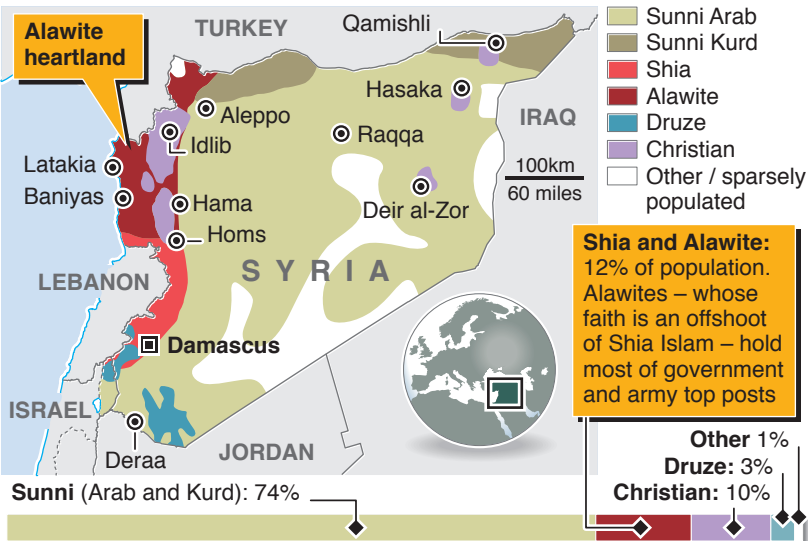


Assad's "Plan B" – breakaway enclave

The formation of a breakaway Alawite state along the Syrian coast may be President Bashar al-Assad's "Plan B" if he loses control of the whole of war-torn Syria – seen as a worst case scenario by its neighbours



REGIONAL CONFLICT:

With Shia Iran behind Assad, and Saudi Arabia and other Sunni states backing rebels, Syria could become arena for regional Sunni-Shia civil war, with potential to destabilise neighbours – Lebanon, Turkey, Iraq and Jordan

Israel: Says it could attack Syrian arms depots to keep militants from acquiring chemical weapons should Assad's regime collapse

Iran: Warns it will not allow breakup of its alliance with Syria and Lebanon's Shia group Hezbollah

