

## SYRIAN CRISIS AND ITS IMPACTS ON MIDDLE EAST'S COLLECTIVE SECURITY

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**Abstract:** *Civilization begins with order, grows with liberty, and dies with chaos” were the words of Will Durant about birth and death of civilizations. Syria, which was once part of Mesopotamia (Fertile Crescent) and was a cradle of civilization, is suffering an unending and irreparable crisis, disrupting the collective security of Middle East. Syria proved to be a battlefield for world powers and Satellite states. United states and Russia tested their might on one side, whereas Iran, Israel, turkey and Saudi Arabia examined their abilities on other side of ground. The multiplicity of actors shows the growing strategic regional importance, but cuts the chances for sustaining collective security. The paper argues that apart from its devastating impact on Syria’s socio-political and economic condition, the crisis has shaken the entire region. This study will also deal the security dilemma created in the host countries and will evaluate the average entropy, chaos and disorder in host machinery as caused due to social assertion of refuge population in their sociopolitical habitat Henry Kissinger cited that “you can’t make a war in Middle East without Egypt and you can’t make peace without Syria” seems to be applicable, as absolute harmony of Middle East demands resolution of Syrian crises in its true spirits.*

**Keywords:** structural imperialism, social and political effects, economic Impacts

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**Prologue: “Are Syrian crisis a practical manifestation of Butterfly effect?”**

*Chaos theory*, that revolves around famous butterfly effect shows that “*flipping wings of butterfly can cause huge hurricanes or small causes may have large effects*”. Middle East also faced the same phenomena. Eight year ago, the new wave of Arab spring was expected to bring an optimistic layer across the middle east. “Massive public protest was held out that were supposed to nip the buds of existing social order and gift a new social paradigm with its basis on progression and social development. These riots destroyed the authoritarian regimes and marked the death of Middle East exceptionalism.”<sup>1</sup> However, such socio-political mutation was for short term and timely, though the long-term impacts of small such small causes were immense and paradoxical. Thus, instead of everlasting peace and tranquility, it resulted in an intense violence, large-scale human migrations, internal displacements and destruction of production facilities and collective infrastructure. People paid great collateral damages and huge cost of human conflicts, which in many state resulted in paralysis of state operational machinery. Crises after Arab spring spread like wild fire and many were marked as failed states.

Like other Middle Eastern countries, the crises in Syria erupted with antigovernment protest and then hijacked the state body, after Assad regime broke the promise of reformations. The growing pace of tension was beyond imaginations and was so decorator that it attracted multiple actors. The geo-political positioning of this country compelled various key players to deepen their roots, so to control the whole region from that pivot. With various players playing a game, and trying to pursue their interests resulted in an unending warfare, being active till this day. Warfare around the world always resulted a massive exodus and everlasting miseries for common civilian. Globally, according to United Nations High Commissioner for Refugee reports of June 2017, there exist nearly 65.5 million forcibly displaced people around the world. More than 22.5 million people have the refugee’s status and around 10 million people are regarded to be stateless people. The Syrian dilemma made Syria as a second largest supplier of refugees. According to UNHCR united nations refugee committee, latest survey of December 2017, over 5.5 people have fled Syria since 2011 and more than 6.1 million is internally displaced in Syria.

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<sup>1</sup> Larbi Sadiki, ed., *Routledge Handbook of the Arab Spring. Rethinking Democratization* (New York: Routledge, 2015), 33.

