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U.S. Going to War with Syria

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Abstract

Syria and the United States have become entangled in a conflict for some time, and there appears to be no direct and immediate solution. Coalitions have been formed to combat revolutionary and Islamic extremist activities in the area that are attempting to destabilize the Syrian government. The research question guiding this paper is: “Will the United States go to war with Syria in the next 5 years?” Four hypotheses were tested, evaluating the relationships of four factors that could lead to the U.S. and Syria going to war in the next five years. These four factors investigated included rivalries, opposing regimes, alliances, and economic development. It was discovered that each hypothesis was not supported, and the answer to the overall research question is that the U.S. will not go to war with Syria in the next five years.

U.S. Going to War with Syria

Since the United States witnessed the terror attacks of 9/11 by the hand of Islamic extremists, and even before, terror and the Middle East have been a relevant topic for the political arena. More recently, instability in parts of the Middle East has led to Islamic extremists to further their cause for a sovereign Islamic State. This is prominent in Syria, which has been fighting to gain their land back from Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS). Additionally, there is a revolutionary movement trying to gain control of Syria, which adds to the chaos present. The United States has many interests in the area, particularly ensuring stability in the region, and is therefore heavily involved. This led to the research question addressed; Will the United States go to war with Syria in the next 5 years?

Stability in the Middle East, particularly in Syria, is of great importance to the United States. Therefore, crisis in Syria peaks America's interest. After secondary data collection, interviews, and surveys it was discovered that the U.S. would not go to war with Syria in the next five years, since all four variables that will be explained were not supported.

Literature Review

Readings examined in this literature review, demonstrate that a US and Syrian conflict is not probable. Two Congressional Service Reports and six scholarly articles all show how the crisis in Syria is extremely important to U.S. foreign policy. They demonstrate that this crisis in Syria could lead to further conflict in the area, against the Assad regime or the Islamic State, but only under certain circumstances.

Haran (2016) explains how the U.S is impacted from the crisis in Syria, with the internal and external factors that have contributed the most to this conflict. To start he provides evidence that the Syrian regime withstood pressure for a long time, and pin points 2010/2011 as when the crisis began. Haran explains “the average lifespan of a government in Syria was less than one year, till Hafez al-Assad captured power in 1970” (Haran, 2016, p. 2). According to this article, the Syrian economy has also led to the instability in the nation.

Another element to the instability of Syria is the deficit of democracy, as one party, the Ba’ath party, has structured the government to maintain power. Haran states that there are roughly a dozen government officials that are influential, and they are all loyal to the president. Syria also has a pro-Palestinian stance, which is extremely concerning to the United States, Israel being a major ally. The U.S. also had concerns in mid 2000’s when there was a suspicious facility thought to be a nuclear facility, but that speculation was later debunked. Haran explains that external factors have been the most influential to the civil uprising and war. This article shows that the first operation carried out by the Islamic State was in April, 2011. Therefore, the Islamic State has only operated in Syria openly for about 5 years, and they were able to expand rapidly due to the turmoil in Syria. Haran is a former career Indian diplomat, and was the ambassador to Syria from 2009 until 2012 which demonstrates his credibility on the subject.

Byman (2015) explains how the chaos in Syria can be contained. Byman states that “terrorist groups thrive because of civil wars” (Byman, 2015, p. 32). This demonstrates that Syria is in the perfect time for an extremist group to take over or fight the sitting government. Therefore, it also conveys that these groups attract additional

foreign fighters, which further escalates that chaos. Byman explains that all pressures contribute to regional interventions, and these civil wars increase the chance of external conflict. This article discusses host nations handling of refugees from Syria, and how this can lead to greater conflict.

Byman explains that the best way for the U.S. to counter the Islamic State is through training regional military forces. Byman draws his arguments through facts, as well as data collected regarding U.S. investment in the Syrian chaos. The U.S. should also pressure allied diplomats to gain regional support for the cause against the Islamic State, and for a stable Syria. The issues lies in the fact that the U.S. is trying to counter the Islamic State, while also in opposition of the Assad regime.

Bechtol (2015) authored a article regarding North Korea and Syria, and how their relationship entices foreign response, which is important since the U.S. and North Korea have an enduring rivalry. Bechtol states “North Korea and Syria have a long history of military cooperation” (Bechtol, 2015, p. 1). This article explains how the Middle East has been unstable and engulfed in violence since the Arab Spring, which has led many of these countries to become failed states. Bechtol conveys that the North Korea-Syrian arms trade is of particular interest to the U.S. and other allies involved in the current crisis. This article focuses on historical analysis of the relationship, as well as evaluates current possibilities. An important piece of this article is that North Korea brought Syrian scientists to their labs to train them on the implementation of WMDs in Syria.

Additionally, Bechtol provides valuable insight regarding Assad using chemical weapons on his own people, and this has enabled external entities to become involved with the crisis. Furthermore, North Korea has played a role in the Syrian Civil War

according to this article, as they have provided armaments, training, and even weapons of mass destruction. This article provides factual evidence that would support the United States wanting to use military force in Syria, especially since the U.S. and North Korea have a long built up rivalry.

