



The Truth about Syria

By Barry Rubin

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Syria has long presented a serious problem for the Middle East region and U.S. policy. With its mix of competing religious and ethnic groups, radical ideologies, and political repression, it is a 72,000-square-mile time bomb waiting to go off. Yet surprisingly, very little is known about this country and the role it has played in shaping the destiny of the Middle East. In *The Truth about Syria*, Middle East expert Barry Rubin looks at the critical issues that have made the country the powderkeg of the Middle East and offers an insightful analysis of the effects of recent developments.

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Editorial Review

Review

“Syria will play a major role in the years to come both as a player and an issue in world politics. This book, written by a veteran student of Middle East affairs, is the most up-to-date and reliable guide available on this subject.” ?Walter Laqueur, Emeritus Professor, Georgetown University, and author of *The Road to War*

“In this book Barry Rubin takes Syria as a model of Arab tyranny. What might look like gratuitous violence, cruelty, or mendacity serves the purpose of shoring up the power of the one-man ruler and his regime, and is completely predictable. There is now no good reason for the West and its leaders to go along with this dynamic, indeed to feed it regularly. Rubin describes with care, and prescribes with caution. The achievement is as informed as it is humane.” ?David Pryce-Jones, author of *The Closed Circle: An Interpretation of the Arabs*

“Barry Rubin's book is a much-needed examination that cuts through the delusions and fantasies currently in vogue about the Assad regime. Rubin nails the nature of Syria's rulers and their behavior, explaining why they are--and will always be--hard-line, chronic exporters of instability.” ?Tony Badran, Research Fellow (Levant), Foundation for Defense of Democracies

“*The Truth About Syria* . . . is a welcome contribution to the largely unimpressive body of research on modern Syria. Rubin's well-sourced study provides an unvarnished appraisal of Syrian politics, making no apologies for the brutal internal and destabilizing foreign policies that characterized the 30 year rule of Syrian leader Hafiz Assad and that persist under Hafiz's son and successor Bashar. *The Truth About Syria* is informative, insightful, and readable, and is an important contribution toward understanding this important but understudied state.” ?David Schenker, Senior Fellow in Arab Politics, Washington Institute for Near East Policy

“Professor Rubin's book comes at a time when the debate over Syria and its regime is growing throughout Europe and America. He courageously gathers evidence showing the impossibility of dealing with Syria or changing its behavior. The merit of Rubin's book lies in the thorough dissection of the regime's psychological conduct, and of the tools this dictatorship has used in the past and uses now to remain in power. Any approach to the Syrian problem that does not take Professor Rubin's analysis into consideration will be an incomplete one.” ?Elie Fawaz, Lebanese political analyst

“Rubin's book is a breath of fresh air, compared with analysis from other Syria 'experts'...[who] stubbornly insist that Syria can be a U.S. ally...*The Truth About Syria* is relentless and unapologetic. It shows how Syria is backing Palestinian terrorism and the Iraqi insurgency, murdering Lebanese patriots, lying to American diplomats and committing a host of other offenses that Americans should learn about if they are to prevent their elected representatives from further missions of folly.” ?Jonathan Schanzer, *New York Post*

“As a history of Syria, especially under Hafiz and later Bashar Assad, *The Truth About Syria* is a very good book.” ?Håvard M Nygård, *Journal of Peace Research*

About the Author

Barry Rubin is director of the Global Research in International Affairs (GLORIA) Center and author

of *The Long War for Freedom; Yasir Arafat; The Tragedy of the Middle East; and Hating America*. His articles have appeared in *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Foreign Affairs*, and many other publications. He is the editor of the *Middle East Review of International Affairs (MERIA) Journal*.

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