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# Burning Country: Syrians In Revolution And War



## BURNING COUNTRY

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and LEILA AL-SHAMAI

SYRIANS  
IN  
REVOLUTION  
AND WAR



## **Synopsis**

In 2011, many Syrians took to the streets of Damascus to demand the overthrow of the government of Bashar al-Assad. Today, much of Syria has become a warzone and many worry that the country is on the brink of collapse. *Burning Country* explores the complicated reality of life in present-day Syria with unprecedented detail and sophistication, drawing on new first-hand testimonies from opposition fighters, exiles lost in an archipelago of refugee camps, and courageous human rights activists. Yassin-Kassab and Al-Shami expertly interweave these stories with an incisive analysis of the militarization of the uprising, the rise of the Islamists and sectarian warfare, and the role of Syria's government in exacerbating the brutalization of the conflict. Through these accounts and a broad range of secondary source material, the authors persuasively argue that the international community has failed in its stated commitments to support the Syrian opposition movements. Covering ISIS and Islamism, regional geopolitics, new grassroots revolutionary organizations, and the worst refugee crisis since World War Two, *Burning Country* is a vivid and groundbreaking look at a modern-day political and humanitarian nightmare.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

The horror in Syria affects the entire world, which is why anybody who wants to be more than just a passive victim has to understand it. Towards that understanding, "Burning Country" is indispensable reading. It gives a clear and thorough accounting of the regime of both Assads, as well as a little background. For those who think the 2011 uprising was simply a product of CIA machinations, and

for those who think that Assad is in some way a lesser evil to the Islamic fundamentalists -- this book is the antidote. It clearly proves the uprising was and is a popular rebellion against both oppression as well as poverty. The one flaw in the book is that it seems to present the approach of the US government as a series of blunders and mistakes, rather than a systematic expression of opposition to any popular movement from below. A more realistic view would have also enabled an explanation of why this is so. Additionally, the potential role of the Local Coordinating Councils (which is very well documented in the book) as a new form of government, one which does away with the entire system of oppression and exploitation should have been considered. For those reasons I give it only four stars, but it's definitely well worth reading. For a more in-depth review, see the review at my blog site at oaklandsocialist dot com

I had the honor of meeting the authors of this wonderful book and was fortunate to hear them speak in even greater detail about the content. They were so kind and willing to answer any questions that I had. They are so passionate about their work and will go to the ends of the Earth to ensure that the voices of those in Syria are heard. This is a must read!

This is the most comprehensive and accurate account of the Syrian uprising that I have come across. The details and key points they pick for each event are exactly the ones that need to be highlighted. Now when people ask me for the "one book" to read on Syria, I know what to recommend.

This thorough exposÃ© of the Syrian revolution, its subsequent militarization following the Assad regime's savage crackdown and the ongoing struggles faced by revolutionaries and activists in the liberated areas might be the best book on the Syrian conflict so far. It is a relentless book. Robin and Leila take us through the Syrian conflict from its early days and provide a socio-political analysis of the conflict, one that is desperately needed today. I highly recommend this book.

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