

# Va t-on vers une partition de la Syrie ?

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**The impossible partition of Syria**  
Mustafa Khalifa

The idea of a partition of Syria along sectarian boundaries has been circulating among pro-government circles, reaching the ears of Western commentators, as a way to partially save the Syrian regime, reduce pressure and protect the Islamic identity from a feared Sunni victory. However, the historical, economic, political and, above all, the demographic reality of Syria and those of the neighboring countries indicate that such a solution would lead to a disaster. The ethnic and sectarian composition of the Syrian society and the distribution of the population across the country make the partition of the country impossible. A partition would not only fail to reduce pressure but it will also be a danger for the stability of neighboring countries. Mustafa Khalifa demonstrates the through a mapping of the ethnic and sectarian composition of the different urban and rural areas of the country. This mapping is methodically developed and based on information due to the unavailability of reliable statistics. It provides nevertheless an important contribution to the knowledge about Syria and policy circles need to have when discussing the future of the country.

Syrian society is unique in its diversity, with some ethnic, religious and sectarian communities groups. In this respect it is equalled in the Arab world only by its neighbor Lebanon, which has evolved in similar conditions and with which it has an extremely shared history. After the beginning of the Syrian revolution in March 2011, with peaceful protests turning into an armed struggle between Bashar al Assad's regime and the different opposition groups, the issue of the continuation of Syria's unity was raised loudly, vigorously and unanimously. This issue was raised not only for its own sake, but also because of the need to understand the reasons of the conflict with opposition forces, along with a number of other questions. To illustrate, the report is based on a methodological survey on Syria:

1. The diversity of ethnic, religious and sectarian communities in Syria.
2. The diversity of the ethnic groups and apparent impossibility of a decisive military victory by either side. There is a possibility that the conflict may evolve into a long-standing one.

\* Mustafa Khalifa is author of *The State* (2007). Mustafa Khalifa spent over 32 years in the prison of the Syrian regime for his political activities as a member of the Syrian opposition in the regime of Bashar al Assad.

**A** lors que les différents États impliqués militairement dans la guerre en Syrie se retirent un à un laissant seuls, face à face, les États-Unis et la Russie, plusieurs publications s'interrogent sur les projets de partition du pays.

- Dans *L'Impossible partition de la Syrie*, Mustafa Khalifa expose pour l'Arab Reform

Initiative les divisions ethnico-religieuses du pays et l'impossibilité, compte tenu du mélange des populations, de les transcrire dans l'espace. En outre, il souligne que les projets qui ont été évoqués ne sont pas viables économiquement pour toutes les parties à la fois.

Cette étude, clairement documentée même si elle attribue les plans de partition en se référant à la propagande de l'Otan, a été financée par le département d'État. Elle devrait servir aux États-Unis pour récuser cette option à Genève 2.

- Dans *Démembrer la Syrie*, Gary Gambill, expose le point de vue israélien pour le Foreign Policy Research Institute. Selon lui, certes la répartition de la population est aujourd'hui un obstacle à la partition, mais celle-ci serait de nature à stabiliser la paix. En effet, elle donnerait à chaque camp sa victoire. Reste donc à déplacer les populations, ce qui ne semble pas gêner l'auteur.

*The impossible partition of Syria*, par Mustafa Khalifa, Arab Reform Initiative, octobre 2013, 13 p.

*Partitioning Syria*, par Gary Gambill, Foreign Policy Research Institute, octobre 2013, 3 p.

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[www.voltairenet.org/article180938.html](http://www.voltairenet.org/article180938.html)