



SYRIA

PEACE, BREAD
AND HOMELAND

DR. DECLAN HAYES

Syria

Peace, Bread and Homeland

by
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Table of Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| Economic Objectives & NATO Constraints..... | 2 |
| Dedication..... | 3 |
| Main Sources..... | 3 |
| Syria: Vandals and Vandalism..... | 3 |
| Winning the War, Winning the Peace..... | 3 |
| What is to be done?..... | 3 |
| Murder Inc: NATO, the Gulf States & Israel..... | 4 |
| Bitch Motif..... | 4 |
| NATO's Bitches..... | 4 |
| Saudi Arabia's Bitches..... | 5 |
| The Commission: Hilary Clinton, Sultan Erdoğan, Saudi "Royals"..... | 5 |
| Lies, Damned Lies and NATO's Lord Haw Haws..... | 5 |
| Google Goes to War..... | 6 |
| From Balance of Power to Full Spectrum Dominance..... | 6 |
| NATO's Controlled Chaos..... | 6 |
| NATO's Willing Executioners..... | 6 |
| Syria and the Zionist Project..... | 6 |
| Deliver us from Evil Israel..... | 7 |
| Medical Genocide..... | 7 |
| Economic Genocide..... | 8 |
| Our Daily Bread..... | 8 |
| Boycotts, Divestments and Sanctions..... | 8 |
| Sanctions and Newspeak..... | 8 |
| Sanctions Smorgsbord..... | 9 |
| Sanctions: Calling the Shots..... | 10 |
| War Economies Past, Present & Future..... | 11 |
| Syria's Siberian Regiments..... | 20 |
| Syria Through a Financial Lens..... | 20 |
| Which Projects:..... | 21 |
| Industry..... | 22 |
| Agriculture..... | 23 |
| Houses in Syria..... | 23 |
| Media Center/Think Tank..... | 24 |
| Factors/ Constraints..... | 24 |
| Project Cart Before the Financial Horse?..... | 26 |
| How to Pay for the Projects..... | 26 |
| How to Repay the Stakeholders..... | 27 |
| Rhetoric to Reality..... | 28 |
| Governance and Governance Issues..... | 29 |
| The Armenian & Assyrian Cards..... | 30 |
| Armenians in Latakia/Kasab..... | 30 |
| Royalties & Donations..... | 31 |
| Author..... | 31 |

Economic Objectives & NATO Constraints

The Syrian future of peace, food and patriotism this discussion document posits can only happen if people of good will make it happen. The Syrian people have paid a high price not only in pecuniary terms (a cost of \$3

trillion so far and rising for Syria) but also in terms of human tragedy, human loss and human suffering our worst nightmares cannot even begin to fathom.

Although other reasons have been posited, Syria has been plunged into its ongoing nightmare primarily so that the goals of NATO, Israel and the Gulf countries may be achieved. Those other reasons include a number of economic factors: a severe drought, which hurt small farmers and farm laborers a lot and Syrian economic reforms that did not meet NATO's unstated expectations or goals. The mooted economic factors may have been the dry tinder but they were not the match and nor are they the smoking gun. Without the active, illegal machinations of NATO and its Israeli and Gulf States allies, Syria would not have been landed in the mess it has been landed in. Although the incredible sacrifices of the men and women of the Syrian Arab Army, together with the 7th cavalry intervention of the Russian air force, stopped NATO's plans of turning their Syrian homeland into another Libya or Iraq, NATO has not backed off but continues to press for conquest by other means and other paths, including federation and "inclusive" governments, which means putting their own puppets, the sociopathic criminals of the Syrian Muslim Brotherhood included, into positions of power.

Because the time is not yet right for a definitive book on the Syrian genocide, or even on Syria's recovery, the emphasis for now must be on pulling Syria out of this NATO induced mire. Part of that process involves helping Syria resist genocide by sanctions. This book, which plots a path of resistance to that crime, is divided into two parts. The first part explains the basic players and forces at play and the second part summarily outlines measures that can be taken to give the people of Syria peace, food and hope. The hope is that this small book, which is only a necessarily very incomplete work in progress, will inspire others to take up the pen and the shovel and spade as well and deliver Syria from the evil that plagues both Syria and the wider region.

Dedication

This book is dedicated to Syria's [heroic widows and orphans and their protectors](#), the men and women of their national army.

Main Sources

My main reference source for this work is my earlier book: Sanctions, Sex Jihad and Syria: The A to Z of NATO's War on Syria's Widows and Orphans. It should be **downloaded for free** [at this link](#) as it is an indispensable reference to this book and to a wider and deeper understanding of NATO's criminal war on Syria's widows and orphans. Almost all of the Syrian related terms used here are explained there. Syria's Great Patriotic War may be **downloaded for free** [at this link](#).

Syria: Vandals and Vandalism

Winning the War, Winning the Peace

Syrians have paid a huge monetary and human price in the current war being waged not only against them and their homeland but also against civilization itself. Although many people inside and outside Syria would like to help rescue the Syrian people from the savagery being visited upon them, there has, to date, been few viable channels to allow them contribute in any meaningfully moral, material or pecuniary way. This short exploratory book outlines what people can do on the economic front to save Syria so that their people may win both the hot and cold wars.

What is to be done?

Just as one cannot change horses in mid stream, so also Syria cannot change its entire structures until the wars of extermination being waged against its people have run their course. The Syrian people need to recognize that their homeland's serious problems require their serious and coordinated efforts to rectify, and that for Syrians to have a common economic, social and political purpose, an organizationally unified mass movement, a media guiding outlet are needed, and that these must be built or grafted on to pre existing structures, with all local

initiatives feeding into the wider national grid so as to minimize leakages. Without all that, the NATO and Gulf State wolves, together with their Muslim Brotherhood Trojan horse, will be harder to resist.

To rephrase: Syrian civil society must organize itself on a war footing and all levels and locales of Syrian civil society must contribute to that overall national effort, which must be showcased to those parts of the world that matter.

Murder Inc: NATO, the Gulf States & Israel

Murder Inc. - NATO, the Gulf States and Israel - are the powers behind the "Syrian" rebellion. The rogue Israeli regime provides the rebel backbone on the occupied Golan Heights and its air force regularly bombs Syrian civilian and military targets to aid its ISIS allies. NATO member Turkey provides a safe ISIS hinterland as well as men and materiel in huge numbers to the Turkmen and other "Syrian" rebel forces. The USA, Britain and France have sent thousands of jihadists to Syria and they have now set up illegal bases in Syria to aid the "rebels" who they supply with the bombs and bullets they use to continue their criminal enterprises. Qatar and Saudi Arabia pick up the tab and export their own hotheads there so they do not upset their autocratic, hypocritical rule. Syria has, in Murder Inc, big and powerful enemies. That Syrians have persevered thus far against Murder Inc's barbarities is a miracle made possible only by the huge sacrifices of their national army. That Syria should persevere forever against such barbarians is imperative.

Bitch Motif

The term bitch is used throughout the book to denote the contempt we all should have for those individuals and groups so referred. It is not just name calling these bitches out for what they are but it is a way to show contempt for them and those who kowtow to them.

NATO's Bitches

The USA gave the least in the war against Hitler's Germany but got the most from it. It stripped Britain of both its empire and its wealth and it instituted a number of front groups to dominate the world. These groups include G7, the World Bank, the IMF, the WTO, the United Nations, the UN Permanent Council and even the International Criminal Court which is [not allowed prosecute American war criminals on pain of invasion](#). All of them are, without exception, the USA's bitches.

Why, for example, is Canada a G7 member when it is a minnow economic power? Why was France given a UN Permanent Council seat when it was decisively defeated by Germany in 1940, after which, unlike Poland, for example, it played a negligible role in the war against Hitler? Why was the USA the only Allied power allowed to occupy Japan, even though the ANZACs, Britain, China, the Soviet Union and very many other countries all fought against Japan? Why was the Soviet Union not allowed occupy Italy, the first Axis country to fall to the Allies? Why did the Soviet Union not intervene in the Greek civil war and what dirty deeds were done over post-War Yugoslavia? Why was the Soviet invasion of Manchuria the main factor in the USA deciding to nuke Nagasaki? The USA wanted to make them all their bitches and, in the case of Taiwan, Korea and Japan, it had a specific plan in place years before World War Two began to do just that.

What, for example, about the BIS (Bank for International Settlements), Hitler's primary financial bitch? Although the BIS' ostensible purpose was to provide the Allies with German reparations for World War 1, it soon became an instrument to funnel money from America and Britain to Hitler's war machine. It helped the Nazis to launder the gold it looted from the national treasuries of Austria, Czechoslovakia, Holland, and Belgium as well as from the Reichsbank holdings of the teeth fillings, spectacle frames, cigarette cases and wedding rings of murdered Jews. German Banker Emil Puhl coordinated the Nazis' program during the 1930s and 1940s to launder monetary gold stolen from the central banks of Europe. It was smelted in Germany together with non-monetary gold — a term used to describe the tooth fillings and gold rings removed from the corpses of Holocaust victims. Swiss banks accepted the gold and provided loans to Germany. Because the BIS was Hitler's bitch, this significantly extended the duration of World War II, and assured the survival of Switzerland as a neutral country

in a sea of German vassal states.

The Bank for International Settlements' charter, concurred in by the respective governments, conveniently stated that the BIS, Hitler's bitch, should be immune from seizure, closure, or censure, whether or not its owners were at war. As a result, the BIS escaped serious censure for being Hitler's bitch after Germany capitulated. In 1944, following Czech accusations that the BIS was laundering gold that the Nazis had stolen from occupied Europe, the American government backed a resolution at the Bretton Woods Conference to dismantle the BIS. The apparent inviolability of the BIS was perhaps best illustrated by the fact that Resolution 5, calling for the dissolution of the BIS, was subsequently ignored and proved ineffective. Because you can, in other words, get away with gassing millions of Jews to death if you have friends in the amoral banking community, you can imagine what the very slim chances of Sultan Erdoğan, Hillary Clinton, Tony Blair and their Wall Street backers facing the hangman's noose are for their litany of war crimes.

The BIS, like the WTO, the World Bank, the UN, the IMF and the charity multinationals are not only a veritable brothel of bitches but they are the bedrocks on which NATO's unfair distribution of the world's bounty is built. On the odd occasion that the UN resists NATO, the USA bitch slaps them as a warning not only to the UN but to NATO's other bitches to stay in line. Until NATO's stranglehold over its financial, diplomatic and economic bitches is eased and until Murder Inc's leadership all face the noose, the meek, far from inheriting the earth, will continue to drown in the Mediterranean or have their organs harvested by NATO's Syrian proxies. These agents of NATO hegemony will not bring peace as they are designed to be instead harbingers of death, despair and rank exploitation.

Saudi Arabia's Bitches

Though Saudi Arabia is far and away the world's vilest country, her rulers can bitch slap whomsoever they please and be even [given medals by their French bitches](#) for doing so. Ban Ki Moon, their UN bitch, has [endorsed their genocide campaign in Yemen](#) "for financial reasons" much as the cowardly Kofi Annan blessed NATO's war crimes in Iraq. Although Annan, the UN's token African leader, made sure to marry into [Sweden's richest family](#), not even that bum went as far as openly endorsing Saudi Arabia beheading South East Asian maids for the "crime" of being raped. But that is the thing with whores in brothels, the UN knocking shop included: they continuously self degrade.

Not that all such UN style whores are Korean or African. IAEA Director General Yukiya Amano, a product of the Japanese geisha system, has been highly critical of Iran's nuclear program; this can only be explained by geishas like Amano not liking their American conquerors bitch slapping them.

The Commission: Hilary Clinton, Sultan Erdoğan, Saudi "Royals"

Just like the American Mafia's Commission, so also have Murder Inc's Commission committed the vilest crimes for which they should spend the rest of their natural behind bars as exhibits of evil personified. The crimes of Clinton, Sultan Erdoğan and the Saudi "Royals" are not only an affront to civilization but an indictment of all who collude with them. At the time of writing, Sultan Erdoğan continues to enforce Mafia rule in Turkey, the Saudi "Royals" continue to lacerate Yemen and Syria and Wikileaks continues to expose the war crimes of POTUS in waiting Hillary Clinton, who, like Sultan Erdoğan, has several entries [here](#). That these serial war criminals are not treated like the pariahs and moral lepers that they are is a stain on us all.

