



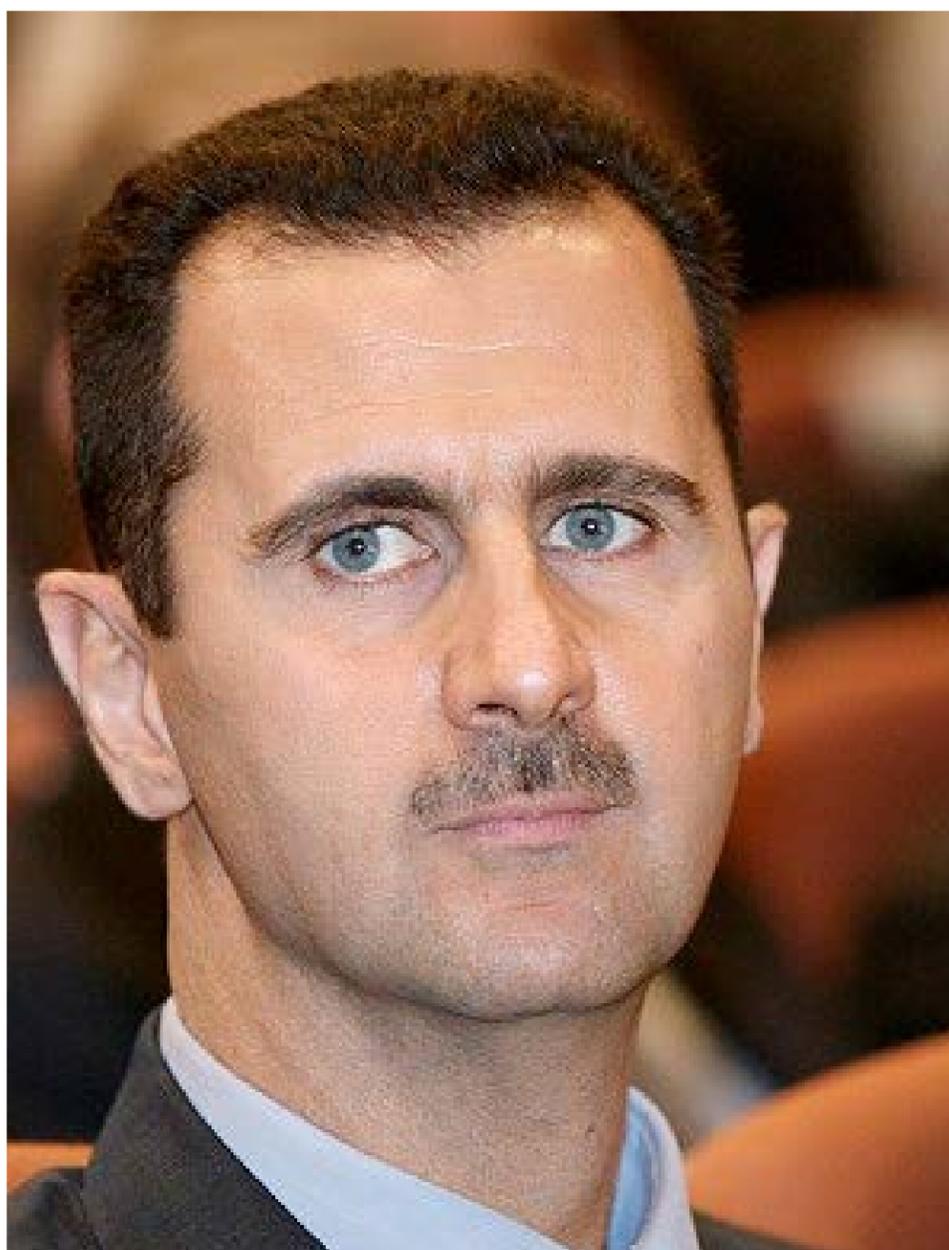
Syria's Silent Stance

Throughout the recent events regarding the Syrian war, news outlets have mainly aimed their focus on the involvement's and stances taken by other countries using Barack Obama's America, David Cameron's UK and Vladimir Putin's Russia as examples. Despite this field being largely covered by the media we have heard little about the Syrian Government's take on these situations especially Assad's stance on the current affair. Although we are very much aware and kept up to date with the Civil War through various media companies, surprisingly very little know the catalyst of the civil war and awareness of how it all started may change your interpretation and outlook towards the Syrian Government. To test the people's knowledge I asked people on their views on the Syrian war and the replies confirmed that the beginning of the war and the Syrian government's involvement is a topic which hasn't been thoroughly covered in the media. March 2011 peaceful protests were taking place in the southern city Deraa. The protests were due to a number of children being arrested as they used graffiti on the walls to project their anti government opinions. For this, fifteen children were subsequently arrested and reportedly tortured by Syrian security forces as punishment which led to the peaceful protests as they understandably were not happy with the action the Syrian government took.

Shockingly, the Syrian government decided to take action on the protests by opening fire on them in the streets of Deraa which resulted in the murdering of four people on the 18 March 2011. The Syrian government followed up these attacks by shooting at the mourners of the victims killed in the shootings also killing another person. It is important to note that initially, these were peaceful protests. These events made the rebels act upon many other conflicts such as the lack of government help with other matters with the economy and state violence being examples. Now you know more about the Syrian war, hopefully readers will realise how corrupt Syria has become under Bashar al-Assad's presidency. After telling my interviewees this story they developed different emotional responses such as "upsetting" and "angry" due to how corrupt the Syrian government was after I enlightened them to how it all started. As we know due to recent events, other countries particularly America through Barack Obama have shown they are keen to attempt to put a stop to all the chaos happening in Syria. Other countries have changed their stance to Syria due to the potential threat Assad may carry out in the future if the chemical warfare gets out of hand.

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By Andrew Shepherd



UK education fails to improve

After an International study, statistics have proven that the UK are still behind countries such as Japan, Singapore and Korea. The studies show that the UK's performance in maths, reading and science has not changed and haven't improved for 6 years. This is the first time that Britain have failed to finish in the top twenty

Over the years the UK have spent more than average on education and this isn't reflecting on the results the UK are receiving in the world as they are ranked 26th for maths, 23rd for reading and 21st for science. These statistics are concerning for the UK as in comparison to other countries they have worse education rates

despite spending more than most of the countries despite the governments efforts over the years to improve our education progress.

