

## “Revoluções no Mundo Árabe e Islâmico: Regimes Políticos, Síria e Irã - 2012

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-14703995>

### Syria Timeline

A chronology of key events:

**1918** October - Arab troops led by Emir Feisal, and supported by British forces, capture Damascus, ending 400 years of Ottoman rule.

**1919** - Emir Feisal backs Arab self-rule at the Versailles peace conference, following the defeat of Germany and the Ottoman Empire in World War I.

**1919** June - Elections for a Syrian National Congress are held. The new assembly includes delegates from Palestine.

**1920** March - The National Congress proclaims Emir Feisal king of Syria "in its natural boundaries" from the Taurus mountains in Turkey to the Sinai desert in Egypt.

### French control

**1920** June - San Remo conference splits up Feisal's newly-created Arab kingdom by placing Syria-Lebanon under a French mandate, and Palestine under British control.

**1920** July - French forces occupy Damascus, forcing Feisal to flee abroad.

**1920** August - France proclaims a new state of Greater Lebanon.

**1922** - Syria is divided into three autonomous regions by the French, with separate areas for the Alawis on the coast and the Druze in the south.

### Uprising

**1925-6** - Nationalist agitation against French rule develops into a national uprising. French forces bombard Damascus.

**1928** - Elections held for a constituent assembly, which drafts a constitution for Syria. French High Commissioner rejects the proposals, sparking nationalist protests.

**1936** - France agrees to Syrian independence in principle but signs an agreement maintaining French military and economic dominance.

**1940** - World War II: Syria comes under the control of the Axis powers after France falls to German forces.

**1941** - British and Free French troops occupy Syria. General De Gaulle promises to end the French mandate.

**1945** - Protests over the slow pace of French withdrawal.

**1946** - Last French troops leave Syria.

### Baath Party founded

**1947** - Michel Aflaq and Salah-al-Din al-Bitar found the Arab Socialist Baath Party.

**1949** - Army officer Adib al-Shishakhli seizes power in the third military coup in the space of a year.

**1952** - Al-Shishakhli dissolves all political parties.

**1954** - Army officers lead a coup against Al-Shishakhli, but return a civilian government to power.

**1955** - Veteran nationalist Shukri al-Quwatli is elected president. Syria seeks closer ties with Egypt.

### United Arab Republic

**1958** February - Syria and Egypt join the United Arab Republic (UAR). Egyptian president Gamal Abdel Nasser heads the new state. He orders the dissolution of Syrian political parties, to the dismay of the Baath party, which had campaigned for union.

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Israel occupied the Golan Heights in 1967 during the Six Day War

- **Golan Heights profile**

**1961** September - Discontent with Egyptian domination of the UAR prompts a group of Syrian army officers to seize power in Damascus and dissolve the union.

**1963** March - Army officers seize power. A Baathist cabinet is appointed and Amin al-Hafez becomes president.

### Rise of Assad

**1966** February - Salah Jadid leads an internal coup against the civilian Baath leadership, overthrowing Amin al-Hafez and arresting Salah al-Din al-Bitar and Michel Aflaq. Hafez al-Assad becomes defence minister.

**1967** June - Israeli forces seize the Golan Heights from Syria and destroy much of Syria's air force in the Six Day War with Egypt, Jordan and Syria.

**1970** November - Hafez al-Assad overthrows president Nur al-Din al-Atasi and imprisons Salah Jadid.

**1971** March - Assad is elected president for a seven-year term in a plebiscite.

**1973** - Rioting breaks out after Assad drops the constitutional requirement that the president must be a Muslim. He is accused of heading an atheist regime. The riots are suppressed by the army.

### War with Israel

**1973** October - Syria and Egypt go to war with Israel but fail to retake the Golan Heights seized during the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

**1974** May - Syria and Israel sign a disengagement agreement.

**1975** February - Assad says he's prepared to make peace with Israel in return for an Israeli withdrawal from "all occupied Arab land".

**1976** June - Syrian army intervenes in the Lebanese civil war to ensure that the status quo is maintained, and the Maronites remain in power.

**1978** - In response to the Camp David peace agreement between Egypt and Israel, Assad sets out to gain strategic parity with Israel.

### Riots

**1980** - After the Islamic Revolution in Iran, Muslim groups instigate uprisings and riots in Aleppo, Homs and Hama. Assad begins to stress Syria's adherence to Islam.

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Hafez al-Assad brought stability, but did so through repression

- **Obituary: Syria's shrewd master**

**1980** - Muslim Brotherhood member tries to assassinate Assad.

**1980** September - Start of Iran-Iraq war. Syria backs Iran, in keeping with the traditional rivalry between Baathist leaderships in Iraq and Syria.

**1981** December - Israel annexes the Golan Heights.

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### Uprising in Hama

**1982** February - Muslim Brotherhood uprising in the city of Hama. The revolt is suppressed by the military, whom rights organisations accuse of killing tens of thousands of civilians.

**1982** June - Israel invades Lebanon and attacks the Syrian army, forcing it to withdraw from several areas. Israel attacks the PLO base in Beirut.

**1983** May - Lebanon and Israel announce the end of hostilities. Syrian forces remain in Lebanon.

**1983** - Assad suffers a heart attack, according to reports denied by authorities. Assad's brother Rifaat apparently prepares to take power.

**1984** Rifaat is promoted to the post of vice-president.

### Return to Lebanon [Syria profile](#)

**1987** February - Assad sends troops into Lebanon for a second time to enforce a ceasefire in Beirut.

**1990** - Iraq invades Kuwait; Syria joins the US-led coalition against Iraq. This leads to improved relations with Egypt and the US.

**1991** October - Syria participates in the Middle East peace conference in Madrid and holds talks with Israel that founder over the Golan Heights issue.

**1994** - Assad's son Basil, who was likely to succeed his father, is killed in a car accident.

### Rifaat sacked

**1998** - Assad's brother Rifaat is "relieved of his post" as vice-president.



Damascus urban sprawl

**1999** December - Talks with Israel over the Golan Heights begin in the US, but are indefinitely postponed the following month.

