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G-7 and Syria

The G-7 resolution for President Assad to resign and step aside is of course the right call, but unless G-7 manages first to present for wider support an effective stop gap solution for Mr. Assad, his family and supporters within the Syrian people, such resolutions are not much more than lip service

The author, already in a February 2012 TWT Gazette German language edition, has pointed out, that one very important element for a perspective Syria solution would be to allow and to provide for an attractive Assad exit scenario acceptable for President Assad, his family and his supporters in Syria, who by no means are few. Early on in the conflict over Syria, G-7 states should have better looked to lessons learned from most recent history in other states, where they had fancied and more or less applied the fashionable "regime infamous. change" policies to not exactly best avail for world peace. Especially G-Iraq policies and experience 7 should have been a warning to G-7 leaders and blueprint for mistakes to avoid. Instead of analyzing and recognizing past mistakes, they were repeated in Syria (similar like in Libya) almost just the same again. Instead of robustly developing a long-term forward strategy for dealing with developments in Syria cautiously, especially G-7 states were quick in burning bridges with Assad as if he would be only a one man show. Options for a truly intelligent and pragmatic diplomatic resolution for Syria early on this way were spoiled thoroughly.

Underlying jealousies, vanities and aspirations from former League of Nations mandate times after WW I seemingly contributed again in 2011, when the so-called Arab Spring movements seemingly provided for change and new order, reviving old wishes for new political influence. Especially the UK, France and Italy did not do a good job while US foreign policy left a void, guidance how without to compensate US influence in the Mediterranean. The Arab Spring motivation of the individual people demonstrating and working for freedom, democracy and better societies for their own well-being was and remains very respectable and moving. In most cases however Arab Spring movements utterly failed for many different reasons. G-7 Governments should have better worked on political contingency planning on the diplomatic sidelines instead of entering all kind of intervention armed fuelling quagmires without clear bearing and potency for resolution. The world and international institutions in fact again better have to follow, apply and improve existing rulesets when it comes to foreign intervention into domestic affairs. The UN is the only democratic, legitimate format for this. With more than six years into the Syrian revolt and civil war with endless foreign involvement and atrocities on all sides, Syria today is a lost state and playground for too manv conflicting interests, all contributing to the Syrian refugee crisis. Too much time and blood has been shed for an easy solution now. Bashar al-Assad politically and maybe in real will not survive but the regime just as any opposition and other powers will require still a lot G-7 compromise and promises if G-7 wants to prevail. Dirk P. Schneider