. 7894, <http://www.dfid.gov.uk/r4d/PDF/Outputs/Mis_SPC/R7894-FinRep.pdf>, [CEDA TRIP]

PE provides the key input of local knowledge and analysis …, in turn informing and strengthening local action for democratic change. Thus, the act of evaluation becomes an act of democratisation.

## 1AC- Underview

### The US has actively opposed Assad and pressured his allies for decades.

### Years of covert support for opposition groups.

Deutsche Welle 4-20-11

“US funding of opposition complicates Obama's Damascus policy,” <http://www.dw-world.de/dw/article/0,,14996885,00.html>

The cables produced by WikiLeaks showed … US administration has been more supportive of Assad than of the opposition."

### The U.S. funds opposition groups in Syria.

Toner, Spokesman, State Department, ’11

Mark, Apr. 18: “Daily Press Briefing,” Middle East Digest, http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/mideastdigest/janapr/161155.htm [ACG UTA 7]

QUESTION: Is the United … are going to be vital to a possible democratic future in Syria.

### Assad perceives this assistance as a threat.

Toner, Again

Mark, 4-18-11: “Daily Press Briefing,” Middle East Digest, http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/mideastdigest/janapr/161155.htm [ACG UTA 7]

QUESTION: Is the United States Government, … kind of assistance as a threat to its control over the Syrian people.

### Tons of aid now.

New York Times 3-25 “U.S. and Turkey to Step Up ‘Nonlethal’ Aid to Rebels in Syria” http://www.nytimes.com/2012/03/26/world/middleeast/us-and-turkey-to-step-up-nonlethal-aid-to-syrian-rebels.html#h[]

BEIRUT — Turkey and the United States … for the opposition from the United States and others

### Economic sanctions.

RTT News 2-6

“US to Tighten Syria Sanctions.” Global Financial Newswires, February 6, 2012. <http://www.rttnews.com/1813218/us-to-tighten-syria-sanctions.aspx?type=usp&pageNum=1> [LVC UTA]

The United States has said that it will work to seek regional … work with the friends of a democratic Syria around the world to support the opposition's peaceful political plans for change. We will work to provide what humanitarian relief we are able to do so."

### The UN resolution increased pressure on Assad and support for the opposition.

AFP, citing Clinton, Secretary of State, 2-17-12

“Clinton welcomes 'overwhelming' consensus on Syria,” Agence France Presse, <http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jQMTSNJCUkagiXVPDtb_O2n5BEUQ?docId=CNG.4a4d727e25cca96e6035c2b7cee70153.1f1>

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said Friday that the … to the people of Syria."

### “Friends of Syria” conference.

AFP, citing Clinton, 2-17-12

Secretary of State: “Clinton welcomes 'overwhelming' consensus on Syria,” Agence France Presse, http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jQMTSNJCUkagiXVPDtb\_O2n5BEUQ?docId=CNG.4a4d727e25cca96e6035c2b7cee70153.1f1

Clinton recalled she will attend a "… tear the country apart. We're looking for an inclusive democratic process," Clinton said.

### Drones

MSNBC 2-17-12

Jim Miklaszewski: “Officials: US drones monitoring clashes in Syria,” http://worldnews.msnbc.msn.com/\_news/2012/02/17/10435915-officials-us-drones-monitoring-clashes-in-syria [D8T]

"A good number" of unmanned U.S. military and … U.S. defense officials tell NBC News' Jim Miklaszewski.

### The U.S. is planning military strikes.

Press TV 12-29-11

http://presstv.com/detail/218384.html

The United States has instructed the … large-scale attacks on the Syrian air defense and military command-and-control systems.

### Senate Resolution

### A. It supports the opposition.

ABC News 2-10-12

Sunlen Miller: “Senators Introduce Syrian Resolution to Aid, Not Arm, Opposition,” http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/politics/2012/02/senators-introduce-syrian-resolution-to-aid-not-arm-opposition/ [ACG D8T]

Amid the [violence in Syria](http://abcnews.go.com/GMA/video/syria-crisis-government-attacks-continue-15528025), Sens. … “substantial material and technical support,” to the Syrian opposition.

### B. It passed.

AP 2-17-12

“Senate passes resolution condemning Syrian government’s violence against its people,” Washington Post, http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/congress/senate-passes-resolution-condemning-syrian-governments-violence-against-its-people/2012/02/17/gIQAiHiEKR\_story.html [ACG D8T]

The Senate has approved a resolution … civil war.

## 1AC—Optional Additional Cards

### Neutrality affirms the imperial status quo. Support for Syrian revolutionary claims to humanity affirms emancipatory potential.

Smolenski, Magister of Arts, Philosophy, Warsaw, ’11

Jan, May 29, “Reanimating human rights,” Critical Legal Thinking, http://www.criticallegalthinking.com/?p=3405 [ACG CST]

There is also another problem .. What is at stake here is not a truly non-partisan position of an external spectator (in fact impossible) but rather a political resolution of a problem we are deeply involved in.

### Normative commitment to democracy prevents re-appropriation to support war.

Piki Ish-Shalom, International Relations Prof, Hebrew U, ’9

“Theorizing Politics, Politicizing Theory, and the Responsibility That Runs Between,” *Perspectives on Politics* 7 (02-Jul): 303-316, doi:10.1017/S1537592709090811

Committing theorists morally .. that when identifying democracy as a “force for peace,” their theories would not be mobilized to rationalize and legitimize war—not commandeered in war’s service.

### Learning from past mistakes is critical to new, informed perspectives.

Ken BOOTH International Politics, Aberystywth, ’5

Critical Security Studies and World Politics, pp. 272-276

If a critical theory of security is to reverse …- determining insecurity from the bodies and minds of people in real villages and cities, regions and states. The stakes could not be higher.

Jordan Times 2-9-12

“Watershed in Campaign against Damascus,” MENAFN - Jordan Times, http://www.menafn.com/qn\_news\_story\_s.asp?StoryId=1093481710 [ACG D8T]

The most important tool in the struggle is, …

The result is **certain** to be prolongation of the unrest in Syria, the accelerated destruction of the country's economy, communal conflict and even **all-out civil war**.