THESIS TOPIC: GEOPOLITICAL INSIGHTS OF SYRIAN CIVIL WAR

Contents

1   Introduction

Syria is the hub of one of the oldest civilisations of the world, constituting ancient and artistic cultural heritage. Considering its ancient roots with recent political instability, the Syrian civil war has made the country's history complex (History, 2018). Currently, Syria is in its 10th year of armed conflict, as this civil war has some important implications for the region and global security. A collection of reasons historical, religious, geopolitical, and geographic, Syria is confronting the world's fierce challenge giving rise to the refugee crisis. This civil war started in 2011 when opponents of President Bashar took matters to the streets in retaliation to his autocratic regime (Bock, 2015). Although the initial conflict started as a civil war, as time proceeded, the subject got international attention and ended up forming various alliances. Middle East nations, Russian, and other Western powers' interests got developed. Within few years, half a million Syrians were killed during the civil war, and ironically, United Nations stopped publishing the casuality details from 2014 onwards. This civil war brought to the international borders as millions of Syrians fled their country to take refuge, including various European countries. This civil war is regarded as linked to geopolitical influence because of the strategic geographic location of Syria. Sharing borders with Turkey to the North, Iraq on its East, Lebanon on its south, Israel and Jordaan to the south, therefore, Syria is regarded as a major player in the Middle East region.

The Assad regime recieved support from Iran, Russia and external support from China. This support allowed this particular regime to have strong control over the vital territories and regain control of some of the lost areas. On the other side, the western forces were confused and shifted their focus to fight ISIS, in spite of the fact that the opposition is using chemical attacks. Various factors showed that it is the Syrian domestic politics that contributed more towards Assad's inability to end the long-standing conflict. However, it is also true that regional and geopolitical factors also prevented Assad from ending the concerning conflict caused by the civil war.

This research is being conducted to determine and understand the reason behind the complexity of the civil war. A thorough discussion will be made to underpin the importance of the role of Syrian internal domestic politics in initiating the civil war. Moving forward, a comprehensive analysis will be on the involvement of geopolitics in backing or retaliation of the factors causing the conflict. To discover the role of global geopolitics, the contribution of various

international powers to the Syrian civil war will be taken into consideration to develop a clear understanding and to fulfill the objective of the research.

1.1   Research Questions

- Could the key factors of the Syrian Civil War be within Syria's internal politics or through regional or even global geopolitics?
- Why has it taken the Assad regime so long to win back most of its territory?
- What is the key role that United Nations can play to help to end the Syrian Civil War?

1.2   Aims and Objectives

- To understand what triggers the Syrian civil war
- To analyse the involvement of Syrian domestic politics in thriving the conflict
- To examine the importance of regional geopolitics in determining the scope of the civil war
- The part played by the global geopolitics in supporting and opposing the parties involved in the civil war

1.3   The rationale of the Study:

The core parameters of Syria's civil war revolves around whether Assad will be able to run the government or not, but this war is critically spreading dispute and is dividing the Syrian region into sectorial parts (Jenkins, 2014). The study is based on the rationale that revolves around the origin of the Syrian dispute and how external variables are taken advantage of the situation that ignited the war to the irrevocable level. It was March 15, 2011 that the protest against the authoritarian regime got erupted. The protest against Assad was tackled with brutal force that initiated utter unrest among the common civilians (Hof and Simon, 2013). This study will focus on different stakeholders involved in developing the civil war. No single entity is responsible for what has been the resulting situation Syria is facing right now. Various regional and global alliances were made at the very beginning of the dispute between the government and the opposition. Geopolitics is an important part of the whole story, as Assad got support from Iran, Saudi Arabia, and externally from China. On the other side, the opposition got support from some of the western powers as well. Therefore, this study's rationale will cover the impact of these alliances on the positioning of the civil war and how global geopolitical intrusion is influencing Assad's role in ending the conflict. The sectarian narrative is also involved in the Syrian conflict situation, which in response, the opposition accused the government of playing an invalid

sectarianism card while normalising the slogan as freedom is my sect (Corstange and York, 2018). Thus, this study is opted to cover major dimensions of the Syrian civil war with respect to attending the strategic importance of Syria, making it an attractive position for the power giants of the world.

1.4   Scope of the Study:

The underlined study will cover the reasons behind the current situation of the Syrian civil war. The main focus will be given on the impact of domestic, regional, and global geopolitics on the current situation of the Syrian civil war due to the fact that Syria has a very strategic location when it comes to sharing borders. Therefore, the impact of the civil war is shared with the nearby neighbors. This study will focus on not only the neighboring countries but also some of the powerful countries that have taken part as an alliance. Therefore, the research will underpin the involvement of these countries in response to the situation Syria has in the current global paradigm. The study will include various studies and reports, which will help to look at this matter closely and critically. Since 2011, much has been changed with the presence of geopolitical involvement in the Syrian civil war. The study will categorically address the influence of domestic, regional, and global politics on Assad's regime and how this variable has affected and is currently affecting the complicated shape of the Syrian civil war.

2   Literature review

Civil war has always been a threat to the government or law enforcement agencies. The civil war happens among a civilised group of people with oppressors who need independence and freedom so that they can run the country on their own terms and conditions. Syrian civil war is just an accurate example of the above discussion. This civil war is happening for the past ten years, and still, they all are in vain to solve the conflict. The conflict was started in 2011 when Syrian people were facing huge crises with respect to poverty, education, and unemployment. Syrian people were facing huge financial and social crises even before the conflict. Many researchers indicated that even before the conflict emerged, many people in Syria were deprived of their basic social rights under the regime of Assad (Syrian war, 2020). Bashar Al Assad was a successor of his father Hafeez after 2000. Al Assad government repeatedly used military weapons against the peaceful protestors. There are many factors that contributed to the Syrian conflict. According to research, many internal as well as geopolitical factors, are responsible for the Syrian conflict. It is a need for research to find all the internal, regional, and even global political factors that contributed to this ongoing conflict. This civil war is happening for the past ten years, and still, they all are in vain to solve the conflict.

Internal political factors are also considered as one of the most oppressive factors in the Syrian conflict. The government of Al Assad came into power in 2000 after the death of his father. The political regime of the Al Assad family was continuing since 1971, and people were also not that much happy with their government. This is because the government of Al Assad was aggressive and oppressive. Before the conflict, people were demanding political and regional reforms that the government ignored. Implementation of centralisation by the ruling family was one of the key factors. This centralisation was in favor of controlling the civil rights of the society and even media freedom as well (Fischer, Andrea, and Magomedova, 2016). According to one research, the government of Al Assad repressed the social, civil activist and other political leaders who wanted to bring reforms in the society without government involvement. These all oppressions by the local government lighted the internal political war and divided them into groups. Multiple oppressions and repressions against the civil reforms killed the hope of Syrian citizens of freedom and independence. Therefore, these internal politics resulted in civil war.

The instability in the political government of Al Assad imposed many challenges for national reforms that provoked the civil war. According to a researcher, the uneven distribution of the

economy also leads to many critical factors—the internal decisions made by the ruling government-imposed serious challenges that lead to civil war. The ruling government, instead of promoting public sectors, started doing privatisation (Perudin, 2019). The privatisation created a social and financial disparity among different classes. The upper-middle-class of Syria were happy and welcomed the privatisation as it helped them to increase economic welfare and to improve the living standards. The Uprising and boom of an upper middle class left behind the lower and middle class. The decision of privatisation was made by the internal cabinet of the ruling government (Al Jazeera, 2018). The promotion of privatisation increased the cost of living for the lower class of Syrian citizens. The perks of privatisation were only enjoyable by privileged families that created a strong financial and social disparity in Syria against the ruling government, which was already oppressing the basic social rights of Syrian citizens. This is the fact that internal political factors are also considered as one of the most oppressive factors in the Syrian conflict.

Another factor that contributed to the Syrian civil war was corruption. The extent of corruption was very high in Syria. The deep routed corruption was even reported that government officials were directly involved in it. The government was not only facing corruption in terms of money but also the corruption of ethical and moral values. The overall political system of Syria was corrupted. This is because the rebels and anti-Al Assad groups also took weapons from the government. The rebellious groups purchased those weapons through corruption and bribery and hence, used them against the government (Gürcan, 2020). The rise of corruption in the internal matters of government was efficiently used by the anti-Al Assad and rebellious groups. The corruption itself harmed the ruling government more as compared to other internal or regional factors. Another important factor that should be noted here is religion. Sectarianism was promoted by the rebellious groups, which needed to be handled carefully. The majority of people in Syria were Sunni, and they wanted to live in the same way. But as compared to the majority, the ruling party was having minorities with them, which also created a sense of social disparity among the Sunni sect, and hence the rebellious groups got a spark from the religion as well (Ferris and Kirisci, 2021). It has been reported in many types of research that religion was politicised by the government in order to cope with the rebellious groups. This Syrian Civil war is extensively based on sectarian conflicts. The sectarian conflicts were not originated at the beginning of the war. But prior to 2011, laws are made on minority and the Assad restricted the Sunni religious freedom in a variety of

ways, including several ways; control on the selection of imams and also made restrictions on participation in the affairs of government.

Regional political politics also have a huge impact on the Syrian civil war. In early 2011, the results of Egyptian riots and rebellious groups created a sense of freedom in Syrian citizens. The people, deprived of economic and social benefits, took regional rebels and politics as an example and started rebellious campaigns against the Syrian government. Regional politics is part of the Syrian war as the neighboring countries like Egypt, and other border-sharing regions were also facing civil wars (Manfreda, 2020). But the results of those civil riots contributed to the Syrian civil war as well. People of Syria took those political campaigns as an example and started peaceful protests. The ruling government took it as a threat and opposed the protestors with weapons and real-time aggression. The oppression of militant groups was reported all over the media, and hence, the peaceful protests against democracy and social rights were converted into rebellious rights. The influence of geopolitical parties was also another factor that contributed to the civil war.

Considering the current situation of Syria's civil war, various stakeholders have been surfaced with their own personal agendas to apply. Therefore, geopolitical factors have greatly influenced the actors involved in the civil war. This has enabled countries like; Saudi Arabia, Iran, and Turkey to support rebels in opposition to the active government. On the other side, Russia and Iran helped Assad's regime with military and non-military tactics. However, this situation did not end here. Other deep-seated internal discrepancies were affecting Syria and are still a staggering issue, including; sectarianism through two different blocks formed. These blocks are associated with two different schools of thought, Shia block, backed up by Iran, and Sunni block, backed up by Saudi Arabia. These religious sects ignited the geopolitical agendas, as many countries were making political intrusion while playing religion card that is why ISIS got international attention in a very limited time. Syria's complex and devastating war is drawn in multiple foreign powers, with United States, Russia, Turkey, and Iran. For the support of the democratic forces, Washington had given training to the people of Syria who are fighting against president Bashar Assad and given the military aid also. The air and weapon support in response to the government chemical weapons attack against civilians.