Lies, Damned Lies and NATO's Lord Haw Haws

Robert Stuart's work on the [farcically fabricated Saving Syria's Children](#), as well as my previous volumes, available [here](#) and [here](#), show us how venal, vile and downright dishonest are media outfits like the state controlled BBC and the blood thirsty Guardian newspaper. These media organs, however, are symptomatic of the much wider problem that the mass media are NATO's bitches. Though my previous volumes gave plenty of examples to back that contention, this [recent article in the Boston Globe](#) shows up the West's embedded media for the contemptible NATO bitches for hire and partners in NATO war crimes that they are.

Google Goes to War

Just as with Saudi Arabia bitch slapping France and the UN, so also are Google and similar outfits NATO's docile bitches. Google has even gone so far as to help the Turks plot the movement of Syrian troops, all the better for the rebels to kill them. As the witch hunt of Wikileaks showed, NATO can set all these dogs onto whomsoever they have please and, [as this article shows](#), Google and similar NATO bitches are prepared to prostitute themselves for NATO's heavies. Such is the moral price of being a base NATO bitch.

From Balance of Power to Full Spectrum Dominance

Britain formerly played the balance of power game, playing Germany and France off against each other by allying to whichever was the weaker and thereby tipping the balance of power in its own favor against the stronger of the two. NATO, with the USA in the van, now go for full spectrum dominance, including enabling the stronger power to eradicate the weaker force. In the Middle Eastern case, this includes the emasculation or outright extermination of a number of minorities, the Christians and the world's 100 million Shias included. Although Saudi Arabia leads the way in this respect, by banning Christianity, by raping and then beheading Pinay, Indonesian and Burmese maids, and by squandering the oil that lies under the feet of that nation's Shias, NATO has helped the Saudis globalize that campaign, with the awful consequences that have been seen in Orlando, Brussels, Paris, London and, of course, Syria. NATO adopting Turkey's and Saudi Arabia's logic of getting the majority to exterminate the minority is neither sustainable nor conducive to peace. Though it seems, at best, a flawed local one that can only serve the needs of local sectarian powers, like Israel, Turkey and Saudi Arabia, it is one Syria and the civilized world must contend with and oppose.

NATO's Controlled Chaos

Such moves are part of NATO's strategy of controlled chaos, of causing a problem by arming Al Qaeda, ISIS and its other proxy armies and then delivering a solution in accord with its full spectrum dominance mission statement. The acquittal or dropping of charges against a string of ISIS and Nusra terrorists in Britain, Ireland, Belgium and Sweden are evidence of the rank collusion between NATO with ISIS and its other proxy armies. Though this NATO policy is targeting well in excess of 100 million people for extermination, its dangers should be at least as obvious as was the prior example of appeasing Hitler; it is one Syria and the civilized world must contend with.

NATO's Willing Executioners

The West's docile and opiated masses are as much foot soldiers in NATO's campaigns of genocide as were the Austrians and Germans in Hitler's earlier crimes. Though that complicity sometimes comes with an overt as well as with a covert price in terms of blow back, Murder Incs Commission members are seldom, if ever, directly affected. Given that [Lee Rigby's murderers](#) said as much when they chopped him to death in a London High Street, we must expect, unfortunately, more blowback to NATO's rampant criminality.

Syria and the Zionist Project

The Zionist project, the project to "return" Jews to colonize Zion, Jerusalem and environs, does have a vested interest in emasculating Syria and reducing them to the same level of penury that most of Zion's indigenous Christian and Muslim inhabitants have been reduced to. The state of Israel works doggedly towards that end. The reasons why Israel's crimes are above criticism or censure are outside this book's remit.

Deliver us from Evil Israel

The state of Israel has committed numerous war crimes since its foundation. Though it has been the target of more UN resolutions against it than any other country, as the UN is NATO's bitch, no sanctions have ever been enforced against it for its crimes of expropriation, willful murder and ethnic cleansing, which continue unabated and unpunished to this day. The reasons for the UN's criminal collusion with the gangster state of Israel are

outside this book's remit.

Medical Genocide

Just as with Iraq, so also with Syria are Nobel laureate's Obama's sanctions against Syria a form of UN endorsed medical genocide. The fact that the leadership of the terrorist Syrian Muslim Brotherhood contains many medics does not change the fact that Syria's entire medical system has been gravely damaged by NATO's proxy war on Syria's people.

Sanctions ensure medical equipment cannot be bought, replaced or even repaired with spare parts. Infant incubators, CT scans, Doppler, echography, anesthesia equipment, nebulizers, fetoscopes, suction machines, ambulances, antibiotics, anti-ulcer medication, sterilizers and antidotes are all at a premium. Drugs and medical supplies are in short supply in Syria, a nation that previously exported them in vast quantities. Syria has seen its invaders compromise or destroy its vital infrastructure, with concomitant damage to its shelter facilities, its energy sources, the quantity and quality of its water supply, its sanitation services, its transportation facilities to and from hospital. The "Syrian" rebels" targeted Syria's water supply, its health care facilities, and its primary health care (PHC) maternal and child health services. Maternal and child morbidity and mortality during deliveries have all soared as a consequence of these deliberate collateral damage aspects to NATO's war on Syria.

The devaluation of Syria's currency as a result of sanctions and Nobel laureate Obama's war has also put much needed medicines and instruments out of Syria's financial reach. Syria's economic uncertainty and America's withdrawal of the world's financial, insurance and credit services from Syria have both helped to make a mockery of Nobel laureate Obama exempting medicines and medical supplies from his sanctions noose.

Prior studies on the effects of sanctions on the poorest and weakest citizens of Cuba, Iraq, Yugoslavia, Gaza, Burundi, Zimbabwe and Nicaragua mean that Nobel laureate Obama's sanctions can only be construed as a form of deliberate, pre meditated genocide. Although Cuba has managed to establish a viable health care service for her citizens despite decades of criminal sanctions by the USA, Syria, which is fighting a multifaceted hot war against the world's most powerful countries, more resembles Iraq, which saw its medical system destroyed as a result of the criminal attack imposed on it by Bush, Blair and their criminal cohorts.

Although Syria's medics are trying to improvise, Nobel laureate Obama's sanctions are making Syria's national contract fractionation program implode. Syria's contract fractionation program was designed to improve the availability and affordability of plasma derived medicines (PDM). This was a system whereby Syria's Blood Transfusion Organization's locally produced plasma was sent to the fractionator and end products returned to Syria for distribution into the local market. The medicines received under this contract fractionation program provided for 100% of IVIG and clotting factor IX used in Syria, as well as 15% of the clotting factor VIII and 40% of the albumin. Because the cost differential between imported products and those obtained via the contract fractionation program resulted in significant savings for Syria's health sector, Syria's contract fractionation program substantially improved accessibility and affordability of PDM and resource allocation in Syria's national health system.

However, Nobel laureate Obama's sanctions have hit hard here, with patients in the fields of hemophilia and primary immunodeficiency disorders being hit hardest, often fatally. Because the NATO countries control most of the world's markets for these products, Syria, even it could afford it, cannot shop around. The end result is that Nobel laureate Obama's medical genocide against the Syrian people continues in this and many other areas.

Economic Genocide

Britain has experience aplenty of committing genocide by market forces. [The Bengal famine](#) and the so called Irish famine of the 1940s, about which the British still joke, are two such examples and the sanctions against Saddam's Iraq and today's Syria are further examples. The sub heading is included here to stress the point that economic sanctions are as much the tools of genocide as any other and all the soft soaped articles from The

Economist and other apologists for mass death by starvation through free trade do not change that.

Our Daily Bread

The rest of this book explores how, in the face of NATO's genocidal sanctions, Syrians can be provided with their daily bread in the face of NATO's concerted attempts to exterminate them.

Boycotts, Divestments and Sanctions

Murder Inc and their bitches sanction boycotts, divestments and sanctions when they suit their purposes but criminalize them when, as in the case of Israel's ethnic cleansing campaign, they do not.

Though boycotts probably predate the Irish Land League's famous boycott [against the Boycotts](#), since the collapse of the Soviet Union, boycotts, embargos and sanctions have come into their own as one of NATO's favored weapons of mass destruction. NATO's overpaid whores of the UN have tried to give them a velvet gloved sheen of respectability even when, as with Iraq, they were directly responsible for the deaths of hundreds of thousands of children, a "price" serial American war criminal Madeleine Albright said "[was worth it](#)".

NATO and its bitches imposed widespread sanctions against Iran's automobile industry because, as [Forbes stupidly tried to justify](#), Iran, unique amongst the nations of the world, can make nuclear bombs from car engines, carburettors and wing mirrors. The truth, of course, is that sanctions against Iran, as with those against Syria, have nothing to do with nuclear bombs and everything to do with crippling the Iranian economy and its people and thereby helping to emasculate all opposition to Saudi, Israeli and NATO expansionism and exploitation of the region.

Quite what Iranian autos, trade, shipping and insurance had to do with Iran's nuclear program and why Iran, like Saddam's Iraq before it, should be subjected to genocidal sanctions over weapons of mass destruction and Israel be given a free pass when she illegally possesses them and has [very clearly stated her willingness to use them](#) is anyone's guess. Quite why \$30bn to \$50 bn of Iran's foreign reserves should be frozen in accounts around the world while Israel should be rewarded for its crimes is one of those very many questions we are not allowed raise. Quite why, apart from its role as a rampant, arrogant and avaricious bully, the USA thinks it has the right to implement so-called "secondary sanctions" - the ones that apply to non-US individuals or companies, is again anyone's guess.

My own guess, based on tomes of evidence, is that NATO and its allies are serial hypocrites as well as serial war criminals and that sanctions are only a means to a very unpleasant end for the people at the receiving end of those sanctions.

Sanctions and Newspeak

Sanctions are NATO's legal but illegitimate form of collective punishment of the weakest and poorest members of society, the infants, the children, the chronically ill, and the elderly of the countries they unjustly target; they are legal in the sense that the Nazis tried at Nuremberg argued that everything they did was legal by the Nazis' own laws.

NATO's UN bitch passed Security Council Resolution 1737 in December 2006 with the aim of destroying Iran by imposing sanctions on the fig leaf pretext that Iran's nuclear program was a bigger threat to peace than were those of Israel, India and Pakistan, all of which are NATO's bitches. Although the main movers of this resolution were the usual suspects of the USA, Israel, Saudi Arabia and their bitches, their media pretended the entire world agreed with them, just as they pretended the whole world supported NATO's extermination campaigns in Libya, Yemen and Iraq.

The USA's EU bitch, as with sanctions on Russia, was one of the biggest losers from these Iranian sanctions, thus giving the USA a 2 for 1 deal, simultaneously weakening both the EU and Iran. Despite their own goal, as they feared their US masters would pimp slap them, the EU has remained more than eager to punish Iranian

(and Syrian) children by tightening the sanctions noose even tighter around their innocent, little necks.

Like a cat torturing a mouse, American Mafia boss Barack Obama delayed Executive Order 13590 for more than six months out of fear it would stimulate a rise in oil prices. Likewise, in March 2012 and again in June 2013, the same American Mafia boss imperiously granted exemptions to Japan and several minor European bitch nations, to allow them to continue doing limited business with Iran, thereby showing how independent the USA's collar and lead allows its bitches to be. America's cat and mouse tactics continued until January 2012, when its EU bitch passed an "unprecedented" resolution to embargo all Iranian oil and, to support their EU bitch, Saudi Arabia promised to fulfill all Europe's gas needs and, it hoped, to damage Russia in the process. Quite why the European people allow themselves to be ruled by these repulsive Quislings is outside the scope of this book.