### Assad succession

**2000** June - Assad dies and is succeeded by his second son, Bashar.

**2000** November - The new President Assad orders the release of 600 political prisoners.

**2001** April - Outlawed Muslim Brotherhood says it will resume political activity, 20 years after its leaders were forced to flee.

**2001** 5 May - Pope John Paul II pays historic visit.

**2001** June - Syrian troops evacuate Beirut, redeploy in other parts of Lebanon, following pressure from Lebanese critics of Syria's presence.

**2001** September - Detention of MPs and other pro-reform activists, crushing hopes of a break with the authoritarian past of Hafez al-Assad. Arrest continue, punctuated by occasional amnesties, over the following decade.

**2001** November - British PM Tony Blair visits to try shore up support for the campaign against terror. He and President Assad fail to agree on a definition of terrorism.

### Tensions with US

**2002** May - Senior US official includes Syria in a list of states that make-up an "axis of evil", first listed by President Bush in January. Undersecretary for State John Bolton says Damascus is acquiring weapons of mass destruction.

**2003** April - US threatens sanctions if Damascus fails to take what Washington calls the "right decisions". Syria denies US allegations that it is developing chemical weapons and helping fugitive Iraqis.

**2003** September - President Assad appoints Mohammed Naji al-Otari prime minister.

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**2003** October - Israeli air strike against Palestinian militant camp near Damascus. Syria says action is "military aggression".

**2004** January - President Assad visits Turkey, the first Syrian leader to do so. The trip marks the end of decades of frosty relations, although ties sour again after the popular uprising in 2011.

**2004** March - At least 25 killed in clashes between members of the Kurdish minority, police and Arabs in the north-east.

**2004** May - US imposes economic sanctions on Syria over what it calls its support for terrorism and failure to stop militants entering Iraq.

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### Syria and Lebanon



The killing of former Lebanese PM Rafik Hariri sparked anti-Syrian protests in Beirut

- [Syria withdrawal: Lebanese speak](#)
- [Q&A: Syria and Lebanon](#)

**2004** September - UN Security Council resolution calls for all foreign forces to leave Lebanon.

### Pressure over Lebanon

**2005** February-April- Tensions with the US escalate after the killing of former Lebanese PM Hariri in Beirut. Washington cites Syrian influence in Lebanon. Damascus is urged to withdraw its forces from Lebanon, which it does by April.

**2005** October - Interior minister and Syria's former head of intelligence in Lebanon, Ghazi Kanaan, dies in what officials say is suicide. UN inquiry into assassination of former Lebanese PM Rafik Hariri implicates senior Syrian officials.

**2005** December - Exiled former vice-president Abdul Halim Khaddam alleges that Syrian leaders threatened former Lebanese PM Hariri before his assassination.

**2006** February - Danish and Norwegian embassies in Damascus are set on fire during a demonstration against cartoons in a Danish newspaper portraying the Muslim Prophet Muhammad.

**2006** September - Attack on the US embassy in Damascus. Four gunmen open fire and throw grenades but fail to detonate a car bomb. Three of them are killed, one is captured.

### Diplomatic overtures

**2006** November - Iraq and Syria restore diplomatic relations after nearly a quarter century.

**2007** March - European Union relaunches dialogue with Syria.

**2007** April - US House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi meets President Assad in Damascus. She is the highest-placed US politician to visit Syria in recent years. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice meets Foreign Minister Walid Muallem the following month in the first contact at this level for two years.

**2007** May - Leading dissident Kamal Labwani and prominent political writer Michel Kilo are sentenced to a long jail terms, only weeks after human rights lawyer Anwar al-Bunni is jailed.

### Israeli strike

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### Mystery site

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Israeli forces destroyed what they said was a nuclear facility under construction. Syria says it was an unused military facility

**2007** September - Israel carries out an aerial strike against a site in northern Syria that it said was a nuclear facility under construction. In 2011 the UN's IAEA nuclear watchdog decides to report Syria to the UN Security Council over its alleged covert nuclear programme reactor programme at the site.

**2008** March - Syria hosts Arab League summit. Many pro-Western states send lower-level delegations in protest at Syria's stance on Lebanon.

**2008** April - The US accuses North Korea of having helped Syria to build a secret nuclear reactor at the site bombed by Israel in 2007.

### International acceptance

**2008** July - President Assad meets French President Nicolas Sarkozy in Paris. The visit signals the end of the diplomatic isolation by the West that followed the assassination of former Lebanese PM Rafik Hariri in 2005. While in Paris, President Assad also meets the recently-elected Lebanese president, Michel Suleiman. The two men agree to work towards the establishing of full diplomatic relations between their countries.

**2008** September - Damascus hosts four-way summit between Syria, France, Turkey and Qatar, in a bid to boost efforts towards Middle East peace. Explosion kills 17 on the outskirts of Damascus, the most deadly attack in Syria in several years. Government blames Islamist militants.

### Diplomatic thaw continues

**2008** October - Syria establishes diplomatic relations with Lebanon for first time since both countries established independence in 1940s.

**2009** March - Jeffrey Feltman, acting assistant US secretary of state for the Near East, visits Damascus with White House national security aide Daniel Shapiro in first high-level US diplomatic mission for nearly four years. Meets Foreign Minister Walid Muallem.

Trading launches on Syria's stock exchange in a gesture towards liberalising the state-controlled economy.

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#### Christian minority



Syria has a sizeable Christian minority

- [Guide: Christians in the Middle East](#)

**2009** May - Syrian writer and pro-democracy campaigner Michel Kilo is released from prison after serving three-year sentence.

**2009** June - The UN nuclear watchdog, the IAEA, says traces of undeclared man-made uranium have been found at second site in Syria - a reactor in Damascus. The IAEA was investigating US claims that the site destroyed in the 2007 Israeli raid was a nuclear reactor.

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**2009** July - US special envoy George Mitchell visits for talks with President Assad on Middle East peace.

**2009** August - Iraq and Syria recall their envoys in a deepening rift over charges of responsibility for a string of deadly bomb attacks in Baghdad. They restore ties later in 2010.

**2010** February - US posts first ambassador to Syria after a five-year break.

**2010** May - US renews sanctions against Syria, saying that it supports terrorist groups, seeks weapons of mass destruction and has provided Lebanon's Hezbollah with Scud missiles in violation of UN resolutions.