There are several reasons behind the complexity of the Syrian civil war. To explain the solid arguments to win back the Syria territory Assad regime was introduced as a campaign of President Bashar al Assad in 2012 against the Syrian opposition. Unfortunately, in the first year of conflict,

the revolution was listed its counterinsurgency but remains well suited to fight with Syrian oppositions (Holliday, 2021). Several Muslim countries, such as Iran, and Russia was in favor of the Assad regime, while on the other hand, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the Turkey were aligned with United Nations and were against the Assad regime. Due to airstrikes either in defense or in favor of the Assad regime in the same place of Syria. After facing years of instability and other economic risks, the Assad regime was able to win back most of the territory. Syria's complex and devastating war is drawn in multiple foreign powers, with United States, Russia, Turkey, and Iran. For the support of the democratic forces, Washington had given training to the people of Syria who are fighting against President Bashar Assad and given the military aid also. The air and weapon support in response to the government chemical weapons attack against civilians (Deutsche Welle, 2021). In Russia, Moscow has also long backed with the Assad regime and provide air and weapon support and international peace talks primarily against the non-Islamic states fighting the Assad government (Allison, 2013). Meanwhile, the United States started a campaign against the Islamic states as a way to slow down the victory of Russia in Syria. At the same time, Turkey is considered as one of the backers of the Syrian opposition and fought in the Syrian opposition, including with the free Syrian army. The Turkish side was deeply engaged in persuading president Basher al Assad to avoid the harsh measures against the protest that begins in march 2011(Kirişci, 2014). The fights against Islamic states by combining the motto with the U.S. Therefore, by agreeing with Russia and Iran as part of the deconfliction zone, Turkey moves idly to support northern Syria. However, Iran was a big supporter of the Syrian government since 2012 and provided an extensive military to the regime in the form of training and intelligence. The fight was both indirectly and directly with the Syrian opposition vs Islamic states (Kozak, 2017). Due to all these factors, Syria has lost its community strength, but with force and by using the weapon strengths, he has won in Syria. The Syrian Government, in the attempt to forward a belligerent stance against the opposition armed forces, bombed civilian areas, however, it has been noted in various international reports that the opposition forces are also culprit of this war crime. Cases such as Hell/Gehenna homemade mortars and their usage in civilian spaces, execution of Alawi soldiers as well as civilians etc. have repeatedly highlighted that both sides have been indulgent in severe war crimes. Similarly, limited usage of chemical weapons that are internationally banned, has jeopardized claims of both sides about their intention for civilian welfare. Nevertheless, there is an abundance of contradictory accounts about these incidents, which include media reports, witness and victim accounts, and

contradictory versions of the story, which transform the entire international discussion regarding the Syrian quagmire a contentious subject. The battle of Aleppo which was prolonged than any estimated projection that was ended on December 2016, is evidence of the role of contradictory accounts in the psychological aspect of warfare. According to insurgent leaders and soldiers, Western and Gulf-backed rebel militias are being pushed to consolidate south of Syria's former commercial hub to battle the Russian-backed Syrian army and Lebanese Shi'ite troops. The deadlock may force the hand of Kurdish-led troops east of the Euphrates, urging them to cross the river en masse and finish the job that the Free Syrian Army, backed by the West and the Gulf, is incapable of doing — removing IS from the northern Aleppo province. This impasse also risks execration of disagreements within the US-led international coalition against the ISIS and Asad regime. In case of trapping of Kurdish forces further west, Turkey has threatened dire consequences, as it senses the risks on its own geographical borders. During her regular monthly briefing on the implementation of Security Council Resolution 2118, the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs told the Security Council via video teleconference that outstanding issues related to Syria's initial declaration of its chemical weapons stockpile and program could not be considered "accurate and complete" (2013). The OPCW Declaration Assessment Team is working to resolve all outstanding issues related to Syria's initial declaration, recalling that the OPCW Director-General stated on 11 December 2020 that, while some progress was made during the most recent round of consultations with Syria's National Authority, 19 issues remained unresolved. A contentious topic is discrepancy in Syria's reporting on its chemical weapons factory, as one of them had been declared unused for production purposes, however, analysis of the samples gathered indicate that weaponization process of nerve agent took place in that facility at some point in time. With these allegations, since May 2014, the OPCW deployed the FFM on several occasions within and outside Syria meanwhile, it kept informed the States Parties to inform with the work. In this regard FFM obtained samples and other physical evidences for analysis. Throughout the investigation, FFM looked in multiple incidents of allegations regarding the use of chemical weapons in Syria. The findings confirmed with the high degree of confidence that chlorine and mustard existed in the weapons used in Syria. These reports were then forwarded to the State parties and UN Security Council. However, the controversy regarding the findings of the report is nonetheless an aspect that can not be avoided. This can also be supported through the findings of Reuters (2021) headlining that as per the claims of Russian Defense Ministry, that Britain was

involved in faking the suspected chemical weapons attack in the Syrian town of Douma. This was done with the valid reason of accusing Syrian government and military assets to change the shift in power by attaining the purpose of attack thereby emerging them and its alliances on the superior notes in the deliberately developed warzone.

The Assad regime positively benefitted by the Syrian loyal military troops. The way the Assad regime win is considered as the government's soldiers is abandon in fighting. Throughout the crisis and the unrest, the President Bashar Al Asssad was also supported by internal and external stakes because of number of justified reasons. The accusations and fake propaganda that was made by external powers focused to weaken the Assad regime and the military support. Though the statistics confirm that there was severe clashes between the civilians and military however, it is also justified to say that the hype created and numbers shown at the international media was also a part of the greater game linking to the uprising of Arab spring.

Due to the prolonged status of empowerment of Assad's family from 1970s the, military loyalty plays an important role. This Syrian Civil war is extensively based on sectarian conflicts. The sectarian conflicts were not originated at the beginning of the war. But prior to 2011, laws are made on minorities, and Assad restricted the Sunni religious freedom in a variety of ways, including several ways; control on the selection of imams and also made restrictions on participation in the affairs of government (Holliday, 2013). Due to this behavior, the Sunni- Alwite war was started, in which the regime's loyal security forces was started to attack the Sunni Muslim community. The direct stack on women, children, and civilians cause severe sectarian conflicts. The report of the United Nations supervision mission in Syria (UNSMIS) states that the regime has shot the entire families and houses of and most of them were reported Sunni Muslim civilians (Gowan and Dreisbach, 2015). Rather than this, the religious minorities in the crossfire, the outside forces fuel sectarian strikes, the refugee crisis, and religious minorities (Jasser, 2014). All these challenges make the civilians of Syria and other international to report the regime by using the commission on international religious freedom.

It can be said that either insurgents or Assad regime had all the support at once. It has been due to the reason that the divide among the local and international stakes was made for an obvious deliberate reason. The idea mainly links to bring the unrest to the region thereby developing such uprising movements that could surround the whole Arab. In this regard, the support for both the power existed for instance Russia and its alliances supported Assad regime while on the other

hand, US and its alliance including some GCC countries and Turkey supported insurgents. Although it took a lot of time to win the battle, the Assad regime was won to win back most of its territories. By developing the loyal military through the counterinsurgency campaigns, by relying on three strategies of generating and employing the military troops. Firstly, the government should have to develop trusted military units that will be utilised in the time of the severe condition of war. Secondly, the Assad government has developed pro-regime militias and then used these troops in high insurgents (Holliday, 2013). Defection and challenges were affected on the military of Syria that makes military weaker but also honed it, such armed forces committed to regime supporters, and after the battle of 7 years, the regime was won.

The Assad regime has four intelligence agencies that work as a backbone of repressive regime apparatus. Although, Assad is more likely to continue his fighting in Damascus and Homs and was unlikely to regain control over all of Syria. Although the regime was contracted around the corridor that connects Damascus, Homs, and the coast, but Assad is continuously relying on to fight with Damascus and Homs. The regime security forces and united relied on the security apparatuses to limit defections and compliance with Syrian orders. The main success factor behind the win includes the four main independent intelligence agencies that work as a security apparatus of Syria (Dana, 2012). These security apparatus include the department of military intelligence, the air force intelligence directorates, general intelligence directorates, and political security directorates. Each agency's primary mission is to monitor and tackle the potential domestic threats of the regime. Each agency is watching the population of Syria. Rather than this, to tackle the challenges for the deployment of the capability of external threats, the regime's condense weapons in terms of ballistic missiles, chemical weapons, and air forces were used to win the battle (Vishwanathan, 2012).

The military and other security and weapon support from many of the countries have been given to the Syrian civilians just to oppose the Assad regime in the Syrian civil war. But due to the continuous pattern of war, in 2020, the United Nations has recorded a clear message that explains that the military is not a solution to stop the Syrian war, there must be proper political decisions by considering the humanitarian nightmares for the long-suffering Syrian citizens (U.N. News.), 2021). several united nations bodies, including the Human right council, green assembly, and security council, have responded to the crises and war in Syria.

To end the civil war, the international community, especially the United Nations, is considered as that can prevent or end the civil strikes and can reinforce the international system in the country (Guéhenno, 2018). In order to prevent the civil, not merely the role of the United Nation is clinical as it purposes to resolve such sort of civil military conflicts however, at the same time, the role of international players is also important due to the fact that at the present condition there is an obvious divide among nations and its consequences are only being faced by innocent Syrians. To support human rights, Security Council with United Nations has offered a proper plan on violence and insufficient and decisive actions. In order to end the suffering of Syrian civilians, the Security Council must have to consider the new options. Firstly, the United Nations and Security Council both have to impose an arms embargo on Syria as the government of Syria for many of the years are humiliating human rights by abusing the civilians through the Assad regime. United Nations should have to impose a peaceful political transition (Portela, 2012). It happened in November 2020, where the other Assad regime and other humiliating entities ' individuals, including the parliament members who are supporting the Assad regime in the civil war, have to follow the sanction.

Secondly, the United Nations can end the suffering of Syrian citizens by implementing the target sanctions against Syrian leaders due to human rights violations ((Syria Sanctions - United States Department of State, 2021). The civilians were in favor of democratic citizenship, where they can do make their decision by governing their selves. The government and federal states will be elected by the citizens. Due to the consistent demand of civilians, the president of Syria started a campaign by the name of the Assad regime against the civilians. In May 2011, the U.S. government took steps with respect to the Syrian government to just escalate the violence through an executive order of 13673 to block the property of additional Syrian officials (SC/13673 | United Nations Security Council, 2021). In this regard, the United Nations has to take the Syrian leaders to support the rightful and legitimate aspiration to the peaceful, democratic state. In addition to this, the United Nations also have the authority to end the war by imposing strategies to take legislative action.

With reference to the situation in Syria due to civil war and the Assad regime, the United Nations can take Syria to the international criminal court (ICC). According to this international law that established by the international criminal court to advocate the war crimes against humanity (Engle, 2014). To seek criminal justice in Syria, chemical weapons have been used in

the war against civilians, including children and women, on a relatively large scale. So, in this concern, the general secretary of the United Nations can take into consideration weapons used by the Syrian regime in the time of war and the violation of the standards used on international war. United Nations took query on the issue of unlawful killings and arbitrary arrests of children in the independent international commission of inquiry on Syrian Arab republic (Jones, 2013). Rather than this, there are several other violence observed by United Nations in the Syria war includes: illegal weapons, destruction of property, unlawful attacks, children's rights by including other war crimes are all accountable, and every individual of the government who is in support of the regime.

The study of Ferris and Kirişci (2021) suggested that internal political factors are the significant reason for the Syrian conflict. Due to unemployment, many people joined the party of Assad as he wants to introduce the democratic system, but who knows the dark side? He made fake promises and bombarded his nation. Before this conflict, people lived a peaceful life, demanding a powerful religious democratic system. Also, Ferris and Kirişci (2021) argued that Religion is also the factor that would start the battle in Syria. Many religious groups promoted different sectarianism, but unfortunately, it cannot be handled carefully, and as a result, the Sunni-Shia Conflict started, which lead towards the Civil War. As the population of Syria consisted of Sunni as the majority, but the point of conflict is that the Democratic Party have minorities. Therefore, the religious and political disparity started and forced Syrians to migrate towards other states. It is also investigated that the Government ruled the religious laws to handle different religious groups. The internal politician conflicts began the War in 2011. The new rules and regulations were generated on the basis of the minority because Assad opposed the Sunni religious laws that are the selection of Imams, and the limitation of participation also restricted.

