

End of Assad family rule in Syria

The people of Syria have celebrated the fall of Bashar al-Assad after a stunning rebel advance forced his government from power

■ **2000:** Bashar al-Assad inherits Syria's presidency upon death of his father, **Hafez**, who seized power in 1970 coup

■ **2011:** Peaceful protests against Assad's rule quickly escalate into civil war between government and rebel factions

■ **2012:** Assad launches air raids on rebel strongholds. War escalates with massacres on both sides

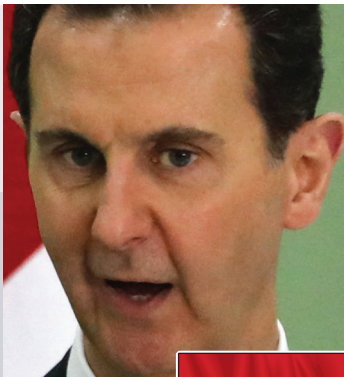
■ **2013:** Washington declares chemical weapons use a "red line," but gas attack near Damascus that kills scores of civilians does not trigger U.S. military response



■ **2014:** So-called Islamic State (IS) declares its "caliphate" in areas it controls in Syria and Iraq

■ **2015:** Russia joins the war on Assad's side with airstrikes aiming to reverse rebel gains

■ **2016:** Turkish forces cross into northern Syria, capturing areas along border from IS militants



■ **2017:** U.S. fires barrage of cruise missiles into Syria in retaliation for suspected nerve gas attack on rebel-held town of Khan Sheikhoun

■ **2018:** Syrian government forces take control of all Damascus suburbs, securing Assad's seat of power

■ **2019:** U.S.-backed Syrian forces declare defeat of IS



■ **2020:** Ceasefire brokered by Russia and Turkey de-escalates intensity of fighting. Assad holds most territory and all main cities, but rebels control northwest

■ **2022:** UN says more than 300,000 civilians have been killed in decade of Syrian conflict



■ **Dec 2024:** Rebels sweep into Damascus less than two weeks after launching surprise offensive against government forces in northwest. Assad reportedly flees to Moscow