

Font-size: Print:

it to being behind Chemical Weapons Attack Syria: On Immoral Interventionism Media Truth and S

# The Lie of "Limited" War Against Syria

## Latest News / Top Stories

- Is The Western Media Promoting War on Syria?
- Syrian Rebels admit to being behind Chemical Weapons Attack
- Syria: On Immoral Interventionism
- Media Truth and Sabotage: Online Threats Directed against the Global Research Website
- The Syrian Conflict: The Lies of our Government and Corporate Media
- John Kerry on Syria : The Absurdity of Certainty. Is Washington Behind the Chemical Weapons Attack?
- An Appeal to General Dempsey on Syria
- Obama Reveals His Dictatorship: The Isolation of America

By [Shamus Cooke](#)  
Global Research, August 31, 2013

Region: Middle East & North Africa  
Theme: US NATO War Agenda  
In-depth Report: SYRIA: NATO'S NEXT WAR?

Like 95 2



*The rats are jumping ship. Obama's strongest allies can't stomach the stench of lies that are the foundation of the war effort against Syria. Even England, whose entire foreign policy is reduced to asking "how high?" when the U.S. says "jump," opted to stay grounded for Obama's war drive.*

The Arab League, too, having long been considered a puppet show by U.S. foreign policy, has cut its strings. The UN Security Council — after having learned not to trust Obama in Libya — also refuses to give permission for an attack. Which leaves France — the former colonial master of Syria — to fill England's shoes as the token "important" European nation to give the attack a thin coat of "international" support. But England's insolence will surely make an impression on the French public, who voted in a "socialist" president, presumably not to act as a warmonger.

Obama has offered zero evidence that the Syrian government is responsible for the most recent chemical weapons attack. UN investigator [Carla Del Ponte](#) [blamed the U.S.-backed rebels](#) for a previous chemical weapons attack, so if one were to presume guilt, it would flow towards the rebels.

While foreign nations instantly recognized Obama's war song as a plagiarism of President Bush's lyrics used to attack Iraq, sections of the American public have been fooled by Obama's mellowing tone. The soft, reassuring sound of "limited strikes" that will last "hours, not days" has a calming effect on the nerves of the American public, who are essentially being told that Syria needs a light slap on the wrist for being "bad," after which everything will return to normal; no U.S. troops need die. No big deal, really.

But, of course, any military action in the Middle East is a big deal. With each new war the U.S. wages in the region tensions rise, self defense preparations are made, and regional alliances are readied to act as deterrents. The nations not aligned with U.S. foreign policy — and there are many — are desperate to stop the U.S.' bloody march across the Middle East.

Americans don't understand how the Iraq war fundamentally changed the Middle East. The U.S. Government is deeply hated by the vast majority of people in the region for having destroyed Iraq, once viewed by many as a proud Arab nation. Attacking another nation in the heart of the Middle East — that millions of Arabs have an equally strong affinity for — will create massive "blowback."

No matter how "limited" the strike, bombing a foreign nation is a major act of war. In fact, after WWII the Nuremberg trial concluded that the Nazis' "supreme international crime" was not genocide or holocaust, but [waging aggressive war](#), since all other war crimes were spawned from this original sin. Of course, Obama's aggressive war plans involve more than tossing a couple of missiles at some Syrian tanks. That is why he's moved [five Navy destroyers into the region](#).

It is also presumably why — as [reported by the French daily Le Figaro](#) — hundreds U.S. Special Forces and "trained militant fighters" entered Syria on August 17.

It has widely been speculated that the real intention of attacking Syria is to prop up Obama's ailing rebels, who have received massive U.S. support in the form of guns, training, and money, for — [according to The New York Times](#) — almost two years now, and possibly longer. It's an undisputed fact that [Islamic extremists militias](#) are the most powerful fighting forces in the opposition to Assad; if he falls then they will be in power.

If only a tiny bombing campaign is launched, then it's certain that more bombings will take place at a later date because the U.S.-backed extremist rebels need much more assistance than that to have any hope of beating Assad. To change the balance of forces between Obama's essentially beaten rebels and the Syrian government will require a massive bombing campaign, along the lines of Libya.

### All Articles

### NEWS

### MOST POPULAR

#### GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS

#### THEMES

### I-BOOKS SERIES

#### IN-DEPTH REPORTS

### THE GLOBAL RESEARCH NEWS HOUR

**Global Research Newsletter:**

Become a Member of Global Research –  
Receive Free Books!