Moreover, based on the findings of Kirişci (2014), it can be inferred that US and Russian interference and its effect upon the Syrian Civil War. As Russia won the War against Syrians by providing chemical weapons to the Army or Military Groups, United States started its campaign by sending Army towards the Islamic State to defend the Russian activities. In contrast to this, the Turkish Government played a vital role by providing migration and immigration aid to the inhabitants of Syria. The Government representatives of Turkey are still providing support and assistance to the Syrians, and they are also against the Militaries Groups. Turkey as a member of NATO took serious actions for Human Rights violation. Further, the study of Gürcan (2020)

indicated that Chemical weapons funded his investigation as many rebellious groups in the Syrian Civil War and they used them against civilians, including children and women. A research paper published by Jones in 2013 demonstrated that the General Secretary of United Nations raised a voice against violation and standards of Human Rights. Additionally, they took severe action for War at the international level; the UN passed the concerned query towards the Syrian Arab Republic on the issue of unlawful killing of humans. Also, UN perspective was evaluated by Portela (2012), the study found that United Nations and Security Council, in lieu of supporting Human Rights and Peace, should be offered a proper plan in order to diminish the Civil War for Syrians. They should prohibit arms for imposing upon humans and violate their rights. A strict law should be manipulated to humiliate human rights and opposed inhabitants for not raising their voice. According to Syria Sanctions - United States Department of State in 2021, through the help of the United Nations, the War can be ended by introducing the approved sections regarding the Syrian Government because of many violations against sectioned laws.

Literature was reviewed in the research by researching various journal articles and news articles, and international organisations websites where credible data is available. The literature review showed multiple elements in the civil war. As per the researcher, the most critical factor was the greed of power by Assad to remain in control regardless of the consequences. Previous studies on the subject show that the government's chemical weapons were the worst strategy in a civil war that has shocked the international community. But due to the multivariate war, no strict action was taken, and only paper condemnation was highlighted. The researcher also views that sectarian conflict leads to this long war, and external players for their regional advantages fueled this conflict.

3   Methodology

The chapter on research methodology deals with the essential elements necessary to get the desired outcomes of the dissertation. This research has incorporated the research's major components, including the methodology's research philosophy and research approach. And according to the dissertation best possible philosophy and design has been chosen for this research. Moving further qualitative research design is being used in this research and provides knowledge on the research paradigm. Establish the data collection methods for this research and include the reasoning behind the primary and secondary data results. Afterward, the data analysis will be conducted through primary and secondary analysis and the tools used in this research. In the end, the study's ethical guidelines and limitations will be explained found in the study.

3.1   Research Design

It is a framework of research methods and the techniques through which the research is designed to achieve the aim and objectives of the dissertation (Mitchell and Jolley, 2010). There are two ways through which the research can be designed, but it depends upon the nature of the study, and those two designs are qualitative and quantitative. The qualitative research design is concerned with establishing the descriptive answers of the research questions being developed in the research questions to cater to every single point (Maxwell, 2012). At the same time, the quantitative research design is based on both descriptive and experimental, which is based on their involvement like the dissertation.

In this research, a qualitative research design is used to cover every aspect of the topic. The reason behind using this research design is the subject demands explanatory answers based on the

research questions. Moreover, the research questions often involve qualitative assessments based on media reports, examination reports of international institutions such as the UN and OPCW. From initial study of the literature, it was found that most of such reports are synthesised on either subjective interpretation of policy statements originated from high offices or through witness accounts in case of testimonies of belligerent activities and chemical attacks. The preceding literature review, which constitutes the chapter 2 of this dissertation is majorly based on assessment of qualitative data gathered from credible scientific sources on this subject. Such a situation directed the researcher to adopt a qualitative research design that would not be constricted by statistical enumerations only. This helps the researcher to utilise both the primary data and the secondary generated in the dissertation. Since the current research is focused towards analysis of a myriad of factors which influence and shape the Syrian conflict, the design of research was of paramount importance, as it determined the entire proceeding step of data collection and data analysis. A qualitative design facilitated in formulating answers to qualitative research questions such as role of international geopolitics and internal conflicts in the Syrian war, and the role of the Asad regime and the United Nations in ameliorating the situation.

3.2   Data Collection Method

The data collection method is a process of gathering and assessing the information based on the variables that best suit the interest of variables by systematically establishing that data, which helps answer the research questions. It is evident that accurate data collection is essential just for maintaining the integrity of research.

The current research has utilised both, primary and secondary data collection methods for the synthesis of findings. Primary data collection is used in cases when there is a need of gaining first-hand perspective regarding a phenomenon under study. In case of qualitative study, primary data comprises of interview accounts of human sample population involved in the research. Due to complexity and often contradictory nature of available information about the subject, the researcher realised that gaining first-hand perspective of people who have been directly involved in the conflict was imperative. It helped in mitigating information and confirmation bias that would have been inherent in case of a completely secondary data-based study. Primary data was collected was through open ended interview questions posed at the participants. Responses of participants were recorded in both audio and written formats. The participants belonged to the civilian community who have either lived in the conflict zones in the past or worked in community welfare

programs. 100 sample sizes were considered while analysing the data primary data collection through a survey questionnaire. In contrast, only ten people were considered as respondent for interview conduction. IBM SPSS software was used to analyse the primary survey data. Both, the questionnaire and interview questions were formed by thorough analysis of the literature, from which major possible factors were extracted to be examined in this study. Meanwhile, the reason behind using the secondary data is it provides adequate knowledge based on the authors' research, which is already completed. On the other hand, using the primary data gives an understanding of the conflict based on the current situation going in Syria.

Here it becomes essential to mention that the survey was conducted from the general population who had witnessed the conflicts and have been the sufferer. These were the respondents who had sufficient knowledge regarding the ongoing situation and the challenges they have faced in the current situation. The respondents were generally educated and were majorly the students and other civilians who had closer look on different dynamics of conflicts. Apart from this, interviews were conducted from the governmental staff, public authorities and associated stakeholders to get more precise information regarding the internal and external stakes and their role in either igniting the conflict or its resolution.

3.3 Data Analysis

Data analysis is defined as collecting, transforming, and modeling the data, which provide helpful information for the research topic (Bihani and Patil, 2014). It also enables the extraction of useful information from data and makes decisions based on the data analysis. In this research, the researcher for the primary analysis used SPSS and thematic analysis to gather the primary data from respondents who participated in the research. For the quantitative analysis component, descriptive analysis is presented for all variables. Mode is considered to be the most appropriate central tendency for interpretation as the data is ordinal. Along with this, frequency analysis was conducted to ascertain patterns in the participant's responses. Frequency analysis helped in aggregating the responses for each distinct question in the interview, which helped in determining inclination of majority of population towards a certain response. The factor analysis technique is applied here to research different factors affecting the Geopolitical insights of the Syrian Civil Conflict. There are internal political, religious and geographical factors that are reasons for Civil War. Primary data has been collected by using a five-point Likert scale range from Strongly Agree

to Strongly Disagree. Ten questions were asked from 100 respondents by using Simple Random Sampling.

The thematic analysis enables the primary data theme and then analyses the outcomes generated from the primary data. Responses of the participants from survey questionnaire were statistically analysed to form the quantitative part of the finding. It also provides the positive and negative outcomes generated through primary analysis. While on the other side in the systematic analysis, the researcher used a systematic method to provide the knowledge based on its literature with the help of the studies of other authors on the same issue. In this research, the researcher intended to use qualitative research to achieve the aims and objectives of the research. It enables to achieve the themes and objectives of the research and provides the approach used to design the literature effectively.

Qualitative research methods were adopted to complete this research. At the same time, data collection was based on primary data collection tools like questionnaires from UN officials and government personnel and social workers. Secondary research was also conducted from the articles and credible organisations websites. Regarding the role of the Jihadi element, 38% of the respondents agreed and undecided about the question; Assad used the threats of Jihadist Groups within the Syrian state as opposition. But in a nutshell, he opposed the Jihadist Groups. The factor analysis technique is applied here to research different factors affecting the geopolitical insights of the Syrian Civil Conflict. There are internal political, religious and geographical factors that are reasons for Civil War. Primary data has been collected by using a five-point Likert scale range from Strongly Agree to Disagree Strongly. Ten questions were asked from 100 respondents by using Simple Random Sampling. The factor analysis technique was more suitable because of the p-value, which is less than 0.05.

As said, the themes were mainly developed in order to meet the objectives of the research. In this regard, the interview questions were asked accordingly while the themes were developed based on the repetition patterns of the responses thereby confirming the similarity in the responses among interviewees thereby leading to the construction of findings. Further, in the context of statistical analysis, mainly factor analysis was performed that was supported by different tests such as KMO and Bartlett's tests and the components like initial and extracted components, number of factors and rotated component matrix to identify and process most relatable factors to the final analysis. Based on Rotated Component Matrix, researchers conclude that the variables

unemployment, internal conflict, and military crack-down collectively constituted one factor named "Internal Political Factor." The second, named as "Religious Factor", consisted of three variables that are Sunni-Shia Conflict, the Jihadist Group, and Al-Qaeda. The third factor, called the "Geographical Factor," consisted of four variables: Human Rights, Chemical Weapons, and US-Russian Interference.

Inclusion and exclusion Criteria for research articles is defined as below:

Table 1. Inclusion and exclusion criteria for systematic review of secondary data (Author, 2022)

Inclusion	Exclusion
Updated Articles	Outdated Articles
Including at least one variable or factor	Not include any factor or variable
Explicit Discussion about the factors	Descriptive Discussion
Future Prospect Integration	Focus on Current Events

The reasons for the inclusion of research papers in literature are the updated articles that is the custom range is 2010 to 2021. Additionally, the researcher studied the literature thoroughly and extracted only those articles that have contained at least one variable in the study.

3.4   Ethical Consideration

Ethical considerations are considered essential guidelines that are specified with norms, values, and beliefs that the researcher followed throughout the research are known as ethical considerations. And this research by the researcher followed the ethical considerations both while conducting primary and secondary data. In primary data, full consent is being taken from respondents before the study. Respondents can any spot of time withdraw their statements from their responses. The secondary data used in this research is adequately cited and provides references where necessary to fulfill the requirements of the dissertation and ethical considerations.

3.5   Limitations

The underlined research has faced various limitations, which impacted the accuracy and validity of the research findings. Time constraints proved a significant limitation as they hurdled a thorough analysis of the findings and analysis of the collected data. Furthermore, the research

budget is another limitation that limits the expected scope of the research. The tightened scope prevented the research from having a broader perspective on analysing objectives and answering the research questions better. The sampling technique could be handled more effectively as only a limited sample has been taken. The sample could involve a more considerable portion of the population to have results more valid and accurate.

4 Data Analysis

The most significant part in the report is Data Analysis, discussion and findings. In this research, the researcher collected the primary data into two phases. Descriptive Statistics and Factor Analysis were used to analyse the findings. The findings are as below:

4.1 Primary Data: Descriptive Statistics

Bar charts represent the most frequent response for each variable.