Next, Allison (2013) offers an in-depth review of the relationship between Russia and Syria. Since Russia is a rival of the U.S., this is important to the potential U.S. involvement in Syria in the next five years. According to Allison, in 2011 “Russia [assumed] the role of diplomatic shield for the Assad regime” (Allison, 2013, p. 798). This source explains that Russia has helped the Assad regime oppose pro-western powers in Syria, and those trying to aid in the crisis as well. Allison demonstrates that the Assad and Putin regimes have a shared outlook on “territorial sovereignty and rejection of the normative basis of the ... human-focused agenda of many western states” (Allison, 2013, p. 801). These anti western sentiments are argued to worsen the current situation, if the U.S. were to get involved in Syria.

This article offered additional insight to antagonizing western nations, much like North Korea in the previous source. According to Allison, some 10,000 Syrian officers had been trained at Russian military academies in the mid 2000’s. Since the Assad regime share ideologies with Russia, Putin has made it a priority to be involved in the crisis in Syria. This research was focused on historical evidence, and theorizes that the Russian-Syrian relationship could lead to further conflict worldwide.

As far as economic implications, Sharp and Blanchard (2012) offers that the Syrian economy is suffering because of drops in oil exports due to sanctions imposed. This is demonstrated through power outages and fuel shortages in urban areas of Syria.

This report also states that the Syrian stock market is down 40% since the start of the crisis. This report claims that there is evidence that Iran and Russia are exporting resources to Syria. If this is true there are enormous implications regarding the rivals of U.S., which could increase overall tension.

Haddad (2011) explains that the crisis in Syria will have long term effects on the country's development and relations, which offers insight to the economic development or condition of Syria. Haddad provided many financial figures and graphs as to the economy of Syria, and how it has suffered, which are extremely useful to this research. This source explains that there are many economic opportunities in Syria, but current sanctions and war deter them from expanding. In 2011 the GDP was down 4.3% in Syria (Haddad, 2011, p. 49). Dr. Bassam Haddad is the Director of Middle East Studies at George Mason University, and is a reliable source when it comes to Syria.

Zanotti and Thomas (2016) is also a report regarding Turkey, and the U.S. Relations involved. Being that the U.S. and Turkey are allies, and Turkey also seeks stability in the Middle East, they are also concerned with crisis in Syria (U.S. Turkey Relations, 2016). It explains that the Syrian-Turkey border is engulfed in crisis since Islamic State militants operate that part of Syria. One figure shows that there are two border crossings, where Turkey now has to protect heavily. Turkey's policy with Syria is concerning to the United States, to ensure the stability in the region.

The literature review provides an intellectual perspective on the information that already exists regarding the U.S. going to war with Syria; it also allowed the findings of gaps in the literature. All of the literature in the literature review involved the crisis in Syria, and how this could lead to the U.S. invading to stabilize the region. However, none

of the literature discussed the U.S. actually going to war with Syria, and the realistic possibilities of that. There were also very clear biases in the reading, considering most of the sources were from U.S. offices or authors, and those that were from elsewhere had clear alliances with the U.S.

Another gap in the literature is the types of research conducted, since the U.S. and Syria have only recently become heavily involved with each other, it is difficult to know all issues and complications. Along with this, a war with Syria could mean war with the Assad regime or with the Islamic State, and there isn't much focus on which one.

Theoretical Framework

There were four elements identified through the literature: rivalries between the West and the Islamic State operating in Syria, disagreements between political regimes in Syria and abroad, Syrian alliances with other problematic nations, and the economic hardship that has also caused woes in Syria.

The most beneficial method to model the factors that would play a part in the United States going to war with Syria is through a structural causal model, using independent and dependent variables. All of the independent variables are found and supported in the literature discussed in the Literature Review section, and were an adapted theory of a book by Geller and Singer, *Nations at War*. Bechtol (2015) shows how enduring rivalries associated with the U.S. and Syria could impact military actions, since North Korea and Syria have a relationship. Allison (2013) also demonstrates this, but how Russia, another rival of the U.S., is impacting the current situation in Syria. Haddad (2011) explains the downfall in the Syrian economy, which leads to different economic development causing struggles between the two countries. This is further

explained in a Congressional Research Survey authored by Sharp and Blanchard in 2012. Haran (2016) addresses the different regimes/political systems in Syria, and how those have changed since the civil war began. Byman (2015) discusses alliances that the entities involved have, and how those can contribute to stability in Syria, or more chaos. A structural causal model is most beneficial for this research topic because this type of model allows for displaying the relationship between the dependent variable of the U.S. going to war with Syria and the independent variables of enduring rivalries, the types of regimes and/or political systems that each entity have, alliances, and the economic development of each entity. The figure below, Figure 1, is an illustration of the above structural causal model.

