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EMPOWERING PEACEMAKERS

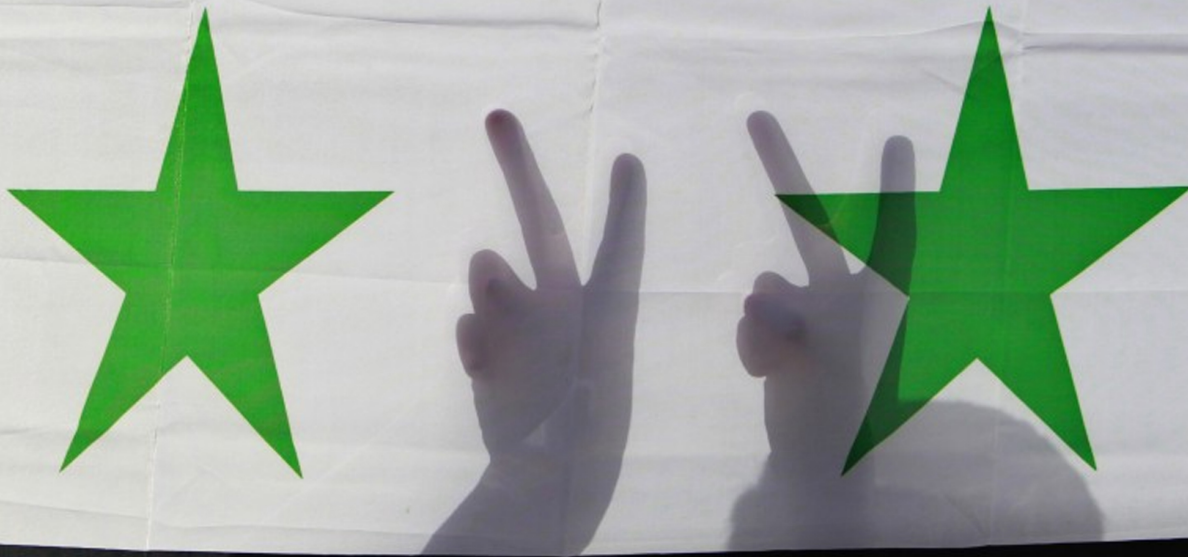


Photo: Reuters

SYRIA SIMULATIONS PROJECT

SUMMARY: As violence continues unabated, Syrians and the international community are seeking greater information on how to resolve the armed conflict and then transition the country from civil war to stability. To address the question of how the Syrian conflict will end and what a possible transition might look like, the International Peace & Security Institute (IPSI) developed a series of half day-to-three day interactive, flexible multilateral simulations based on the conflict in Syria.

These simulations are important for both the value of the experiential educational process for participants (i.e. the ability to “get into the head” of conflict actors) and for their powerful predictive analysis (i.e. simulation players’ decisions have closely mirrored the eventual decisions of real-world actors).

“If we can confront enough of our discomfort and hone our skills in places like this, we will all be much more effective in the real world.” - Simulation Participant

www.IPSInstitute.org/syria-simulations-project

The Syria Simulations Project

ABOUT IPSI

The International Peace & Security Institute (IPSI) empowers the next generation of peacemakers. Founded on the core belief that education can mitigate violent conflict, IPSI facilitates the transfer of knowledge and skills to a global audience from the world's premier political leaders, academic experts, practitioners, and advocates. The Institute develops comprehensive training programs, advances scholarly research, and promotes efforts to raise public awareness of peace and security issues.

IPSI strives through our programming to be an innovative leader in the peace and security field.

- We coordinate meetings of great minds on key topics at global [Peace & Security Symposia](#) and in Washington, D.C. to spark innovative ideas.
- We collaborate with the globe's top universities, organizations, government bodies, and multilateral institutions to design cutting edge experiential education models and simulations.
- We conduct public outreach and education through a weekly [Peace & Security Report](#).

ABOUT THE SYRIA SIMULATIONS PROJECT

As violence continues unabated, Syrians and the international community are seeking greater information on how to resolve the armed conflict and then transition the country from civil war to stability. To address the question of how the Syrian conflict will end and what a possible transition might look like, the International Peace & Security Institute (IPSI) developed a series of half day-to-three day interactive, flexible multilateral simulations based on the conflict in Syria.

Full simulations take three days to facilitate, although specific scenarios/modules from the larger simulations have been designed to run independently and can be tailored to the specific learning needs of outside organizations, institutions, and government bodies.

SIMULATION UNIVERSE ONE: Set in a complex universe closely mirroring Syria's current state, this simulation challenges participants to explore how conflict resolution techniques, including negotiation, facilitation, mediation, military intervention and nonviolent action, might contribute to a resolution. Participants take on the roles of actors from the Assad regime, the opposition forces, and the international community to test how different actions may affect the conflict.

SIMULATION UNIVERSE TWO: The second simulation universe places many of the same conflict actor roles from *Simulation Universe One* in a fictionalized, post-conflict Syria. The participants are challenged to structure a holistic transition for the country, taking into account security, governance, development, rule of law with an eye towards restorative and retributive justice mechanisms, and social well-being.

If your organization is interested in running the full or partial simulations, please contact IPSI's President, Cameron M. Chisholm, at cchisholm@ipsinstitute.org or 202-375-7774.

SIMULATION ONE: "SHIFTING SANDS: THE SYRIA TALKS"

The simulation places participants in a setting that closely resembles the current situation in Syria. As armed conflict continues, Syrians and the international community alike are struggling to find a way to resolve the conflict and rebuild the country. This simulation allows the participants to take on a total of 35 possible roles from the Assad regime, the opposition forces, and the international community to test how different actions may affect the conflict.