	Due to the high unemployment rate, the inhabitant of Syria joined the democratic Government?	Sunni-Shia conflict forced the inhabitants to migrate towards nearby states.	By use of unethical chemical weapons during War, is it against Human Rights?	The use of chemical weapons harm the environment and human health during Syria Civil War	Assad used the threats of Jihadist Groups within the Syria state as opposition
Table 1. Descriptive Statistics					
N Valid	100	100	100	100	100
Missing	0	0	0	0	0
Mode	**2**	**2**	**1**	**1**	**2**
Std. Dev.	.932	.674	.638	.482	.779
Variance	.868	.455	.408	.233	.606

Table 1. Descriptive Statistics

Does the internal conflict among the politician is one of the reasons for the Syrian Civil War?	The internal military crack-down of the Assad Regime is the cause of the Syrian Civil War.	Do you think that the rise in Global Warming is the reason for migrating Syrians to other states?	Al-Qaeda playing a role of growing religious dividing role in the Syria war	Do you think that the interference of US and Russian forces within Syria created a new war?
100	100	100	100	100
0	0	0	0	0
1	**2**	**1**	**2**	**1**
.800	.963	1.615	.820	.658
.640	.928	2.608	.672	.433

From the above table, descriptive analysis shows that most frequent respondents agreed that the inhabitants of Syria were oppressed to join the democratic Government due to unemployment. Along with this, many respondents said that they agreed with the statements about Sunni-Shia Conflict forced the inhabitants to migrate; Assad opposed the Jihadist Groups, the internal military is one of the reasons for the Syria Civil; also Al-Qaeda played a role while growing of religion within the War. Additionally, the respondents strongly agreed that the use of chemical weapons is against Human Rights, and it also harms the environment and human health. The conflict among the politicians of Syria and the interference of US and Russian forces created a new war in Syria. Furthermore, the increment in global warming opposed Syrian to migrate towards the other state.

On the other hand, the values of all the variances show that people's responses have minor variation. Mostly have the same opinion without any contradiction. In a nutshell, most of the respondents had the same school of thought.

4.1.1   Charts

The graphical representation of every variable represents in the form of Bar Chart are as follow:

4.1.1.1   Unemployment

Literature review revealed that statistically, terrorist activities and unemployment rates are usually correlated. To test this, the participants were inquired about this dimension, which led to the following finding.

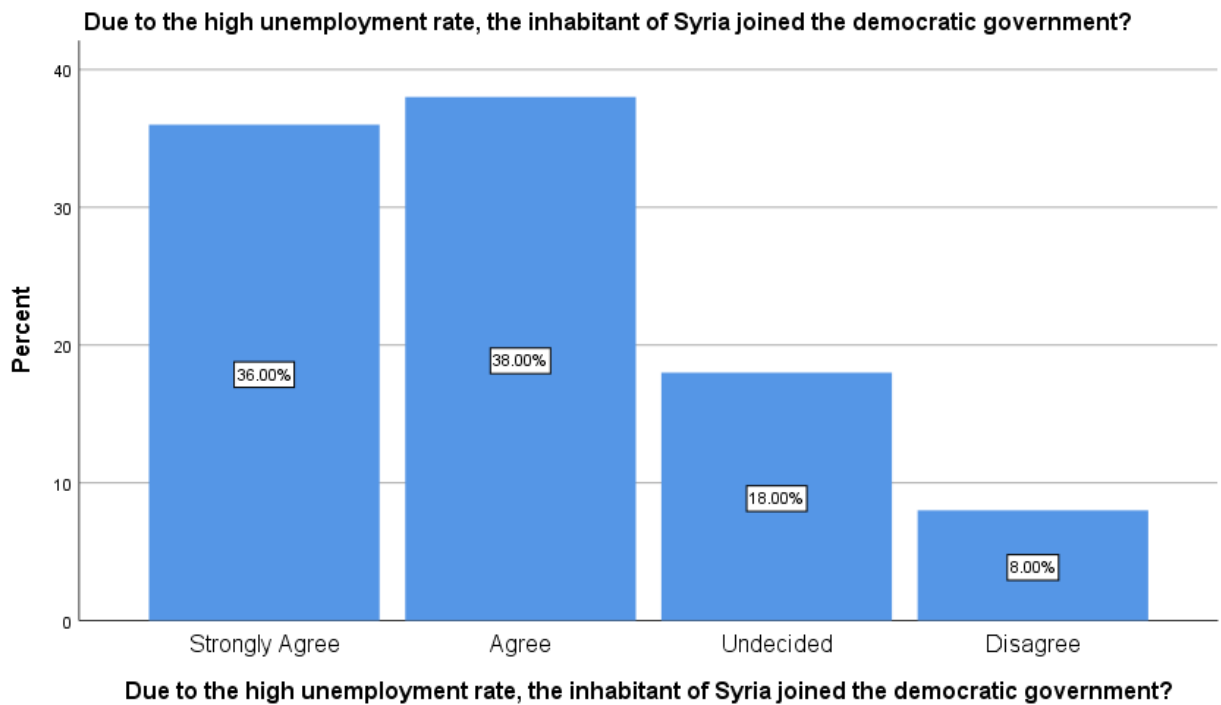**Due to the high unemployment rate, the inhabitant of Syria joined the democratic government?**

Figure 1. Unemployment

From the above chart, 38.00 percent of the respondents said they agreed that the high unemployment rate, the inhabitant of Syria joined the democratic Government. While 36.00 percent were showed strongly agree with views. While, the current stance of the US-led coalition forces propounds for spread of freedom of rights and democracy as an eroding force against terrorism, the stance of many European Union countries places inequality and poverty as the root cause of terrorism. From the current results, both stances are supported. While high unemployment rate caused frustration and discontent among the civilian youth, and forced them to join terrorist outfits, it is also observable that joining in the anti-Assad democratic forces is a result of repression of rights and freedom of the Syrian populace. A glaring dreadful youth unemployment rate in many

developing and least developed countries of the sub-Saharan Africa defenestrates any bulwark raised against internal strife.
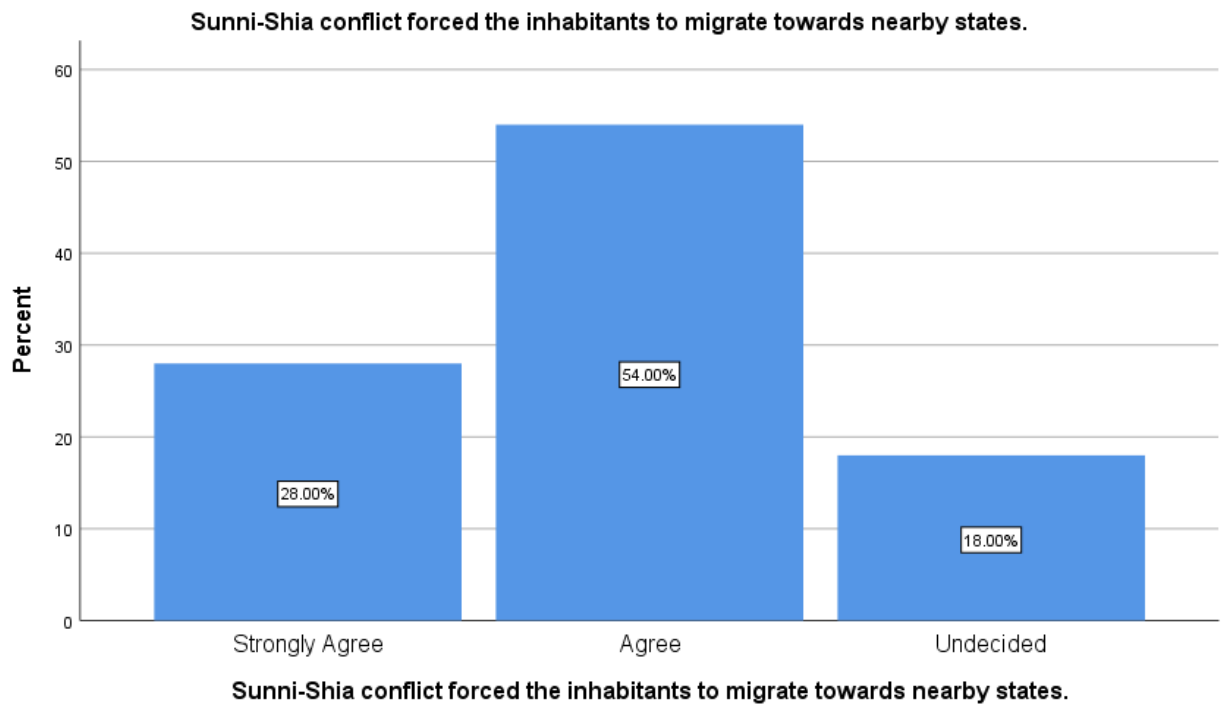
4.1.1.2   Sunni-Shia Conflict

Figure 2. Sunni-Shia Conflict

54% of the respondents said they agreed that the Sunni-Shia conflict forced them to migrate towards nearby states. Hence, it can be considered as the fundamental reason for the Syrian Civil War. Literature regarding the scientific assessment of Shia-Sunni conflict in the backdrop of modern Middle-Eastern conflict is not scare anymore as different contemporary scholars are now being comprehending this form of conflict, with most authentic accounts present in the form of perspective interviews of leading religious and political authorities of both sects. Moreover, historically, sectarian violence has been rare, with most lethal sectarian attacks being orchestrated by religious or political figures rather than erupting on a civilian stratum. Sectarian killings are mostly perpetrated by extremist organisations, many of whom are supported by governments.

However, Shia – Sunni conflict is markedly different from the Protestant-Catholic divide in Christianity, because in most countries, both communities have lived and continue to live along side each other in peace and harmony. Instead, it can be asserted that the sectarian conflict is used only as a tool to further political gains by belligerent elements in the region.

4.1.1.3 Human Rights

By use of unethical chemical weapons during War, is it against Human Rights?

By use of unethical chemical weapons during War, is it against Human Rights?
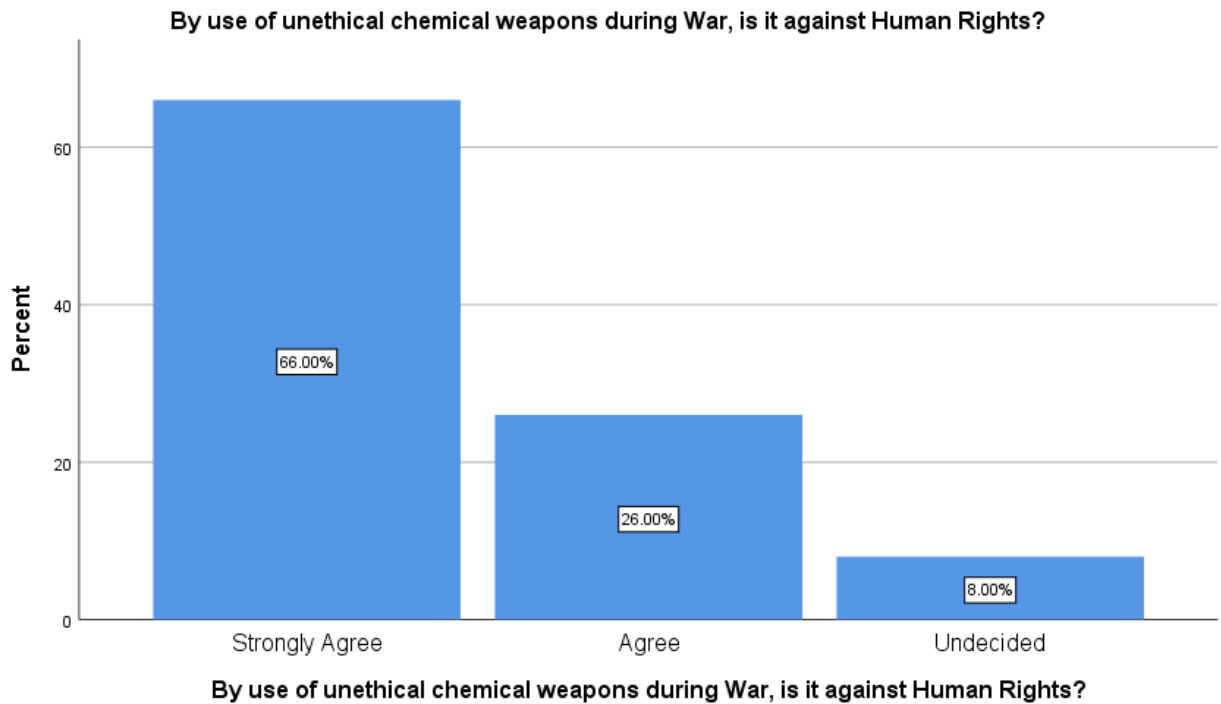
Figure 3. Human Rights

From the above chart, 66% of the respondents strongly agreed, and 26% showed agreed views about the violation of Human Rights during War by using unethical chemical weapons. It is also stated that during War, human rights violations are against humanity in such case. International Chemical Weapons Convention bans and propounds for destruction of chemical weapons because of their unfocused nature of attack. In majority of cases, chemical weapons target several by-standers in a conflict, which raises the issue of international war crimes.