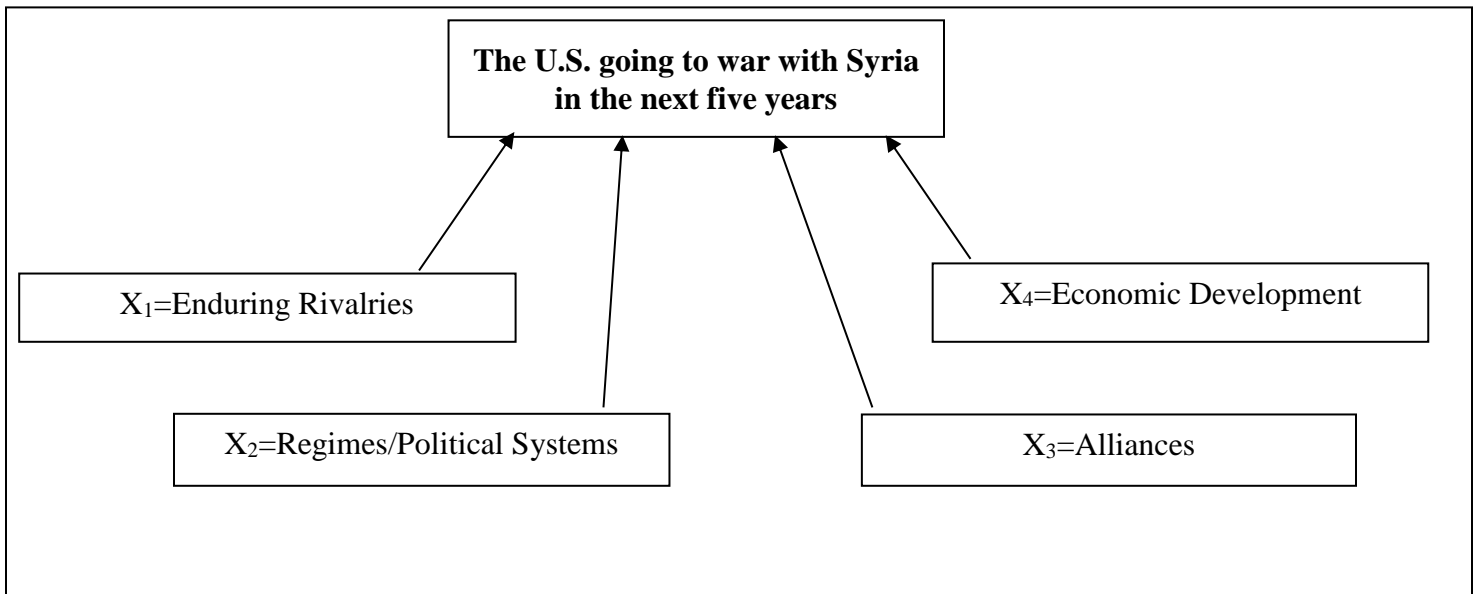


Figure 1. Structural causal model of the U.S. going to war with Syria. This model demonstrated the four independent variables that led to a change in the dependent variable of the U.S. going to war with Syria.

The major assumptions in this research project are that Syria will not be able to stabilize itself with the current leadership, and regional revolt. The literature does support this assumption, but there could be an unknown variable that will play a role in the U.S. potentially going to war with Syria.

Based on the structural causal model and the literature review for this study, there are four hypotheses that can be explained through the relationships between the dependent and independent variables.

Hypothesis 1: The enduring rivalries between the United States and Syria will lead to a war between the two in the next five years.

Hypothesis 2: The opposing regimes and/or political systems between the U.S. and Syria will lead to a war between the two in the next five years.

Hypothesis 3: The alliances associated with both the U.S. and Syria will lead to a war between the two in the next five years.

Hypothesis 4: The economic condition of Syria, and the hardship it has caused, will lead to a war between Syria and the U.S. in the next five years.

Research Design

This study focuses on qualitative analysis in order to obtain findings to the research question, and also support the hypotheses that were drawn from it. The methods used for data collection in this study are interviews, a survey, and secondary data collection.

The first variable in this study is enduring rivalries between Syria and the United States, as well as those allied with each. Enduring rivalries are important when considering the possibility of two states war, as it add existing pressure. Enduring

rivalries can be measured nominally, and be put in discreet categories. The enduring rivalries can be compared to other states going to war, and how enduring rivalries impacted that decision. It is important to analyze this variable, so that the possibility of war can be addressed. Interviewing U.S. and Syrian officials, particularly in the military and in the state department, to fully understand any rivalries involved, can measure this variable.

The second variable in this study is regimes and/or political systems for the United States and Syria. Different regimes and/or political systems are important when looking at the possibilities of two nations going war, since they interact differently, as well as treat their people in different ways. This also pertains when considering nations spreading their ideologies, like America did when spread democracy. Regimes and/or political systems can be measured nominally. The differing regimes/political systems can be compared to other states going to war, and how these regimes or political systems impacted that decision. Interviewing U.S. and Syrian officials, particularly in the military and in the state department, to fully understand political systems involved, can measure this variable.