"Artworks for Peace": Support Global  
Research

Subscribe to Global Research's RSS  
Feed

## Donate to Global Research

Advanced Search

Index by Countries

Index by Author

Join us on Facebook



**Global Research (Centre for  
Research on Globalization)**

Like 23,469

Twitter: [crg\\_crm](#)

*t is worth reiterating that without the vast amount of military, financial, and diplomatic largesse the west and... <http://t.co/RdPEzNoCQE> 10:13:05 PM August 29, 2013 from Facebook*

Follow [@crg\\_crm](#) 300 followers

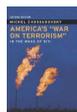
## Global Research Publishers



**Towards a World War III  
Scenario**

by **Michel Chossudovsky**

Buy Now!



**America's "War on Terrorism"**

by **Michel Chossudovsky**

Buy Now!



**Globalization of Poverty and  
the New World Order**

by **Michel Chossudovsky**

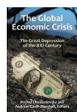
Buy Now!



**Seeds of Destruction: Hidden  
Agenda of Genetic  
Manipulation**

by **F. William Engdahl**

Buy Now!



**The Global Economic Crisis**

by **M. Chossudovsky and A. G.  
Marshall**

Buy Now!

Visit our online store

## Partner Websites

Project Censored

Stop NATO

One shouldn't forget the chain of events in Libya: After the U.S.-backed Libyan rebels were facing defeat, Obama exploited the UN's "naivety" by claiming that "immediate action" had to be taken to prevent the slaughter of thousands of Libyans. The UN stupidly agreed to a vague resolution about "protecting civilians," which Obama immediately used as a pretext to wage aggressive war and regime change, dropping thousands of bombs on Libya via fighter jets that attacked both military and civilian targets, tearing apart the nation's seams in the process. Vijay Prashad's excellent book, "*Arab Spring, Libyan Winter*" covers the conflict in depth.

After the Libyan example, the UN is immune to Obama's lies. So now the hardest part about waging war against Syria is starting it. And after the war foot is in the door, the logic of war immediately takes over, which instantly creates new, unforeseen dynamics, usually in the direction of expansion. It's very possible that this "unforeseen" element of war is exactly what Obama is planning on.

For example, any sane military analyst expects Syria to defend itself. And Syria is much more capable of doing so than Libya or Iraq were. The American public isn't prepared for this, since it essentially has been told that Syria would submissively accept its punishment, perhaps after throwing a loud tantrum.

But Syria has advanced weapons systems, and it would be perfectly legal and reasonable for Syria to defend itself by — for example, by bombing a U.S. Navy destroyer, or perhaps targeting Israel, who will certainly be involved in the assault on some level, and therefore is a legitimate military target. Israel has bombed Syria several times in the last six months.

It's very possible that Obama is trying to provoke a strong reaction from Syria to give the U.S. public a "real" reason to escalate the war. Any attack on Syria also has the possibility of bringing Iran into the conflict, since Iran and Syria have a mutual defense pact. And this may be the ultimate goal: to provoke Iran into getting involved militarily, so that the U.S. would have a justification to expand the war into Iran, which has been in the U.S. crosshairs for years.

If internationally and domestic pressure force Obama to merely launch a "symbolic" strike that Syria doesn't retaliate against, then it will be a historic humiliation for US foreign policy, showing the decline of US international power. But even a "surgical" strike sets a very dangerous precedent, opening the door wider to future strikes which will inevitably be re-opened in the near future. A weak war effort this time will make the Obama Administration all the more war hungry next time, since empires don't simply fade away into oblivion.

If Obama attacks Syria at this point, he'll have fewer allies than did Bush in Iraq. Obama, the Nobel Peace Prize winner, had the audacity to soil the ground where Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke 50 years earlier at the 1963 March on Washington; Obama sang the praises of the great peacemaker as he planned war against Syria.

Obama has very quickly ruined his integrity in Bush-like fashion. He's jailed whistle-blowers like Chelsea (formerly Bradley) Manning — whose only crime was exposing war crimes — while now preparing an even bigger war crime against Syria. His presidency is going down in flames with impressive speed, and has the potential to drag down the rest of the country. On Saturday, August 31<sup>st</sup>, there is an international day of protest against a war with Syria. A large anti-war showing in the U.S. will convince more pro-war rats to jump ship, and an especially large showing could possibly sink the war ship in one shot.