### Nationwide uprising

**2011** March - Protests in Damascus and the southern city of Deraa demand the release of political prisoners. Security forces shoot a number of people dead in Deraa, triggering days of violent unrest that steadily spread nationwide over the following months.

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#### 2011 protests



The Syrian government sent tanks into cities in an attempt to quell pro-democracy protests

- [Q&A: Syria protests](#)
- [Q&A: The Free Syrian Army](#)

The government announces some conciliatory measures in an attempt to damp down unrest. .

President Assad releases dozens of political prisoners and dismisses the government, and in April lifts the 48-year-old state of emergency. However, he accuses protesters of being Israeli agents.

**2011** May - Army tanks enter Deraa, Banyas, Homs and suburbs of Damascus in an effort to crush anti-regime protests. US and European Union tighten sanctions. President Assad announces amnesty for political prisoners.

**2011** June - The government says that 120 members of the security forces have been killed by "armed gangs" in the northwestern town of Jisr al-Shughour. Troops besiege the town and more than 10,000 people flee to Turkey. President Assad pledges to start a "national dialogue" on reform.

**2011** June - The IAEA nuclear watchdog decides to report Syria to the UN Security Council over its alleged covert nuclear programme reactor programme. The structure housing the alleged reactor was destroyed in an Israeli air raid in 2007.

### Opposition organises

**2011** July - President Assad sacks the governor of the northern province of Hama after mass demonstration there, eventually sending in troops to restore order at the cost of scores of lives. Opposition activists meet in Istanbul to form a unified opposition.

**2011** August - US President Barack Obama and allies call on President Assad to step down.

**2011** October - Newly formed Syrian National Council says it has forged a common front of internal and exiled opposition activists. Russia and China veto UN resolution condemning Syria.

**2011** November - Arab League votes to suspend Syria, accusing it of failing to implement an Arab peace plan, and imposes sanctions. Army defectors target a military base near Damascus in the Free Syrian Army's most high-profile attack since protests began. Government supporters attack foreign embassies.

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**2011** December - Syria agrees to an Arab League initiative allowing Arab observers into the country. Thousand of protesters gather in Homs to greet them, but the League suspends its mission in January because of worsening violence.

Twin suicide bombs outside security buildings in Damascus kill 44, the first in a series of large blasts in the the capital that continue into the following summer. Opposition accuses government of staging these and subsequent attacks.

### **UN pressure**

**2012** February - Russia and China block a UN Security Council draft resolution on Syria, and the government steps up the bombardment of Homs and other cities, recapturing the Homs district of Baba Amr the following month. The UN says that more than 7,500 people have died since the security crackdown began.

**2012** March - UN Security Council endorses non-binding peace plan drafted by UN envoy Kofi Annan. China and Russia agree to support the plan after an earlier, tougher draft is modified. The UN statement falls short of a formal resolution, and violence continues into the summer.

**2012** May - UN Security Council condemns "in the strongest possible terms" the government's use of heavy weaponry and the militia killing of civilians in the small town of Houla near Homs. More than a hundred people, most of them women and children, were killed in the attack. France, the UK, Germany, Italy, Spain, Canada and Australia expel senior Syrian diplomats in protest.

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[en.wikipedia.org/.../Timeline\\_of\\_Syrian\\_history](https://en.wikipedia.org/.../Timeline_of_Syrian_history)

20th century

Year	Date	Event
1918		<b>Ottoman</b> rule over Syria came to an end.
	1 October	The <b>Allies of World War I</b> , joined by <b>Arab</b> nationalists, entered <b>Damascus</b> .
1920	April	<i>San Remo conference</i> : The conference partitioned the <b>Ottoman Empire</b> , establishing a <b>French mandate</b> in Syria and <b>Lebanon</b> .
1925		<i>Great Syrian Revolt</i> : Revolts started against French rule.
1936		The <b>Franco-Syrian Treaty of Independence (1936)</b> was signed.
1939		The enclaves of <b>Alexandretta</b> and <b>Antioch</b> were ceded to <b>Turkey</b> by the <b>French</b> .
1944	1 January	Syria was recognized as an independent republic.
1946	17 April	<b>French</b> troops evacuated Syria.
1947		The first <b>Ba'ath Party</b> congress was held in <b>Damascus</b> .
1948		<i>1948 Arab–Israeli War</i> : Syria was involved in the war.
1958	1 February	The <b>United Arab Republic (UAR)</b> was formed by the union of Syria and <b>Egypt</b> .
1961	28 September	Following a military coup Syria seceded from the <b>UAR</b> , reestablishing itself as the Syrian Arab Republic.
1967	5 June	<i>Six-Day War</i> : A war with <b>Israel</b> began.  <i>Six-Day War</i> : The <b>Golan Heights</b> were occupied by <b>Israel</b> .
1970	13 November	Minister of Defense <b>Hafiz al-Assad</b> effected a bloodless military coup and assumed the role of President.
1973	6 October	<i>Yom Kippur War</i> : Syria and <b>Egypt</b> fought against <b>Israel</b> .
1974	May	Syria and <b>Israel</b> signed a disengagement agreement.
1976		<i>Syrian occupation of Lebanon</i> : The Syrian occupation of <b>Lebanon</b> began.
1982	February	A <b>Muslim Brotherhood</b> uprising in <b>Hama</b> was suppressed by the military.

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1990 Syria participated in a **United States**-led multinational coalition against **Saddam Hussein**.

*[edit]* 21st century

Year	Date	Event
2000	10 June	Al-Assad died.
	10 July	Al-Assad's son <b>Bashar al-Assad</b> was elected President.
2003	5 October	<i>Ain es Saheb airstrike</i> : <b>Israel</b> bombed a site near <b>Damascus</b> .
2005		<i>Syrian occupation of Lebanon</i> : Syria withdrew from <b>Lebanon</b> .
2007	6 September	<i>Operation Orchard</i> : <b>Israel</b> bombed a target in the area of <b>Deir ez-Zor</b> .
2008	October	Syria established diplomatic relations with <b>Lebanon</b> .
2011	26 January	<a href="#">2011 Syrian uprising</a> : Anti-government protests began in Syria.