The third variable in this study is alliances between Syria and the United States, as well as entities associated with each. Alliances associated with Syria and the United States are an important concept with regards to nation going to war, if an ally is involved, it might pull Syria or the United States into war. Alliances can be measured nominally, and be put in discreet categories. The impact of alliances on two nations going to war can be compared and contrasted to past wars and interactions were alliances impacted decisions. Interviewing U.S. and Syrian officials, particularly in the military and in the

state department, along with secondary data collection to fully understand any alliances involved, can measure this variable.

The fourth variable in this study is the differing economic development of Syria and the United States. Differing economic development greatly impacts chances of war between two nations. Economic Development can be measured nominally. Interviewing U.S. and Syrian officials, particularly in the military and in the state department, along with secondary data collection to fully understand any both countries economic development, can measure this variable.

This is a case study of the probability of the U.S. going to war with Syria, and the four variables above were analyzed to illustrate this. The sample for this study could be obtained through judgmental/purposive sampling. Since the population is small, being that very few people can be studied for this research unless the validity is damaged. Therefore, the sample is based on a population deemed necessary by the researcher, such as the President, Joint Chiefs of Staff, Secretary of State/Homeland Security/Defense. There are some limitations because of the sampling that will be done. The first being a misrepresentation of the population, since a random sample is not appropriate, the researcher is picking the sample. Therefore, randomization will not be found in this study.

With each variable operationalized above, the data collection methods that will be used for this study are interviews, a survey, and secondary data collection of existing information regarding the variables. Details from the interviews, and answers from the survey will be collected and analyzed. Existing information will be collected from credible and reliable sources on various databases on the Internet, and will then be

analyzed. The limitations that will occur in this study are the inability to interview/survey a reliable sample of Syrian and American leaders in the government and military. Instead, this study will conduct two interviews; the first with a professor of government who specializes in Middle Eastern Politics, and the second with a professor of government and President of a University who specializes in Middle Eastern History. If there were enough time, and resources available, a proper sample of the military and government leaders of both countries could be conducted. The same limitation applies to the survey; the sample will not be the most credible on the research question and variables. This all stems from the sampling method that was chosen. Therefore, this study will rely on existing literature along with the content provided in these interviews, and survey results. The analytical technique of logical argumentation being used for all four variables is the least structured qualitative analysis technique, which is the final limitation in this study.

Findings

Due to the various limitations previously discussed in the Research Design section, the following findings are based on secondary data collection, as well as survey and interview results. All four hypotheses were not supported through the analysis; therefore, the U.S. will not go to war with Syria in the next five years. Furthermore, this analysis was shown in the matrix below, and shows the most likely outcome.

Evaluation Criteria <i>A = Survey, B = Secondary Data, C = Interviews</i>	Will lead to war with Syria	Will lead to war with Syria with caveats	Will not lead to war with Syria
1. Enduring Rivalries	No	No	Yes (A,B,C)
2. Opposing Regimes/ Political Systems	No	Yes <i>If ISIS were able to overthrow the Syrian Government (C)</i>	Yes (A,B)
3. Alliances	No	No	Yes (A,B,C)
4. Economic Conditions	No	No	Yes (A,B,C)
<u>Overall</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>

Hypothesis 1: The enduring rivalries between the United States and Syria will lead to a war between the two in the next five years.

Rivalries between two entities can greatly impact the threat of conflict between them. This is especially relevant when the two states are involved in a high stress/tension event, such as ISIS and its involvement in Syria. Additionally, public sentiment can heighten these rivalries, leaving little chance for leadership to avoid conflict. As far as rivalries between Syria and the United States, there are few found in the literature. A very present rivalry, however, is that between the United States and Islamic Extremists, which are presented in Syria through ISIS, the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria. This rivalry stems from tensions built up through events such as the 9/11 attacks. According to the literature there is another important aspect to rivalries, which is rivalries between the U.S. and others involved in the Syrian crisis. Bechtol (2015) explains how North Korea, a huge

rival to the U.S., has been providing training and weapons to Syrian forces. Additionally, Bechtol (2015) explains that North Korea provides weapons and training to Islamic Radical groups, Hezbollah for example. This rivalry is important, as the U.S. and North Korea have an extreme enduring rivalry. Allison (2013) describes the enduring rivalry between Russia and the United States, and how it relates to crisis in Syria. It is shown that the U.S. interests could be at stake in that region if Russia has too strong of an impact on the region. This evidence is also provided by Stent (2016), which explains how Russia interprets U.S. intervention in the region as “overstepping its national borders.” For the United States, Russian military intervention in Syria is concerning, related to Russian power and influence in the area. Crosston (2014) offers that Syria acts as a game board for Russia, Iran, and the U.S. All of the literature related to this hypothesis lead to the conclusion that enduring rivalries will not lead to war between the U.S. and Syria in the next five years.

Continuing the research on enduring rivalries between the U.S. and Syria, 15 respondents answered a survey with questions directly related to this hypothesis. These respondents were selected in a class of Homeland Security Students at Eastern Kentucky University. Of these 15 respondents 13 said the current enduring rivalries will not lead to war in the next 5 years. Additionally, the respondents ranked enduring rivalries as the second least likely variable that would lead to war. The results of this survey related to this hypothesis demonstrate that enduring rivalries will not lead to war between the U.S. and Syria in the next five years.

