

SYRIA

Polity5 regime codes:

| fac | scode | polity | pers | bmon | bday | byear | emon | eday | eyear | exrec | exconst | polcomp |
|-----|-------|--------|------|------|------|-------|------|------|-------|-------|---------|---------|
| 0a | SYR | 4 | 3 | 4 | 17 | 1946 | 3 | 30 | 1949 | 7 | 5 | 4 |
| 0b | SYR | -6 | 0 | 3 | 31 | 1949 | 8 | 13 | 1949 | 4 | 1 | 2 |
| 0c | SYR | -88 | 2 | 8 | 14 | 1949 | 11 | 28 | 1951 | -88 | -88 | -88 |
| 0d | SYR | -6 | 2 | 11 | 29 | 1951 | 2 | 25 | 1954 | 4 | 1 | 2 |
| 0e | SYR | 4 | 1 | 2 | 26 | 1954 | 8 | 17 | 1955 | 7 | 5 | 5 |
| 0f | SYR | 7 | 2 | 8 | 18 | 1955 | 1 | 31 | 1958 | 8 | 7 | 5 |
| 0g | SYR | -66 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1958 | 10 | 1 | 1961 | -66 | -66 | -66 |
| 0h | SYR | -77 | 0 | 10 | 2 | 1961 | 11 | 10 | 1961 | -77 | -77 | -77 |
| 0i | SYR | -88 | 1 | 11 | 11 | 1961 | 3 | 8 | 1963 | -88 | -88 | -88 |
| 0j | SYR | -8 | 8 | 3 | 9 | 1963 | 11 | 13 | 1970 | 3 | 1 | 2 |
| 0k | SYR | -9 | 30 | 11 | 14 | 1970 | 7 | 16 | 2000 | 3 | 1 | 1 |
| 0l | SYR | -6 | 12 | 7 | 17 | 2000 | 6 | 2 | 2012 | 3 | 3 | 2 |
| 0m | SYR | -9 | 7 | 6 | 3 | 2012 | 99 | 99 | 9999 | 3 | 1 | 1 |

PITF Problem Events:

- 1) 10/61-11/61 (ARC 10/61-02/66)
- 2) 06/79-02/82 (REV 06/79-02/82; GEN 04/81/-02/82)
- 3) 03/11-present (ETH 03/11-present)

0a) April 17, 1946 (independence) – The French Mandate in the Levant was undermined by rivalry between the Vichy and the Free French governments within the context of the Second World War. An attempt to reassert French control in the Levant met strong local resistance and the introduction of British forces to stabilize the situation. Both British and French forces left the country on April 15 and Syria celebrated its independence on April 17, 1946. Elections held in 1943 had established a pro-independence government with a parliament controlled by the National Bloc; the parliament elected Shukri al Quwatli president. However, political cohesion quickly lost coherence with independence.

0b) March 31, 1949 (military coup) – In May 1948, Syrian troops joined other Arab forces in attempting to thwart the establishment of Israel. The failure of that effort, combined with the civilian government's inability to consolidate central authority and administration, brought about a military coup led by the army chief-of-staff, Brig-Gen. Husni az Zaim.

0c) August 14, 1949 (military coup; transitional government) – Syria's second military coup, on August 14, 1949, was led by Brig-Gen. Sami al Hinnawi. Under a provisional government administered by Hashim al Atassi, a new electoral law was adopted, and women voted for the first time in the election of November 1949; Atassi was selected to serve as president. On December 19, 1949, Hinnawi was ousted by Col. Adib Shishakli for conspiring, with President Atassi, to unite Syria with Iraq. Civilian politicians continued their attempt to stabilize the government and on September 4, 1950, a Constituent Assembly approved a new constitution and reconstituted itself as the Chamber of Deputies.

0d) November 29, 1951 (military coup) – The inability of the government to formulate a coherent, policy agenda led to a third intervention by the military on November 28, 1951. Col. Shishakli dispensed with the civilian administration and assumed command authority. On January 18, Shishakli ordered the dissolution of the Muslim Brotherhood and on April 6, 1952, he abolished all political parties until a new law regulating their activities could be formulated.

On August 25, he established the Arab Liberation Movement (ALM) as the sole legal party and on July 11, 1953, he pushed through a new constitution and had himself elected president with a parliament controlled by the ALM. Opposition groups boycotted the parliamentary elections and announced formation of a “free Syrian government” in Baghdad.

0e) February 26, 1954 (military coup) – On February 25, 1954, the military ousted Shishakli and restored the civilian government that had been elected in November 1949 with Hashim al Attasi as president.

0f) August 18, 1955 (general elections) – Open and competitive legislative elections were held on September 24-25, 1954, in which independent candidates continued to win the largest portion of seats with emerging nationalist and pan-Arab parties splitting the remaining seats. The new Chamber of Deputies elected former-President Shukri al Quwatli for another term as president. Martial law was declared on November 2, 1956, in response to Israel’s invasion of the Sinai Peninsula and remained until July 22, 1957. On November 18, 1957, the Chamber of Deputies unanimously approved the formation of a federal union with Egypt (opposition lawmakers has absented themselves prior to the vote).