4.1.1.4   Chemical Weapons

The use of chemical weapons harm the environment and human health during Syria Civil War

The use of chemical weapons harm the environment and human health during Syria Civil War
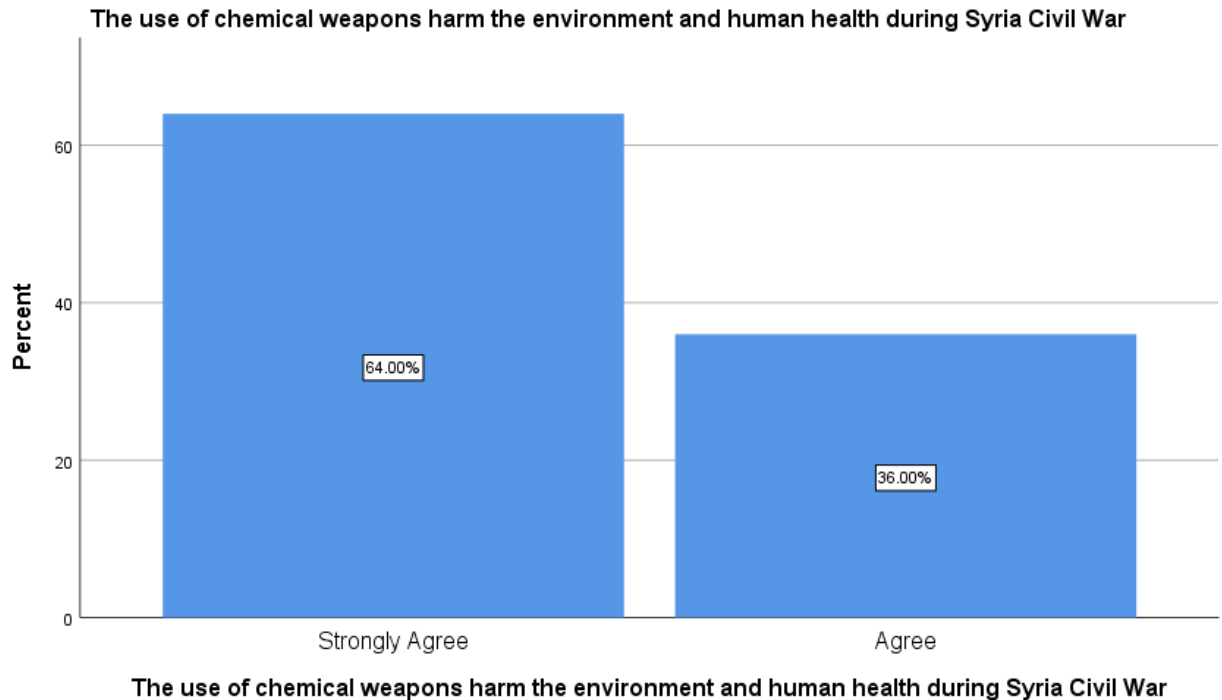
Figure 4. Chemical Weapons

64% and 36% of the respondents strongly agreed and agreed, respectively, that chemical weapons harm the environment and human health during the Syrian Civil War. Hence, it can be considered as the fundamental reason for global warming. According to the Hague Ethical Guidelines, the unselective nature of chemical weapons along with its unannounced, unescapable, and indiscriminate targeting, is the basis for its unethical status (Patrick et al., 2013). Nevertheless, in Surian conflict, its usage has been observed by both, the Asad regime and the insurgents
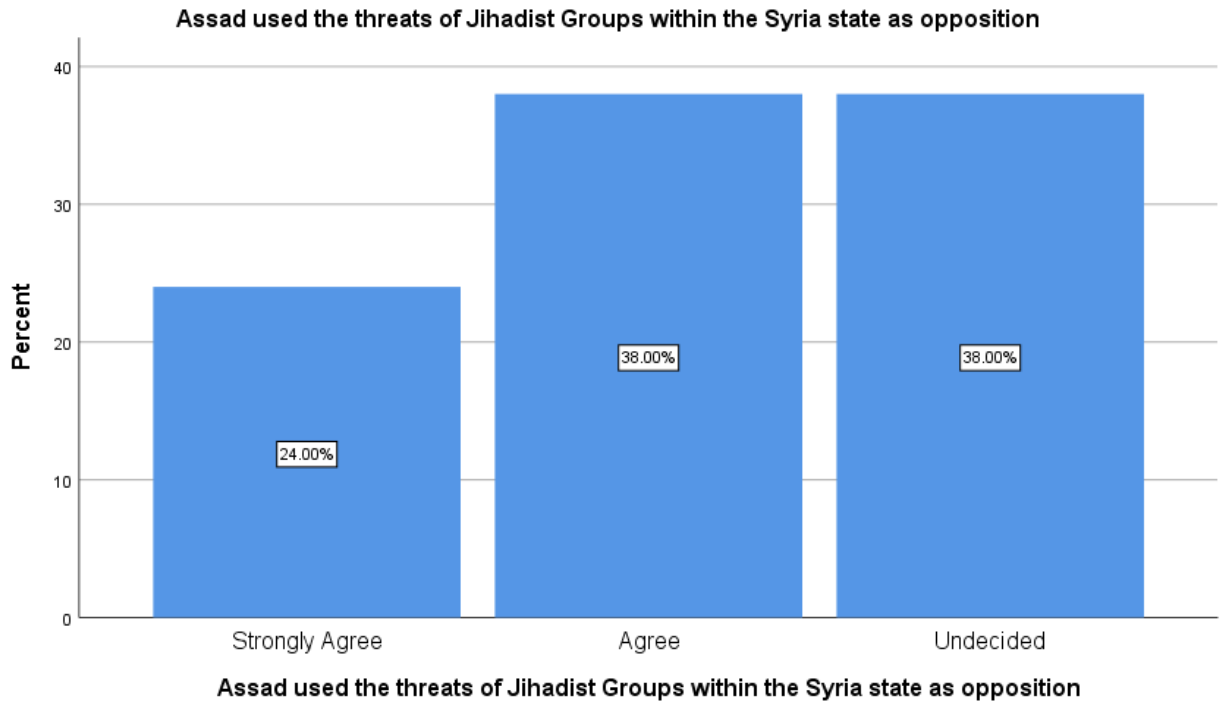
4.1.1.5   Jihadist Groups

Figure 5. Jihadist Groups

38% of the respondents agreed and undecided, respectively, about the question Assad used the threats of Jihadist Groups within the Syria state as opposition. But in a nutshell, he opposed the Jihadist Groups. Although the current study showed lack of clear-cut understanding about Asad's dependence or opposition of the Jihadist groups, literature shows that Jihadist groups in the region have emerged as a multivariate phenomenon, in which, the international geopolitics, domestic politics, socioeconomic situations, and sectarian tensions have all played a role.

4.1.1.6   Internal Conflicts

Does the internal conflict among the politician is one of the reasons for the Syrian Civil War?

Does the internal conflict among the politician is one of the reasons for the Syrian Civil War?
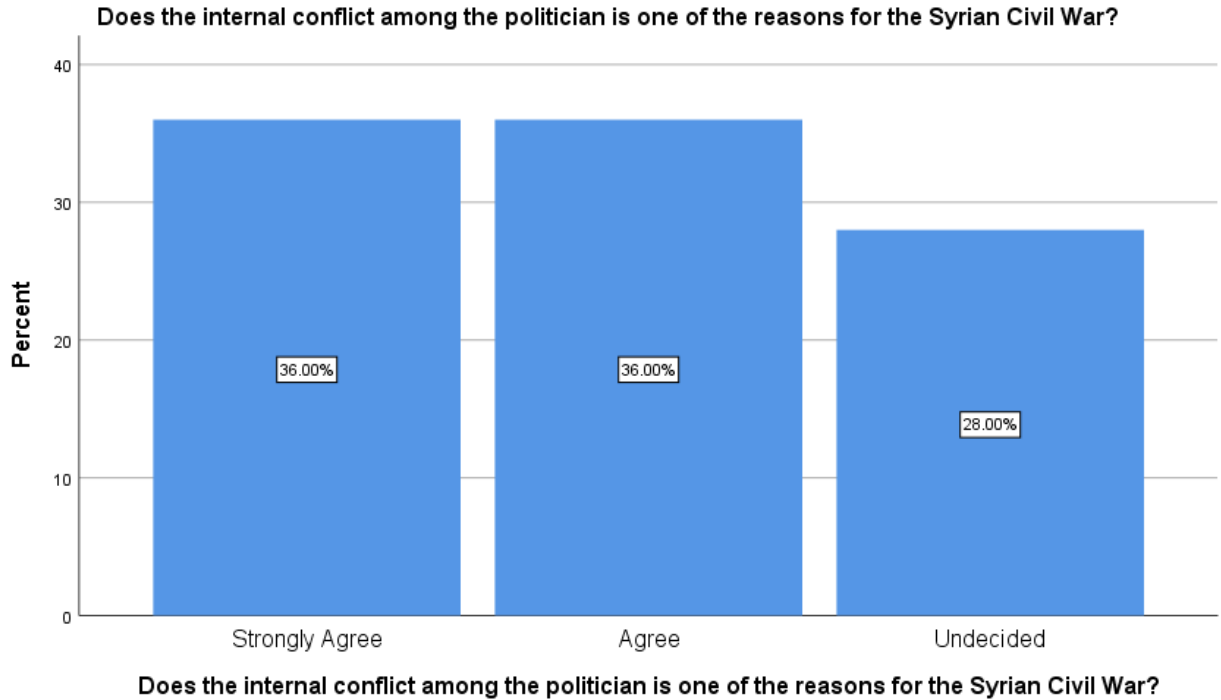
Figure 6. Internal Conflicts