Although it has got away with slaughtering millions of Arabs, NATO fumes that it has not yet turned Russia and China, two of Iran's major trading partners, into whimpering bitches over Iran or allied issues. Iran retains strong relations with Pakistan and is working on a "peace pipe" that would transfer natural gas between Iran, Pakistan and India. Iran is the United Arab Emirates' largest non-oil trading partner. Oman and Bahrain have been negotiating with Iran to buy natural gas. Smugglers in Oman have taken advantage of their close proximity to Iran and have been able to ship needed cargo and goods to Iran, thereby helping Iran obtain goods NATO that have sanctioned.

NATO's bitches hailed the patchwork of sanctions imposed against Iran over its nuclear program as perhaps their most comprehensive sanctions effort ever and they salivated at the penury it would cause by bringing Iran to heel. However, the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council wishes to have a Free Trade Agreement with its Iranian neighbor. Austria's third-largest bank, Raiffeisen Zentralbank, remains active in Iran and has absorbed the transactions of other major European banks that shut down their operations in Iran. German engineering firm Aerzen secured a € 21 million contract to supply a steel factory in Esfaham, Iran.

Though all of the aforementioned nations and companies maintain that they are not violating Security Council Resolution 1737 on the grounds that they have nothing to do with nuclear programs, real or otherwise, the USA and its bitches clearly have their work cut out destroying Iran and impoverishing its people. NATO and its bitches argue in return that such trade bolsters Iran's economy and provides revenues that can directly or indirectly be used for nuclear weapons development. This is the very same argument that disparate groups from the Allies in World War Two to the IRA in more recent times used to bomb civilian targets and it is one its Syrian and other targets cannot accept and must be expected to retaliate against as they see their kinsfolk die from lack of affordable medicines or food.

As it is with Iran, so it is with Syria. The Syrian government have a duty to protect their people against NATO's genocidal sanctions. They have, in other words, a duty to resist genocide by sanctions.

Sanctions *Smörgåsbord*

Although NATO deny their sanctions are genocidally criminal, the evidence from Iraq, Yemen, Syria and Iran is all to the contrary. Further, although Syria suffers from diplomatic, economic, military and sport sanctions, all of which, like those against Iraq before them, are designed to make it the bitch of NATO, Saudi Arabia and Israel, the emerging evidence is they will fail just like Napoleon's Continental Blockade of Britain from 1806 to 1814 not only failed but destroyed Bonaparte into the bargain.

Although Syria is the latest victim in the eye of the sanctions storm, it is important to realize that NATO is a serial, amoral and ruthless abuser of sanctions. Since the end of the Cold War, NATO has made political, economic, military, sport and humanitarian sanctions a frequent instrument of war, imposed by the UN's Security Council against Iraq, Yugoslavia, Haiti, Libya, Sudan, Afghanistan, Cambodia, Angola, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Liberia, Rwanda and very many others that found themselves on USA's shit list.

The first NATO category of excuses for sanctions involves those sanctions that are designed to force cooperation with NATO's biased and self serving interpretation of international law. The sanctions placed on Iraq

in Resolution No. 661 on August 6, 1990, after its initial invasion of neighboring Kuwait in a supposed attempt to prevent armed conflict is one such example. Resolution 665 and Resolution 670 were further added creating both naval and air blockades on Iraq. The purpose of the initial sanctions was to coerce Iraq into being a NATO bitch, which is now "Mission Accomplished" and which was done through a huge number of war crimes, only some of which are alluded to in the [Chilcot Report](#).

The second set of excuses are those sanctions ostensibly designed to contain a supposed threat to peace within a geographical boundary. The United Nations' June 9, 2010 Resolution 1929 providing restrictions on missile and weaponry materials to Iran that could be used for the creation of destructive weapons is one important example. Although these sanctions are ostensibly designed to contain Iranian aggression against neighboring countries, as Iran has not invaded any other country since Moses was in short pants, we can view these sanctions for what they really are: an attempt to again make Iran NATO's bitch and to further entrench Saudi Arabia and Israel as regional Mafia overlords.

The third set of excuses involves the United Nations Security Council's condemnation of actions of a specific action or policy of a member/non-member nation, such as when minority ruled Rhodesia declared independence on November 11, 1965. Although this third set might not seem to apply to Syria, when we see how NATO abused UN Resolutions to destroy Libya, we must note that NATO mobsters will use any excuse, no matter how outlandish, they can to get their way. Indeed, when we consider that the USA sanctions against India over its nuclear arsenal only lasted from May 13, 1998 to 2001 and that it has never applied sanctions to Israel over its illegal chemical and nuclear war head stashes, the USA's word is worthless. When we look at their sanctions against Zimbabwe, through the 2001/2002 Zimbabwe Democracy and Economic Recovery Act of 2001 (ZDERA, S. 494), which denies Zimbabwe access to financing, debt relief and rescheduling, and which forces the Zimbabwean government to operate on a cash-only basis, we can see that the objective is to permanently break the nation financially, economically and socially forever.

In the past decades, sanctions have been primarily employed by developed market economies against weaker and more dependent states. Regional or international sanctions have been used in recent decades against countries such as Haiti, Iraq, Yugoslavia, South Africa, Cuba, Burundi, Nicaragua, Gaza, Zimbabwe and Iran. However with the possible exception of South Africa there is no evidence indicating that sanctions have ever achieved their primary objectives. Sanctions imposed by the European Union against Zimbabwe are a clear example that sanctions most of the time fail to reach their originally specified targets. As a contingency measure against EU sanctions Zimbabwe shifted its focus from the EU and its western allies and formed economic partnerships with the Eastern countries, which is exactly what Syria should and must do.

Sanctions: Calling the Shots

Murder Inc are ruthless enemies that have an array of hard and soft power forces at their disposal. These range from NATO's nuclear and chemical weapons arsenals and the various media empires they control to the supremacist sectarian blather Saudi Arabia and Israel dispense. Further, Murder Inc's forces are almost always on the offensive, almost always on the front foot, and are seldom on the retreat across the full spectrum they dominate.

Despite their perpetual criminality, Murder Inc have a strange way of blaming their own crimes on the buzzards that feed off the carcasses their wars leave behind rather than their own infinitely more criminal actions. Although the wars of aggression NATO have instigated and waged in Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia, northern Nigeria, Libya, Yemen, Syria, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Vietnam, Korea and the Democratic Republic of the Congo have enriched many local jackals, NATO wages war for its own benefits, not for the benefit of those that feed off its crumbs. They were, after all, waged to enrich NATO, whose members and its bitches, all of whom should face the severest punishments, are the primary culprits for such crimes as the systematic looting of Baghdad's museums immediately after NATO illegally and criminally invaded that city.

The USA propagates these memes of local profiteers merely as a large, amoral supermarket chain might complain about a corner store and bully it and public opinion into submission. When, as with Southern Sudan or

Baghdad's museums, the USA enters the frame as supposed peace makers, it is invariably as chief pillager. Because peace, other than on its own terms, is inimical to its mercenary, Hitlerite nature, the USA simply has no credibility when it comes to peace making.

Given the profitability of conflict and mass atrocities to those who call the shots, the United States and its European bitches focus on making resistance more costly than surrender to those it targets, whilst at the same time tarring those leaders it targets as profiteers and the like. The desire of NATO, its allies and its bitches to destroy all means of diplomatic, media and financial resistance to their crimes is itself just another in a long list of its war crimes against Syria and all other countries it formerly or presently targets.

War Economies Past, Present & Future

Although all countries involved in war must reorient their economies to face the immediate challenges war poses, the economies of NATO, Israel and their bitches are geared to waging perpetual war on the Mafia maxim that it is easier to expropriate than to produce. The United States, Britain and their bitches have centuries of experience of gearing their economies to plunder and the Royal Navy was instituted, in the first instance, for that very purpose of piracy. Wars are expensive in money and other resources; they are destructive of capital and human capital; they are disruptive of trade, resource availability and labor management; they are inflationary, they enrich only the Clinton, Blair, Bush and Erdoğan crime families, their cronies and sponsors, and they are almost always morally unjustifiable.

Though wars might be great for the defense contractors Clinton is in hock to, it is bad for Main Street, as it steals the wealth from ordinary people by lessening the buying power of their paper money. The bottom line is that war always causes inflation, particularly when it is funded through money-printing instead of a more accountable pay-as-you-go system of taxes and/or war bonds.

Although the United States had formerly to borrow and raise taxes to pay for its adventurism, its so-called Revolutionary war as well as its most recent bouts of adventurism have been paid in large part by simply printing money which is in effect, a series of IOUs to those who hold the dollars. As the US dollar is the world's major reserve currency, with the world's biggest legal and illegal cartels holding billions of them as reserves, this gives the USA an almost unlimited IOU credit line to wage war without the checks, balances and reflection being forced to increase borrowing or taxes would. That, coupled with the media and other tricks it learned during the Vietnam war, when it drafted articulate, well connected middle and upper class Americans rather than relying, as it now does, almost exclusively on the emasculated poor as canon fodder, has allowed the USA to become the aggressive empire builder and industrial scale child killer that it is.

The main ways of fighting war time inflation have included restricting the production and importation of luxury goods, so as to focus the country's resources on the importation and production of arms and weaponry; decreasing consumer spending and the money supply in the economy; imposing maximum price controls by stipulating that the price of some items should not pass a stated amount; and replacing money with ration cards so as to stabilize the market. Given the uncertainties war causes, these policies are usually easier stipulated than implemented.

Paper money is the friend of war time inflation, as is the desire of reckless governments to print it and the fear of the people that more of it will be printed in the future, thus making the paper they hold less valuable. Paper money is, in essence, an IOU and if that IOU is called in and the government do not have the wherewithal to pay up, ruin beckons. [Washington's Continentals](#), the Confederates' dollars and Weimar's German marks are all examples of currencies that became worthless. Given that the French Revolution was caused by the unsustainable cost of Washington's wars to the French King's coffers, governments have to control their costs or face ruin. Wars can and do lead to ruin.

In deciding on war, money trumps morals. The USA debated the Iraq War not on its political merits but on the ability of the USA and its bitches to ride the inflationary storm by printing dollar bills. Despite a \$200 billion deficit,

a \$9 trillion debt, \$5 trillion in outstanding debt instruments held by the public, a federal budget of \$3 trillion, and falling tax receipts in 2001, Bush contemplated a war that cost \$525 billion — or \$4,681 per American household. George Bush and Tony Blair, his British bitch, launched an illegal, criminal war that damaged most American citizens but that enriched key supporters, Bush's own Vice President and other core cronies included.

Just as the ability to print paper currency facilitates the criminal enterprises of Bush, Blair and their ilk, so also does decommissioning paper currencies help stem war time inflation. Thus, replacing cash with ration cards can help hold inflation in check as it prevents people from bidding up the prices of whatever consumer goods are still available. War bond drives persuade the people and, more so, its institutions to lend money to the government and as Britain's World War Two bonds, consols as they are called, are still traded on the London stock exchange to this day, we can see how successful this policy can be. Consols soaked up much of the money that might otherwise have caused inflation during the war. By reducing the money supply and by making it harder to buy goods using cash, the British government prevented inflation, which is the bane of all wars.

Because money is a coward, inflationary expectations must be controlled in times of war. The government must stop people raising prices not only because of actual changes in supply or demand or cost or the size of the money supply, but also out of fear that some such changes might soon happen. To keep inflation in check, the government must inject certainty into the uncertainty war engenders. The Syrian government's need to do that is glaringly obvious.

The Syrian government at war must be able to ride the inflationary wave if it is to survive. If it cannot, the repercussions of war on welfare become obvious much more quickly and penetratingly; war weariness sets in at an accelerating rate. People cannot be expected to be super human forever.

Any time the government engages in deficit spending, it creates the conditions for inflation. However when the deficit spending is on legitimate infrastructure, such as roads or bridges, that investment will slowly "pay for itself" by boosting productivity and paving the way for the creation of additional goods and services that will 'soak up' the extra cash over time.

Wars, however, are special. Vast quantities of money are spent on consumables, the weapons of war themselves. When a bomb blows up, there is no residual benefit to the domestic economy later on. Even if the goods aren't blown up, there's practically zero residual economic benefit to such specialized hardware, as amazing as that technology may be. Although Syria would prefer to invest in ploughshares rather than swords, the need to muzzle or fend off the dogs of war NATO have let loose in Syria gives it no choice.