This survey also shows that approximately 2.98 million people are expected to be in hard to reach areas. The refugee burden is divided among the neighbors, whereas according to UNHCR survey 2017, Turkey with 3.3 million holds the largest number, Lebanon (1 million), Jordan (655 496), and Iraq inhibits 246000 refugees. According to this report large number of Syrian refugees in these countries live in urban areas, and only 8% are accommodated in refugee camps. Millions of the refugees, according to UNHCR the UN refugee agency recent reports, live below the poverty line, struggling for self-survival and basic humanitarian necessities. According to same reports, in Jordan 93 % of these refugees live below the poverty line. Those who crossed the poverty lines are 70 % in Lebanon, 65% in Egypt, and 37% in Iraq. The overall statistics depicts that refugees are facing miserable living standards. While displaced with empty hands, their financial framework destroyed, these refugees are facing unemployment, child labor and other human abuses. Being compare to host communities, unemployment rates are documented to be much higher for refugees. This financial pressure and lack of resources have pushed more than half of refugee children away from schools and pulled them to workshops and other working centers. With socioeconomic miseries at side, psychological vulnerabilities have also been documented with more refugees under the shades of stress, depression and disorder. According to research, the frequency post-traumatic stress disorder Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder in Syrian refugees was 33%, while the probability was above 70%.<sup>2</sup> In case of Lebanon, the life time prevalence of this disorder was 35.4% and point prevalence was 27.2%.<sup>3</sup>

As per UNHCR 2017 survey, more than 28300 people per day are forced to flee due to conflicts and crises. More than 30% are hosted in Africa, 26% in Middle East, 17% in Europe, 16% in America and 11% in Asia and Pacific. These refugee mass puts heavy pressure on public infrastructure and services sectors of the host society. They sometimes result in collapsing and paralyzing the host machinery and distorts the sociopolitical ecosystem.

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<sup>2</sup> Gokey Alpak, Ahmet Unal, Feridun Bulbul, Haluk A Savas, "Post Traumatic Stress disorder among Syrian refugees in Turkey: A cross sectional study." *International journal of psychiatry in clinical practice* 19(1) (2014) 1.DOI: 10.3109/136551501.2014961930.

<sup>3</sup> Francois Kazor, Nada R. Zahredinne, Sami Richa, Ramzi Haddad, Mustafa A. Almustafa and Michel Soufia, "Post traumatic stress disorder in a sample of Syrian refugees in Lebanon." *ELSEVIER Comprehensive psychiatry* 72 (2017),41-47. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.comppsy.2016.09.007>

Middle East faced turmoil, instability and chaos and civil wars characterized with displacement, fail governments and growth of terrorist networks, something that once was a problem of few became a problem for many (Chelsea Marie Baltes 2016). Since Independence from France in 1946, Syria faced a lot of political disorders (Janis Berzins 2013). Though, the recent crises in Syria are the greatest human disaster ever the world faced (Peter Seeberg 2017). In last decade and half, 40% of the world civil wars started in Middle East and North Africa (Elena Ianchovichina 2016). The main factor of that cause was an “*institutional bottleneck or institutional deficiencies*” (Rabie Nasser, Zaki Mehchy and Khalid Abu Ismail 2013). During first three years of warfare, more than 16% decline occurred in Syrian economic output (Ianchovichina and Ivanic 2016).

The domestic management issues in Syria expanded to be violent, erupted the regional sectarian, that reshaped Middle East, this civil taken the shape of larger conflict, that embroil the whole Arab World (Kristen L. Davis 2015). Tension grown up beyond Syrian border and resulted in regional conflagration (Daniel Levy and Julien Barnes 2013). The war in Syria became a proxy war instigated through civil war (CHATAM house Royal institute of international affairs 2014). The population force placed enormous strain on neighbors and divided the society regionally (Project on Middle East Political Science POMEPS 2017). Flow of Refugees, spread of militancy and economic deadlock were the three-direct spillover of such Crises on its immediate neighbors (Julien Barnes-Dacey 2016). The pre-existing social, political and economic pressures in the neighboring countries ascended with the influx of Syrian refugees, with different political sides and sectarian affiliations (Jane Kinninmont 2014).