36% of the respondents strongly agreed and agreed that the internal conflict among the politician is one reason for the Syrian Civil War. Hence, the political parties created a contest that was the cause of War and violation of Human Rights. Taking up weapons has obvious negative effects on one's health. Others have broadly disseminated information on the tremendous potential for desperate well-being outcomes among the growing Syrian evacuee population, a more indirect influence. However as crude and violent as any display of war may be, the use of chemical weapons requires great opposition.
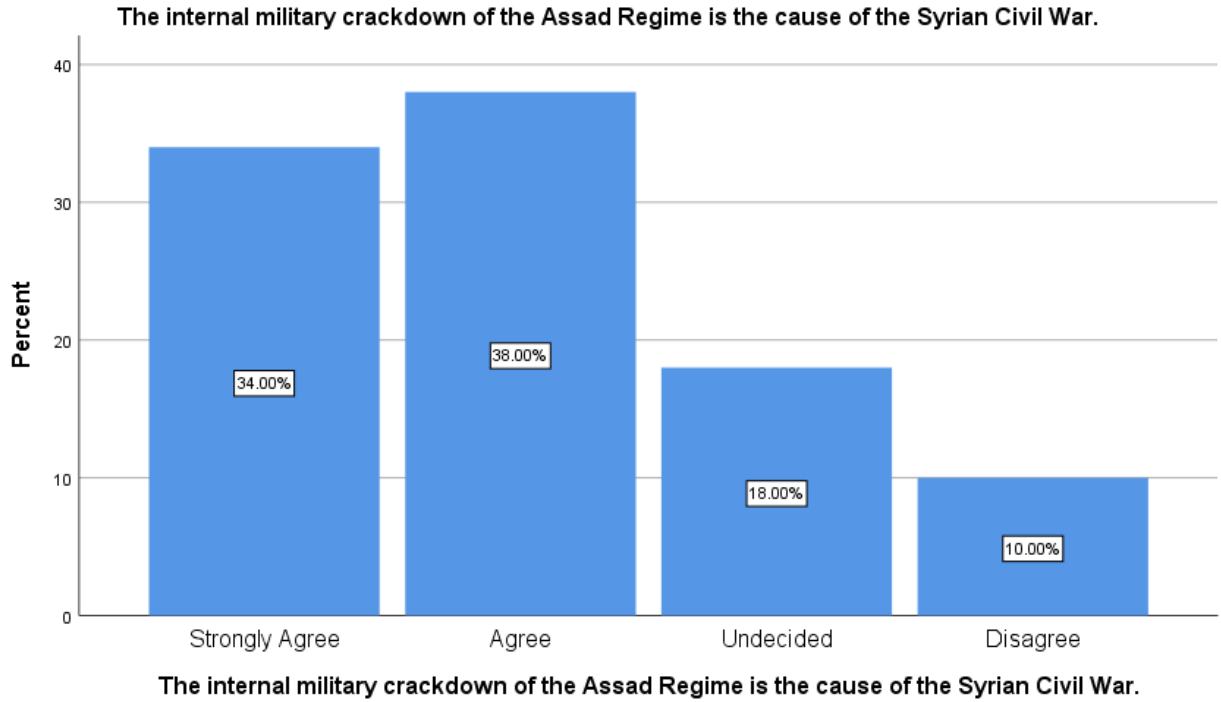
4.1.1.7 Military Crack Down

Figure 7. Military Crack Down

From the above chart, 38% of the respondents agreed that due to the military crack-down of Assad Regime, the War started. Hence, Assad made his party and wanted to introduce democracy within the boundaries of Syria, but as a result, the death of inhabitants occurred.

4.1.1.8   Global Warming

Do you think that the rise in Global Warming is the reason for migrating Syrians to other states?
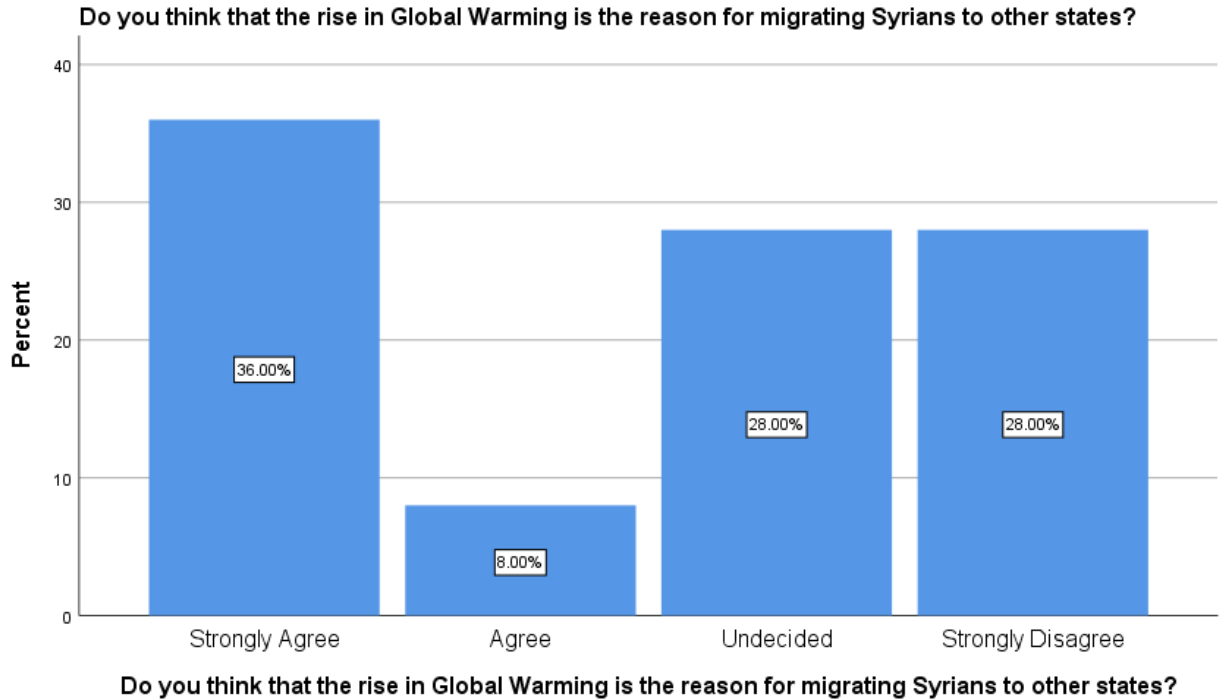
Figure 8. Global Warming

From the above chart, 36% of the respondents agreed that due to the rise in global warming, the people of Syria became helpless and migrated to other states. Therefore, many of the inhabitants had to leave their motherland. This response was unique compared to the literature studied as it showed a factor usually excluded from the discussions on Syrian conflict, to be impacting the local populace. Even though global warming may not be a major element in the conflict, research shows that it has a multifarious effect on wellbeing of individuals and communities. Dismal state of infrastructure in the country has disabled civilian's access to basic necessities of life such as sustained access to proper food due to food shortages, access to drinkable water which is already getting polluted, and deteriorating air quality. Such factors play a significant role in forcing people to migrate.

4.1.1.9 Al-Qaeda
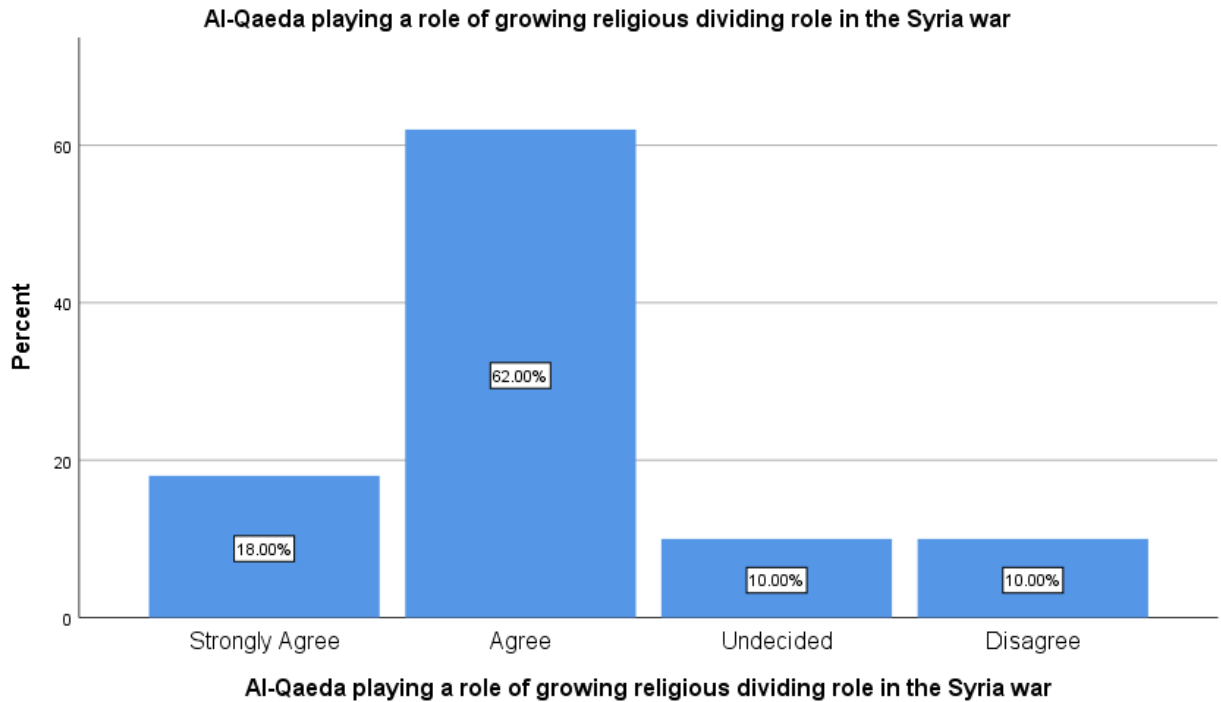
Figure 9. Al-Qaeda

From the above chart, 62% of the respondents agreed that Al-Qaeda played a vital role in spreading religion during the Civil War. The primary aim of Al-Qaeda was to invite people into Sunni Muslim Community. Although the initial conflict started as a civil war, as time proceeded, the subject got international attention and ended up forming various alliances. Middle East nations, Russian, and other Western powers' interests got developed.

4.1.1.10 US and Russian Interference

Do you think that the interference of US and Russian forces within Syria created a new war?

