

Syrian civil war / United States should depose Bashar Assad

< Syrian civil war

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Position: United States should depose Bashar Assad

This position addresses the topic Syrian civil war.

For this position

“ It is in America’s strategic interest, then, to take decisive action to mortally wound the Assad regime. Ensuring that Syria does not become a haven for Al Qaeda — a legitimate fear — would have to immediately follow. ”

From Forcing Obama’s Hand in Syria, by Vali Nasr (*International Herald Tribune*, September 2, 2013) (view)

“ Then there is the "Desert Fox" option—Bill Clinton's scattershot, three-day bombing campaign of Iraq in December 1998, on the eve of his impeachment. The operation hit 97 targets in an effort to "degrade" Iraq's WMD stockpiles and make a political statement. But it did nothing to damage Saddam's regime and even increased international sympathy for him. Reprising that feckless exercise in "doing something" is the worst thing the U.S. could do in Syria. Sadly, it's probably what we'll wind up doing. ”

From Target Assad, by Bret Stephens (*The Wall Street Journal*, August 27, 2013) (view)

Against this position

“ Far better for a week of missiles to rain down on the dictator’s “command-and-control” centres, including his palaces. By doing this, Mr Obama would certainly help the rebels, though probably not enough to overturn the regime. With luck, well-calibrated strikes might scare Mr Assad towards the negotiating table. ”

From Hit him hard, by The Economist editorial board (*The Economist*, August 31, 2013) (view)

“ If and when an attack comes, it must be forceful enough to convince Assad that use of chemical weapons will weaken him, not help him. And it must be justified explicitly as retaliation for violation of international treaties on use of chemical weapons — not as an attempt to dictate the outcome of the civil war. A missile attack appears the likeliest and smartest option. It could be used to weaken Syria's air power, to destroy units that used the chemical weapons, to strike the weapons themselves, or to attack other targets. ”

From Syrian chemical attack demands precise strike, by USA Today editorial board (*USA Today*, August 27, 2013) (view)

“ If Mr. Obama does forgo the U.N., he will need strong endorsements from the Arab League and the European Union, and more countries than just Turkey, Britain and France should join the effort. And if he does proceed with military action, it should be carefully targeted at Syrian air assets and military units involved in chemical weapons use. This, too, will not be easy, but the aim is to punish Mr. Assad for slaughtering his people with chemical arms, not to be drawn into another civil war. ”

From Responding to Syrian Atrocities, by The New York Times editorial board (*The New York Times*, August 26, 2013) (view)

Mixed on this position

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