0g) February 1, 1958 (union with Egypt) – On February 1, 1958, Presidents Abdel Nasser of Egypt and Quwatli of Syria signed a proclamation in Cairo that officially merged the two countries into a federated United Arab Republic with the agreement that Nasser would serve as the union’s first president. In practice, the union was dominated by Egypt under President Nasser’s autocratic rule.

0h) September 29, 1961 (military coup) –

Adverse Regime Change (contested secession and military coups): September 1961 – February 1966

A military coup on September 28, 1961, succeeded in taking control of the government administration in Syria and a new provisional government was established on September 29. On October 1, 1961, the new government informed the UN of its secession from the United Arab Republic, an act initially and forcibly resisted by UAR authorities.

0i) November 11, 1961 (transitional government) – The Syrian military decreed that all political parties were dissolved and banned. An agreement on national unity was signed by 70 leading members of the country’s (banned) political parties on November 11, 1961. Elections were held to form a Constituent Assembly that was charged with drafting a new constitution; the elections were dominated by nationalists. A second military coup occurred on March 28, 1962, but following widespread disturbances the transitional government of President Kudzi was reinstated; however, the Constituent Assembly was dissolved.

0j) March 9, 1963 (military coup; one-party state) – On March 8, 1963, Syria’s provisional government was overthrown by the military and replaced with a National Council of the Revolutionary Command. The new nationalist regime was dominated by Ba’athist Socialists who were secular nationalists; the regime was opposed by the Muslim Brotherhood. Executive power eventually became concentrated in a Presidential Council and, following a failed coup attempt in

July 1963, under the command of “moderate” Gen. Amin al-Hafiz. Rivalry within the Ba’athist party resulted in the ouster of Hafiz in a February 23, 1966, coup by the “progressive” faction that placed Dr. Nureddin Atassi in executive authority.

0k) November 14, 1970 (military coup; consolidation of one-party state) – On November 13, 1970, the ongoing rivalry within the Ba’athist Party led to the ouster of President Atassi by forces loyal to Lt-Gen. Hafez al Assad. A compromise settlement had been reached between the rival factions following crises in October 1968 and February 1969 and in the interests of maintaining party cohesion and control of the government. However, disagreement over Syrian intervention in a civil war in Jordan in September 1970 led to Assad’s move against Atassi and the “progressives.” In March 1973, a Permanent Constitution was promulgated that concentrated executive power in the presidency and signaled the success of Assad’s purge of the “progressives.”

Revolutionary War: June 1979 – February 1982

The Muslim Brotherhood engaged in a terrorist (bombing and assassination) campaign against the Alawite-dominated Ba’ath government in the late 1970s. The rebellion became systematic and sustained with a June 16, 1979, terrorist attack on an artillery school that resulted in the deaths of 63 army cadets; this high-profile attack was apparently designed to spark a general insurrection. Government forces arrested over 200 leaders of the Brotherhood following the attack; however, violent clashes occurred in the north in late 1979 and early 1980. The Muslim Brotherhood was banned in July 1980. The terrorist campaign continued through 1981. A coup attempt occurred in mid-January 1982 and this spurred the Ba’ath government to move decisively against the Muslim Brotherhood’s stronghold in Hama on February 2, 1982. Intense fighting persisted through the month of February and resulted in some 30,000 casualties. There is no evidence of any systematic and sustained action by opposition groups in Syria after February 1982.

Politicide: April 1981 – February 1982

Government military and security forces crush revolt by Muslim Brotherhood centered in cities of Hama and Aleppo.

0l) July 17, 2000 (presidential succession) – On June 10, 2000, President Hafez al-Assad died of a heart attack and on the same day legislature met in emergency session to change the constitution to allow his son, Bashar al-Assad (who was six years younger than the minimum age for the executive), to assume the presidency. Bashar al-Assad was inaugurated on July 17, 2000, and immediately announced his intention of modernizing Syria’s economy. He also made some moves to relax government repression and allow some independence within the ruling National Progressive Front (NPF) alliance. However, he quickly made it clear with a September 2001 crackdown on opposition that the government would not tolerate open dissent. April 2007 legislative elections resulted in 172 seats for the NPF and 78 seats for independent candidates.

Ethnic War: March 2011 – ongoing

Popular protests among Syria’s majority Sunni population broke out in March 2011 against the minority Alawite-dominated regime of Bashar al-Assad. Protests were answered by a violent

crackdown by security forces. The opposition countered by forming a Free Syria Army and engaging in armed rebellion. Violence escalated despite international efforts to broker reforms.

0m) June 3, 2012 (increased exclusion and government repression) – A widespread popular uprising against the Alawi-dominated regime of President Bashar Assad steadily escalated both government repression and armed resistance. On June 3, 2012, President Bashar addressed the nation with his conclusion that the possibility of compromise was past and that the government must prepare itself for a lengthy civil war.