<http://www.syrianhistory.com/timeline>

**Timeline**

- \* **July 1908**: The Committee for Union and Progress (CUP) seizes power in Istanbul and forces Sultan Abdulhamid II to restore the constitution and parliament he had abrogated in 1876.
- \* **1909**: The CUP forces Abdulhamid II to abdicate in favor of his brother Sultan Mohammad Rashad V. A process known as Turkification begins, where Ottoman Turkish replaces Arabic as the language of the Arab provinces in the Empire, and all senior Arab officials are discharged and replaced by Ottoman Turks.
- \* **1910**: Mary Ajamy, a recent nursing graduate from AUB, launches the first women's right magazine in the Middle East, called al-`Arus (The Bride).
- \* **1911**: al-Fatat is founded in Paris by a group of Arab activists, demanding more rights for the Arab provinces in the Ottoman Empire. It mushrooms to become the single-most important opposition party in Ottoman Syria.
- \* **1913**: The CUP rigged the parliamentary elections to oust the Arab deputies from the Ottoman Parliament. Many of the ousted deputies are members of al-Fatat.

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- \* **1913:** The first Arab Congress is held in Paris by al-Fatat. It is co-planned by Jamil Mardam Bey, a student of political science in France, and chaired by Abd al-Hamid al-Zahrawi, an Arab deputy in the Ottoman Parliament. Ottoman authorities forbid their citizens from attending the conference, accusing its founders of treason against the Empire.
- \* **August 1914:** World War I breaks out in Europe.
- \* **August 15, 1915:** Ottoman authorities execute many Arab nationalists in Beirut, accusing them of treason against the Empire. Most of them are members of al-Fatat.
- \* **May 6, 1916:** Jamal Pasha, the Ottoman military governor of Syria, executes twenty-one Arab nationalists in Damascus, mostly from al-Fatat, who were former deputies in the Ottoman Parliament. The execution fuels dramatic anti-Ottoman sentiment in Syria.
- \* **May 1916:** The Sykes-Picot Agreement is signed between Great Britain and France, dividing the Middle East into mandates for the Great Powers. A mandate over Syria and Lebanon is given to France.
- \* **June 10, 1916:** Sharif Husayn of Mecca launches an Arab Revolt from the Arabian Desert against the Ottoman Empire. His rebel army is aided by the British Army, under the command of Colonel T.E. Lawrence.
- \* **November 2, 1917:** The British Government issues the Balfour Declaration, promising the Jews an independent state in Palestine. At the time, the population of Palestine was 700,000, of which 574,000 were Muslims, 74,000 were Christians, and 56,000 were Jews.
- \* **December 1917:** British troops invade Palestine, with the rebel Arab Army of Sharif Husayn, and capture Jerusalem. The Ottoman Army in Jerusalem surrenders to General Edmond Allembey. This raises moral of the Arab rebels and hundreds of volunteers from Syria join the Arab Revolt.
- \* **September 26, 1918:** The last Ottoman troops evacuate from Syria. An interim government is created in Damascus, headed by the Algerian notable Prince Sa'ïd al-Jaza'iri.
- \* **October 1, 1918:** The Arab Army enters Damascus, under the command of Prince Faysal, the son of Husayn who is a member of al-Fatat. An Arab Government is set up in Damascus, headed by Faysal and the first post-Ottoman Prime Minister of Syria, Rida Pasha al-Rikabi.
- \* **November 11, 1918:** World War I ends.
- \* **January 1, 1919:** Faysal travels to France to attend the Paris Peace Conference and demand international recognition for Syria's independence.
- \* **February 5, 1919:** The Istiqlal Party is founded in Damascus. It is the first official party in post-Ottoman Syria, headed by Shukri al-Quwatli, Riyad al-Sulh, Saadallah al-Jabiri, and Adil Arslan.
- \* **May 1919:** Salih al-Ali, a chieftain from the Alawite Mountain, declares a military uprising against the first French troops to land on the Syrian coast.

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- \* **June 1919:** The first parliamentary elections take place in post-Ottoman Syria.
- \* **March 8, 1920:** The Syrian National Congress (parliament), headed by Hashim al-Atasi, crowns Faysal I as King of Syria. The new king is 32-years old.
- \* **March 9, 1920:** Great Britain denounces the crowning of Faysal as king, saying that his regime is unconstitutional and contradicts with the interests of France in the Middle East.
- \* **April 26, 1920:** The San Remo Conference legitimizes the French Mandate over Syria and Lebanon.
- \* **July 14, 1920:** The French High Commissioner in Syria General Henri Gouraud presents his ultimatum to King Faysal, asking him to dissolve the Arab kingdom, dissolve the Syrian Army, and peacefully accept the French Mandate in Syria, or face the consequences of war.
- \* **July 24, 1920:** The Syrian Army fights the battle of Maysaloun and is defeated by the French Army. The Minister of War General Yusuf al-Azma (36-years) is killed in combat.
- \* **July 1920:** Ibrahim Hananu launches a revolt against the French in all of northern Syria, coined “The Aleppo Revolt.”
- \* **August 1, 1920:** King Faysal I leaves Syria to Haifa with orders never to return from General Gouraud. The Syrian Army is dissolved and the Syrian throne is abolished.
- \* **August 21, 1920:** Syria’s new Prime Minister Ala al-Din Droubi and Abd al-Rahman Pasha al-Yusuf, head of the Shura Council, are murdered in Hawran by loyalists to Faysal. They are accused of collaborating with the mandate regime.
- \* **August 1920:** The French dislocate Lebanon from Syria. The new state in Lebanon includes the one-time Syrian towns and cities of Beirut, Tripoli, Sidon, Tyre, Rashayya, Hasbayya, Baalbak, and the Beqqa Valley.
- \* **September 1, 1920:** The French create the State of Aleppo, which includes the Sanjak of Alexanderetta. It is governed by Kamil al-Qudsi.
- \* **September 3, 1920:** The French create the State of Damascus, governed by Haqqi al-Azm, the State of the Druze Mountain, governed by Salim al-Atrash, and the State of the Alawite Mountain, governed by the mandate regime.
- \* **June 1921:** The Syrian-Palestinian Congress is founded in Geneva by a group of Syrian exiles, including Abd al-Rahman Shabbandar, Michel Lutfallah, and Shukri al-Quwatli. It aims at liberating the Middle East from European colonialism.
- \* **June 1921:** Saleh al-Ali launches a military revolt against the French Mandate, which is crushed harshly by the French Army.
- \* **July 1921:** The Aleppo Revolt of Ibrahim Hananu is crushed by the French. Hananu is forced to flee to Jordan.