The objectives and therefore the economic strategy of the "Syrian" rebels are the polar opposite of those of the Syrian government and people. Whereas the Syrian authorities wish to build and fortify their nation, as the "Syrian" rebels merely wish to destroy, to rape and to pillage, their economic policy is that of the looter, the vandal and the thief.

In contrast to the decisions the Turks and ISIS have to make, which are just those of the criminal, the vandal and the thief, Syria has to make hard economic decisions when faced with the uncertainty and chaos that war brings. In that respect, Germany provides a different model both for Syria and its enemies with the caveat that Syria, unlike Germany, is not a major arms manufacturer or industrial power striving for hegemony but a smaller nation fighting for self survival.

In World War I, Germany's agricultural sector was hit hard by the demands of the Kaiser's war effort, as farmers were drafted and food was commandeered for the forces. Syria faces a similar problem. Heading into the Second World War, the Nazis created a massive war machine that was not only in clear violation of the Treaty of Versailles but that totally skewed its economy to war, at the expense of a more balanced economy. Although the Third Reich's rearmament program solved Germany's unemployment problem, by 1939, it had put the Reich hopelessly in debt with plunder on a global scale as its only get out of jail card. The French Occupation proved beneficial in this regard. France provided for 11 percent of Germany's national income during the occupation,

which covered an impressive five months of Germany's total income for the war. Using extortion and forced labor, the Nazis siphoned off much of France's economic output. As Syria has no such plans of conquest, its expenditures can be tailored and trimmed accordingly. Its objectives must be to defeat the invaders and make itself too difficult a military adversary to deal with.

When considering the suitability of the Clintons, the Blairs, the Straw, the Erdoğan and the Saudi Royal family for the noose, it is noteworthy that Dr. Hjalmar Horace Greeley Schacht, Hitler's main banker, was one of only three defendants acquitted at Nuremberg for his role in building Germany's war economy. His defense was that he was only a banker and economist, even though the evidence demonstrates that he was pivotal in bringing the Nazis to power, and that he admitted to deliberately wrecking the Treaty of Versailles. He regimented the German workforce and gutted the union movement, even before the election of Hitler. His backers were, in most respects, the organ grinders that played the tunes the Nazi monkeys danced to. This should be kept in mind today when we consider not only Murder Inc's Commission but the bankers and war profiteers who back Murder Inc's Commission and who, like the Commission, care not a whit about the mayhem their lust for lucre causes. These amoral criminals, who prefer to skulk in the shadows rather than shine in the light have always been the linchpins that keep the Hitlers, Blairs and Bushes in power. They are the true devil's disciples and Schacht epitomizes them as much as the cronies of the Bush, Clinton and Blair dynasties do.

Without Schacht, Hitler would not have gained or retained power. After the July 1932 elections, which saw the Nazis obtain more than a third of the seats, he helped the Nazi Wilhelm Keppler to organize a petition of industrial leaders requesting that President Hindenburg nominate Adolf Hitler as Chancellor of Germany. Schacht returned as Reichsbank Chairman on March 17, 1933 after Hitler's rise to power. Schacht was also a pivotal figure in the formation of IG Farben, the economic linchpin of the Nazi empire. As Hitler's Minister of Economics, Schacht supported public works programs, most notably the construction of autobahns to alleviate unemployment. He also introduced the New Plan, Germany's autarkic attempt to distance itself from foreign entanglements in its economy and thereby to sidestep Versailles and rearm. The details of this clever plan allowed Germany to cut its massive foreign currency deficit and funnel all surplus funds into the armaments industry. In short, Schacht was the primary architect of the Third Reich; he was their Goldman Sachs and, ultimately, their Judas.

Schacht was one of the first at Nuremberg to offer to turn state's evidence against his co-defendants. Robert Jackson, a member of the prosecution team and an Associate Justice of the United States, was so outraged at Schacht's acquittal that he lashed out that Schacht was "the most dangerous and reprehensible type of all opportunists, someone who would use a Hitler for his own ends, and then claim, after Hitler was defeated, to have been against him all the time. He was part of a movement that he knew was wrong, but was in it just because he saw it was winning." When Schacht brought up the interesting issue of Hitler's American allies at the Nuremberg trials, the court, Jackson included, ruled that they were irrelevant (see NZZ no. 758, May 2, 1946).

Though the parallels between Schacht and former POTUS Vice President [Dick Cheney](#) and NATO's other recent war criminals are striking, the practical lessons there are on NATO's side, not on Syria's. For all Schacht's genius, Hitler's economic goals were, at many levels, totally dissimilar from almost any private capitalist system before or since, in that the Nazis deliberately tried to build a largely closed and self-sufficient economy. Through the State monopoly of foreign trade, exports were drastically reduced, and ceased to function as a normal barometer of the system except insofar as they were needed to pay for imports and Great War reparations. Internally, prices and costs were no longer subject to the discipline of the international market but were instead subject to the Reich's policy goals of massive rearmament. Because the closed nation state was an inadequate base for a developed or developing economy, imperial conquest based on geopolitical, racist and nationalist ideology was necessary. Economically, Schacht's policies meant the Third Reich had to expand or implode as it had far too many guns for the amount of butter and other peacetime goods it produced.

In the 1930s, autarky as a policy goal was sought by Nazi Germany, which maximized trade within its economic bloc and minimized external trade, particularly with the then world powers such as Great Britain, the Soviet Union, and France, with which it expected to go to war and consequently could not rely upon. The economic bloc

wherein trade was maximized comprised countries that were economically weak—namely, those in South America, the Balkans, and eastern Europe (Yugoslavia, Romania, and Hungary)—and had raw materials vital to Germany's growth. Trade with these countries, which was negotiated by then Minister of Economics Hjalmar Schacht, was based on the exchange of German manufactured produce directly for these materials rather than currency, allowing Schacht to barter without reliance on the strength of the Reichsmark. However, although food imports fell significantly between 1932 and 1937, Germany's rapid rearmament policy after 1935 proved contradictory to the Nazi Party autarkic ambitions and imports of raw materials rose by 10% over the same period.

Autarky exists not only in Nazi Germany but whenever an entity can survive or continue its activities without external assistance or international trade. Because some form of autarky has to be urgently considered for Syria and its allies, with the proviso that the savings should not be squandered on arms or some other form of needless consumption, this topic will be developed in the second half of this book in conjunction with Schacht's key lesson that hard currencies must be removed from the equation as far as is possible.

Today, of course, complete economic autarkies are rare. A possible example of a current attempt at autarky is North Korea, based on the government's ideology of Juche (self-sufficiency), which is concerned with maintaining its domestic localized economy in the face of its isolation and American aggression. However, even North Korea has extensive trade with the Russian Federation, the People's Republic of China, Syria, Iran, Vietnam, and many countries in Europe and Africa. Bhutan, seeking to preserve a manorialist economic and cultural system centered on the dzong, had until the 1960s, maintained an effective economic embargo against the outside world, and has therefore been described as an autarky. With the introduction of roads and electricity, however, the kingdom has entered trade relations as its citizens seek modern, manufactured goods. That said, as the second half of the book will explore, Bhutan's manorialist might have some lessons for Syria as it seeks the right stakeholders to ensure self preservation.

North Korea's widespread famine during the 1990s, which necessitated the massive import of food, provides another pertinent lesson. Whatever about North Korea, Syria's Juche system should be based on the choices it must face, not on one ideology or another chosen almost at random. Survival must come before ungrounded beliefs.

In this respect, in deciding how much such systems are driven by ideology or by practicalities, one could survey recent pertinent examples including the Islamic State of Afghanistan under the Taliban, from 1996 to 2001; the Peoples Republic of Albania under Communist Party leader Enver Hoxha; Myanmar Union of Burma under Ne Win, who ruled the 1962 to 1988; Democratic Kampuchea under the Khmer Rouge, from 1975–1979; Nazi Germany; India from independence up to 1991 when it ended due to imminent bankruptcy; Fascist Italy under Mussolini; Japan's Edo era which ended with the Americans' 1860s invasion; North Korea's Juche system; Nicolae Ceaușescu's People's Republic of Romania; South Africa's latter apartheid years; Franco's Spain up to about 1959; the USA up to about March 1809; the economy of the rural peasants, escaped slaves, and freed slaves that lived in the sparsely populated woodland interior of the Dominican Republic from the 1600s to the early 1900s; Milošević's Federal Republic of Yugoslavia as NATO put it in its cross hairs and no doubt many others that should be the future of studies in days to come.

Returning for now to the Reich, Hitler's arms drive led to unsustainable wage levels because the Nazis refused to depress the workers' perks; the Wehrmacht's budget was so vast that it could not spend it all. Women were not inducted into the workforce in the numbers the gravity of the war situation demanded. And, most infamously, scarce, Polish metal workers were gassed just when they were needed most, and when the trains used to transport them were desperately needed for the war effort. Although Hitler's orders to destroy Germany before the advance of the Allies in 1945 follow perfectly from his Wagnerian psychoses, it makes no other kind of political, industrial, capitalist or nationalist sense. In the case of the Third Reich, the lunatics had definitely taken over the asylum. That is not the case with Syria where hard but reasonable decisions can be made in the interests of the people of Syria.

Charles Higham's *Trading With The Enemy* details how American and other firms funded and traded with the Nazis all through the war. Standard Oil of New Jersey shipped fuel technology and fuel to the Nazis through neutral Switzerland. David Rockefeller's Chase Bank in Nazi-occupied Paris did millions of dollars worth of business with the enemy with the full knowledge of the head office in Manhattan; Westminster Bank and Barclay's Bank both opportunistically sacked their Jewish employees. Ford built trucks for the German occupation troops in France and General Motors developed and assembled motors for the Messerschmidt 262, the world's first jet fighter. Not only were GM unpunished after the war but the US government awarded them a \$33 million tax exemption on profits for its destroyed factories in Germany and Austria. Neither GE's main German plant nor the Ford plant in Cologne were bombed even though they should have been prime targets

ITT, the international American telephone conglomerate, improved Hitler's communications systems as well as the robot bombs that devastated London. ITT built the Focke-Wulfs that dropped bombs on British and American troops. Swedish Enskilda Bank (SKF) shipped crucial ball-bearings to Nazi-associated customers in Latin America with the collusion of the vice chairman of the US War Production Board, even when American forces were desperately short of them.

George Bush's grandfather, the late US senator Prescott Bush, was a director and shareholder of the American companies that most profited from colluding with Hitler. The firm he worked for, Brown Brothers Harriman (BBH), acted as a US base for the German industrialist, Fritz Thyssen, who helped finance Hitler in the 1930s before falling foul of him a decade later. Thyssen, who owned Germany's largest steel and coal company, grew rich from Hitler's efforts to re-arm between the two world wars. One of the pillars in Thyssen's international corporate web, UBC, worked exclusively for, and was owned by, a Thyssen-controlled bank in the Netherlands. Bush also partly owned the Consolidated Silesian Steel Company (CSSC), based in mineral rich Silesia on the German-Polish border. During the war, the company made use of Nazi slave labor from the concentration camps, including Auschwitz. On March 25, 1942, U.S. Assistant Attorney General Thurman Arnold announced that William Stamps Farish (the grandfather of President Bush's money manager) pleaded no contest to charges of criminal conspiracy with the Nazis. Farish was the principal manager of the worldwide cartel between Standard Oil Co. of New Jersey and the I.G. Farben concern. The merged enterprise had opened the Auschwitz slave labor camp on June 14, 1940, to produce artificial rubber and gasoline from coal. The Hitler government supplied political opponents and Jews as the slaves, who were worked to near death and then murdered. The Americans supplied their expertise.

