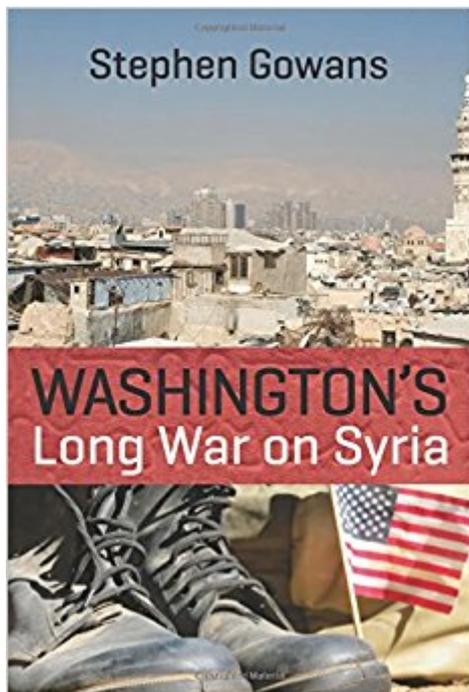


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# Washington's Long War On Syria



## Synopsis

When President Barack Obama demanded formally in the summer of 2011 that Syrian President Bashar al-Assad step down, it was not the first time Washington had sought regime change in Damascus. The United States had waged a long war against Syria from the very moment the country's fiercely independent Arab nationalist movement—of which Assad and his father Hafez al-Assad were committed devotees—came to power in 1963. Washington sought to purge Arab nationalist influence from the Syrian state and the Arab world more broadly because it was a threat to its agenda of establishing global primacy and promoting business-friendly investment climates for US banks, investors and corporations throughout the world. Arab nationalists aspired to unify the world's 400 million Arabs into a single super-state capable of challenging United States hegemony in West Asia and North Africa and becoming a major player on the world stage free from the domination of the former colonial powers and the US. Washington had waged long wars on the leaders of the Arab nationalist movement—Egypt's Gamal Abdel Nasser, Iraq's Saddam, Libya's Muammar Gaddafi, and Syria's Assads, often allying with particularly violent forms of political Islam to undermine its Arab nationalist foes. By 2011, only one pan-Arabist state remained in the region—Syria. In *Washington's Long War on Syria* Stephen Gowans examines the decades-long struggle between secular Arab nationalism, political Islam, and United States imperialism for control of Syria, the self-proclaimed Den of Arabism, and last secular pan-Arabist state in the region.

## Book Information

Paperback: 282 pages

Publisher: Baraka Books (April 17, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1771861088

ISBN-13: 978-1771861083

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.8 x 8.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.5 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #744,701 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #96 in [Books > History >](#)

[Middle East > Syria](#) #864 in [Books > History > Middle East > Israel & Palestine](#) #1456

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## Customer Reviews

“[O]ne has to question why [western politicians] are so intent on removing Assad . . . Stephen Gowans does a good and thorough job providing answers. Washington’s Long War on Syria not only provides a counter-narrative to the popular western version of the Syrian protests, but more importantly, a history and discussion of western intervention rarely heard in western media.” • Ron Jacobs, Counterpunch “The war over Syria has been, in truth, a fight for control over the global economic and political order • a last, failing stand for a declining American empire to forestall the current shift toward a new global balance of power. Unlike so many hastily-written books on Syria that miss this point, Stephen Gowans’ work will prove to be an essential primer on the Syrian conflict for years to come. A must read.” • Sharmine Narwani, journalist, analyst of Mideast geopolitics “Gowans’ book is a timely and indispensable resource for those seeking to understand recent events in Syria.” • Eva Bartlett, independent Canadian journalist “Stephen Gowans paints a very clear portrait of the Syrian Arab Republic, and documents the extensive efforts from the Pentagon to bring it down. With the mainstream media spewing regime change propaganda 24-hours a day, Gowans’ book is a must-read. It tells the true story of the Syrian people and their struggles for independence and development, a story that desperately needs to be heard. This book would make even the most ardent interventionist question Washington’s policies. Gowans’ tells truths that are so deeply hidden in western countries, but yet are so vital in understanding world events.” • Caleb Maupin, journalist and political analyst “Washington’s Long War on Syria is a well-researched and highly readable account of why the United States has launched a major crusade to overthrow the Baathist government in Damascus. Needless to say, the story it tells is completely at odds with the US-sponsored fairy tale about a brutal dictator crushing a democratic protesters, leaving noble Americans no choice but to ride to the rescue.” • Dan Lazare, journalist and author “Washington’s Long War on Syria is a well-researched and deeply considered analysis of the tragedy that has befallen Syria. Stephen Gowans reveals the political and economic interests that are motivating Washington’s intervention in Syria. No praise is too high for this much-needed corrective to Western propaganda. This fascinating book is a must-read for anyone seeking a deeper understanding of the war in Syria.” • Gregory Elich, Global Research News