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\* **August 1921:** Ibrahim Hananu, leader of the Aleppo Revolt, is captured in Palestine and extradited to Syria where he stands trial for treason. He is declared not guilty by a French Military Court.

\* **August 23, 1921:** Faysal I, the ex-king of Syria, becomes king of Iraq. He continues to dream of ruling Syria until his death in 1933.

\* **June 22, 1922:** The Syrian Federal Council is created by the French Mandate regime. It unites the states of Damascus, Aleppo, and the Alawite Mountain. The Council is headed by the Antioch notable, Subhi Barakat.

\* **June 24, 1922:** The League of Nations recognizes the French Mandate in Syria.

\* **July 25, 1922:** Jemal Pasha, the ex-Ottoman Governor of Syria, is assassinated by an Armenian in Tiflis, a town in Russian Caucasia. There is much joy in Syria since Jemal Pasha, known as “Jemal Pasha the Butcher” is universally hated for having so much Arab blood on his hands during World War I.

\* **July 11, 1923:** The Syrian University is named in Damascus, headed by its first president, Dr Rida Sa’id.

\* **October 28, 1924:** The Communist Party is founded in Syria.

\* **April 8, 1925:** Lord James Balfour comes to Damascus and is welcomed by unprecedented violence in the Syrian capital. Preachers at the Umayyad Mosque demand his assassination, and he flees to Palestine.

\* **June 5, 1925:** The People’s Party is founded in Damascus, headed by Dr Abd al-Rahman Shahbandar, the ex-Minister of Foreign Affairs under Faysal. The party aims at liberation from foreign rule, and a constitutional monarchy headed by the Hashemite crown. It also aims on modeling Syria after the constitutional monarchy in Great Britain.

\* **July 14, 1925:** Sultan al-Atrash declares a military uprising against the French Army from the Druze Mountain. The revolt is co-planned by Dr Shahbandar to coincide with anniversary of the French Revolution of 1789.

\* **October 18, 1925:** The French Army air raids Damascus for 48-hours.

\* **May 1926:** The French Army air raids the Midan neighborhood of Damascus, inflicting heavy casualties and killing 200 civilians.

\* **October 25, 1927:** The National Bloc is founded in Beirut by Hashim al-Atasi right after the Great Syrian Revolt of Sultan al-Atrash is crushed by the Mandate. It aims at liberating Syria through diplomatic means rather than armed resistance.

\* **February 1928:** Taj al-Din al-Hasani is appointed Prime Minister of Syria. He is brought to power by the Mandate authority and greatly despised in nationalist circles.

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- \* **April 1928:** A constitutional assembly, headed by the attorney Fawzi al-Ghazzi, is elected to create the first republican constitution for Syria. It is packed with members of the National Bloc.
- \* **July 11, 1932:** The Syrian Republic is created with Mohammad Ali al-Abid as the first President of Syria. He appoints Haqqi al-Azm, a notable from Damascus, as the first prime minister in republican Syria.
- \* **November 4, 1932:** The National Bloc holds its first official meeting in Homs. Hashim al-Atasi is elected president, to govern the party’s affairs with a permanent council that includes Saadallah al-Jabiri, Shukri al-Quwatli, Jamil Mardam Bey, Faris al-Khury, and Ibrahim Hananu.
- \* **November 16, 1932:** The Syrian Social Nationalist Party (SSNP) is founded in Beirut by Antune Sa’ada. It aims at the unification of Greater Syria. It is yet to become immensely popular in Syria.
- \* **August 20, 1933:** The League of National Action is founded in the village of Qarna’il in Mount Lebanon. It is created by a second-generation of Arab notables who want to free the Middle East from influence of the Great Powers. Among its founders are Constantine Zurayk, Zaki al-Arsuzi, and Sabri al-Asali.
- \* **September 7, 1933:** King Faysal I dies in Switzerland. He is 45. His successor King Ghazzi I declares that he has no territorial ambitions in Syria.
- \* **November 25, 1933:** The National Bloc boycotts Parliament to voice its objection of a proposed Franco-Syrian Treaty of Friendship. In response, the French Mandate regime dissolves Syria’s first republican Parliament.
- \* **November 18, 1935:** Ibrahim Hananu, leader of the Aleppo Revolt, dies of natural causes in Aleppo, igniting counter-wide demonstrations against the French. He is 66.
- \* **February 1936:** The National Bloc leads a 60-day strike in Syria to protest France’s abrogation of its constitution. The strike destroys the Syrian economy, leads to the death of hundreds, and embarrasses France in the international community, forcing it to receive a delegation from the National Bloc to discuss Syrian independence in Paris.
- \* **March 1936:** The National Bloc travels to France for independence talks, headed by Hashim al-Atasi.
- \* **April 1936:** An uprising against the Jewish immigrants coming from Europe breaks out in Palestine, headed by Amin al-Husayni, the Mufti of Jerusalem. The uprising is funded and supported by the nationalist Shukri al-Quwatli and many Syrian volunteers go to Palestine to fight with Husayni, headed by Fawzi al-Qawiqji, a leader of the Syrian Revolt of 1925.
- \* **July 16, 1936:** Eliahu Epstein, the director of Arab Affairs at the Jewish National Agency, comes to Damascus to discuss Syrian-Jewish collaboration with the National Bloc leader Fakhri al-Barudi. He offers to assist in terminating the mandate if the Syrians agree to a Jewish state in Palestine, but Barudi turns down his offer.
- \* **August 1-9, 1936:** Epstein returns to Damascus, heading a team of Zionist statesmen, to discuss collaboration with Shukri al-Quwatli.

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They met many times over a 9-day period, but return to Europe, also empty-handed.

\* **September 9, 1936:** The National Bloc signs a treaty with France that guarantees independence over a 25-year period. In exchange, the Bloc leaders pledge to offer France use of their air space and territory if war were to break out in Europe, and keep military bases in Syria. Mohammad Ali-Abid resigns and Hashim al-Atasi is elected the second president of Syria on December 21, 1936. He is 63.

