

Part 2

Q2 The HTS Islamist rebels have toppled down Bashar al Asad regime in Syria. Critically evaluate the reasons and implications of the unprecedented change in Syria.

Reasons of the Change:-

Following are the reasons that have toppled down Asad regime :-

1. Authoritarian Rule of Asad :-

a) Background and Rise to Power :-

Asad became the President of Syria in July 2000, following the death of his father who had ruled for over three decades. Asad rule lasted for 24 years from 2000 until his ousting in December 2024. This marked the end of Asad's family 54 year authoritarian rule in Syria, which began with Hafez-al-Assad's rise to power in 1970.

b) Characteristics of Asad's Rule :-

Asad regime was characterized by autocratic system that suppressed political freedom and maintained power through oppression and violence. The regime used brutal tactics to crush opposition such as torture, killings.

2. Economic Disparities and Corruption :-

Economic challenges further exacerbated public discontent. The majority of the population faced stagnant wages, high unemployment and rising costs of living. Government corruption, cronyism and lack of transparency further eroded public trust.

### 3. Sectarian Tensions and Marginalization :-

The Assad regime rose sectarian divide and created sectarian tensions. Syria majority are Sunni while there are minorities such as Alawites (a Shia sect), Christians, Druze and Kurds. The Assad family dominated and used force this created hatred and prejudice against his government.

### 4. Human Rights Violations :-

The regime was notorious for its human rights abuses. Thousands of political prisoners were detained in notorious prisons like Saydnaya, where torture and inhumane conditions were rampant. The regime's brutal crackdown on protests in 2011, during the Arab Spring, led to a full-blown civil war.

### → Implications of the Toppling of Assad's Regime

#### 1. Political Implications :-

##### a. Power Vacuum :

The fall of Assad has created a significant power vacuum in Syria. Various groups including HTS, Kurdish groups and other Islamist groups are likely to compete for control. This could lead to further instability and potential divide in the country.

##### b. Shift in Regional Alliances :

Assad's regime was supported by Iran and Russia. With his fall, Iran's influence in Syria may weaken, impacting the regional balance of

power. Conversely, Sunni-majority countries, like Saudi Arabia and Turkey, might gain greater influence in post-Assad Syria.

### c. Potential for Peace Negotiations:

The removal of Assad could open the door for new peace negotiations involving the many groups of Syria and international stakeholders.

#### 2. Social and Humanitarian Implications :-

Millions of <sup>Syrian</sup> refugees might come back but their safety and return is based on various segmented groups in Syria. Rebuilding the war-torn country would be really difficult.

#### 3. Security Implications :-

The power vacuum left by Assad's fall could provide opportunities for extremist groups such as ISIS and al-Qaeda affiliates, to regroup and gain territory. This will impact stability in neighbouring countries in Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon.

#### 4. Economic Implications :-

The prolonged conflict and Assad's fall have devastated Syria's economy. The country will need substantial international aid and investment to rebuild its economy.

#### 5. International Implications :-

4

The fall of Assad's regime may alter the geopolitical dynamics of the Middle East. Russia's and Iran's influence might diminish, while the US, Turkey, and Gulf states might play a more significant role in shaping Syria's future.

### Conclusion :-

The topplings of Bashar-al-Assad's regime marks a critical turning point in Syria's history. While it brings the potential for positive change and rebuilding, it also poses significant challenges and uncertainties. The path forward will depend on the ability of various Syrian factions and international stakeholders to navigate the complexities of the post-Assad era and work towards a peaceful and prosperous future for Syria.

Q COP 29 summit ended in Baku. Critically evaluate its failures and commitments.

Failures of COP29

- 1. Climate Finance Disappointment
- 2. Lack of Agreement on Fossil Fuel Phaseout
- 3. Conflict of Interest and Malpractice
- 4. Chaotic Negotiations

Commitments of COP29

- 1. New Climate Finance Goal
- 2. Carbon Markets
- 3. Gender and Climate Change
- 4. Support for Least Developed Countries

and rising  
 corruption & cronyism  
 further eroded public  
 transparency