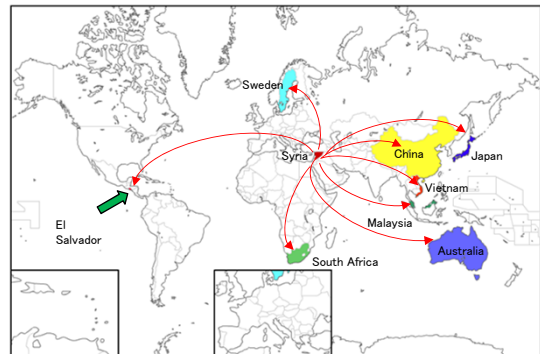


SYRIA Culture and Environment

Philip Hamoui
Nagoya University

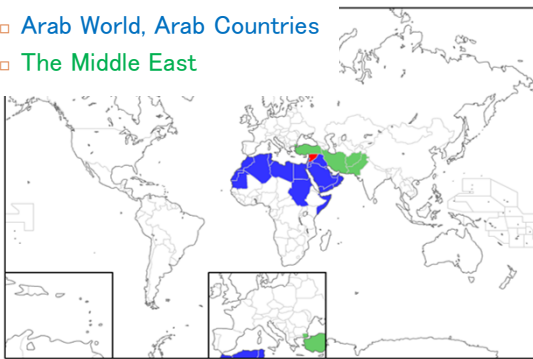
Nagoya Open University of the Environment
November, 12th, 2016

Where is Syria?!

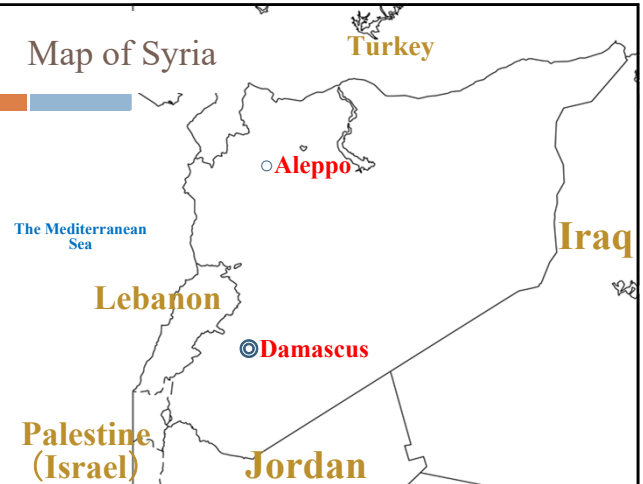


Where is Syria?!

- ▣ Arab World, Arab Countries
- ▣ The Middle East



Map of Syria



- ▣ Mesopotamia – Assyrian, Aramaic
- ▣ Romans, Persians
- ▣ Muslim Arabs
- ▣ Umayyad Caliphate
- ▣ Ottoman Empire
- ▣ French Colonization
- ▣ Dependence, 1946

Arabs, The Middle East

- ▣ What first comes to your minds when you hear these words?
- ▣ What's your assumption when you meet a person from the middle east?
- ▣ What information do you have about this region of the world? (any information is OK)

Common Stereotypes!

Deserts! Camels!



Muslims! Terrorists! Covered Women!



Common Stereotypes!

Oil! Oil! Oil!



Civil Wars!



What are the religions in Syria?

Facts – Religions



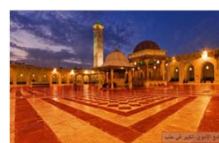
- The birthplace of Christianity
- Damascus is mentioned in the bible (Acts 9)
- Arab Christians in Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, Jordan, Palestine and Egypt.

Facts – Religions



- There were Jews in all the Arab countries before the creation of Israel.

Religious Places



What is the Language in Syria?

Languages

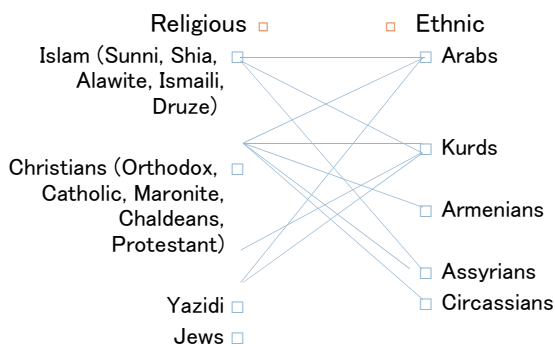
اللغة العربية

Kurdî

ܠܬܟܠ ܡܠܬܟܠܐ

հայերեն

Multiple Identities – Diversity or Contradiction?!



Multiple Identities – Diversity or Contradiction?!

- Arab – Muslim – Sunni
- Arab – Christian – Greek Orthodox
- Kurdish – Muslim – Sunni
- Kurdish – Yazidi
- Arab – Muslim – Druze
- ...
- ...

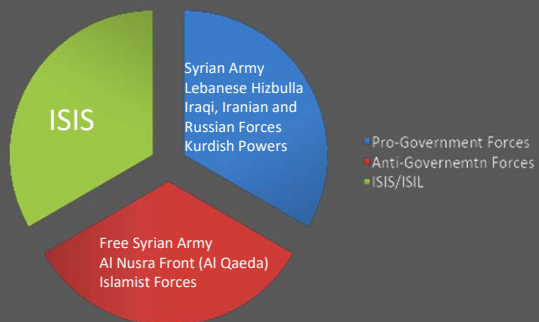
What is the current situation?

Revolution? Conspiracy?

- 15/March/2011
- Pro-Regime March
 - [Aleppo](#)
 - [Damascus](#)
- Opposition Demonstrations
 - [Aleppo University Demonstration](#)
 - [Hama Demonstration](#)



Current Situation – Fighting powers



Current Situation – Fighting powers



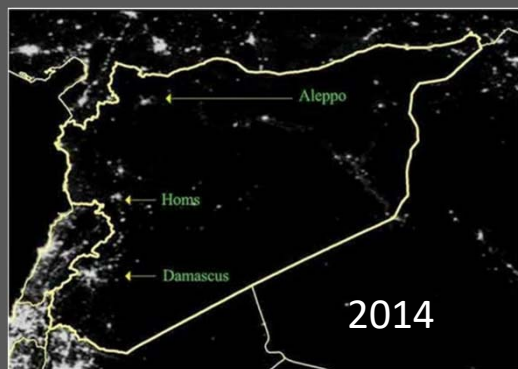
Current Situation – Infrastructure destruction



Current Situation – Infrastructure destruction

- Water pumps damaged
- Electricity power generators damaged

Current Situation – Syria at night



Revolution? Conspiracy?



Revolution? Conspiracy?

- [BBC – Aleppo – Opposition side](#)
- [CNN – Aleppo – Regime Side](#)
- It has been said that it is the most dangerous city in the world!

Heritage Loss



Aleppo Souk

Refugees Issue

- [Link](#)
- Zaatari refugee camp



Diplomatic Efforts to Solve the Issue

- Geneva Talks, 2014



Summary

- 3 years and a half of the crisis
- Estimated: +250,000 killed
- Huge destruction of infrastructure
- Huge destruction of homes
- Huge destruction of the historical places and illegal smuggling of ancient ruins and antiques
- 6 million refugees
- Immigration, both legal and illegal, and brain-drain

Questions

Thank you for
listening!