"The Syrian crises shows a new amalgam of humanitarian and security concerns, showing the dual dimensions of the conflict, whereby humanitarian crises perpetuated by civil war is causing generational global security crises (Qatar International academy for security studies 2017)." Syrian crises are an extraordinary complex relationship between belligerent actors, which make it difficult to resolve, however international community agree that such catastrophe can't be settled militarily (Joelle Garriaud-Maylam 2017). The Islamic States and Nusra Front, an inside player, seeking for Caliphate and Kurds seeking autonomous state, while the external actors were US, Russia, Iran, Lebanon Hezbollah, Turkey and Saudi Arabia (Scot Lucas 2016). The countering ISIS strategy operated with “by, with and through” local actors

initiated by president Obama and modified by Trump administration (Carla E Humud, Christopher Blanchard and Mary Nikitin 2018). Authoritarian regimes result in exploiting, mobilizing and militarizing cleavages in a society, thus such setups must be addressed and resolved (Heiko Wimmen 2016).

This paper will deal the security dilemma created in the host countries and will evaluate the average entropy, chaos and disorder in host machinery as caused due to social assertion of refuge population in their sociopolitical habitat. Syrian crises are regarded to be security quagmire dismantling Syria's national security. Regional security of the middle east is also at alarming point. Collective vulnerabilities are contributing to build an instability pyramid in the middle east and then spread out into the neighboring regions. Since its eruption in 2011, the crises have got massive heed recently due to its sporadic spreading. Unlikely many states, after Arab spring, Syria followed a unique path, as single environment providing multiple options, ranging from war based economy to sectarianism, thus attracting many actors to its lap. According to statistics, before eruption of crises, Syria in 2010 was placed at 49<sup>th</sup> out 177<sup>th</sup> fragile states, however, the research conducted by Institute for Peace in 2014, placed Syria as a 15<sup>th</sup> fragile nation, at high alert of state failure.<sup>4</sup>

The Syrian threat is considered extra geographical and many at middle east take it as a bolt on their social order. Kristine Davis in her research paper, "the expanding nature of Syrian civil war: from poor policy to regional conflict" declare that Syria crises has not only the potential to change the regime, but have reshape the Arab world entirely, thus holds out butterfly effect.

### **Syrian Crises as cause of Cause of regional Political Insecurity: "*A structural imperialism?*"**

*John Galtung*, a political scientist who presented the structural theory of imperialism concluded that the new postmodern imperialistic powers use structures, which are soft and intangible. He observed the harmony and disharmony of relations between core and periphery and evaluated the ways in which periphery submit itself to the core. Crises in Middle East goes down to Arab Spring, where large actors generated pressurized and interest groups, that deteriorated security situations and further escalations thrown back middle east again towards

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<sup>4</sup> K. Lawrence "Most Worsened Country for 2014: Syria," The Fund for Peace, June 2014, <http://library.fundforpeace.org/fsi14-syria>

black clouds of neo imperialism. Syrian crises invisibly took the whole region and ruptured the sovereignty of nearest state fragile. The political insecurity may be due to:

**Regional sovereignty under Anvil and Hammer:** Sun Tzu, in *Art of war* says that “*there is no instance of a nation benefiting from prolonged warfare*”. This crisis is a possible threat for paralysis of regional sovereignty. The sovereignty principle not only specify the position of who to be regarded as a refugee, but also upheld the nation state identity linked to the refugees. Refugees movement is seen to be thinning the sovereignty of the host countries and make them vulnerable to sovereignty rupture. Distribution of refugees at global levels shows that developing and underdeveloped countries in the Global South host 86% of total world’s refugees (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugee 2014). The wealthier states in the Global North (GN) locate less than 1% percent of all refugees. Rather than giving practical space to refugees, the donations from big hegemonic power is taken as bargaining cheap for rooting their influence in the host countries. The top donor states, recorded in 2016 were United States (1,493,799,619 USD), the European Union (341,606,227 USD) and Germany (283,888,027 USD). Refugees being labeled as “traded,” the hegemonic state pursue structural inequality and putt down refugee burden on nascent state. The division of labor between states is called the “grand compromise,” where hegemon creatively destroy the existing structures and deepen an influence in the region. Porous borders and involvement of international players results at decline of host sovereignty. Such worldly donors are regarded as “surrogate states”.