Not only was Thomas Watson's IBM also involved in this profitable enterprise but the Holocaust industry remains profitable seventy years after Hitler's death. Although The American Israel Public Affairs Committee (Aipac) and a large number of America's other most well connected political pressure groups keep it that way, it only really became a cash cow after the 6 day 1973 war. Although Germany alone has paid out over \$60 bn in reparations to Israel and a large number of other non combatants, the lawsuits and the moral blackmail from the Jewish lobby never stop. Annual Days of Remembrance of the Holocaust are a national American event; all 50 states sponsor commemorations, often in state legislative chambers. It is as if this cash cow is the biggest and most important event in Western history and that those who have grown rich from it have a blank moral check to hector the rest of us. This is particularly galling as key financial institutions which rode the Hitler bubble are still thriving as the fate of a few million lowly Jews here and there has never troubled their sort.

There are a number of lessons we can glean from all of that. NATO's war profiteers, as the Bush family show with their collusion with Hitler or the Turks have shown since the time of the Armenian and Assyrian genocides, only follow the dollar signs: they have no moral conscience and, like all the Schachts and Cheneys of this world, will, along with criminal outfits like the BIS, happily collude in the vilest war crimes if there is money to be made at it.

The fact is that the military, financial and political elite who, by and large, do not have an ounce of conscience between them, were Hitler's main backers. These are the same people, who have never given us peace in our time as their bottom lines thrive and swell on the misery and privation of the masses, who they regard with the

same contempt as the Nazis did the slaves they worked to death. These are the people who wage war through ISIS on Syria. And they, the Blairs, Bushes, Campbells, Cheneys, Clintons, Erdoğan, Hollandes and Straws of this world should swing for it.

Although war gives rise to a number of important theoretical issues in economics and related disciplines, wars are practical and urgent affairs, needing practical, amoral solutions. Although, outside of the Gulf States, overt slavery is now morally abhorrent, it is important to note that Germany and Japan depended on it because they had bitten off more than they could chew. The Allies, only because of their richer resources, eschewed slave labor. American based economists including Simon Kuznets, Robert Nathan, Tjalling Koopmans, J.K. Galbraith, Wassily Leontief, Richard Ruggles, Charles Kindleberger, Nicholas Kaldor, E.F. Schumacher, E.F. Denison, Paul Baran, Piero Sraffa and Chester Bowle helped develop the American war economy, the objectives being to boost American war production by moving factors of production from civilian uses to military uses and stabilizing wages, inflation and boosting savings, while at the same time destroying Germany's capability through the carpet bombing of German cities, centers of population and centers of production. On average each bomber killed three (3) German civilians per attack; of those three fatalities, only one had any involvement with the German war effort. See chapter 6 of Stephen Garrett's *Ethics and Airpower in WW2: The British Bombing of German Cities*, 1993 for more information. These economists had, as the criminal bombing campaign against the Axis powers showed, the ears of the generals and their political bosses. The same applies in Syria today where NATO rebels, cheered on by NATO's jingoists, commit the vilest of crimes in a land they have no right to be in.

Germany's attempts to reach maximum economic efficiency also bear scrutiny. Although the bumbling idiot Hermann Göring had built up a power base that effectively controlled all German economic and production matters from the invasion of Poland in 1939, in 1942 the growing burdens of the war and the 1942 death of Fritz Todt saw the German economy move to a full war economy under the much more efficient leadership of Albert Speer. Due to state control, business had little entrepreneurial freedom in a regime that has been described as "command-capitalism." In place of ordinary profit incentives guiding the economy, financial investment was regulated as per the insatiable war needs of the Reich. The profit incentive for businessmen remained, but was greatly modified; Nazi agencies replaced the profit motive that automatically allocated investment, and the course of the economy. Although the British had the good sense to introduce rationing in 1939 when they also put their economy on a war footing, Germany resisted equivalent measures until later in the war. They were ideologically opposed to women participating in the work force. The top personal income tax rate in 1941 was 13.7% in Germany as opposed to 23.7% in Great Britain, indicating that the British leaders regarded the situation as much more serious and urgent than did their German counterparts.

The beginning of the war resulted in a British blockade which seriously restricted German access to world markets. Petroleum, sugar, coffee, chocolate and cotton were all extremely scarce. Germany used coal gasification to replace petroleum imports to a limited extent, and relied on Romanian oilfields at Ploiesti. Germany was dependent on Sweden for the majority of their iron ore production, and relied on Spain and Portugal to provide tungsten. Switzerland continued to trade with Germany, and was particularly useful as a friendly neutral to Germany. Until the declaration of war against the Soviet Union, the Third Reich received massive supplies of grain and raw materials from the USSR, which they paid for with industrial machinery, weapons and they even sold German designs for a battleship. Although Nazi Germany and modern Syria are two entirely different socio economic entities, the lesson for Syria to barter and conserve hard currencies is obvious.

Nazi fiscal policy was also directed towards exploitation of conquered countries, from which capital was to be gathered for German investments. Banks, such as Bank Emisyjny w Polsce, were created to manage local economies. During the war, as Germany acquired new territories (either by direct annexation or by installing puppet governments in defeated countries), these new territories were forced to sell raw materials and agricultural products to German buyers at extremely low prices. Hitler's policy of lebensraum strongly

emphasized the conquest of new lands in the East, and the exploitation of these lands to provide cheap goods to Germany. In practice, however, the intensity of the fighting on the Eastern Front and the Soviet scorched earth policy meant that the Germans found little they could use and, on the other hand, a large quantity of goods flowed into Germany from conquered lands in the West. For example, two-thirds of all French trains in 1941 were used to carry goods to Germany. Norway lost 20% of its national income in 1940 and 40% in 1943. Although there are few relevant lessons there, they do point to the need for Syria to decentralize and energize local, loyal communities.

As Germany switched to a total war economy under Albert Speer's efficient management, restaurants and other services were closed to focus the German economy on military needs. Nightlife in Syria continues for those who can afford it.

From late 1944 on, Allied bombings were destroying German factories and cities at a rapid pace, leading to the final collapse of the German war economy in 1945. Food became drastically scarce. Synthetic fuel production dropped by 86% in eight months, explosive output was reduced by 42% and the loss of tank output was 35%. The Allied bombing campaign also tied up valuable manpower, with Albert Speer (Germany's Minister of Armaments) estimating that in the summer of 1944 between 200,000 and 300,000 men were permanently employed in repairing oil installations and placing oil production underground. The lessons here are that Syria must build up its domestic and international civil society networks so that it might better withstand NATO's genocidal policies.

The Allies' objective was to pound the Axis forces into the ground and to pulverize their cities. This had been the exact game plan used by both sides in the Great War with the crucial difference that technological advances had greatly enhanced the possibilities for slaughtering the men, women and children of the other side. Technology was responsible for this increased capacity to slaughter the enemy. The same had been true in the wars of the Reformation, when a third of Germany's population perished: increased firepower in the hands of power hungry warlords was to blame. Syria needs Iran, Russia and other allied powers to show NATO and its proxies that Syria will not be forced to capitulate by superior fire power or superior numbers and that, come what may and be the cost what it may be, Syria will prevail.

Because wars are won by organized nation states having the capacity to field and fund standing armies, wars have also helped centralize state power and Syria must take note of that. Taxes have been introduced in times of war, rights have been curtailed and the printing presses have churned out money to pay for the exercise.

The right wing views of Ludwig Von Mises, as expressed in *The Economics of War*, are very instructive in this regard. Von Mises believes that citizens not governments and their economic advisors turn to war. Astonishingly, he claims nineteenth century philosophers as well as their earlier predecessors found wars a useless extravagance that bankrupted nations.

Although Adam Smith and Thorstein Veblen painted war and the maintenance of large standing armies as a form of conspicuous consumption, to the mercantilist powers, such as Imperial Japan, this was not the case. Veblen regarded war, alongside sport, religion and government as the competitive preoccupations of the non-industrial classes, as a form of conspicuous leisure or as a game for indolent gentlemen, from which the productive classes, women and engineers were all excluded. History says otherwise. The subsequent Great War helped solidify the importance of engineers and logistics to the successful prosecution of war. Veblen's was more a naïve, social, parasitical, pacifistic analysis, rather than an economic one; his ideas were a product of the pre-war peace, whose demise Keynes was later to lament.

Von Mises, like the entire Austrian school, is an aberration and not all economists have been so blinded. Keynes freely acknowledged the positive financial contributions the dirty money of mercantilism, the slave trade and the Cooley or indentured slave system had bequeathed Britain. His famous *Treatise* calculates that the net foreign assets of the British Empire in 1914 could be traced to Drake's victory over the Spanish Armada. Whereas the more level headed Keynes rightly attributed England's wealth to the blood money of slavery and to the gold

David Cameron's family looted from the Spanish Armada, from war, in other words, Von Mises shows himself to be more interested in exonerating his fellow ideologues from the carnage they inspired than in getting at the truth. The sins of the professors are not that easily airbrushed away. They have always been parasites, feeding off the miseries of those they torment. The Syrian war shows it is no different today.

The economics of the Second World War touches on many of the core themes of the discipline: the conditions under which there are gains from trade, growth theory, macroeconomic balance, costs and benefits, and asymmetric payoffs from game theory. In times of conventional and total war, all economies so engaged—Tradition, Command, and Market—must boost their production possibility frontiers. They must produce more guns and more butter, more essential war materiel and other goods that are not so essential to the war effort as well. Prior to the Battle of Britain, Hitler's forces had swept all before them by the novel military tactics of Blitzkrieg. Britain's leaders immediately adopted a tactic of total economic warfare to stop Hitler. This entailed solving a myriad of economic problems so as to boost military production and to control wages and prices. Because Britain's economic planners banked on a prolonged war—on not falling victim to Blitzkrieg, in other words—they planned accordingly. If Britain was to withstand the German juggernaut and thereby maintain her position as a global great power, her armaments industry would have to quickly achieve maximum capacity not only to replace the materiel lost at Dunkirk but to develop and produce more lethal weapons of mass destruction as well. The problem for Britain's planners was to ensure that inflation, profiteering and the misallocation of scarce resources did not derail their war effort until American aid arrived in sufficient quantities.

This was no easy task. When war was declared, the pound depreciated by fourteen percent against the dollar; this meant that the hard pressed British had to pay substantially more for their key imports. Moreover, world prices, which had been depressed at the outbreak of war, immediately shot upwards. Although the rise was at first largely speculative, a world shipping shortage and the U Boats' blockade made inflation a very real threat. Some prices leapt alarmingly—wild speculation in Calcutta, for example, almost doubled the price of jute there in the last two months of 1939. Other prices reflected a real rather than a speculative increase in demand—crude oil prices rose by twenty-five percent in the first month of war. Britain suffered further because normal traditional sources of supply such as the Baltic were cut off and shipping difficulties forced the Government to buy in much dearer markets.

While commodity prices in the country of origin rose, their prices to British importers soared as shipping costs spiked. Marine insurance was more expensive, war-risk insurance was introduced, convoys involved costly delays, and merchant seamen were paid danger money.

On the domestic front, because Britain's farmers responded so enthusiastically to all their financial incentives, by the middle of 1941, Britain had nearly four million more acres under crops than had been the case in mid-1939. Munitions presented a trickier problem as the government had to devise a form of contract that would stop profiteering while also giving the contractor a sufficient incentive to produce the advanced weaponry necessary to stop and ultimately defeat Hitler.

The government had to resolve the same conflict between incentives to efficiency and prevention of profiteering not only with the munitions industry but with the railways as well. Although the provisions the government negotiated with the railways were severely criticized at the time as being over-generous to the railways—critics claimed the railways were profiteering from the increased war traffic and the handicaps imposed on their road competitors—yet the government's steady hand prevailed.

Because wages and salaries formed over sixty percent of British national income in 1938, the government had to control these variables as a matter of urgency. Rent and other subsidies, which kept the cost of living down, went a long way to meeting government objectives in this regard. During the first nine months of the war, the expansion of munitions work took place largely at the expense of the domestic and export sectors of the engineering industry. By June 1940, most sections of the engineering industry had only about twenty percent of their workers employed on domestic trade with the rest producing war materiel. By the end of 1940, a stricter

and more efficient system of licensing of iron and steel and an infinitely more focused form of machinery licensing and raw material control ensured that the war effort received overwhelming priority.