Finally, there were interviews conducted to collect data on this hypothesis. The first interview (M. Benson, personal communication, November 3, 2016), offered that

though there are strong rivalries between Russia and the United States, it is unlikely there will be conflict. Benson also offered a quote from Winston Churchill, “Russia is a riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma.” Benson explained that this quote greatly holds true to this day, and the biggest threat to this rivalry and war is the unknown. In the second interview, it was offered that there are no rivalries that are present in Syria that would greatly impact the U.S. to the point of war (S. Barracca, personal communication, November 7, 2016). The results of both of the parts of these interviews related to this hypothesis show that enduring rivalries would not lead to war between the U.S. and Syria in the next five years.

The analysis does not support the hypothesis. In conclusion, through secondary data collection, interviews, and a survey, it is discovered that the enduring rivalries between the United States and Syria will not lead to a war between the two in the next five years. All forms of data collection led to the same conclusion.

Hypothesis 2: The opposing regimes and/or political systems between the U.S. and Syria will lead to a war between the two in the next five years.

Opposing regimes and/or political systems have led many entities into war in the history of the planet; therefore, it is a variable in the question of war between the U.S. and Syria in the next five years. Porter (2016) explains that the Assad regime in Syria has used chemical weapons in the current conflict, against warnings from western civilizations. This demonstrates the different political climate in Syria, where the leader doesn't care for human rights. Byman (2015) explains how the current Syrian regime causes a need for humanitarian intervention by the United States. Byman discusses the U.S. needing to stop the spread of sectarianism, and increase human rights. Friis (2015)

offers the ISIS regimes governing land in Syria, and how their beheading videos are influencing the region. Along with that it insights fear into western people.

In addition to the literature regarding the opposing regimes and/or political systems between the U.S. and Syria, 15 respondents answered a survey with questions directly related to this hypothesis. These respondents were selected in a class of Homeland Security Students at Eastern Kentucky University. Of these 15 respondents 9 said the current opposing regimes and/or political systems will not lead to war in the next 5 years. Additionally, the respondents ranked opposing regimes and/or political systems as the most likely variable that would lead to war. The results of this survey related to this hypothesis demonstrate that opposing regimes and/or political systems will not lead to war between the U.S. and Syria in the next five years.

Next, there were interviews conducted to collect data on this hypothesis. The first interview (M. Benson, personal communication, November 3, 2016), offered that though there are extreme differences in the regimes and/or political systems of the United States and Syria, but not to the point where war is a certainty. Benson also offered that if the ISIS militants were able to overtake take the Syrian regime, then yes it is likely the U.S. would be involved. However, in the current scenario, Benson argued that war is not probable when considering the different regimes and/or political systems. In the second interview, it was offered that there are not opposing regimes and/or different political systems that impact the U.S. or Syria to the point of (S. Barracca, personal communication, November 7, 2016). The results of both of the parts of these interviews related to this hypothesis show that opposing regimes/political systems would not lead to war between the U.S. and Syria in the next five years.

The analysis does not support the hypothesis. In conclusion, it is discovered that the opposing regimes and/or political systems between the United States and Syria will not lead to a war between the two in the next five years. All forms of data collection led to the same conclusion.

Hypothesis 3: The alliances associates with both the U.S. and Syria will lead to a war between the two in the next five years.

Alliances, and other foreign entanglements have often spurred war, and therefore this is the third variable in the study. World War One was primarily caused by alliances (A, 2014). Therefore, when it comes to the possibility of two or more states going to war, it is good to evaluate the present alliances. Zanotti and Thomas (2016) explain the alliance between the U.S. and the Kurdish groups in the Middle East. Another important alliance present is that of Israel and the United States. The U.S. State Department explains that the U.S. was the first country to recognize the sovereignty of Israel, and has been the most reliable partner in the Middle East (Israel, 2014). The U.S. has pledged to protect Israel and its interests. Therefore, if ISIS or instability in Syria threatens Israel, it could lead to war.

In addition to the literature regarding the alliances between the U.S. and Syria, 15 respondents answered a survey with questions directly related to this hypothesis. These respondents were selected in a class of Homeland Security Students at Eastern Kentucky University. Of these 15 respondents 14 said the current alliances will not lead to war in the next 5 years. Additionally, the respondents ranked alliances as the most likely variable that would not lead to war. The results of this survey related to this hypothesis

demonstrate that alliances will not lead to war between the U.S. and Syria in the next five years.

Next, there were interviews conducted to collect data on this hypothesis. The first interview (M. Benson, personal communication, November 3, 2016), offered that though there are little to no alliances between the United States and Syria. However, there is one ally the U.S. would go to war for, Israel. Benson explained that the U.S. has pledged to protect Israel, and if ISIS or the Assad regime antagonize them, then the U.S. would become involved. As is now though, Benson argued that war is not probable when considering the alliances. In the second interview, it was offered that there are not alliances that impact the U.S. or Syria to the point of war (S. Barracca, personal communication, November 7, 2016). The results of both of the parts of these interviews related to this hypothesis show that alliances would not lead to war between the U.S. and Syria in the next five years.