**Thinness of Jordanian Sovereignty:** Among various hosts, Jordan feel itself to be in great danger because of refugee movement and permeable borders. As per July 2016, there were more than 85000 Syrian refugees at Jordan Syrian border, which Jordan partake as a primary threat to its sovereignty and social security. Jordan accepted refugees from many countries, like Palestine, Iraq and Syria, so gaining status of one of ten refugees hosting country per UNHCR 2015 survey.

In 2015, Jordan was the top country of UNHCR resettlement operations with 24,374 refugees. For over seventy years, Jordan has hosted displaced people from Palestine, Iraq, and Syria, to name the most prominent waves of refugees. While Jordan’s status as a major refugee host state is internationally recognized by state and UN leaders.

In February 2016, King Abdullah, while interviewing with BBC predicted the shocks to Jordan security and sovereignty due to massive acceptance of refugees. He said that *“There is a pressure from the international community to let them in, but we are saying to everybody, this is a major national security problem for all of us”*. Jordan also demanded the international community that besides being having status of “first settlement for refugees” Jordan must be given status of “buffer zone” as like turkey, so that state sovereignty may not be jeopardized.

**Iraq and Lebanon’s sovereignty as a Black hole:** Iraq’s state sovereignty was at cost due to ISIL and number of refugees, who were operating as slipper cells. According to 2014 survey, more than 6 to 10 million people were under influence of ISIS, holding 126 key places in Syria and Iraq. Syrian crises divided the area on sectarian lines, where most people of Salafi school of thought were considered a threat in Lebanon, a country with 18 official religious sects. It was also predicted that ISIS will cross the border of Jordan and Syrian crises will be instigated as new wave. There crises spread directly from Syria to Lebanon. Hezbollah movement has attacked several Shia areas in Syria and Lebanon. Nusra Front also has led several attacks in Lebanon, thus disrupting its sovereignty.

**Protests and riots in camps:** Near Martin Luther King JR, *“Riots is the language of unheard”* but these protests can cause political disruption of social security. Refugees, generally have less influence in the formal political system of the host countries. With having no say in system and facing multiple miseries, refugee gather a stockpile of informal leaders and regulate protests, riots, strikes and boycotts. These demonstrations may result in green future for protest on one hand, but is a threat to host countries, as it may result in massive violence, civil disobedience and sometimes may challenge the state writ. Here few examples are taken for consideration.

**Jordan’s Za’atari camp:** This camp was open for refugees in July 2012, when Jordan government decided to accept refugees. The camp humanitarian needs were fulfilled by international NGOs and local Jordanian Hashemite Charity Organization (JHCO). After few months, figures that were key and notables in Syria appeared, and organized a pressurize group. They build power inside and out of their camp by operating smuggling operations. Just within first three months of camp opening, those figures developed an informal governance. These

figures were named as “streets leaders and district leaders”.<sup>5</sup> It is reported, that such leadership organized massive escalations. Studies of the Camp Management Committee (2103-14) shows that for they either targeted Jordanian security forces based in camps or the humanitarian agencies. Studies conducted by UNHCR field safety unit (Jordan) shows that Za’atari camp proved havoc for Jordan security in 2103-14, due to huge sit ins and protests.

**Lebanon Refugee Camps and settlement:** Lebanon, for its proper security have placed Syrian refugees in clusters of less than thousand people in vacant rural vicinities. This division have reduced the chances of massive refugee escalation across Lebanon. However, data highlights that just within three years (2104-17), there took place 18 different incidents of contention which had somewhat linkages with the nearby refugee settlements.<sup>6</sup> In places like Aarsal and Akkar, there exist large refugee settlements which seem to be great threat for Lebanon security situations.

