Syria: Important Dates

Object of foreign conquest; by Hittites, Babylonians, Persians, Greeks, Romans, Byzantine

633-40 Conquered by Arabs

11th-14th centuries Christian Crusades

1516 area becomes part of Ottoman Empire

1920 France gets League of Nations mandate over Syria and Lebanon

1946 Independence; French troops leave. Baath Party founded in 1947

1958-61 Syria and Egypt in **United Arab Republic**, eventually repudiated by Syrian army officers.

1963 Coup gives power to Ba’ath party. Discussions about union with Iraq end after a coup against the Ba’ath Party in Iraq

1967 Syrian participation in the **Six Day war** against Israel leads to its loss of the Golan Heights

1970 Hafez Al Assad becomes president, representing military and Ba’ath, displacing the more socialist Salah Jadid

1973 Syria participates in **Yom Kippur War**

1976 Syrian troops enter Lebanon, but are seen by the Muslim Brotherhood as supporting the Christian side

1980 Unsuccessful assassination attempt at Assad. Syria backs Iran in its war with Iraq.

1981 Israel annexed Golan Heights

1982 Syria suffers losses after Israeli invasion of southern Lebanon. Government attacks Muslim Brotherhood; also bombs Hama, killing thousands.

1987 responding to international pressure, Syria closes training camps of Abu Nadal, sends troops into Lebanon.

1990 Syria expands influence in Lebanon

1991 Syria supports U.S./international side in Gulf war against Iraq

2000 **Hafez Al Assad dies**, is succeeded by his son Bashar Al Assad

2004 US imposes economic sanctions, which are subsequently increased several times

2005 After the assassination of Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik al-Hariri, in which Syrian involvement was suspected, Lebanese demonstrations lead to the withdrawal of Syria’s troops from that country.

2007 Israel bombs a site in Syria that was said to be a nuclear facility under construction – assertedly with N. Korean help

2008 Syria and Lebanon establish diplomatic relations, first time since independence

2011 Many protests against the al-Assad regime, which are met with unrestrained violence, growing into a civil war. UN resolutions condemning Syria are vetoed by Russia and China.

2012 Turkey distances itself from Syria. Brahimi appointed UN-Arab League peace envoy.

2013 Continued internal fighting. Allegations of use of chemical weapons, but these may be destroyed under US-Russia agreement.

Link to BBC Timeline: [Syria](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/country_profiles/827580.stm)