Do you think that the interference of US and Russian forces within Syria created a new war?
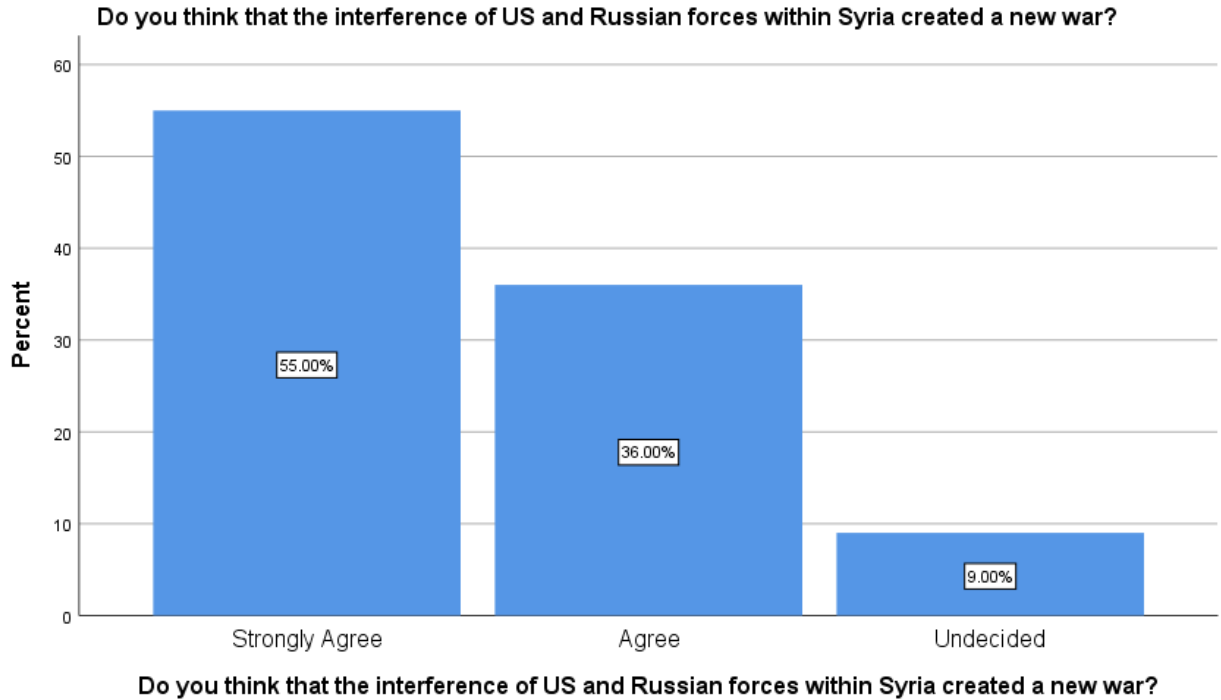
Figure 10. US and Russian Interference

From the above chart, 55% of the respondents agreed that interference of US and Russian forces within Syria created a new war. They both try to win the battle, but the reality is that the inhabitants of Syria have to face two Wars, one from their Civilians and the other one from the international level. Syrian domestic politics is one of the core causes of the civil war, as it all started because of the instability triggered by the people protesting and asking for reforms. This developed a civil war that allowed regional and extra-regional involvement from every single corner. This further involved religious elements in the conflict as two different religious camps got involved, Shia camp from Iran and Sunni camp, which was backed up by Saudi Arab and Turkey. Among all this, the intrusion of ISIS became inevitable (Tan and Perudin, 2019). The situation became more and more complex when everyone saw their own interest in the region and start to take part in the conflict, either directly or by backing the allies.

4.2   Analytical Statistics: Factor Analysis

Table 2. Attributes for Geopolitical insights of the Syrian Civil Conflict	
Q:1	Unemployment
Q:2	Sunni-Shia Conflict
Q:3	Human Rights
Q:4	Chemical Weapons
Q:5	Jihadist Group
Q:6	Internal Conflict
Q:7	Military Crack Down
Q:8	Global Warming
Q:9	Al-Qaeda
Q:10	US and Russian Interference

From the table above, there are ten variable included in the research for applying Factor Analysis.

4.2.1   KMO and Bartlett's Test of Sphericity

The test of sphericity is used to check the hypothesis that the correlation matrix has a significant correlation for at least one of the variable.

Table 3. KMO and Bartlett's Test		
Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Measure of Sampling Adequacy.		.743
Bartlett's Test of Sphericity	Approx. Chi-Square	897.401
	df	45
	Sig.	.000

From the above table, the value of Chi-square is 897.40, and the p-value is less than 0.05. Hence, it is concluded that the Factor Analysis technique is suitable for this research.

4.2.2   Initial and Extracted Communalities

Communality is defined as variance's percent in a given variable explained by all the factors jointly. Additionally, it can be interpreted as the reliability of the variable with the context of research. Thus it is the proportion of variance in each variable accounted for by the common factors.

Table 4. Communalities

	Initial	Extraction
1. Unemployment	1.000	.893
2. Sunni-Shia Conflict	1.000	.775
3. Human Rights	1.000	.386
4. Chemical Weapons	1.000	.620
5. Jihadist Group	1.000	.799
6. Internal Conflict	1.000	.763
7. Military Crack Down	1.000	.656
8. Global Warming	1.000	.818
9. Al-Qaeda	1.000	.954
10. US and Russian Interference	1.000	.646

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.

The column of Extracted Communalities defines the variation explained by each variable. The Q1 and Q8 explain more than 80% of the variation in the variables but less than 90%. Q2, Q5, Q6 are said to contribute more than 70% but less than 80% of the variation in the data. The remaining variables show more than 60% of the variation among the variables except for Q3.

4.2.3   Determining the Number of Factors

The numbers of factors have to be determined based on different methods. In this research, three approaches are used, these all are as follow:

4.2.3.1   Determination Based on Eigen Values and percentage

The number of Eigen Values and Cumulative Percentage determine the number of factors that will include in the study

Table 5. Total Variance Explained

Component	Initial Eigenvalues			Extraction Sums of Squared Loadings			Rotation Sums of Squared Loadings		
	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %
1	2.787	27.869	27.869	2.787	27.869	27.869	2.736	27.357	27.357
2	2.444	24.438	52.308	2.444	24.438	52.308	2.407	24.067	51.424
3	2.079	20.790	73.098	2.079	20.790	73.098	2.167	21.674	73.098
4	1.040	10.400	83.498						
5	.618	6.184	89.682						
6	.423	4.226	93.908						
7	.296	2.960	96.868						
8	.143	1.432	98.300						
9	.142	1.424	99.725						
10	.028	.275	100.000						

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.

From the above table, the number of Eigenvalues and cumulative percentage shows that three variables will be included in the study.

4.2.3.2 Determination Based on Scree plot

The graphical representation of the numbers of factors extracted from the study is defined by using Scree Plot.
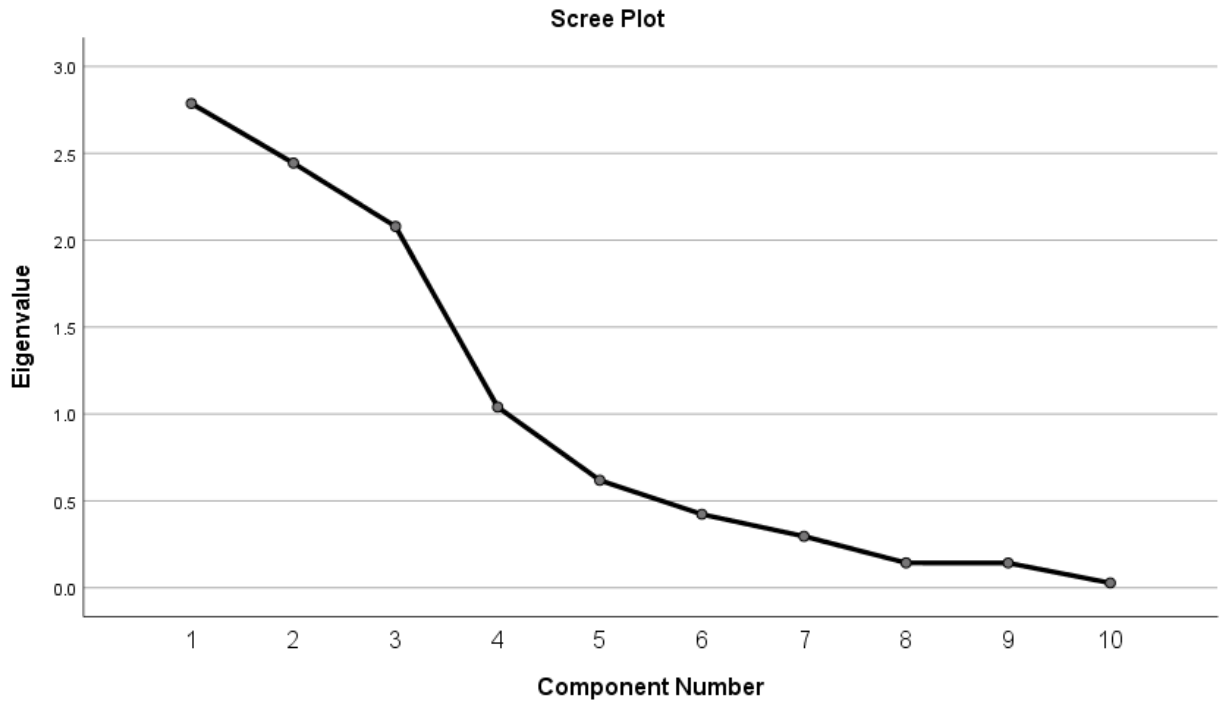
Figure 11. Scree Plot

From the above figure, the knee of slop concluded that three variables are used to merge all the study variables.

4.2.4   Rotated Component Matrix

Varimax rotation was used to interpret the three extracted factors with their respective variables. The rotated component matrix's primary purpose is that it allocates the variables to their factors with loadings.

Table 6. Rotated Component Matrix

	Component		
	1	2	3
1. Unemployment	**.895**		
2. Sunni-Shia Conflict		**.859**	
3. Human Rights			**.504**
4. Chemical Weapons			**.586**
5. Jihadist Group		**.849**	
6. Internal Conflict	**.888**		
7. Military Crack Down	**.953**		
8. Global Warming			**.534**
9. Al-Qaeda		**.699**	
10. US and Russian Interference			**.543**

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.

Rotation Method: Varimax with Kaiser Normalization.

The above table concludes that the variables unemployment, internal conflict, and military crack-down collectively constituted one factor named "Internal Political Factor." The second, named as "Religious Factor", consisted of three variables that are Sunni-Shia Conflict, the Jihadist Group, and Al-Qaeda. The third factor, called the "Geographical Factor," consisted of four variables: Human Rights, Chemical Weapons, Global Warming, and US-Russian Interference.

The results indicate that the Internal Political Factor's loading or weightage is high compared to others.

Table 7. Factor Analysis

Factors and items	Factors loadings	Eigenvalues	Explained Variance%	Cronbach's Alpha
Factor 1:		2.736	27.357	0.799
Internal Political Factor				
Unemployment	**.895**			
Internal Conflict	**.888**			
Military Crack-down	**.953**			
Factor 2:		2.407	24.067	0.620
Religious Factors				
Sunni-Shia Conflict	**.859**			
Jihadist Group	**.849**			
Al-Qaeda	**.699**			
Factor 3:		2.167	21.674	0.609
Geographical Factor				
Human Rights,	**.504**			
Chemical Weapons	**.586**			
Global Warming	**.534**			
US-Russian Interference	**.543**			

It is concluded that Factor Analysis identified three factors from the list of ten variables. The Cronbach's Alpha shows the reliability of each factor. The Internal Political Factor is more reliable and has an Alpha value of 0.799.

4.3   Primary Data: Interview

4.3.1   Qualitative analysis

Their statements and summaries are defined in table format.

Table 8. Thematic Analysis

Questions	Responses	Theme
First, the protests were peaceful, but how would they turn into Civil War?	- Crack-down of Military - Regime's military cracked - Used of unlawful weapons	Most of the respondents said that the brutal crack-down of the Regime military started the War and the peaceful protests converted into a Civil War
What should the UN do for peace in Syria, and what steps should be taken to violate Human Rights?	- Sent their representatives - Try to pass sectioned laws seriously in support of Syrians - Should send their army person or representatives.	They should send their representatives or Army persons to stop the War.
Why it has taken the Assad regime so long to win back most of its Territory??	- By means of fake promises for democratic laws. He owns 25% of Territory. - Inhabitants of Syria took time to believe in him - Now he has 25% of Territory.	Assad owns 25% of the Syrian Territory by fake promises, also funded by chemical weapons
Do you think that the role of Turkey matter in the Syrian Civil War?	- Provide aid to Syrians for immigration purposes. - It is opposed to the rebellious and military groups. - Help inhabitants for migrations	Being only a NATO member, the Turkish Government provide aid to Syrians

Questions	Responses	Theme
Is there any solution to stop the Syrian crisis?	• Reconciliation of Political Parties as well as different religious groups. UN should take action against the funding of weapons. • By stop funding of chemical weapons. • By non-interference of internal political matters.	Reconciliation of Political Parties and stop to Fund Weapons.

