



Syria, Trump's Tutor



Donald Trump became President of the United States promising to NOT get involved in Syria, and more broadly in the Middle East, and even more broadly in the affairs of the World. He thought all of that was a colossal waste of time for the U.S., and even worse, a tremendous waste of tax payer's money.

Donald Trump berated President Obama relentlessly, as well as the previous Presidents, for playing the leaders of the World, when according to him they should have only concentrated on America and its problems, and not the problems of the World. In fact just lately he proudly stated (with the smug expression of the ignorant only he can muster) that he 'only wanted to be the President of America, not the President of the World'. Well, the World gate-crashed Trump's insular myopic world and America is trying to lead again, and it's a 'comical affair' with an ill-prepared cast.

As President of the United States, ignorance about global realities have a way of making you look ignorant really fast. That is the early point in re-education where Trump finds himself now (not that he realizes it). Everything that Trump has done so far, in National (Immigration – Refugee, Healthcare Reform), International policy ('One China', Taiwan), to try and look as decisive and 'Supra-Presidential' as possible, has back fired so far.

But 'American Foreign Policy' faux pas can have grave and far reaching consequences not only for America, but also for the entire World, and he never got that, as he focused on winning over the less informed, for quick political payoffs.

Events in North Korea and Syria quickly dispelled any notions of quiet isolation for the President of the United States, or for the Country for that matter, and forced Trump and his equally ignorant and inexperienced inside circle, and some advisors, like Tillerson and Nikki Haley, to scramble and try and come up with a foreign policy on the fly, and they did not disappoint as they showed their ignorance and confusion with their wildly differing versions of the 'President's Foreign Policy'.

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Trump won the Presidency on making naïve and ignorant statements that to a large portion of his equally ignorant support base sounded really terrific. Statements that made them feel he was going to exclusively focus on them - and them alone. Apart from the fact that he is only partially focused on them, and his proposed policies so far (healthcare and tax reform) have hugely favored the rich, he has been trying to make some of his well known promises come to pass, with significant setbacks and monumental fails.

Now, events in the greater World are starting to push-in on him and his team. And they, except for the Generals, (and generally Generals are not good at political policy, refer to most Military run countries), are not well informed and are reacting to fast moving circumstances that are riddled with international political complexities.

Syria is a big problem for the West, the Sunni Muslim Middle East, and particularly for Trump.



The problem for both is that Syria is backed by Russia, and Putin has invested a lot of political capital in reinstating Bashar Al-Assad (a Shia sect ruler), from the brink of defeat to major victories against the Western backed (Sunni) 'rebels', with the help of Shia Iran.

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Syria is the only real foothold that Russia has in the Middle East, and its only naval base in the Mediterranean is there. From Syria, Russia is projecting influence into North Africa - Libya, Tunisia, etc., and the rest of the Middle East, including Iran. In fact, all oil producing countries of the Middle East.

Plus, the removal of Assad, as the West, and now the U.S. all of a sudden wants, nullifies the huge international Russian victory that Putin just won a few months ago. That major international victory, after the annexure of Crimea, upped his already high approval rating in Russia, considerably.

And these 'victories', in the eyes of the hard pressed Russians, were a restoration of some of Russia's old 'Super Power' status and thus a great point of pride. And they love Putin for it.

Asking Putin and Russia to abandon Assad now and 'give-in' to the pressure from the West, would be tantamount to capitulating all of Russia's recent 'political influence' gains with the International community, in the eyes of the Russian people. It would not stand to reason that Putin will be willing to do that unless the West brought unbearable pressure on Russia, which is not happening at this time, as greater sanctions are not being favored by the EU countries, or America for that matter.

And therein lies Trump's dilemma. Trump has acted 'Presidential' again since his speech to the Joint Congressional Houses, and in a cynically calculated political move (Syria has gassed Syrian civilians before but that didn't bother Trump much) bombed a 'Russian political asset'. That is a bold hasty gambol that may misfire on his constant search to look Presidential, when Putin reacts negatively to demands to abandon Assad.