The analysis does not support the hypothesis. Through this analysis it is discovered that the alliances between the United States and Syria will not lead to a war between the two in the next five years. All forms of data collection led to the same conclusion.

Hypothesis 4: The economic condition of Syria, and the hardship it has caused will lead to a war between Syria and the U.S. in the next five years.

Economic development and/or economic conditions play a big role in conflict between two states. Sharp and Blanchard (2012) explains the financial crisis in Syria, and how it has led to instability. This instability becomes strength to Islamic Radicalization.

Though Syria is in economic turmoil, it is not to a point where it threatens war with the U.S.

In addition to the literature regarding the economic condition of Syria, 15 respondents answered a survey with questions directly related to this hypothesis. These respondents were selected in a class of Homeland Security Students at Eastern Kentucky University. Of these 15 respondents 12 said the current economic condition of Syria will not lead to war in the next 5 years. Additionally, the respondents ranked economic condition of Syria as the second most likely variable that would lead to war. The results of this survey related to this hypothesis demonstrate that the economic condition of Syria will not lead to war between the U.S. and Syria in the next five years.

Next, there were interviews conducted to collect data on this hypothesis. The first interview (M. Benson, personal communication, November 3, 2016), offered that though there the economic condition of Syria, as well as the rest of the Middle East, have always been worse than the Western civilizations, and though this might increase anti west feelings, it has not been the leading cause for entanglements in this region. In the second interview, it was offered that the economic condition of Syria does not impact the U.S. or Syria to the point of war (S. Barracca, personal communication, November 7, 2016). The results of both of the parts of these interviews related to this hypothesis show that the economic condition of Syria would not lead to war between the U.S. and Syria in the next five years.

The analysis does not support the hypothesis, as it is discovered that the economic condition of Syria will not lead to a war between the two in the next five years. All forms of data collection led to the same conclusion.

As shown above, all four hypotheses are not supported. Therefore, the logical outcome is that the U.S. will not go to war with Syria in the next five years.

Conclusion

This predictive study concluded that the U.S. will not go to war with Syria in the next five years. This analysis was reached through the research question addressed in this paper; will the United States go to war with Syria in the next 5 years? Four hypotheses were created in relation to that question, all of which were not supported. This research filled in gaps that were present in the current research, and can still be furthered. With the limitations and biases present in this study, there could be changes. For instance, a better data collection could result in more reliable results. This study was not able to survey a simple random sample of the appropriate population, nor interview the subject matter experts of the population, which impacted the findings. With more time and resources this could be accomplished, and increase the reliability and validity of this study. The next step for this research could be a predictive study regarding the U.S. going to war to eradicate Islamic Extremism. The theory used in this study was an existing theory based on the book *Nations at War*, by Singer and Geller. A causal model was created using this theory, although different factors could have been used from this theory, or a new theory to further the research.

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Appendix A

Interview with Dr. Steve Barracca – Associate Professor of Government at Eastern Kentucky University.

Interview Questions:

1. Explain the rivalries between Syria and the U.S., and how they might lead to a war between the two.
2. How do you think the differences in regimes/political systems between the U.S. and Syria could lead to a war between the two?
3. What alliances of the Syrian and U.S. governments could cause a war between the two?
4. How could the economic development of the U.S. and Syria lead to war between them?
5. With all of these factors in mind, could Syria and the U.S. go to war within the next five years?

Appendix B

Interview with Dr. Michael Benson – President at Eastern Kentucky University.

Interview Questions:

1. Explain the rivalries between Syria and the U.S., and how they might lead to a war between the two.
2. How do you think the differences in regimes/political systems between the U.S. and Syria could lead to a war between the two?
3. What alliances of the Syrian and U.S. governments could cause a war between the two?
4. How could the economic development of the U.S. and Syria lead to war between them?
5. With all of these factors in mind, could Syria and the U.S. go to war within the next five years?

Appendix C

Survey:

Questions:

1. Where is Syria?
 - a. Middle East
 - b. Southeast Asia
 - c. Central America
 - d. A city in Iraq
2. Who is the current leader of Syria
 - a. Omar al-Bashir
 - b. Muammar Gaddafi
 - c. Bashar al-Assad
 - d. Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi
3. Do you think that rivalries between the U.S. and Syria will lead to war?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
4. Do you think that differences in regimes/political systems between the U.S. (Democracy) and Syria (authoritarian) will lead to war?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
5. Do you think that U.S. and Syrian alliances will lead to war?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No