4.3.1.1   Theme 1: Brutal crack-down of the Regime Military began the War

Most of the respondents said that the brutal crack-down of the Regime military started the War and the peaceful protests converted into a Civil War. With the excessive use of chemical weapons and violation of Human Rights by the Regime, the anti-Regime movement was started and armed opposed to the Regime's military.

One of the people responded as

"Regime's military cracked down converted the Islamic State into a piece of Heaven."

4.3.1.2   Theme 2: They should send their representatives or Army persons to stop the War.

The one thing that should do by the UN Security Council is to go around Russia and pass the resolution for the solution in the context of peace and humanity. They should send their representatives or Army persons to stop the War.

One of the people responded as

"The UN should send their representatives or Army persons to stop the War, as they made lawful sections against violation of Human Rights."

4.3.1.3   Theme 3: Assad owns 25% of the Syrian Territory by fake promises, also funded by chemical weapons

25% of the Syrian Territory is owned by Assad by means of fake promises, and he will never leave it until his death.

One of the people responded as

> *"Assad made fake promises, and now he is responsible for the War."*

4.3.1.4   Theme 4: Being only a NATO member, the Turkish Government provide aid to Syrians

In June 2011, the armed attacked the Turkish Border with chemical weapons just after Regime forces hit a blast on demonstrators. After that, Turkey announced that it would help Syrians for migration purposes from Turkey to Europe. Being only a NATO member and attachment of Border with Syria and Iraq, the Turkish President had shown more interest in this scenario. He is against the Kurdish and ISIS group. Turkey had introduced 300 against PKK (Kurdistan Party). Turkey is still showing the utmost help and aid towards Syrians.

One of the people responded as

> *"Turkey showed and set the best example of Humanity by aiding Syrians for immigration purposes."*

4.3.1.5   Theme 5: Reconciliation of Political Parties and stop to Fund Weapons.

Reconciliation of parties is one of the solutions to stop the Syrian crisis. As it seems to be impossible in this current era but it is the best possible solution. The internal political settlement will lead the War to Peace as the main sectors of the Syrian Civil War were under the cruel leader. Anti-Regime actions should be considered on a very serious note. Also, the groups like Kurdish and ISIS should not be funded by the chemical weapon. No Arms means No War. The UN should send its senior representatives or Army Persons to the ground level to solve this case and stop the Human Rights violation. The most important thing is that Syrians should be guided by awareness and education that is right for them or who is not, to elect the right person as their President. We must stand with the Syrians because of humanity, and they are facing the wild and cruel side of this world. They are fighting for their rights, dignity, and quality.

One of the people responded as

> *"For the sake of peace and humanity, the political parties should reconcile, and the UN should take serious steps for anti-Regime movements."*

4.4   Findings from systematic literature review

4.4.1   Geopolitics of international stakeholders in the Syrian Civil War

The United States has stayed unwavering in its determination to defeat ISIS in Syria and Iraq. Its intentions on other topics, though, have grown murky. Since late 2014, the US has led a multinational coalition of roughly 60 nations, including Germany, in airstrikes against IS and other terrorist organisations. In 2017, US President Donald Trump authorised airstrikes on a Syrian airbase in retaliation to a government chemical weapons assault against civilians. In December, Obama startled friends by announcing the unilateral withdrawal of US forces from Syria, declaring, "We have beaten ISIS in Syria." However, later withdrawal of the US policy makers from the stance, led the coalition in a state of confusion about exact strategy of the US for the region. Russian leaders support harmony and expansive agreement among Syria's moderate groups that would permit Assad to stay in power. It has additionally implied it might uphold restricted independence for resistance powers in specific locales inside Syria.

The Coordinator of the UN said that the Syria Civil War is one of the most terrible movements against Human Rights in the 21st century. The UN Secretary-General also spoke up on the violation of Human Rights. None of the President in this world set an example to suffer his nation badly. In the last couple of months, the Syrian Government attacked Turkey's Border that created a new War. After that, Turkey announced that it would help Syrians for migration purposes from Turkey to Europe. Russia has played a multipronged role in this conflict, as its intentions for the conclusion of the war seem to be growing ever more ambiguous. The president is getting some support from foreign agencies from the Russian port, a dozen T-90 tanks, 35 armored personnel carriers, and many howitzers. From the geopolitical point of view, more than 50% of the Syrian Territory controlling by ISIS, and they are funded by the best pieces of equipment for War, worth more than $1 million per day through taxations.

The involvement of Iran, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and other Gulf nations has been identified as a significant cause of the Syrian civil conflict. Their presence has influenced a number of factors, including the placement, conduct, and fortunes of the key Syrian players (Hokayem, 2014). The Iranian government has supplied extensive aid to President Bashar Assad, further complicating the situation. This did not end there, as the insurrection organisation received assistance from a number of Gulf states. Such elements offer them financial support to involve in illegal activities and fights within the country, which is the main reason for Syrian unrest. Sunni-Shia conflict also played a significant role in the war because regional players' sectarian divide and exploitation of this divide have damaged the Syrian infrastructure and peace. Iran supports the Shia elements in the country

and even provides them weapons to use in proxy wars, distorting the country's balance Ferris and Kirisci, 2021. As a counterpart, GCC countries support Sunni aspects and use the sectarian divide to counter Shia elements. The rivalry between Iran and Saudi Arabia had a significant influence and formed the war in its current form. Given the context in which the Syrian revolution began, several Gulf states were taken aback, and they saw a chance to profit from the scenario. On the battlefield, there were constant casualties, which affected the morale of the supporters. Many accounts of the Syrian civil war emphasise its military significance, arguing that the struggle was started with military strategy, weapon supply, territory control, and the interests of external supporters in mind (Ciro and Eng, 2017). The Syrian civil conflict is currently causing a regional humanitarian catastrophe and drawing participants from the United States to Russia (Ahmed, 2021). In terms of geopolitics, the unfolding Syrian civil war is aided by Turkey, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia's funding and backing for armed rebels within Syria, while Assad's administration was aided by Russia and Iran with both armed and unarmed volunteers (Marshall, 2016). President Bashar is clearly victoriously controlling the whole fight thanks to Iran and Russia's help.

The Assad regime took a long time to regain control of the country's affairs and put an end to the civil war. Nonetheless, the damage has been done, and Syria is weaker, either economically or in terms of government authority. Al-Qaeda utilised an aggressive civil war approach, which is why it has lasted so long. In the nation, Al-Qaeda and Iran were fighting a proxy war, and both factions had additional backers. Iran provided covert assistance to the Assad administration, and Iranian forces were deployed in Syria during the battle to aid their cause. To challenge the Syrian government's regional domination factor, Al-Qaeda received assistance from several regional and western forces.

Considering the current situation of Syria's civil war, various stakeholders have been surfaced with their own personal agendas to apply. Therefore, geopolitical factors have greatly influenced the actors involved in the civil war. This has enabled countries like; Saudi Arabia, Iran, and Turkey to support rebels in opposition to the active government. On the other side, Russia and Iran helped Assad's regime with military and non-military tactics. However, this situation did not end here. Other deep-seated internal discrepancies were affecting Syria and are still a staggering issue, including; sectarianism through two different blocks formed. These blocks are associated with two different schools of thought, Shia block, backed up by Iran, and Sunni block, backed up by Saudi Arabia. These religious sects ignited the geopolitical agendas, as many countries were making

political intrusion while playing religion card that is why ISIS got international attention in a very limited time. Syria's complex and devastating war is drawn in multiple foreign powers, with United States, Russia, Turkey, and Iran. For the support of the democratic forces, Washington had given training to the people of Syria who are fighting against president Bashar Assad and given the military aid also. The air and weapon support in response to the government chemical weapons attack against civilians.

5. Conclusion

This research was based on evaluating geopolitical insight of the Syrian civil war that has ripped through the country in devastation, and it still did not come out of the impact of civil war. The research objective was to understand the factors that started the civil war in Syria, and it continues to deepen into Syria. Syria has a solid and long cultural history that has collapsed by ongoing conflicts and internal crises. Humiliation and poor social life of Syrian migrants into other countries have also damaged the country's rich cultural history. The research tried to find the reasons behind the country's downfall by various means and analysing the internal and external influential factors. The study is concluded by finding the answers to the research questions posed in the reasons behind Syria's civil war elements and destruction as a country and society.

The first question in the research was whether the internal elements played a role in civil war or the external players play a part. Both internal and external factors were responsible for the civil war in Syria. The main internal contributors in the conflict were unemployment, the Sunni Shia conflict, use of power by armed forces and use of chemical weapons by the government. The government exploits young people, and most of them are unemployed, which is influenced by the militant groups and sectarian elements.

However, as per this research, the government's chemical weapons and fierce attacks have done most of the damage to the country, which is irreversible. Survey respondents and interviews conducted as primary data collection in the research. They observe that most people believe that Assad Bashar has used all illegal means to remain in power and destroyed his own country, which is the worst example of a statesman in recent history.

Research also tried to find the possible role of the United Nations that it can play to end the civil war in Syria permanently so that peace can be restored in the country. The role of the United Nations is significant in any regional or international conflict as it is the centralised body

that represents almost all countries in the world. Various meetings and conversations happened through United Nations, but any fruitful result is yet to be achieved. Research also concluded that United Nations rulings are not effectively applied in conflicts by the related parties. United Nations has a weak role in ending regional conflicts that question its credibility to solve the Syrian civil war permanently.

It is recommended that international organisations like the United Nations and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation intervene in the crisis to stop this long-lasting civil war. Influential players are above any organisational body, so it might be challenging to control the situation. It is recommended to develop intense dialogues and negotiations with stakeholders for solving the issue. Syrian people want to remove Assad from the government, but he has good support, so any attempt to remove him from office would worsen the situation.

This research contributes to the knowledge in evaluating the situations more profoundly and from the internal setup of the country. Most of the study was based on an external eye point of view, but the limited focus was made from inside the country perspectives. This research caters to internal conflict, sectarian divides and social aspects of the country contributing to civil war in Syria. The study tries to fill the research gap by survey questionnaire and interviewing the related authorities. Although a small sample size is taken in this context due to time and budget constraints, this research direction is given.

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Appendices

Questionnaire on geopolitical insights of syrian civil conflict

Question Statements	1= Strongly Agree	2 = Agree	= 3 Undecided	= 4= Disagree	5 = Strongly Disagree
Due to the high unemployment rate, the inhabitant of Syria joined the democratic Government?					
Does the internal conflict among the politician is one of the reasons for the Syrian Civil War?					
The internal military crack-down of the Assad Regime is the cause of the Syrian Civil War					
Sunni-Shia conflict forced the inhabitants to migrate towards nearby states					

Question Statements	1= Strongly Agree	2 Agree	= 3 Undecided	= 4= Disagree	5 Strongly Disagree	=
Al-Qaeda playing a role of growing religious dividing role in the Syria war						
Assad used the threats of Jihadist Groups within the Syria state as opposition						
The use of chemical weapons harm the environment and human health during Syria Civil War						
By use of unethical chemical weapons during War, is it against Human Rights?						
Do you think that the interference of						

Question Statements	1= Strongly Agree	2 = Agree	3 = Undecided	4= Disagree	5 = Strongly Disagree
US and Russian forces within Syria created a new war?					
Do you think that the rise in Global Warming is the reason for migrating Syrians to other states?					