*Shamus Cooke is a social service worker, trade unionist, and writer for Workers Action ([www.workerscompass.org](http://www.workerscompass.org)). He can be reached at [shamuscooke@gmail.com](mailto:shamuscooke@gmail.com)*

## Notes

<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/08/28/world/middleeast/arab-league-rejects-attack-against-syria.html>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/middleeast/syria/10039672/UN-accuses-Syrian-rebels-of-chemical-weapons-use.html>

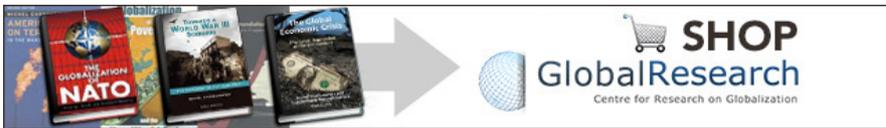
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War\\_of\\_aggression](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War_of_aggression)

<http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2013/08/29/U-S-Navy-sends-fifth-destroyer-closer-to-Syria.html>

<http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2013/08/29/U-S-Navy-sends-fifth-destroyer-closer-to-Syria.html>

[http://www.nytimes.com/2013/03/25/world/middleeast/arms-airlift-to-syrian-rebels-expands-with-cia-aid.html?hp&\\_r=1&](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/03/25/world/middleeast/arms-airlift-to-syrian-rebels-expands-with-cia-aid.html?hp&_r=1&)

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2013/may/06/syria-israel-bombing-moral-relativism>



Like 95 2

Articles by:  
**Shamus Cooke**  
 Frequent Contributor

**Related content:**

**Iran Urges West to Avoid Interference in Syria: "If pressures mount on Syria, Middle-East will move towards a devastating war"**

TEHRAN: Iran on Tuesday called on the western countries, specially the US, to keep out of the Syrian issue, and asked the regional states to help the government in Damascus to settle its internal problems. "The important point is cooperation..."

**Bush Official: Syria Chemical Weapons Attack Could Be "Israeli False Flag Operation"**

Hawks Desperate to Drum Up an Excuse for War It is likely that Al Qaeda rebels – and not the Syrian government – carried out the chemical weapons attack which the hawks in Washington are trying to use as a...

**Americans Strongly Oppose U.S. Intervention In Syria**

The Gruesome Pictures Out of Syria May Actually Be Hardening Many Americans' Resolve Not To Get Involved In Another Conflict In the Middle East A new Reuters/Ipsos poll finds: Americans strongly oppose U.S. intervention in Syria's civil war and believe...

**Should We Invade Syria? Obama and U.S. Military Divided Over Syria**

Has Syria crossed the "red line" that warrants a U.S. military invasion? Has it not? The political establishment in the United States seems at odds over itself. Obama's government cannot speak with one voice on the issue, and the U.S....

Disclaimer: The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Center of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post original Global Research articles on community internet sites as long as the text & title are not modified. The source and the author's copyright must be displayed. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: [publications@globalresearch.ca](mailto:publications@globalresearch.ca)

[www.globalresearch.ca](http://www.globalresearch.ca) contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: [publications@globalresearch.ca](mailto:publications@globalresearch.ca)

Copyright © Shamus Cooke, Global Research, 2013

- English Français
- Español Italiano
- Deutsch Português
- srpski العربية

- Global Research News**
- I-BOOKS SERIES**
- Countries Index**
- Authors Index**
- Most Popular**
- Links**
- Contact**
- Membership**
- Online Store**

**Themes**

- US NATO War Agenda
- Global Economy
- Crimes against Humanity
- Militarization and WMD
- Law and Justice
- Police State & Civil Rights
- Culture, Society & History
- 9/11 & 'War on Terrorism'
- Media Disinformation
- Militarization and WMD
- Oil and Energy
- Police State & Civil Rights
- Politics and Religion
- Poverty & Social Inequality
- Science and Medicine
- United Nations
- US NATO War Agenda
- Women's Rights

**Geographic Regions**

- USA
- Canada
- Middle East & North Africa
- Latin America & Caribbean
- Europe
- sub-Saharan Africa
- Russia and FSU
- Asia
- Oceania

[Privacy Policy](#) Copyright © 2005-2013 GlobalResearch.ca