Stephen Gowans runs the popular What’s Left webzine. He lives in Ottawa, Ontario,

Canada.

Stephen Gowans has been blogging for years on his website, "what's left," and now he has written this excellent account of Washington / Wall Street's long war on Syria. This war has been in the planning stages for decades and has been now implemented through radical Wahhabi terrorist proxies. In this book Gowans explains why the US ruling class has such enmity for the government of Syria. The details and historical examples are contained in the book, but the short answer has to do with the slogan of the Arab nationalist and socialist Ba'ath Party of "Unity, Freedom, Socialism." The government of President Bashar al-Assad is determined to ensure Arab freedom from enslavement by US investors and industrialists and he brazenly seeks to make the Syrian economy work for and provide for the well-being of Syrians. This insult against the global godfather cannot be tolerated and so Washington / Wall Street has put a hit out on the Syrian government. It's as simple as that, but you must read the book to get the full story. I highly recommend this book to help explain what is happening, not only in Syria, but also the crisis that is unfolding on the Korean peninsula and throughout the world. Those who seek out an independent path from US-led global capitalism are destined for a collision course with all the might of the US military and intelligence apparatus!

Canada is far away from Syria, but Stephen Gowans has done an incredible job researching this extremely complex subject and presents his findings in a very clear and objective manner. A huge contrast with the narrative we have been subjected to for the last six years, which is usually based on unreliable and unverifiable sources. Stephen exposes both sides of the issues and puts forward verifiable facts to help the reader better understand this complex war.

This book recapitulates all of the pro-Assad arguments over the past 6 years that are found both in the part of the "left" that Gowans occupies as well as the right (David Duke, Nigel Farage, Pamela Geller, Richard Spencer, Marine Le Pen). It proceeds on the basis that the USA plotted to destroy a legitimately elected government and replace it with a neoliberal dictatorship. In fact, the current dictator's father seized power in a military coup in 1971 and installed his son Bashar from his death bed. Elections in Syria are rather a joke, with the victory of the Baathists averaging 98 percent. In most instances, the left would consider such elections as bogus but exceptions are made for Syrian "socialism". This is a most peculiar form of socialism considering the fact that Rami Makhlouf, Assad's cousin, controls about 60 percent of the economy and shelters his ill-gotten gains in Mossack-Fonseca banks in Panama. It is also quite peculiar that given Assad's "anti-imperialism",

he was totally willing to collaborate with the CIA in its "extraordinary rendition" program that amounted to kidnapping suspected "jihadis" and transporting them to Syrian prisons without a trial, where they would be tortured. It is also a most peculiar form of socialism in which hospitals are bombed by Assad's air force and entire cities are leveled to the ground. I suspect that Gowans is doing nothing but preaching to the choir with this meretricious book. Those who love Assad will also love this book. So I doubt sales will exceed a couple of hundred.

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