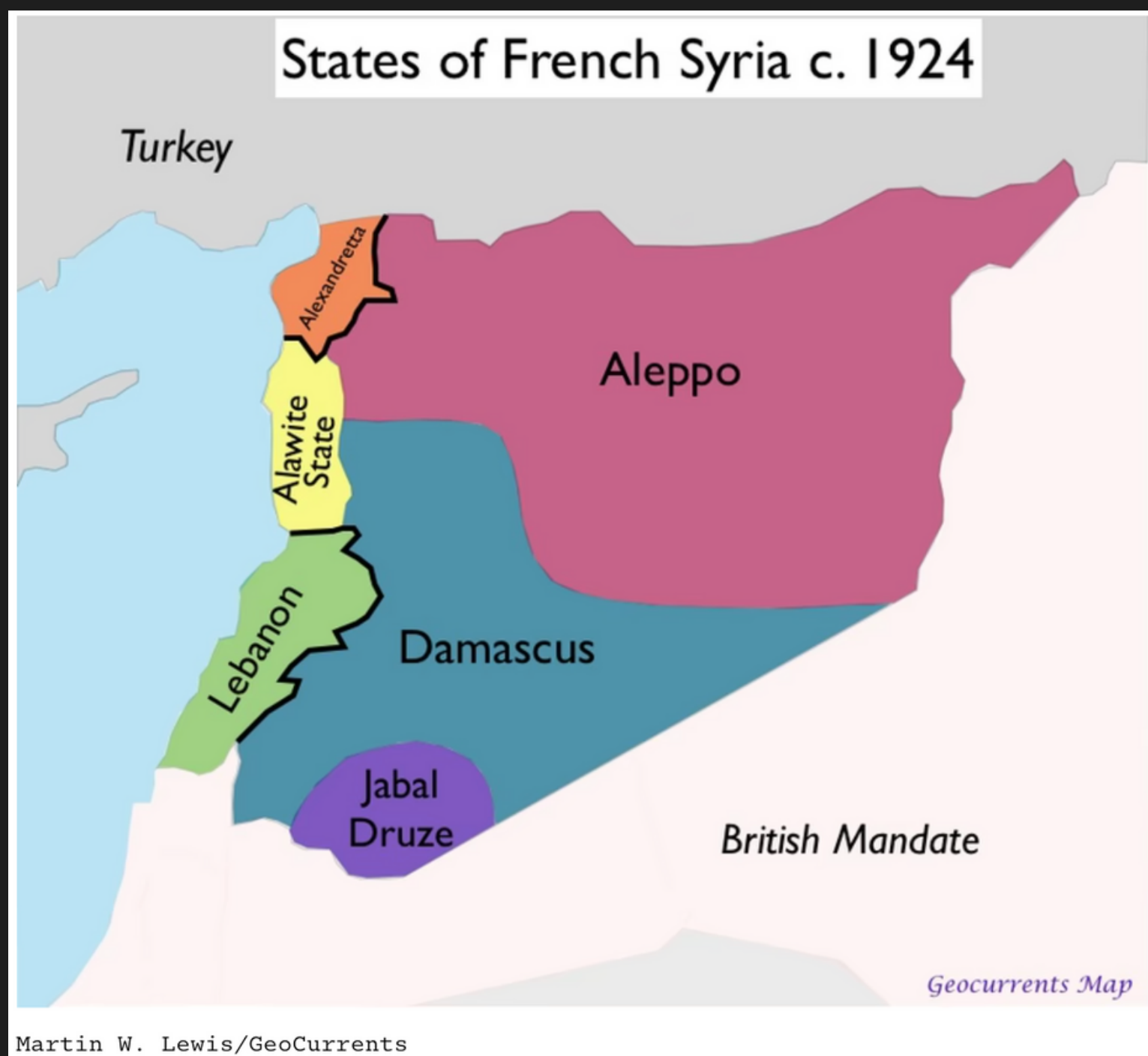


FOR SAMA| FILM SCREENING



# Understanding Syria

# French Syria



Syria gained independence from the French occupation in 1946 after a 20-year long struggle against repression of revolutions and the independence movement.

Women had a central role in the independence movement, and remained politically active in the decades that followed until the political space was shut by the end of 1970s by the militarised



## 2006-2011

Four years of devastating drought beginning in 2006 caused at least 800,000 farmers to lose their entire livelihood and about 200,000 simply abandoned their lands. Politically, they triggered **the civil war**.



# The Arab Spring

Eleven years ago, revolts, anti-government protests, uprisings, and armed rebellions spread like wildfire across the Arab world.