\* **April 1937:** Dr Abd al-Rahman Shahbandar returns to Syria, having spent over 10-years in exile, and spearheads the opposition to the National Bloc regime and the Treaty of 1936.

\* **June 1937:** Jamil Mardam Bey barely escapes an assassination attempt, where explosives are placed in his car. He accuses Shahbandar of masterminding the plot and places him under house-arrest.

\* **June 23, 1939:** The Sanjak of Alexanderetta is annexed to Turkey as a result of a deal concluded between Ankara and Paris.

\* **July 7, 1939:** President Hashim al-Atasi resigns from office in protest to the annexation, ending the first National Bloc regime (1936-1939).

\* **September 3, 1939:** France and Great Britain declare war on Nazi Germany, igniting World War II.

\* **June 10, 1940:** Syria comes under the jurisdiction of occupied France and the pro-Nazi regime of Marshal Petain in Vichy. Paris falls to the Nazis. The new Vichy High Commissioner of Syria and Lebanon becomes General Henri Dentz.

\* **July 6, 1940:** Dr Abd al-Rahman Shahbandar is assassinated at his clinic in Damascus by agents of the French Mandate.

\* **June 21, 1941:** The Vichy forces in Syria are defeated by Free French forces loyal to General Charles de Gaulle. The Free French remain in Syria until April 1946.

\* **October 1941:** General Charles de Gaulle asks Hashim al-Atasi to resume his duties as president, but Atasi declines. He is asked once again in 1943 but he also refuses.

\* **September 12, 1941:** General Charles de Gaulle appoints Taj al-Din al-Hasani as President of Syria, to rule with no parliament until World War II ends in Europe.

\* **September 27, 1941:** General de Gaulle declares the independence of Syria but refuses to evacuate his troops until World War II ends. The Alawite and Druze Mountains, autonomous since 1920, are re-incorporated into the Syrian Republic.

\* **January 17, 1943:** President Taj al-Din al-Hasani dies while in office. He is 58. Jamil al-Ulshi takes on as Acting President until March 1943.

\* **August 7, 1943:** Shukri al-Quwatli of the National Bloc is elected President of Syria with a 122-vote majority in Parliament. He is 51.

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\* **September 21, 1943:** Bshara al-Khury, a staunch ally of Syria, becomes president of Lebanon. Along with his Prime Minister Riyad al-Sulh, Khury coordinates all future foreign policy, vis-à-vis the French Mandate, with Syria.

\* **November 8, 1943:** The French Mandate regime arrests Bshara al-Khury and Riyad al-Sulh, causing uproar and fueling anti-French demonstrations in Syria. The French begin to plan for the similar arrest of President Quwatli. The Lebanese statesmen are released on November 22, 1943.

\* **July 1944:** Joseph Stalin of the USSR extends Soviet recognition to the Quwatli regime in Syria, also recognizing Syria’s independence from France.

\* **December 1944:** French is dropped from school curriculums in Syria.

\* **February 13, 1945:** President Quwatli meets British Prime Minister Winston Churchill in Egypt, and the later promises to support Syria’s aspirations for independence.

\* **February 26, 1945:** Shukri al-Quwatli declares war on Nazi Germany, bringing Syria into World War II.

\* **March 22, 1945:** The Arab League is founded in Egypt. Syria is a founding member.

\* **April 1, 1945:** Prime Minister Faris al-Khury goes to the USA to attend the founding conference of the United Nations in San Francisco.

Syria’s admittance to the UN, facilitated by President Roosevelt, is considered a testimony by the world community of its right to independence from the French Mandate.

\* **May 29, 1945:** The French Army air raids Damascus for the second time, destroying the Citadel of Damascus, and the Syrian Parliament. The French fail to arrest President Quwatli and his top officials. Around 660 civilians are killed. The assault is halted by Sir Winston Churchill.

\* **August 1, 1945:** France ends its control of the armed forces and Quwatli creates the Syrian Army, proclaiming the day a national holiday.

\* **April 17, 1946:** The last French troops leave Syria and Shukri al-Quwatli declares Independence Day.

\* **May 18, 1946:** A pan-Arab conference is held in the summer resort of Bludan, near Damascus. The Arab Summit is hosted by Quwatli to discuss the situation in Palestine.

\* **February 3, 1947:** Syrian Radio commences its first broadcast with the famed line: “This is Damascus!”

\* **March 29, 1947:** The National Party is founded in Damascus by President Shukri al-Quwatli. It mirrors the socio-political interests of the Damascus notability.

\* **April 9, 1947:** The Baath Party is founded in Damascus by Michel Aflaq and Salah al-Bitar. It mirrors the socio-political interests of rural Syria, emphasizing on Arab nationalism and socialism.