The war also made heavy demands from the beginning on Britain's building industry. The Government's building program for the war's first twelve months was more than double the 1938 program and could only be met by cutting civilian building to the bone and organizing the industry effectively. Although this took considerable effort, by October 1940, almost all building in Britain was being done as part of the war effort. Britain's technocrats, in other words, played a pivotal part in the war and they should be proud of that. Syrians have much to learn from them.

Economists have not been wartime saints. Far from it. Walt Whitman Rostow, to take one of the most notorious examples, played a very proactive wartime role. A number of his works, including *The Stages of Economic Growth: a Non-Communist Manifesto* and *The Economics of Take-off into Sustained Growth* enjoyed spectacular success both academically and militarily. *Stages* was, in essence, a shallow, deterministic answer to the determinist Communist Manifesto. Although Rostow rejected the growth theories of his day, which were replete with abstract static equilibrium and steady growth paths, his theory, a taxonomy in essence, presumed to be equally universally applicable. Borrowing from the German Historical School, which also influenced Marx, he posited that the process of economic development passes through five uneven phases: traditional society, pre-conditions for take-off, take-off, drive to maturity, and the age of high mass consumption. Just as Marx and his cronies identified leading classes, which would impel society forward, so also, many years later, did Rostow identify "leading sectors" which would be the first to benefit from technical innovation and thereby achieve economic lift off, through the trickle down effect, for society as a whole. Not only did generations of students, myself included, have to wade their way through his tedious tracts but the American government waged an unsuccessful war of aggression on the people of Vietnam, justified in large part by his self serving drivel. Rostow's shallow theories underwrote the saturation bombing of North Vietnam where the alleged objective was to destroy Vietnam's capability for economic lift off, to reset North Vietnam's development clock and, in the immortal phrase of Curtis Le May, to bomb them back into the Stone Age.

Rostow's myopic ideology told him that the Hanoi regime (like all others!) was hooked on his own tin god hobby horse of economic growth and that the American destruction of their industrial infrastructure would, by denying Vietnam the capacity to grow, expedite their ultimate, unconditional surrender. Rostow was wrong. The main objective of Ho Chi Minh's hordes was in getting the foreigners out of Vietnam—that they now want them to return is another matter. Because Rostow and LBJ so stupidly misread their enemy, the limited war of the world's greatest superpower—the 300 million-strong USA—was stalemated by North Vietnam's 17 million fighting a total war. Therefore, though other examples abound, it should be apparent that economic theory, in both its macro and microforms, can be fatal. The South Vietnamese who, as a result of Rostow's harebrained ideas, died in Vietcong slave camps, attest to that.

The victory of the Vietnamese against America's attempts to exterminate them can give Syria hope. The Beast of the Apocalypse is not invincible if one is organized, has good friends, holds one's nerve and ensures the cure is not worse than the disease as happened in Russia when the USSR imploded.

Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, Harvard economist, Jeffrey Sachs, and other academic adventurers on the make swarmed into Moscow, preaching "shock therapy" that sundered Russian society and enriched themselves and their Russian and American paymasters at the expense of the ordinary, impoverished Russians, who turned to the Orthodox Church for succor before their social savior, Vladimir Putin, appeared. Iraq was likewise put under the auctioneer's hammer after Halliburton and the USA deposed Saddam and pillaged Iraq. Ba'ath party sympathizers were banished from all posts, sectarian tensions were fomented, priceless Iraqi treasures were systematically looted and Iraqi civil society was torn asunder, all to enrich NATO's bitches at the expense of the long suffering Iraqis. There is nothing new regarding armchair generals under the sun.

Economists and other social theoreticians have a long and disreputable association with instigating wars of

conquest. Mercantilism, Europe's key economic ideology from 1600 to 1800, was a doctrine of trade as war by other means. It preached the economic necessity of conquering lands to access markets and raw materials and to thereby deny those economic assets to one's enemies. As it preached protectionism and a narrow, national self interest, mercantilism also fueled Europe's intense violence of the 17th and 18th centuries. Since the level of world trade was viewed as fixed, it followed that the only way to increase a nation's trade was by taking it from others. A number of wars—the Anglo-Dutch Wars and the Franco-Dutch War being good examples—can be linked directly to mercantilist theories.

The same applies to the conquest of the Americas and similar acts of piracy. Spanish attention was riveted on the New World because of the gold and silver wrested from the Aztecs and the Incas and for the land grabbing opportunities it presented; religion, except as a means of social control, was not a consideration. African slaves were first brought to the Caribbean in 1503 and were later introduced to the American mainland in 1510; this was done for economic not religious reasons, although religious ideas, warped with concepts of social evolution, would be later used to justify slavery. Indeed, the import of slaves was regulated to keep demand and prices high, in accordance with the economic laws of supply and demand; the slave traders of the New World, being of this world, were keener on economics than theology.

Although Adam Smith's liberal theory of economics could be interpreted as preaching peaceful coexistence, it did inspire both the neoclassical, utilitarian school, which justified doing away with surplus labor and the Marxian concept of unending class war, which justified the surplus laborers doing away with their utilitarian tormentors. Adam Smith's supposedly benevolent capitalism was just a stepping stone from the earlier mercantilists to the later despotic philosophies of the left and right. The catastrophic wars of the twentieth century and the soldiers, sailors and marines buried beneath the waves bear testimony to the wanton loss of life philosophers and other bitches have caused. NATO's political leaders take their moral direction from Harvard economists, who, on the evidence, can see no further than their own bank balances and just tell the warmongers what they want to hear and to hell with the collateral damage in Yemen, Syria, Iraq, Libya, Nigeria and other places that never make the news.

Syria's Siberian Regiments

The sacrifices of the Syrian people, the men and women of their defense forces in particular, will be revered long after all of us have died. Just like the Soviets who faced the Nazis down at the gates of Moscow, so also do the Syrians need their own Siberian regiments to turn the soft and hard wars against the NATO aggressor. We must join those regiments.

Syria Through a Financial Lens

Though the above discussion is patchy, it does help us paint a way forward where actual contributions can be made. It is implicitly factored around the following stylized facts:

- The war of terror being waged against the Arab people by the USA and her local proxies needs a proactive response.
- That trans-national response has to be controlled, commanded and co-ordinated from Damascus which is at the eye of the storm.
- That response has to be focused on clear, identifiable and achievable objectives.
- That response has to draw in other components of Syrian civil society, such as the universities, medical profession and schools.
- That response has to not only supply information, background briefings and the like but it has also to help make the news and help set the media pace.

Reconstructing Syria is a gargantuan task, with Homs alone costing more than \$140 billion to reconstruct. That said, we must begin somewhere by judiciously choosing areas that can also act as catalysts so that we can begin to break the huge problem of Syria into manageable chunks. Such areas include but are not confined to Syria's Armenian and Assyrian areas, Damascus' Shia quarter as well as the (largely) Christian Qalamoun area which includes Ma'loula and Saidnaya.

Following the protocols of finance, we would ask three basic questions:

- What projects to choose
- How to finance them
- How to repay the stakeholders

Which Projects:

There are two obvious ones, with many Syrian officials favoring businesses and others favoring houses. The first of these Syrian arguments would be that Syrians have shelter at the moment and they need to get positive cash flows going before they can consider securing semi-permanent accommodation. Whilst conceding those points, others would argue that bricks and mortar are less risky, that construction leads to rapid employment with many knock on effects and that, if done properly, by housing the right people, as in post war Japan, it has many synergies. So if the question is, which comes first, the house or the job, the goose or the golden egg, the answer is to begin in a methodical, conservative way rather than debate those moot and academic points to death.

That said, some business plans make more sense than others. Syria, for example, had over 120,000 bee keepers before the war began and bee keeping is a low investment, high return industry and some strains such as sidr, can be especially lucrative. Bee-keeping and the various lucrative cash crops suggested does depend on knowledgeable food scientists, many of whom have fled the country for less turbulent pastures.

Another interesting area would be beer, with the Chechen rebel mercenaries having destroyed Syria's only beer factory in Aleppo. There is, perhaps, a gap for craft beer, along the lines the Khoury family do in the Palestinian West Bank or for cider from Kessab's apples. Not only that but such decentralized industries might be worth looking at to ensure there can be no future repetition of the rape of industrial Aleppo.

Syria's recent beer situation may be summarized as follows: Syria had two primary manufacturers both controlled by the government: Al Sharek was from Aleppo, and was originally founded by European designers, either Belgian or Bavarian. The other was from Damascus, called Barada, like the river's name. Al Sharek had the smooth German taste, and Barada, according to some, tasted like dish-soap-water, but each had their place in the market. Though beer and even Armenian brandy would be easy to re-establish if peace reigned, one has to be aware of the risk of more Turkish-instigated violence and plan, locate and scale accordingly. Given the Syrian government's financial constraints, privately-owned micro-breweries and similarly scaled initiatives are probably the best way to go, to take the Taiwanese rather than the mainland Chinese road to redevelopment in other words.

Speaking of Aleppo, the so-called rebels also destroyed its pharmaceutical industry, much of which could be reconstructed in north eastern Syria. The issue of replenishing Syria's universities with appropriate personnel is also an issue and a network of young Syrian professionals is likewise essential.

On the industrial end of things, then, there is much that can be done. Ideas cost nothing but it is putting those ideas into practice that count. The risk, return, stake holder and other components must, of course, be factored in before major progress is made. The Syrian authorities cannot make huge Soviet-style plants as they would be a magnet to the takfiri gangbangers. They also do not seem conducive to the years ahead where, like elsewhere, niche markets will probably be the norm.

Industry

Though Syria would, of course, be regarded as a high-risk area because of NATO's war of terror against it, it is important that we look at it dispassionately to see where industry and business might flourish in the short to medium terms. Current "opportunities" include the following:

- **Medical/paramedical:** There is a glaring need to take care of wounded soldiers, civilians and their families. Basic wheelchairs, much like this <http://tinyurl.com/syrianwheelchair> can be produced locally and cheaply in Syria. The issue of developing prosthetic limbs could also be looked at and relevant Syrian and allied expertise harnessed. The issue of strategically-located long-run care homes and concomitant synergies would also have to be examined. These are projects Damascus University's engineering professors, students and relevant NGOs can become even more involved with.
- **Pharmaceuticals:** Syria was a major exporter of pharmaceuticals, mostly through the Aleppo hub, where there was expertise in the university there. It has been suggested to relocate much of that industry to safer areas in the east and to explore collaboration with Indian or Iranian companies.
- **Herbs, spices, sidr trees and other high value-added cash crops.** Syria has been traditionally rich in flowers and a variety of valuable crops. These can, subject to overcoming distributional problems, be reinvigorated. Flowers were, in fact, much in evidence in the early post-Soviet entrepreneurial days, the Soviets having a long history of giving flowers on special occasions.
- **Cotton:** Because Syria is particularly rich in high-quality cotton, there is a lot that can be done there. The preference would be for high value-added projects with strategic partners rather than exporting it in bulk or mass producing low value-added projects.
- **Tourism and other invisibles:** The tourist industry will have to be re-established, however, gradually. Tourists have the advantage for impoverished countries and for Syria in particular of not needing a major investment, the sites and hotels being already in place. The idea here would be to establish small and select religious groups to visit via Lebanon, Russia or Iran so that the basic groundwork might already be done when and if Syria recovers. Costs and group size would, of course, have to take into account security and related issues. Although this video <http://tinyurl.com/syrian123> shows the Syrian Tourist Ministry have begun efforts, much more has to be done.
- **Wind turbines/ solar panels/refrigeration renewable technology.** Syria is ideally situated to avail of these technologies and to scale them for their budgetary constraints. The preference here would be for localized initiatives so that more Syrians may be involved in renewal at the grass roots and Syria can be thereby more immune to future hostile attacks.
- **Upskilling:** As Syria recovers, it would be important to have young Syrians involved at all levels so that the great wealth and depth of skill Syria had is not lost and that they are more empowered to help Syria get back on its feet. Thus, for example, Syrian students would do work experience in their chosen areas of expertise, working under experienced architects, engineers, medics and so on. The plans and designs of the architecture students at Damascus University, along with their staff, are particularly impressive in that regard.
- **Computer skills:** Younger patriotic Syrians have shown a degree of skill in computer-related activities and these should be utilized to bring in positive cash flows in programming and related areas. Online markets should be examined with overseas partners with the view of generating hard currency cash flows,
- **Carpentry/woodwork:** These were traditional Syrian strengths and they should be supported as part of the renewal project, with distributional networks being secured with Syria's allies.