## Tunisia



Source: AP Photo, 2011

## Egypt



Source: Reuters, 2011

## Libya



Source: Reuters, 2011

## Bahrain



Source: AP Photo, 2011



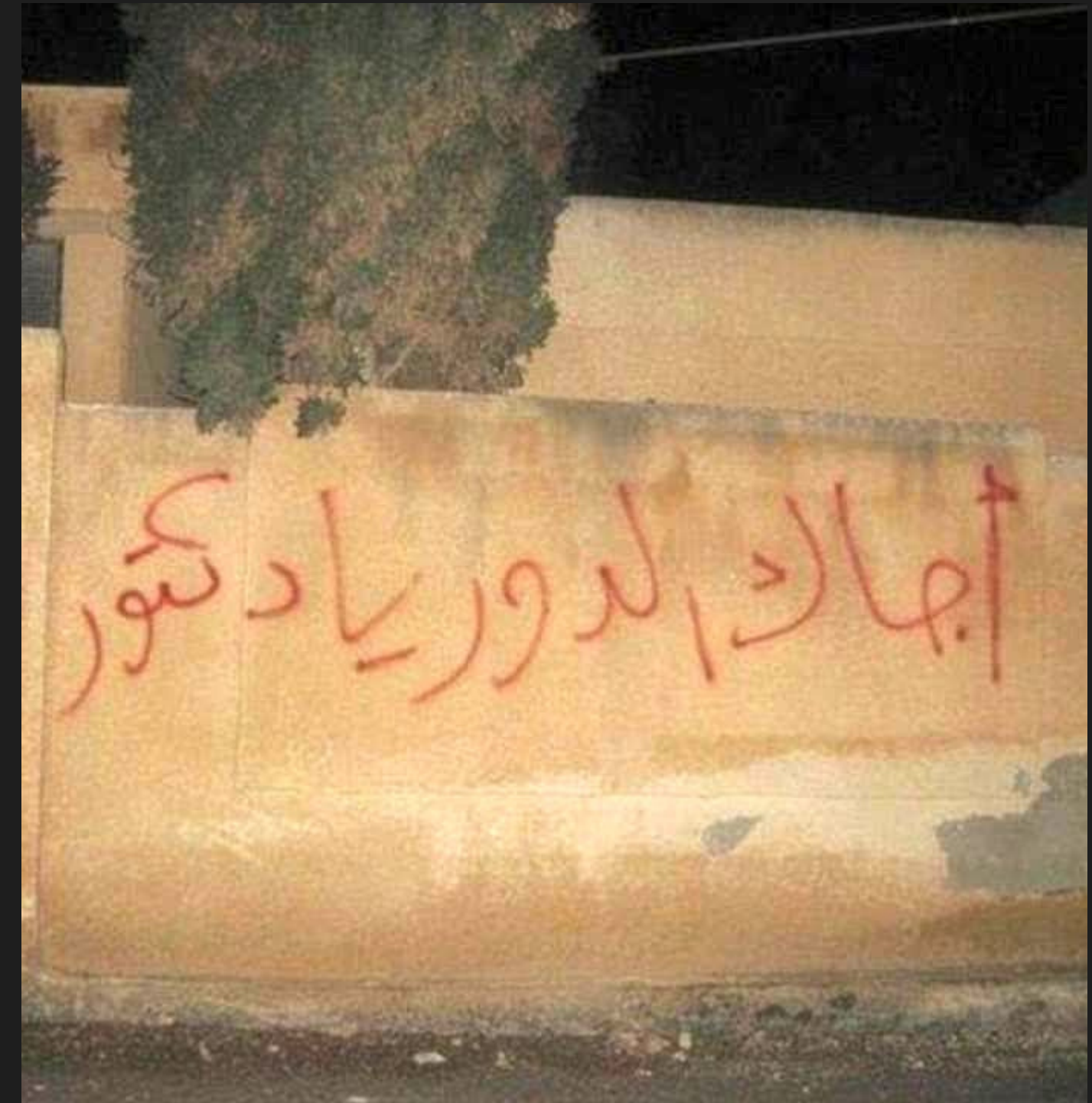
# The Revolutionary Art At The Heart Of Syria's Uprising

At least 15 teenage boys were arrested because of graffiti spray-painted on a high school wall with revolutionary slogans:

"The people want the fall of the regime" and "Your turn is coming, doctor," which became the epicenter of the Syrian war. The graffiti was encouraged by the anti-regime uprisings taking place at the time in Tunisia and Egypt.

The outrage over their confinement and mistreatment rippled across the country in March 2011.

For many, the story of the war began in Dara'a.





# The Battle of Aleppo



2011: VIOLENCE BREAKS OUT IN SYRIA  
AFTER GOVERNMENT CRACKS DOWN  
ON PRO-REFORM PROTESTS



2014: REBELS AND  
GOVERNMENT CONSOLIDATE  
POSITIONS IN ALEPPO



2012: REBELS TAKE PARTS OF  
ALEPPO CITY



2015: BIG REBEL GAINS, RUSSIA  
INTERVENES



2013: REBEL GAINS CUT  
ALEPPO-DAMASCUS HIGHWAY



2016: THE SIEGE AND  
BOMBARDMENT OF EAST  
ALEPPO

The government forces defeated the rebels in Aleppo and announced on 22 December, 2016 that they had taken back control of the city. It was a significant moment in the Syrian civil war as it gave them control over Syria's four largest cities.