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- \* **May 1947:** An uprising erupts in the Druze Mountain against the Atrash family. It is headed by a group of notables from the Mountain who want to break Atrash control over the Druze community. It is funded by Shukri al-Quwatli.
- \* **November 29, 1947:** The UN declares the Partition Plan for Palestine, causing violent demonstrations in Syria.
- \* **June 20, 1947:** Prime Minister Saadallah al-Jabiri dies of natural causes in Aleppo. Jabiri's death sparks off a rivalry over power between Damascus and Aleppo. As the supreme leader of Aleppo, he had refused to let its notables engage in conflict with the Damascenes. He is given presidential honors for his nationalism under the mandate. He is 54.
- \* **March 1948:** Shukri al-Quwatli is elected president for another 5-year term.
- \* **April 9, 1948:** Zionist militias in Palestine conduct a massacre in the village of Dayr Yassin, in the western suburb of Jerusalem, killing 245 civilians. The massacre is headed by Menahim Begin, the future prime minister of Israel, and infuriates public opinion in the Arab World. Massive riots break out in Damascus, demanding that Syria go to war in Palestine.
- \* **May 14, 1948:** David Ben Gurion declares the creation of the State of Israel.
- \* **May 15, 1948:** The Syrian Army goes to war in Palestine and is defeated.
- \* **May 25, 1948:** Ahmad al-Sharabati, the Minister of Defense, resigns from his job, accepting blame for defeat at the warfront.
- \* **June 10, 1948:** The UN forces Quwatli to accept a cease-fire in Palestine.
- \* **August 1948:** The People's Party is founded in Aleppo by two lawyers: Nazim al-Qudsi and Rushdi al-Kikhiya. It aims at challenging Quwatli's policies, and breaking the centralization of power in the hands of Quwatli and his men.
- \* **March 29, 1949:** The Chief of Staff General Husni al-Za'im seizes power in Syria and arrests Shukri al-Quwatli and his Prime Minister Khalid al-Azm. He accuses them of poor leadership that resulted in defeat at the warfront.
- \* **April 1, 1949:** Husni al-Za'im dissolves Parliament.
- \* **July 8, 1949:** Husni al-Za'im extradites Antune Sa'ada of the SSNP to Lebanon, where he is executed for treason by Prime Minister Sulh. The case embarrasses Za'im who had promised Sa'ada asylum in Syria. He reneged on his promise through a secret deal with Riyadh al-Sulh.
- \* **July 12, 1949:** Syria signs an armistice agreement with Israel. Za'im has several officials negotiate a peace deal in secret with Israeli Prime Minister Moshe Sharett. It never materializes.
- \* **July 25, 1949:** General Husni al-Za'im holds a plebiscite and is elected president with 99.9% of the votes.

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- \* **August 14, 1949:** President Husni al-Za'im is toppled and killed by a military coup d'état, along with his Prime Minister Muhsen al-Barazi. The coup is carried out by Za'im's friend, General Sami al-Hinnawi and officers from the SSNP. Hashim al-Atasi becomes prime minister, restoring civilian rule to Syria.
- \* **December 14, 1949:** Hashim al-Atasi is elected Head of State. He is 76.
- \* **December 19, 1949:** General Adib al-Shishakli launches the third coup d'état of 1949, arresting Chief of Staff Sami al-Hinnawi but keeping Atasi at his post.
- \* **July 31, 1950:** General Mohammad Nasser, the Commander of the Syrian Air Force, who is contesting Shishakli for power in the Syrian Army, is murdered near Damascus by two pro-Shishakli officers.
- \* **September 7, 1950:** Hashim al-Atasi is elected President of Syria.
- \* **October 31, 1950:** General Sami al-Hinnawi is murdered in exile in Beirut by Hersho al-Barazi, a native of Hama who is taking revenge for the killing of his cousin, Dr Muhsen al-Barazi, in 1949.
- \* **November 29, 1951:** General Adib al-Shishakli launches his second coup d'état, arresting Prime Minister Ma'ruf al-Dawalibi and forcing President Atasi to resign. He props up General Fawzi Selu as President of Syria. He dissolves Parliament and outlaws all political parties and newspapers.
- \* **July 23, 1952:** The Free Officers of the Egyptian Army seize power in Cairo, toppling King Farouk I. The coup leaders are General Mohammad Negiub and Colonel Gamal Abd al-Nasser. The coup is much welcomed in Syria and embraced by Shishakli.
- \* **August 25, 1952:** Adib al-Shishakli creates the Arab Liberation Movement (ALM). It is a progressive party with pan-Arabist and socialist views that is headed by him. It aims at Arab unity, women's rights, and gradual democracy for the Middle East. It becomes the only party in Syria.
- \* **July 4, 1953:** Hashim al-Atasi chairs the first public opposition meeting to the Shishakli regime, held at his residence in Homs. He calls for a united front to bring down the dictator.
- \* **July 11, 1953:** Adib al-Shishakli becomes president of Syria, replacing the puppet regime of General Fawzi Selu that he had set up in 1951. He wins the plebiscite with 99.98% of the votes.
- \* **October 24, 1953:** Shishakli drafts his own constitution, and creates a Parliament of 83-members, all pledging loyalty to him.
- \* **January 1954:** A uprising breaks out against Shishakli from the Druze Mountain. It is funded and supported by King Husayn of Jordan. Shishakli responds by air raiding the Druze Mountain and placing hundreds of dissidents behind bars. He places two of the revolt commanders, Sultan al-Atrash and Hashim al-Atasi, under house-arrest. Approximately 600 people are killed in the Druze Mountain.

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\* **February 24, 1954:** Adib al-Shishakli resigns from the presidency, saying that he wants to avoid civil war in Syria. He goes to Lebanon, then Saudi Arabia, and then moves to permanent residence in South America.

\* **March 1, 1954:** The democratic regime of the civilian President Hashim al-Atasi is restored to Syria. He restores the constitution, parliament, and government that was in power prior to the Shishakli interlude (1951-1954) claiming that it is the constitutional regime of Syria. Atasi is 81.

\* **February 24, 1955:** The Baghdad Pact is signed by Iraq, Turkey, Pakistan, Iran, and Great Britain to control communist influence in the Middle East. Syria refuses to join the Baghdad Pact, and so does Gamal Abd al-Nasser.

\* **April 22, 1955:** Adnan al-Malki, the deputy Chief of Staff of the Syrian Army, is assassinated in Damascus while attending a football match. The SSNP is accused of the murder and outlawed by Prime Minister Sabri al-Asali.

\* **September 1955:** Shukri al-Quwatli is re-elected President of Syria, for the third time in his career. He is 63.

\* **December 11, 1955:** Israel attacks Syrian posts on Lake Tiberias.

\* **July 26, 1956:** Gamal Abd al-Nasser nationalizes the Suez Canal, creating shockwaves throughout the Arab World, and gaining unmatched popularity in Syria. President Quwatli responds by expelling the British and French Ambassadors from Syria and his intelligence service destroys the British pipelines running through the Syrian Desert. Quwatli heads off to the USSR to elicit support for Nasser's Egypt.

\* **October 1956:** The “Tripartite Aggression” begins against Egypt. Great Britain, France, and Israel declare war on Nasser, but the war is stopped by US President Dwight Eisenhower.

\* **October 1957:** Akram al-Hawrani, a leader of the Baath Party, becomes Speaker of Parliament. This is the highest post to date, given to a socialist in Syria.