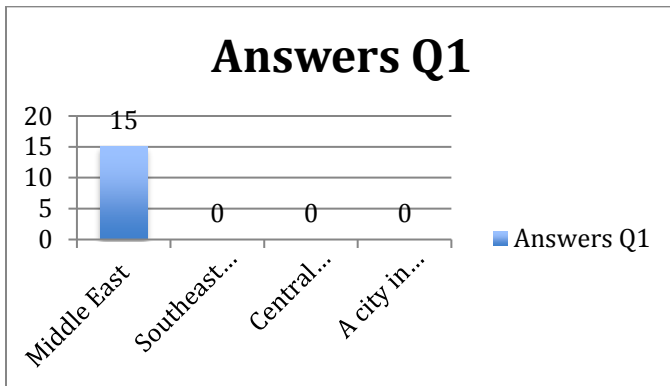
6. Do you think that different levels of economic development of Syria and the U.S. will lead to war?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
7. Which factor do you think would most likely lead to war?
 - a. Enduring Rivalries
 - b. Different Regimes/Political Systems
 - c. Economic Development
 - d. Alliances
8. Which factor do you think would least likely lead to war?
 - a. Enduring Rivalries
 - b. Different Regimes/Political Systems
 - c. Economic Development
 - d. Alliances
9. How likely do you think war between Syria and the U.S. will occur in the next 5 years?
 - a. Very Likely
 - b. Likely
 - c. Unlikely
 - d. Very Unlikely
10. Will all of those factors in mind; do you think the U.S. and Syria will go to war in the next 5 years?
 - a. Yes

b. No

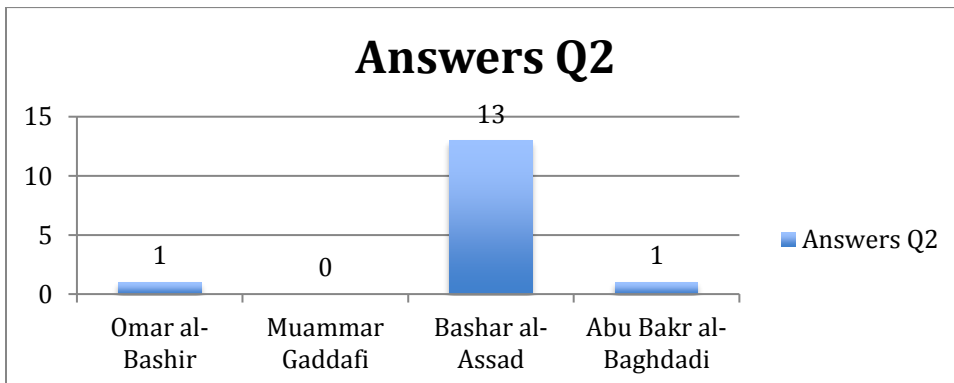
Appendix D

Survey Results: Based on 15 respondents, all EKU students, given out during a Homeland Security Technology class.

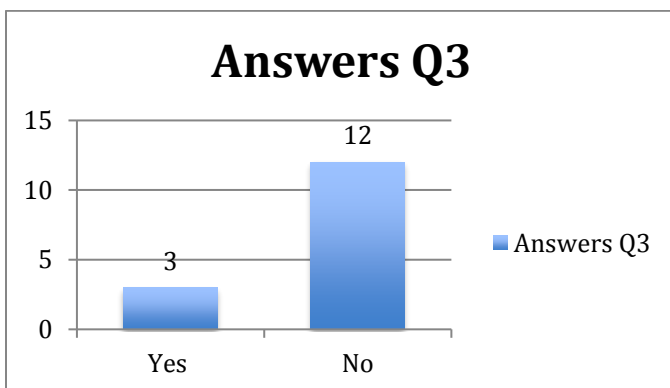
1. Where is Syria?



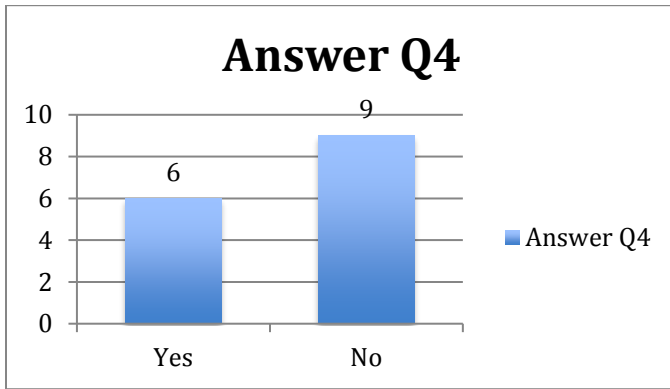
2. Who is the current leader of Syria



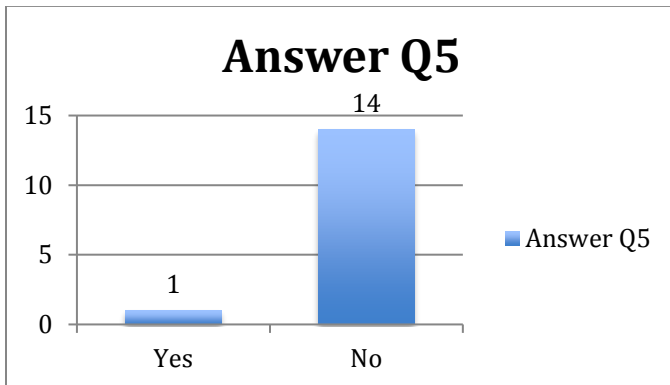
3. Do you think that rivalries between the U.S. and Syria will lead to war?



