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Q No 2: The HTS Islamist rebels have toppled down Bashar-~~al~~ Assad regime in Syria. Critically Evaluate the reasons and implication

INTRODUCTION:-

The remarkably fast collapse of brutal Assad regime, by HTS Islamist ~~movement~~ ^{rebels} after 11 years of civil war, was met with widespread celebration both within Syria and among the million of ~~refugee~~ refugees living in exile. The reason behind the sudden collapse of Assad's regime was the constant struggle of rebel groups, weak economy, unsupportive soldier and military, and most importantly the lack of support from Iran and Russia. Following the fall of Assad's regime, several implications await Syria, for instance, large scale of return of Syria's refugees might undermine the smooth and successful transition. As Syria is not in a stable state to tackle large scale of ~~refugees~~ refugees suddenly also it cannot guarantee safe and protective environment right after the collapse of brutal regime.

Reasons for the fall of Assad's Regime :-

Since 2011 civil war, Syria has been in a constant war zone. Despite the civil war Assad regime was able to hold onto power largely due to the support from foreign

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allies Russia and Iran. Following are the reasons for the fall of Assad Regime:

a **Reliance on Russia and Iran**

Assad Regime was fully dependent on the support of Russia and Iran. Both the countries assisted Syria in several war in the form military aid and training. For instance, in the battle of Aleppo in 2016, Russia and Iran helped Syria to push rebel group out of Syria North, North east side. Similarly in 2018 their assistance helped Damascus region regain control of southern Syria. Unfortunately, this time both Iran and Russia's attention increasingly pulled elsewhere and couldn't ~~help~~ ^{protect} Assad regime from falling. Russia is ~~very~~ busy in invading Ukraine hence pulled its military back from Syria, Similarly Iran is involved in war against Israel. Hence Assad regime couldn't stand alone without the support of its powerful allies against Rebel groups.

b **The support of US and Turkey to HTS Islamist groups:**

US and Turkiye has been constantly supporting HTS Islamist groups in the form of military training and weapon aid. Even before 9 December, The Fall of Assad regime, Half of The Syria was occupied by rebel groups, for instance

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North and North east were all in the control rebel groups. As a result it was easy for the HTS to occupy the rest of the Syria due to the strong support of its powerful allies.

c Syria's Struggling economy:

Another reason for the sudden collapse of Assad regime is the instable economy of Syria due to an illicit trade in psychoactive drug captagon. Moreover, due to Assad's Authoritarian regime, Syria faced international sanctions which cause severe humanitarian crisis and economic collapse.

d Assad's Authoritarian, Sectarian, and nepotism rule was significant weakness:

Syria's 75 percent population are based on Sunni residents and the rest are Shia minority. Assad's regime was based on the Shia minority, hence 75 percent of Syria ~~people~~ people didn't want him as he was biased against Sunni. Also his Authoritarian rule full of tyranny, corruption and oppression made people frustrated and ^{hence were} strictly against him regime. As a result there was no support from the people etc.

e Weak military

Lastly, the only thing that keeps the country strong and powerful is the military of that country. Surprisingly in Assad's case

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even the military didn't want to fight for him as a result the Assad regime didn't stand for long.

Implication of Assad's Fall For Syria:

- ① HIS remains a designated terrorist group according to UK, US and EU, hence it will be difficult for Syria to establish foreign relations for the stable economic development of country.
- ② After the fall of Assad's regime, several global powers started intervention, for example, ~~Syria~~ Israel started bombing Syria in ~~prostrata~~ military base and weapon centre. Similarly Turkiye has been carrying out bombing raids concerned about Kurdish influence along its borders. In addition to Turkiye and Israel US also launched 72 air strikes to prevent IS forces from seizing weapons and territorial power.
- ③ Another problem is the large scale return of Syrian refugees. 6.4 million people fled to abroad during the civil war and now as the war ended, they ^{all} are making their way back to their country. Their return can undermine the progress of Syria in such a critical phase. Syria is already going through critical phase and cannot even guarantee safe and secure jobs and homes to the people already living in Syria.
- ④ minority groups are fleeing to Lebanon out of fear, even though the new regime promised unity.

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Conclusion.

The collapse of Assad regime raises hopes of ending corruption, tyranny and human right abuse. However the transition might not be so smooth. There should be a support from international community to contribute to a peaceful future and stability in Syria.