**Turkey refugee camp:** With having more than 3.3 million refugees, there are 25 camps for them in turkey. Avoiding foreign influence, Turkey refused to take humanitarian aids from external donors (UN and INGOs). With no external agents, the freedom of speech inside the camp is restricted and their social life is watched by heavy deployed forces. Besides, all limitations, refugees in turkey could manage few protests, after which their leaders were thrown out of turkey.

### **Social insecurity: “Middle East as a new panopticon?” or “Tragedy of common”**

*Jeremy Bentham*, A political philosopher designed Panopticon, a structure that was used to ensure collective surveillance and whereby each moment of all actors was in control. Middle East something seems to be a panopticon being developed by larger power, but is this panopticon ensuring the collective security of inhabitants is still a question mark. The disrupting situation shows that “*tragedy of commons*” a theory presented by Foster Lloyd holds, as each actor is pursuing its own interest at the stake of overexploiting others. Syrian crises saw many actors benefiting themselves at the cost of diminishing security and survival for other. Here following indicators have been considered and is shown social security of the region is at stake:

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<sup>5</sup> Killian Clarke, Protests and informal leadership in Syrian refugee camps: “*refugee and migration movement in the middle east: project on middle east political science*” 25(2017). 16-22. <https://pomeps.org/2017/03/29/protest-and-informal-leadership-in-syrian-refugee-camps/>

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

**Education:** Besides necessities and humanitarian needs, getting education is also a big problem for Syrian refugees. Syrian educational structures have completely been destroyed and the youth future is in dark. As per March 2017, more than 1.7 million Syrian children were not enrolled in schools within Syria<sup>7</sup>. It has also been noted that, since 2011, more than six thousand schools in Syria were destroyed in the ongoing war<sup>8</sup>. Survey shows that due to the crises one in every three school is demolished and unsuitable to be used. The general literacy rate, as per UNICEF data, from 2008 to 2012 is declared to be 96.4%, however, the current crises changed the scenario where more than 530,000 Syrian refugee children have no access to primary education.

The refugees count a special burden on every sphere of life. In host countries, their immense weight proved to be hard on the existing infrastructure. Each host country developed a special plan for refugee education, which worked out but didn't get success to enroll the whole mass of refugee children. Lebanon, turkey, Iraq and Jordan devised such plans, but these efforts didn't channelize the whole population. Lebanese government in 2014 adopted "reaching all children with education" or RACE program through which only 41% refugee children were enrolled. Those out of school contribute nothing constructive and is a source of enhancing child labor and unemployment rates.

Syrian education system was jeopardized by ISIS, where children which were once trained by ISIS as executioner and soldier. At tender ages, these children were used for drug trafficking, brainwashed in a strict ideology and even were taught how to behead a doll. These are also taken as a threat for by the host countries. The UNICEF survey of 2016 shows that nearly 851 cases were confirmed where children were used for trained and violence. Due to such involvements, host countries consider the refugee children as a possible threat to their social security and state apparatus.

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<sup>7</sup> "Hitting Rock Bottom: How 2016 Became the Worst Year for Syria's Children." UNICEF. March 2017. [http://21news.bbc.co.uk/2/shared/bsp/hi/pdfs/13\\_03\\_17\\_unicef\\_report\\_syria.pdf](http://21news.bbc.co.uk/2/shared/bsp/hi/pdfs/13_03_17_unicef_report_syria.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> "No Place for Children: The Impact of Five Years of War on Syria's Children and Their Childhood." UNICEF. March 2016. <http://childrenofsyria.info/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/SYRIA5Y-REPORT-12-MARCH.pdf>

**Health:** Throughout the host countries great efforts have been made for settling refugees. Though, despite it, as a carrier of many mild diseases refugees are wrath on local communities sharing such diseases. More than 70% children are facing malnutrition, thus carrying various diseases<sup>9</sup>. People living in the camp is reported to carry infectious diseases, and is considered a possible threat for urban population of the host community.