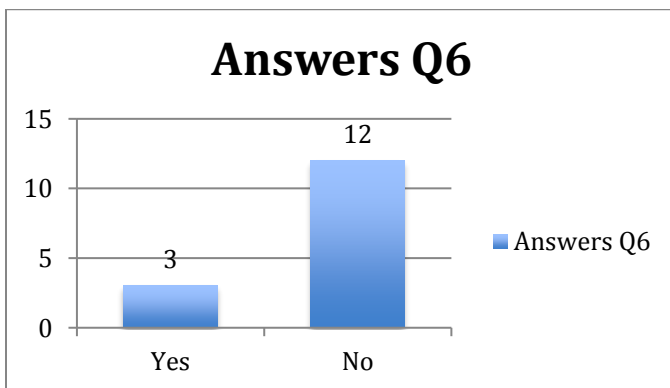
4. Do you think that differences in regimes/political systems between the U.S. (Democracy) and Syria (authoritarian) will lead to war?



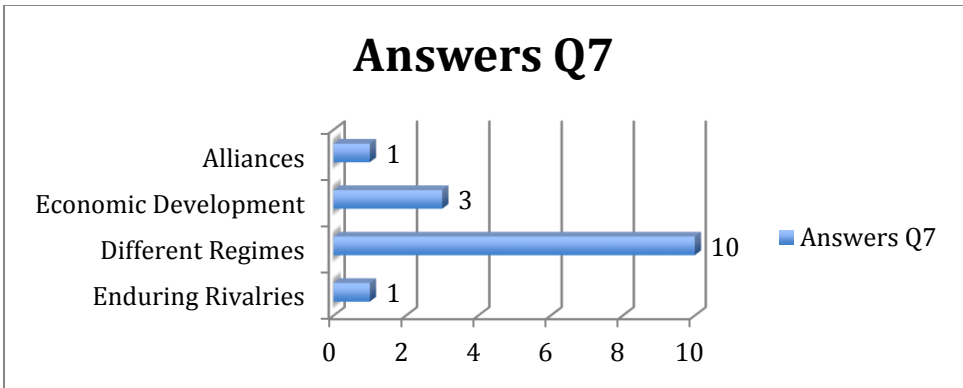
5. Do you think that U.S. and Syrian alliances will lead to war?



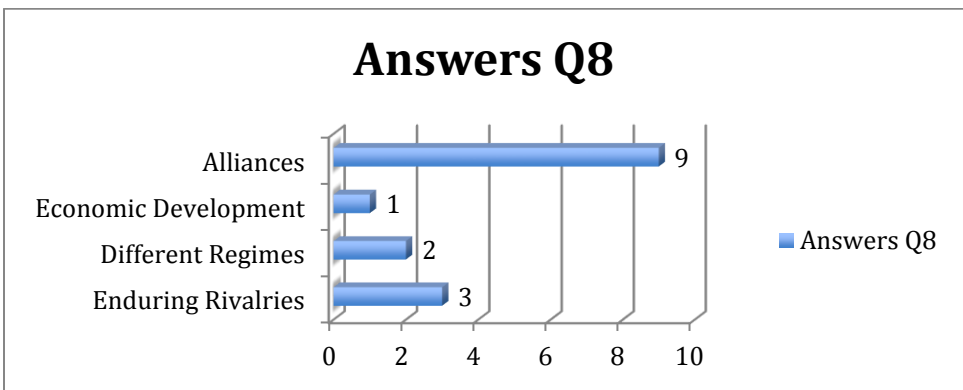
6. Do you think that different levels of economic development of Syria and the U.S. will lead to war?



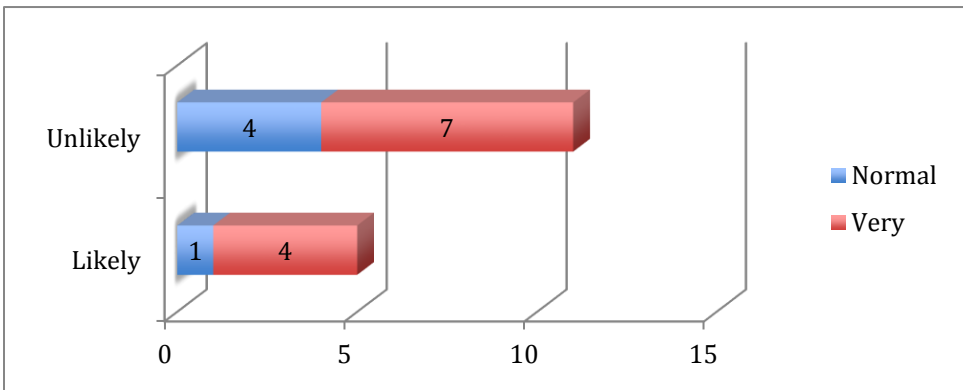
7. Which factor do you think would most likely lead to war?



8. Which factor do you think would least likely lead to war?



9. How likely do you think war between Syria and the U.S. will occur in the next 5 years?



10. Will all of those factors in mind; do you think the U.S. and Syria will go to war in the next 5 years?