- Silk/ silk worms: Syria's Armenians have been particularly strong in this area and they should be supported, with distributional networks being secured with Syria's allies.
- Youth mobilization: Many of these initiatives would be aimed at younger adults and groups involved with those age cohorts would have to be co-opted into partnership.

Agriculture

The agriculture sector, in conjunction with Russia and other key partners, is a key to Syria's early recovery. The key here would be to devise local projects with minimal waste that would take care of domestic, national and international needs and that could be scaled accordingly.

Polytunnels, communal goats, [Nigerian dwarf goats](#) in urban areas, chickens to scavenge, eggs and movable chicken tractors to let the chickens till and the land and improve its soil quality are all viable. Potatoes, kale, fruit and nut trees, with trellised dwarf trees in urban areas, rotatable, intercropped vegetables, grown in raised beds or containers, flowers and herbs to feed bees, rabbit hutches, field peas for increased protein and increased soil fertility with its straw used for goats and rabbits, an aquaponics greenhouse in the vegetable growing area for fish fertilizer, vegetables, and fish for a well rounded diet along with year round vegetables, a [methane digester](#) to generate energy are only some of the interlinked basic community projects Syria could launch.

Although bee-keeping and cotton have been mentioned, Syria is agriculturally very rich, which is one of the reasons the West's proxies wish to subjugate and colonize it. Although there are a variety of high-profit crops such as anise that could be encouraged, Syria's Asian, Latin American and Russian allies have much to teach her in this regard, as do Syria's own food scientists and the experiences of war time experiences of Britain and other countries.

Syrians, of course, needs conduits to produce and export all these goods and services. The government should help supply the requisite agents and strategic partners for this to happen. Though Fr Raed, the Latin Catholic parish priest of Ramallah in the West Bank, is trying to do something similar, the basic idea is quite simple: have agents buy the products, store them at Syria's air, sea and land exit points and pass them on to partners abroad for sale, all without venally corrupt officials destroying the entire enterprise.

Such conduits can also be used to export the far-famed Damascus Rose and the large and diverse portfolio of handicrafts Syria is known for. Though these can be done on a "fair trade" basis, they should probably not be done through the Fair Trade Association but through agents in countries friendly to Syria.

Houses in Syria

The issue of accommodation can be looked at under a large number of sub-headings, such as the following:

- Type of housing required - single storey or multi storey? A needs analysis would be necessary for this. Large-scale Soviet-type human warehouses based around new industrial parks are not favored, not least because both the parks and the warehouses might be overrun by the invaders or targeted by US air strikes and it is too much cash out and not enough cash in.
- Accommodation requirements - number of bed rooms etc.? Although Syrians traditionally favored two-bedroom apartments from the range offered them, this could be looked at in the light of the current demographic situation. Though a proper ethnic and age mix is needed, the locales have to be rooted in one or more communities to have stability.
- How many units will be needed? This will obviously vary from area to area. It is best to build gradually, a block or so at a time and to work through existing community organizations, and to control speculative building in the coastal regions.
- Services- electricity, gas, water, sewerage etc? Although the government has traditionally supplied all

these, alternative, diversified sources such as wind turbines, solar panels and water treatment and conservation tools should be deployed, if practicable.

- Specification and Construction materials...labor and finance? Though finance is discussed later, the key thing regarding labor is to source it locally, in the local communities. As far as practicable, widows and orphans should be employed, if at all possible. Though this might be easier were adobe bricks to be utilized, the key thing is those who paid in blood must get some of the peace dividend. This is not really negotiable and must be enforced in a smaller time window.
- Corruption and profiteering?: These could spell the death knell for Syria and the wolves and vultures must be kept at bay.
- Statutory planning and legal matters? There should be a fast-track way to do this, that keeps corruption to a minimum and those trying to take their slice should be named and shamed.
- Design, Project Management and Procurement? Regarding design, the idea should be to use the best of the old, with the best of the new, subject to cost and other considerations. Management should be shared with local partners and a reporting device instituted to instill best practices. Procurement on the scale needed would need the active support of such as the Iranians who would help claw back what Turkey stole, destroyed and, in the case of cement, under-priced.
- Health and Safety Matters? The proper trade-offs would have to be done here in labor and materiel. Again, we want a lean, keen and mean machine that galvanizes local partners that empowers rather than enriches.

Media Center/Think Tank

What is needed is a center which gives more balanced and nuanced backgrounds and briefings than the so-called Syrian Observatory of Human Rights (SOHR) give.

The SOHR is interesting as their syriahr.com website, according to alexa.com, gets less hits than one would a priori imagine and their twitter feed has less followers than one would suspect. Their strength, one would imagine, is churning out stories to selected media outlets; that should be eminently easy to trump if, in conjunction with Russia, we have a center in Damascus, with feeds to and from universities, schools, parishes, mosques, churches and other centers of civil Syrian society.

Syria needs a viable, pliable and flexible one-stop informational stop to supply background information, photos, briefings, news updates and so on to interested parties and to thereby emasculate the SOHR's poison. Though this shop would have to depend on students, staff, clerics and so on for input and content, it would have to be independent in a way SOHR is not.

One of the more amazing things about the war on Syria is how Syria's enemies can spin the truth so much on the most glaringly obvious of things such as the Ghouta attack, the al-Bouti murder, the kidnapping of the Ma'loula nuns and countless more atrocities too numerous and ridiculous to recount here. That said, these lies, by sheer repetition and other means, do gain traction; however, that traction can be stopped in its tracks with proper organization and effort.

Factors/ Constraints

- Widows and orphans: These would have to be proportionately incorporated into all developments both as tenants/owners and as workers.
- Wounded soldiers. These would have to be proportionately incorporated into all developments both as tenants/owners and as workers.

- Massive refugee problem. These would have to be rehoused and resettled in an orderly way.
- Seizing Syrian summers. This has an impact on working and on materials used.
- Pay disparities: Many ordinary Syrians tradespeople have joined the rebels because they can be paid \$150 per day if they make lethal weapons for them; Syrian soldiers do not earn that in three months. Though it is unlikely our peace project could compete with the gangbangers on pay, the emphasis has to be that we are building whereas they only destroy and have no intention of building anew.
- Targeting of successful projects problems. As part of their terror campaign, NATO's mercenaries target anything that smacks of normality. That being so, our emphasis should be on a larger number of smaller rather than a smaller number of bigger projects to show them they cannot succeed unless they uproot every blade of grass in Syria.
- Urban/ ghetto design. We do not want ghettos. Nor do we want to create rat holes to which the Chechens can return. These must all be factored in in the design process.
- Community halls: We want to rebuild communities, not ghettos and community centers must, subject to budgetary constraints, be incorporated into the design.

Here are some further comments on those points, remembering that all points and questions in finance are inter-related and, of course, open to discussion.

- Some have suggested barracks-type housing built around new factories, industrial complexes. Decentralized, local based initiatives to give less mega-targets to the takfiris and to give the locals a stake in their locale are better.
- Accommodation would vary from place to place and the co-operation of local leaders and networks would be important to rebuild stable societies.
- Architects, engineers and other planners would also be important to combine the best of the old with the most cost and thermal efficient of the new so that maximum impact can be had in Syria and beyond.
- Damascus University's Engineering Dept would be critical in supplying refrigeration and other essential expertise. Its architecture staff and students are a class apart.
- The locals would also be critical in doing a needs analysis on preferred housing under an agreed budget.
- There has to be a recognition that Syrians must get the jobs rebuilding rather than trying to buy an off-the-shelf foreign solution. This has to be as much as bottom up as a top down solution and local or international parasites should shop elsewhere.
- The issue of adobe, cement and other materials would also have to be looked at, both in terms of strategic partners and local labor considerations. Iranian and South Lebanese cement and other companies would supply, in the first instance, many of those partners.
- The Syrian government would be expected to facilitate statutory, legal and other services as well as the preliminary services needed.
- As many of the constraints are factored around considerations such as reincorporating incapacitated victims back into society, the need for local, forceful and vibrant community partners is apparent.
- Though there would be lead partners in some areas, a degree of consensus would be needed with them to contribute to the overall good and not to create ghettos on sectarian or other lines for security and social reasons. Each area and local partner would, for example, be expected to take its fair and

apportioned proportion of war victims.

- Companies like South Africa's Moladi, which specializes in reusable plastic formwork for use in the construction of affordable housing and low cost housing projects could be examined for ideas, synergies and joint projects. Moladi's process involves creating a mold in the form of the complete house. This wall mold is then filled with an aerated form of mortar. The process is also claimed to be faster than traditional methods of construction. The system is especially suited for affordable low-cost, mass housing schemes.

Project Cart Before the Financial Horse?

Although it might be argued that the financing should be put in place before the projects, it works the other way round in finance where the projects get priority. Once the projects are decided upon, then the matter of financing them can be examined. And so it is here. A number of ideas have been researched and proposed and can be written up in greater detail when necessary. They would then have to be evaluated and, in conjunction with relevant partners and stakeholders, financed and implemented. Without those, they are effectively worthless.

How to Pay for the Projects

New and innovative financial ways are needed to rescue Syria from the abyss. That can only be done with strategic partners and “bankers” such as the Syrian, Russian, Chinese and Iranian authorities. It must also be done in a way that Syria is not beholden to anyone, most especially NATO controlled gangbangers and mobsters, over the longer term.

That being so, the following points are germane:

- The Syrian government has promised compensation of between 25-30% to those who lost their properties. The problem here is which figure to use to value the destroyed property: the pre or post-bubble figure. The easiest way out of this is to give the new construction a notional value of 100 units and to ascribe 30 or so units to the older house, the person only having to supply the other 70.
- Then, if we suppose the Syrian government also pays for the preliminary work, we can account for another ten or so units that way, bringing the outstanding balance to 60 (and much higher if we see that the Syrian government has not expended any money).
- If we then suppose, in the case of wounded soldiers, widows and the like, we can supply them with basic work and pay one half in credits and the other half in cash, we can bring the balance down to 50 or less.
- Let us then say we give semi-exclusive rights to our partners – South Lebanese, Iranian, local community groups, we can account for another ten or so by giving them options on future projects, we can bring the balance down to about 40 units. An easy example of this would be Iranian companies setting up the necessary and necessarily large cement companies to allow this mammoth task to be accomplished or Russian companies taking over oil installations and providing armed guards as well as housing for the Syrian workers. That would guarantee Iran, Russia and their local partners business well into the future.
- Although Patriarch Gregorios Laham 111 of the Greek Catholic Church has stated they will chip in, their funds, unlike their not inconsiderable moral capital, are obviously limited and are no match for what is needed. Still, they are strategic partners in specific localities such as the Qalamoun Hills.
- The examples of Irish and Israeli bonds, US war bonds, Qatar's efforts in Gaza, the reconstruction of South Lebanon, Saudi Arabia's advances in Beirut and many more examples can be gauged to make up the balance. The community-run Assaha Hotel in South Beirut is one such example.
- There are large funds available through Arab nationalists in the Gulf and the worldwide Syrian diaspora.

There are also the Armenian, Assyrian and various other diasporas to tap into. All of those conduits are possible if and only if there is no corruption which is probably a bigger danger than the various rebel gangbangers currently laying waste to Syria. This makes the issue of stakeholders paramount.