Kurdistan Region of Iraq has the largest number of refugees, where hospitals are presenting aa miserable picture. It has been noticed that prioritization of refugees has made it difficult for the local to get access into the health units. The number of patients beyond limits in these region results in hardship for host community to get the necessary health aids.

**Housing:** The push to the Syrian refugee was intense and hard, as settlement and residency was the utmost priority. The average residency situation of the refugee at the host countries are below the living standard. According to UNHCR 2016 survey, more than 85% Syrian refugee are living outside camps in overcrowded areas with tender security. The Norwegian Refugee Council study in 2014 shows that more than 70% Syrian refugees in Jordan live without secure tenure and rental agreements, where mostly the undesirable social relations between host and refugees made them vulnerable to further displacements.<sup>10</sup> It has been noted that more than 25% Syrian refugees in Iraq fear of deportation or evacuation, as they are being placed in mosques, schools and other social spheres. In Iraq, refugees face additional problems due to Iraqi returnees, which were once displaced. It has been reported that 81% Syrian refugees are renting and 9% are being settled by friends or families. This shows that refugees burden has made local more vulnerable.<sup>11</sup> Turkey which host 52% of Syrian refugees is also sharing a huge burden, where cities are saturated having more than 92.6% Syrian refugees and only 7% have made it to camps.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> “No Place for Children: The Impact of Five Years of War on Syria’s Children and Their Childhood.” UNICEF. March 14, 32 2016. <http://childrenofsyria.info/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/SYRIA5Y-REPORT-12-MARCH.pdf>

<sup>10</sup> Francis Goyas, Sera Tolgay and Valeria Vidal: “Refugees, incremental housing and shelter in 21<sup>st</sup> century” Massachusetts Institute of Technology (2016). <http://web.mit.edu/incrementalhousing/articlesPhotographs/pdfs/refugeesincrement.pdf>

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

<sup>12</sup> Murat Erdogan, Thinking outside the camp: Syrian Refugees in Istanbul, “*urban refugee from detachment to harmonization*” 2017. <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/thinking-outside-camp-syrian-refugees-istanbul>

**Sexual abuse, Child Labor and Drug Trafficking:** More than 75% Syrian refugees, according to UN Population Fund, count for their womenfolk and children. The survey shows that nearly 1.2 million of the displaced are women and girls crossing their puberty. Syrian women are extremely vulnerable to harassment and exploitation at every social sphere. Many were smuggled in their way to safe zones. Many women are afraid of being sexually harassed by the security officers at camps and other zones. It has also been reported that only 9% of female households were able to make their own income. Many women are being sexually exploited in turn of providing economic support. Estimates shows that less than 10% women who were abused came forward to report.<sup>13</sup> It has also been reported that women were offered low rent services in exchange of sexual bargaining.<sup>14</sup> These overall scenario shows the increase in crime rates across the host community.

In Syria, one in every three children has born in a war and crises and more than 2.4 million children are refugees. By the calculations of United Nations, more than 80% of Syrian children population (8.4 million) have directly been affected of Syrian crises.<sup>15</sup> According to Murat Erdogan, a researcher, between May 2011 and 2017, more than 224000 babies got birth to the turkey based refugees, with no infrastructure the future of these children seems to be in dark. The youth unemployment rate hovered around 48% and more than 75% unemployed stay unemployed for years. By one estimate of UNICEF, the rate of PTSD in Syrian children refugees residing in Lebanon was as high as 76%. These unemployed youth and psychologically oppressed children out of schools made their ways either to workshops or either get involve in black activities for economical push and disrupting the collective security of the host country.