The simulation was developed to explore how various interactions at both the international and local levels in Syria, as well as between these levels, might impact the conflict. The simulation has been conducted twice; from these two events several developments stood out:

- ✓ **Much of the discussion among the international community revolved around peacekeeping forces or humanitarian aid; these were areas where players were more easily able to find consensus**
- ✓ **A lack of confidence concerning the inner bureaucracies of the international system and international organizations caused some players to hesitate to take action or predict outcomes**
- ✓ **The Syrian government began as a united front, but quickly started to splinter, as players were more concerned about personal interests than the interests of the state**
- ✓ **News that chemical weapons were used by government forces, which came midway through the simulation, caused panic and chaos, but the international community could not agree on appropriate military actions to punish the regime, so none were taken**

The simulation was originally designed to run for a three-day period; however, it can easily be modified to fit a shorter timeframe. The simulation includes the roles listed below, but additional or alternative roles can be created to meet the learning objectives and needs of the simulation participants.

- **Syrian Government**
 - President Bashar Assad
 - Commander Maher Assad
 - Elite business leader Rami Makhlof
 - Beladushami UN Representative
- **Opposition Representatives**
 - Representative to the League of Arab States
 - Syrian Opposition Coalition representative
 - Syrian National Council and Muslim Brotherhood representative
 - Free Syrian Army Chief of Staff
 - Kurdish National Council representative
 - Al-Nusra Front representative
 - Local Coordination Committee representative and opposition journalist
- **United Nations and Arab League Envoy to Syria team**
 - Special Envoy
 - Deputy Special Envoy
- **North Atlantic Treaty Organization**
 - French Ambassador to NATO
 - Turkish Ambassador to NATO
 - UK Ambassador to NATO
 - U.S. Ambassador to NATO
- **United Nations Security Council**
 - Chinese Ambassador to the UN
 - French Ambassador to the UN
 - Russian Ambassador to the UN
 - UK Ambassador to the UN
 - U.S. Ambassador to the UN
- **League of Arab States**
 - Qatari representative
 - Saudi Arabian representative
 - Iraqi representative
- **Other International Representatives**
 - Israeli representative of the Prime Minister
 - Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran
 - Hezbollah commander
 - Russian Foreign Minister
 - Turkish Foreign Minister
 - U.S. Secretary of State
- **Other Actors**
 - BBC journalist
 - Representative of International Committee of the Red Cross/Red Crescent
 - Nonviolent activist
 - Arms dealer

SIMULATION TWO: “TRANSITIONING SYRIA”

The “Transitioning Syria” simulation allows participants to negotiate a transition plan for a moderately fictionalized version of a future Syria, which has entered into a tenuous post-conflict phase. Participants represent a range of local and international actors, each with his/her own interests and objectives at stake. The full simulation has a possible 37 roles, including representatives from the international community and local actors on the ground in Syria. The participants are challenged to structure a holistic transition for the country, taking into account security, governance, development, and rule of law with an eye towards restorative and retributive justice mechanisms.

This simulation was designed to allow participants to creatively conceptualize possible transitions for Syria, and test how their interactions with one another might shape or obstruct these transition plans. Key findings from the first iteration of the simulation include:

- ✓ **Much of the discussion concerned the refugee situation; this was one of the few areas where decisions were made and concrete plans of action developed**
- ✓ **Players identified territorial sovereignty, humanitarian aid and security as the most urgent issues to address in a transition plan**
- ✓ **Players were able to agree only to hold plenary talks when all relevant stakeholders were able and willing to come to the negotiating table**

The simulation was originally designed to run for a 3-day period; however, it can easily be modified to fit into a shorter timeframe. The simulation includes the roles listed below, but additional or alternative roles can be created to meet the learning objectives and needs of the simulation participants.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Syrian Government <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Army Chief of Staff/Interim President ○ Deputy Prime Minister of Economic Affairs ○ Minister of Foreign Affairs • Opposition Representatives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Representative to the League of Arab States ○ President of Syrian Opposition Coalition ○ Syrian Opposition Coalition representative ○ Syrian National Council and Muslim Brotherhood representative ○ Free Syrian Army Chief of Staff ○ Kurdish National Council representative ○ Kurdish Democratic Union Party representative ○ Al-Nusra Front representative ○ Local Coordination Committee Spokesperson/ Opposition Journalist • United Nations and Arab League Envoy to Syria team <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Special Envoy ○ Deputy Special Envoy • United Nations Security Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chinese Ambassador to the UN ○ French Ambassador to the UN ○ Russian Ambassador to the UN ○ UK Ambassador to the UN ○ U.S. Ambassador to the UN | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NATO <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ French Ambassador to NATO ○ Turkish Ambassador to NATO ○ UK Ambassador to NATO ○ U.S. Ambassador to NATO • League of Arab States <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Iraqi representative ○ Qatari representative ○ Saudi Arabian representative • Other International Representatives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Iranian Foreign Minister ○ Assistant to the Iranian Foreign Minister ○ Israeli representative of the Foreign Minister ○ Representative of the Kurdistan Regional Government ○ Russian Foreign Minister ○ Turkish Foreign Minister ○ U.S. Secretary of State • International Criminal Court <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Office of the Prosecutor, Investigations Division ○ Officer of the Prosecutor, Jurisdiction, Complementarity and Cooperation Division • BBC Journalist • International Committee of the Red Cross/Red Crescent representative |
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