

The Syrian Civil War: A New Chapter of Complexity and Conflict

The Syrian conflict has entered a critical phase, with significant developments reshaping the regional dynamics. Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), an Islamist group with historical ties to Al-Qaeda, has launched a bold offensive against the Bashar al-Assad government, capturing Aleppo, Hama, Homs, and finally Damascus.

This strategic move comes at a moment when traditional Assad allies like Hezbollah, Russia, and Iran are preoccupied with conflicts in their own territories.

Turkey emerges as a key strategic player, pursuing its long-standing objectives of countering Kurdish influence in the region. Leveraging the Syrian National Army (SNA), an Islamist militia under Turkish support, through which Ankara controls a "security zone" and has been actively supporting rebel movements since the civil war's inception in 2011, while breaking off all diplomatic relations with Damascus.

Recent weeks have seen Turkish-allied Islamist groups making significant territorial gains, particularly against Kurdish forces. The SNA has reported successful operations around Tell Rifaat, with indications of planned expansions into other Kurdish-held territories.

Turkey is navigating a delicate diplomatic landscape, seeking to advance its strategic interests while carefully avoiding direct confrontation with Russia, Iran, and the Assad regime. While Turkey denies any involvement in the Syrian conflict, with Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan saying, "Turkey would never support activities that could spark another flood of refugees," the situation remains tense.

Since the Syrian Civil War began in 2011, Turkey has sheltered around 3.5 million Syrian refugees. However, a recent economic slowdown and the outsized role of migration in Turkey's recent municipal and parliamentary elections have put President Erdogan under pressure to act. It is anticipated that Turkey plans to deport Syrian refugees to the pre-occupied security zone in Syrian territory.

The broader Middle Eastern landscape continues to be marked by volatility, with power shifts in Syria and non-state actors playing crucial roles in the region. The United States has indicated its intention to distance itself regionally—though the exact implications remain uncertain under incoming president Donald Trump.

We at WoRisGo continue to monitor the region closely for any geopolitical developments that may impact businesses operating in the region. For expert insights or customized risk management strategies, visit worisgo.com or contact us at contact.us@worisgo.com.