It has also been shown that refugees are vulnerable to drugs trafficking. For gaining ample money, most of them goes beyond the legal ambits and operate as slipper cells for suppliers. Captagon, small pills used as drugs, whose production increased after Syrian refugees' inflow into the host countries. "In 2012, only 144 pills were seized, while 13,834,136 pills are

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<sup>13</sup> "Are We Listening? Acting on Our Commitments to Women and Girls Affected by the Syrian Conflict." International Rescue Committee. September 2014. <https://www.rescueuk.org/sites/default/files/document/665/ircwomeninsyriareportweb.pdf>

<sup>14</sup> Johanna Higgs and Liga Rudzite. "Fleeing Violence, Syrian Women Try to Cope in Turkey and Lebanon." PassBlue. April 6, 2016. <http://passblue.com/2016/04/06/fleeing-violence-to-violence-syrian-women-cope-in-turkey-and-lebanon/>

<sup>15</sup> "1 in 3 Syrian Children Have Grown Up Knowing Only Crisis – UNICEF." March 14, 2016. [https://www.unicef.org/media/media\\_90453.html](https://www.unicef.org/media/media_90453.html)

recorded to be seized in turkey, thus turkey is regarded as ideal market for Syrian captagon. It is also noted that more than 80% people arrested of these pills were Syrian refugees.”<sup>16</sup> In Lebanon, more than 35 million pieces of Syrian Captagon were seized by the authorities. The pill movement is from Syria to all neighboring countries, supplied by ISIS and Free Syrian army and moderate force. This shows how the host security is being undermined.

**Economic insecurity under prisms of Creative Destruction Theory: “Growth of new structures causes death of existing structures” OR “Feeding one by bleeding other results in chaos”**

A renowned French, renaissance writer, *Francois Rabelais* once quoted that: “*Money is the muscle of war.*” English historian Alan John Percivale Taylor, also taken crises and war as being waged for gaining and securing money boxes. He cited: “*No matter what political reasons are given to war; the underlying reason is always economic.*” Syrian crises start with protests and then turned into rise of ISIL, where many actors played a tug of war over oil and other natural resources, thus taking whole region under its shade. The economic impacts of Syrian crises were predominant in her neighbors, which are taken here as:

**Iraq’s Economical paralysis:** Iraq’s economy has experienced a kickback due to ISIL/Da’esh and consequent violence. The budget deficit due to state’s measures to combat ISIL/Da’esh is also alarming (13% of the total GDP). Iraq’s economy, to large extent, revolves around the oil. According to April 2017 survey of European Parliamentary Research Service, Crude Oil constitutes almost 98 % of Iraq’s total exports and more than 80% of State’s Institutions are run by such revenue, however, ISIL/Da’esh have penetrated deep, but till now, the major production center is safe at southern regions. The internally displaced persons have worsened the economic sphere and elevated inflation and unemployment rates. By the end of 2014, per capita GDP in Iraq has gone down by 16%. The Syrian Crisis and war with

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<sup>16</sup> The global initiative against transnational organized crime, “the nexus of conflict and illicit drug trafficking: Syria and the wider region”, Nov 2016. <http://globalinitiative.net/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/The-nexus-of-conflict-and-illicit-drug-trafficking-Syria-and-the-wider-region.pdf>

ISIL/Da'esh have washed away the plans of 'Levant Quartet' agreement signed in 2010 for the promotion of intra-regional trade.<sup>17</sup>

**Lebanon's Economical depression:** Syrian Crisis also have casted deep impacts on the Lebanese economy. A continuous decline in Lebanon economy is seen in inter-crises periods. According to estimates of World Bank, economic growth was recorded as averaged 2.0% during 2011-16 and was 9.2% during 2007-2010. These huge gaps show the downfall of Lebanon economic spheres due to regional crises. Lebanon can retain the status and growth can reach 2.7% by 2018 but on the condition that the Lebanese Authorities are able to contain the violence and make the security situation better. Recent studies of the European Parliamentary Research Service show that Lebanon faced a loss of US\$726 million due to fall of 8.3% in per capita GDP during the period of 2012 to 2015.<sup>18</sup> The Syrian Crisis has worsened the investment in tourism and construction. Due to Syrian Refugees the economic situation of Lebanon is worsening. "The authorities estimate direct budget costs to stand at around US\$400 million per year; estimates of indirect costs exceed US\$2.5 billion in terms of the erosion of public services."<sup>18</sup>