- Though the above is only a necessarily rough sketch, if the will is there and if stability can be maintained, then, as in post-war Japan, Syria will rise from the ashes.
- It would be expected that, in time, those countries, such as Qatar, Turkey, France, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and the USA that waged war on Syria through their counter-gangs, would be forced to make the appropriate pecuniary amends for their war crimes and that, financially, Syria would be treated more like Israel and less like Poland which received not a penny in compensation following Germany's ravishes. In this regard, the advice of Vietnam and other progressive countries with not dissimilar experiences would be sought. As the UN has given Saudi Arabia its imprimatur to slaughter the people of Yemen in much the same way Italy and Japan behaved in Libya, Abyssinia and China in the 1930s, as the USA still refuses to pay reparations for its centuries of war crimes in Latin American, the Philippines. Japan, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq and countless other places, making these gangsters cough up will not be easy. Then of course there is the rogue Muslim Brotherhood Turkish Mafia state with the Armenian, Pontic Greeks and Assyrians genocides on its hands, for which it must also be held to account, no matter how long it takes,
- The international NGOs are also not neutral in this conflict. They are often part of the soft war against Syria. It would be hoped that the most disreputable of these organizations can be exposed for what they are and at least some of the funds being raised for Syria can go to the needy rather than to the Turkish, Chechen and Saudi militias who control so many of the refugee camps and rebel induction centers in countries contiguous to Syria.

How to Repay the Stakeholders

The third and final major issue in finance is how to repay the stakeholders. Because this is the same in any governance system – Anglo American, German Japanese or any other – we must first answer the obvious question as to who are the stakeholders of the Syrian Arab Republic. They are, of course, the citizens, professional groups and communities who comprise her rich and diverse social tissue and it is those people and institutions, in particular those who have paid the highest price in the defense of our common civilization, who must be the primary beneficiaries.

This, however, can only be done through proper conduits, facilitated of course, by concerned individuals, so that Syria does not become another Iraq or Libya. The duty of any government, the Syrian government no less than any other, is to promote and defend the interests of her people and to encourage and enable them to dove-tail into that mission. There is, as we can all see, a huge effort afoot to smash the Syrian Arab Republic and to scatter her survivors to the four corners of the earth, much the same way Iraq has been destroyed and her people scattered by those same, sinister forces.

For the Syrian Arab Republic to survive, all of Syria's stakeholders must be empowered and enabled to play their part, along with the Syrian Arab Army, in the promotion and defense of civilization. The challenge for the Syrian authorities is to mobilize and galvanize the vast majority of her people and not to leave them as helpless and hapless victims of foreign aggression. In this respect, the task facing the Syrian authorities is great, but so too is the reward: Syria her own, and all therein, from the center to the sea. The soil and wealth of Syria for the people of Syria, to have and to hold to them and their heirs for ever, without suit or service, faith or fealty, rent or render, to any power under Heaven. Though Syria now faces a deadly struggle, one to the death, it cannot fail but must found a new nation and raise anew a free people, and strong as well as free, and secure as well as strong, based on its constituent people, rooted like rocks in the soil of their ancient land — this should be their noblest object, as it should be ours.

In supporting this initiative, the Syrian authorities, looking forward with the experiences of history, show that they must stand where they have always stood. The deeds to Syria's future must be vested in the people of Syria and to no one else. The enemies of Syria have no property rights in Syria, except those of the robber, the rapist and the plunderer. The enemies of Syria can never have, should never have and must never have any rights and can have no imprimatur to denude the people of Syria of their birth right as freeborn people with the inalienable rights their forefathers have bequeathed them. This plan clearly states that the Syrian people have the right to live in comfort, in security, and independence not only from Saudi Arabia, Turkey and the United States but also from their proxies, militias and counter gangs. The unelected kings, tyrants, emirs and other sundry American toadies of Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Turkey have no right and should never have any right to set the ne plus ultra to the march or destiny of Syria or her people.

These are the principles and views which underwrite this program. Although they will be refined, they will not be substantively changed. The bottom, immutable and ineluctable line is this: the land, property and future of Syria belong to the people, friends and stakeholders of Syria and that red line will not be and cannot be transgressed.

Rhetoric to Reality

This rhetoric can become a living reality by using low-cost, locally available natural materials such as earth, small diameter wood and straw to keep expenses to a minimum. Costs are controllable, particularly if the stake holders can be galvanized. Until they are, Syria will not recover.

Earthbag building projects give strength, durability, sustainability and affordability, which can deliver sound houses for less than \$1000. With the help of Syria's architects, such projects can be scaled and built in stages, according to local needs.

The issue is not so much the financing but getting the right partners aboard, which would range from the Chinese government, where the money needed is no object, right down to local religious communities which would keep the project embedded in the Syrian people.

There is also the issue that most Syrian real estate developers are small enterprises with limited capital who are most comfortable building a few high-end houses at a time, using the buyers' money and reaping high return over a relatively short period. Affordable housing, on the other hand, is only profitable in scale, and large scale development requires large investments of time and money and comes with a high level of complexity. Developers must not only assemble a plan for building the project quickly and efficiently, they also have to ensure there is financing for the buyers, who are usually first-time homeowners who may not even have a bank account and, in Syria's case, are most likely broke.

There are also many other players that need to work together to successfully build an affordable housing development. Builders and property managers, land owners, local governments, investors, suppliers, mortgage lenders and surrounding communities form a sort of ecosystem in the housing sector. When they come together to work on a project, they often represent a set of conflicting agendas and incentives. For Syria to effectively rebuild, these various forces have to be enmeshed into an evolving, Syrian controlled ecosystem. This can only be done with the open and transparent input of Syrian civil society and officialdom at all levels, where competing interests are got to work for the common good.

The Syrian Government has to be one of the primary stakeholders, since mass housing construction addresses issues of economic development, land use, and public safety. But government is not a single entity. It includes national, regional and local governments as well as different ministries of public works, land and finance – each of which has its own priorities and each of which is open to corruption. Landowners represent another key party whose interests are often not aligned with an affordable housing mandate. Left to themselves, private landowners have no incentive to support affordable housing developments.

Even more tangential groups like utility providers have to be brought on board to ensure connections to power or water or sewage treatment systems that are promised are delivered.

Then there are the investors. Housing developments require capital, of course, but since capital generally looks for highest return with lowest risk, investors often prefer to build a commercial property or high-end housing. With low-income housing, there is the added financing challenge of converting families in need into qualified buyers.

Building on Japan's post war experiences, these competing forces can all be accommodated into the overall plan if and only if the right stakeholders are brought on board and corruption is minimized. Low-income families can be put on the path to home ownership with the right affordable housing project and the right set of development finance institutions providing debt capital and working to structure mortgages in a way that are affordable to poor families. It has been done in Japan, albeit not without sacrifice and it has been done in many other countries as well.

Because the number of Syrian developers with strong balance sheets to support completion guaranties is small, strategic partners are essential to minimize risk, achieve targets and drive the construction process. Something as simple as construction and delivery of a 37-square-meter house involves a large number of players and sufficient capital to see a large housing project through to completion.

Although Tata are having great success building "Nano" basic housing units in India, Syria's constraints are of a different and more urgent nature. Tata's costs are being kept low chiefly because the flats are being built outside big cities, where land is much cheaper. Owners are expected to commute. The units are also very small and spartan. The simplest consist of a single room with a sink in the corner and a toilet behind a partition. They are in buildings of no more than three storeys, so there is no need for expensive structural works. Instead of bricks, lightweight molded concrete blocks are used for the walls. The concrete is often made with foam, fly-ash or other waste materials to make it lighter as well as cheaper. There are no lifts and just one staircase per block. All this means that the homes can be built very quickly and with unskilled labor. Though readers may scoff at that, not dissimilar houses Japan built in the aftermath of their surrender are still in use to this day.

Indian finance companies have surmounted the credit history problem and by doing so have turned their backs on Western orthodoxies and opened up new finance streams for themselves and their sub prime customers in the process. Syria can scale and copy that.

Governance and Governance Issues

One major governance problem in finance is the principal agent problem whereby the agents work for themselves rather than the principals who own the concern. In today's Syrian context, that means that corruption can be a death knell. Put bluntly, there would be little good to the Syrian Army winning the war and Syrian buccaneers, fraudsters and their ilk making Syria lose the peace. Much of Syria's corruption seems to occur in the middle rather than at the top or the bottom of its pyramid. To rein in that cancer, the following are noted and/or suggested:

1. Acts, not deeds.
2. Strong no bull shit partners at all levels.

Because of that, Syria could consider a partial revival of the manorial system whereby certain institutions could become lead or key building and agricultural partners in certain communities, with local charges incorporated for the use of mills, bakeries or olive presses, or even for grazing rights, with administrative charges being centrally handled.

The Armenian & Assyrian Cards

Medz Yeghern is commemorated every 24 April in memory of the genocide of Armenians by Turkey which began on 24 April 1915 and about which I spoke in Damascus University on 24 April 2015. Going forward, the Armenian plan would be briefly summarized as follows:

- Make Syria, with Yerevan and Deir Ezzor once it is free, the global center of remembrance.

- Organize schools, universities and others to collect, collate and disseminate photos and documents on relevant genocides from 1915 and before to the present.
- Galvanize the Armenian, Assyrian and Syrian diaspora to that effect.
- Achieve synergies with the reconstruction project.
- Dove-tail this with other initiatives for children such as learning how to photograph and video and, as has been successfully done in Palestine, India and elsewhere, exhibiting their work and their story to Syria and the world.
- Use this, with the previous structure, framework and network, as a basis to build a truer Damascus centered alternative to such tainted fronts as the so-called Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

Armenians in Latakia/Kasab

Turkish irregulars have recently laid waste to Kasab just as they have formerly laid waste to other parts of Northern Syria. When they are kicked back across the Turkish border, the clean-up has to begin much along the lines of what already has been propounded. Some points worth noting:

- The Armenian and Assyrian diaspora networks are quite vibrant.
- In this regard, the appropriate command and control conduits, the traditional, tried and trusted Armenian conduits, are needed to help rebuild.
- Kassab has three churches: Orthodox, Catholic and Protestant. There is a religious school, like a "Sunday School" and there are 2 monasteries. There are many hotels, because Kassab is a summer mountain retreat for families of Syria, as well as neighboring Arab countries (Arab Gulf families). This gives a good basis for rebuilding.
- Most people of Kassab are small farmers who produce mainly apples and peaches. However, they are famous for making a type of hand bar type soap for washing and bathing. It is a green bar of Bay-Leaf-Olive-Oil soap. This type is made in Aleppo also, but the Kassab variety is famous. This soap is exported as well, so it is a main source of income.
- These sources of income must be reinvigorated sooner rather than later and foreign exchange earned from them.
- That being so, what is currently lacking is the means to produce, store and export them.
- That being so, what is needed is facilities to buy and export them through strategic partners in Syria and beyond. Such partners include the Armenian diaspora, Iran, Russia and so on.
- The key thing here is we need honest help in Syrian ports to achieve this.
- Latakia highlights another problem. It has a ghetto, The Palestinian Camp, which the Turks and Chechen used as a base to cause murder and mayhem. The Palestinian Camp runs along the Southern beach of the city and is designated as the Southern Tourist Area on the government maps. Though it should really host cash-generating hotels and restaurants and beaches, instead, it is a filthy ghetto of poor people. Though it began in 1948 when the Palestinian refugees came in, it currently has almost no actual Palestinians in it, just very poor people, whose houses are all built without government permits or codes and there are no deeds to houses. All building is done illegally, by these poor people.
- The only real uprising in Latakia was there, culminating in a 4 day battle in late summer 2011. It was horrific. Chechen war-lords got in and took control and subjugated the poor people. It took a fierce battle to finish them off. Since the end of that battle, Latakia has been peaceful.

- Although it might make sense to relocate those poor people into decent housing, and then develop the area into tourist use, to create jobs for local people to make the 'highest and best use' of the land there, this has to be done, as in other areas, without causing unnecessary dissent.

Final Word

This book has been kept deliberately short as it is meant to be acted on, not endlessly deliberated on. Though both halves of the book could have been vastly expanded upon, Syria needs actions more than words. When we return to Syria in September 2016, I hope we can again make some progress in saving Syria from its enemies and that this short work will help those I am in contact with to that common end.

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Author

Dr Declan Hayes is an Irish-born professor of finance, who has lectured in Australia, Japan, Mexico, England,

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