\* **January 12, 1958:** A group of Syrian officers, headed by Chief-of-Staff Afif al-Bizreh, go to Cairo by night, with no authorization from the President, to demand union with Gamal Abd al-Nasser's Egypt.

\* **February 22, 1958:** Syria and Egypt merge to form the United Arab Republic (UAR). Shukri al-Quwatli willingly resigns from the presidency and Nasser becomes President of the UAR.

\* **July 15, 1958:** President Kamil Sham'un of Lebanon requests US military assistance to defend his own regime in Beirut against a similar uprising to the one that happened in Iraq. He had been facing violence for some months, led by Muslim leaders Sa'eb Salam and Rashid Karamah, who are funded and supported by Syria, to transform Lebanon into an Egyptian satellite. He refused, igniting the first civil war, in which Syria tried and failed to topple him on several occasions in 1956-1958.

\* **September 1958:** Nasser introduces socialist measures to break the landowning notability in Syria, limiting individual holdings to 80 hectares (200 acres) of irrigated and 300 hectares (750 acres) or un-irrigated land.

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\* **February 23, 1959:** Nasser begins to symbolically re-distribute land in Syria and give it to the peasant, marking the socialist revolution.

\* **1960:** The Military Committee of the Baath Party is created by a group of officers from the Syrian Army, stationed in Egypt. Its sole aim is to preserve the UAR. Its founders are Hafez al-Asad, Salah Jadid, Mohammad Umran, Ahmad al-Meer, and Abd al-Karim al-Jundi.

\* **July 23, 1960:** Syrian Television is launched in Damascus by its first director, Dr Sabah Qabbani

Period	Main Center	Syrian Principalities	From	To
<b>Mesolithic</b>				
Kebarian	Syria	Syrian Levant and Euphrates as separate and small settlements	c. 18000 BC	c. 12000 BC
Natufian	Syria / Mid Euphrates	Mureibet – Abu Huraira – Jebel Aruda – Yabrud	c. 12000 BC	c. 8000 BC
<b>Neolithic</b>				
Hassuna	Iraq	Syrian Jazeera – Sinjar Mountains	c. 8500 BC	c. 5000 BC
Tell Halaf	Syria / North East on Turkeish border	Tell Halaf – ...	c. 6000 BC	c. 4000 BC
Umuq	Syria / north of Euphrates	Umuq plains – Jubeil Lebanon	c. 6000 BC	c. 4000 BC
Samurra'	Iraq	Syrian Jazeera (north of Euphrates)	c. 5500 BC	c. 5000 BC
Ubaid	Iraq	Northern regions in Syria – Syrian Levant	c. 5300 BC	c. 4000 BC
<b>Ancient History (Bronze &amp; Iron Ages)</b>				
Sumerian (Uruk & Ur)	Iraq	Habbuba – Tell Qannas – Jebel Aruda – Mari – Baghuz (Abu Kemal)	c. 4100 BC	c. 2000 BC
Canaanite (Phoenician)	Syria – Lebanon – Palestine	Syrian Levant – Ugarit – Ebla – Alalakh – Amuru – Damascus – Qadesh	c. 3500 BC	c. 1000 BC
Elamite	Iran	Northern regions in Syria	c. 2700 BC	539 BC
Akkadian	Iraq	Tell Brak – Mari – Ebla – Yamhad (Aleppo)	c. 2450 BC	2159 BC

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Hurrians	Turkey / Anatolia – Syria / Khabur Valley	Yamhad – Tell Brak – Tell Halaf – Alalakh – Ugarit – Mari	c. 2400 BC	c. 1250 BC
Babylonian	Iraq	Mari – Ebla – Yamhad – Ugarit	2159 BC	1595 BC
Amorite	Syria	Levant cities – North of Euphrates	c. 2150 BC	c. 1600 BC
Assyrian	Iraq	Khabur River Valley – Mari – Shubat Enlil – North of Syria	1920 BC	612 BC
Hittite	Turkey / Anatolia	Levant cities – northern cities	c. 1750 BC	1160 BC
Mittanite	Syria	Khabur River Valley – Yamhad	c. 1500 BC	c. 1350 BC
Aramean	Syria	Mari – Ugarit – Damascus – Maalula	c. 1450 BC	Present day
Roman	Italy / Rome	Levant cities – Bosra – Palmyra – Damascus – Apamea	753 BC	476 AD
Chaldean	Syria	Southern Mesopotamia (north east of Euphrates)	612 BC	539 BC
Persian	Iran	Mari – Ebla – Yamhad – Aleppo – Damascus	550 BC	651 AD
Hellenistic	Greece	Levant cities – Amrit – Arwad – Aleppo – Damascus	333 BC	c. 30 BC
<b>Middle Ages</b>				
Byzantine	Turkey / Antioch	Levant cities – Aleppo – Homs – Syrian Jazeera	330 AD	1453 AD
Islam	Saudi Arabia / Mecca – Medina		632 AD	
Umayyad	Syria / Damascus		661 AD	750 AD
Abbasid	Iraq / Baghdad		750 AD	1258 AD
<b>Islamic Era / The Arab States</b>				
Hamdanid	Iraq – Syria	Aleppo and northern area	890 AD	1004 AD
Fatimid	Tunis / Mahdia (909 – 969) – Egypt / Cairo	Damascus – Aleppo – Hama – Homs	909 AD	1171 AD
Ikhshidid	Egypt / Cairo	Damascus – Aleppo – Hama – Homs	935 AD	969 AD
Seljuq / Saljuk	Turkey	Aleppo and northern area	1055 AD	1128 AD
Crusaders	Christian Europe / in the name of Catholic Church	Syrian cities and castles [Castle Blanc/Safit - Krak Des Chevalliers - Marqab Caslte]	1095 AD	1187 AD

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Ayyubid	Kurdistan by origin – Egypt	Damascus – Aleppo – Hama – Homs	1171 AD	1263 AD
Mameluke	Egypt (Slaves from Turkey)	Damascus – Aleppo – Hama – Homs	1250 AD	1517 AD
Ottoman	Turkey / Edrin – Istanbul	Different Syrian cities	1299 / in Syria 1516 AD	1920 / 1922 Ottoman’s collapse AD
French Mandate			1920 AD	1946 AD
Syrian Arab Republic			1946 AD	present day