The International Labor Organization (ILO) estimates that half of the working-age Syrian refugees are economically inactive, which is burden on system. Thought the other half which is active contribute to expand labor force of Lebanon. By end-2015, labor supply in Lebanon was estimated to have expanded by 35-50 %. The incoming of Syrian workforce may also hamper the economy of Lebanon for it will cause competition between refugees and host communities and will results in eruption of labor human rights.

**Jordan's Economical Trauma:**The economy of Jordon is dependent upon tourism, transportation and remittances from countrymen working abroad. Syrian Crisis has negatively impacted the economic growth of Jordon. World Bank data shows that Jordan GDP growth rate in 2009 was 5.5%, however the recent 2016 GDP growth rate is 2%, which shows that Jordan is immensely affected due to regional crises. Syrian Crisis has also worsened the already

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<sup>17</sup> Elena Ianchovichina and Maros Ivanic, The economic impact of Syrian war and the spread of ISIS: World Bank and MENA knowledge and Center, 2015. <http://www.worldbank.org/content/dam/Worldbank/document/MNA/extended-summary-impact-of-ISIS.pdf>

<sup>18</sup> European Parliamentary Research Service, "Syrian Crises: Impact on Lebanon", 2017. [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2017/599379/EPRS\\_BRI%282017%29599379\\_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2017/599379/EPRS_BRI%282017%29599379_EN.pdf)

unemployment rate in Jordan. Data sources of EPRS shows that in 2011, the official unemployment rate was over 13% and in some areas the unemployment rate was up to 70%. The public sector was offering 39 % of all employment in 2013. Even though this represents a significant decrease from 1986, when this sector provided more than 51 % of employment, thus still constitutes a large burden on the public purse. The refugee presence also weighs heavily on public finances. For 2016, public debt is likely to reach 95.1 % of gross domestic product (GDP) in 2016 (compared to 60.2 % of GDP in 2008) and the budget deficit is expected to be around 3.33 % of GDP.<sup>19</sup> More than 32000 Syrian refugees are given employment opportunities in limited sectors. So, they must compete with the Jordanian workforce for scarce employment opportunities. They labor are reported to have facing the problems of low wages.

It is shown that mending the Syrian structures by hegemonic players resulted in new setups, that carried miseries for both local and refugees. Feeding refugee resulted in burdening and harming own institutions. Thus, creative destruction policies completely rotated the socioeconomic ecosystem of the regional countries.

## **Epilogue**

Warsan Shire, a British Somali poetess start his poem “home” with “*No one leaves home unless home is the mouth of shark.*” Syrian crises, not only made Syria, but the whole region to be engulfed by the sharks. Life across the region is presenting the shape of Camel’s hump. Chaos is nothing sort of pit, but a chain and ladder that takes whole under its sway. Securing Middle East needs compromise of interest among the actors and a realization that all of them, if coordinates are much smarter. A permanent solution and resolves needs to be partaken.

The burden of refugees needs to be distributed further and new shoulders needs to be given the responsibility to resettle. A resilience plain needs to be advised, where refugees is given to Mainland Asia, Northern Europe and America. They need to be dealt humanely, as Pope Francis said; “*Migrants and refugees are not pawns on the chessboard of humanity*”.

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<sup>19</sup> European Parliamentary Research Service, “Syrian Crises: Impact on Lebanon”, 2017. [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2017/599379/EPRS\\_BRI%282017%29599379\\_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2017/599379/EPRS_BRI%282017%29599379_EN.pdf)