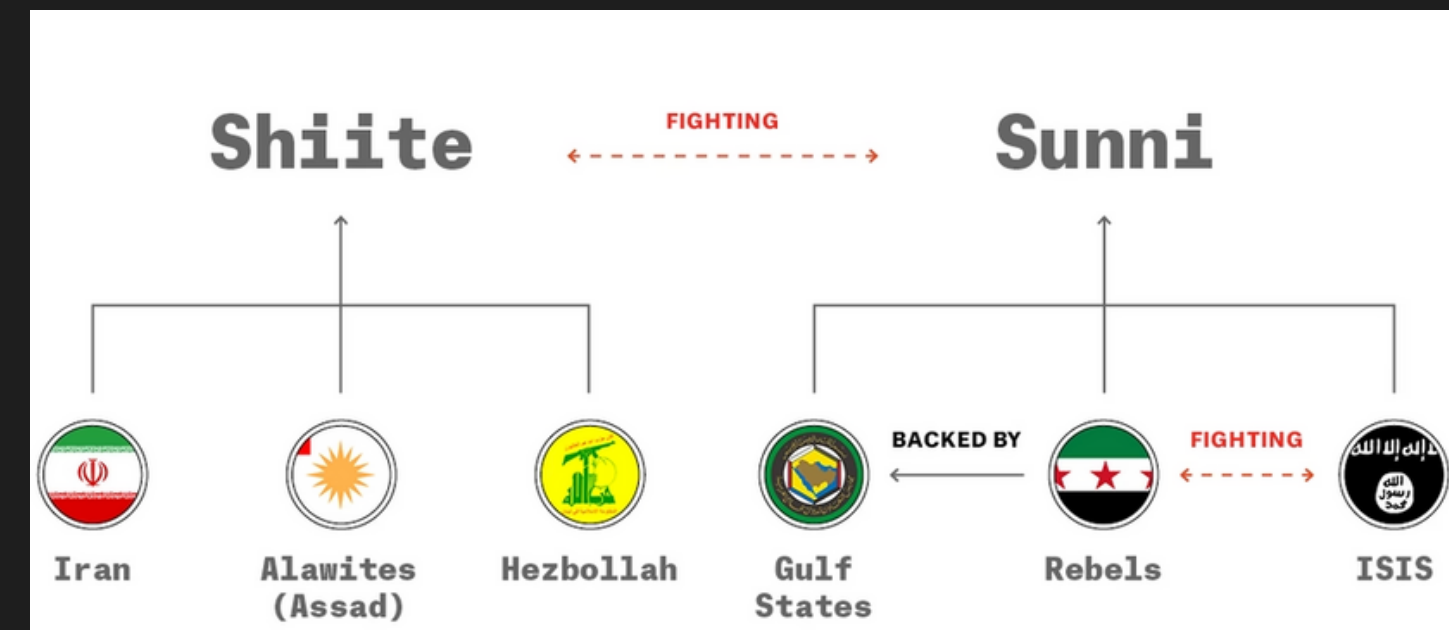
# Civil War



# Proxy War



# Sectarian War



# The Politics of Spectacle and Gaze



In 2015, the world was momentarily aghast when pictures of the body of Alan Kurdi, a 3-year-old boy who drowned in the Mediterranean and then washed up on a Turkish shore, went viral. The images of Kurdi, who was from Kobani, Syria, and died with his mother and brother while trying to make the perilous journey from Turkey to a Greek island, forced the world to confront the reality of the humanitarian crisis. Politicians in the West were briefly held to account for refugee policies that had failed to respond adequately to the crisis

Similarly, in 2016, Omar Daqneesh was another Syrian boy who became the image of Civil War after getting injured in a Russian airstrike on Aleppo.





# The Cost of War

A decade after the first shots were fired, cities are in ruins, over half a million Syrians have died, and more than ten million have been displaced. As per estimates, the war has cost Syria upwards of \$150 billion. More than 2 million people have fled abroad while more than 6.6 million are internal refugees, remaining in Syria.

Nobody really knows how many people are languishing in the Syrian government's secret prisons, but some observers estimate that hundreds of thousands may have been detained or disappeared in these human slaughterhouses.

Forty percent of the country's infrastructure has been destroyed. And people have been doubly, triply, multitudinously displaced, entire cities razed, neighborhoods engulfed in flames and flattened to rubble.



# Women of Syria

Both the scale of violence and the multiplicity of actors has exposed Syrian women and girls to a wide spectrum of violence, including kidnapping, forced disappearance of women political activists and female members of families of male activists, executions, rape and other sexual violence, torture, enslavement, forced recruitment by militias, forced detention and denial of fair trials.

