

Syria to Hold Referendum and Enact a New Constitution in Less than Two Weeks ... Will U.S. and Its Allies Attack Anyway?

By [Washington's Blog](#)

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Region: [Middle East & North Africa](#)

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Syria to Hold Multi-Party Democratic Elections and Enact New Constitution on February 26th

Agence France-Presse [reports](#):

Syria's president decreed a vote this month on a new constitution that would effectively end nearly 50 years of single party rule, state media said, as troops reportedly stormed centres of dissent.

Bashar al-Assad called the ballot for February 26, in a move clearly aimed at placating growing global outrage over the bloodshed.

Under the newly proposed charter, freedom is "a sacred right" and "the people will govern the people" in a multi-party democratic system, state television said.

The new constitution also ... prohibits parties based on religion.

Assad, who in April lifted a state of emergency in force since 1963, when his Baath Party took power, has made repeated promises of reforms that have failed to materialise since a popular uprising erupted on March 15.

The embattled president, who succeeded his late father Hafez in 2000, has said the constitution would usher in a "new era" for Syria, SANA state news agency reported.

This is what the U.S. and its allies have *said* that they want.

But – given that the U.S. government has been consistently planning regime change in Syria for [20 years](#) (and dreamed of regime change for [50 years](#)), and that the U.S., Britain, Qatar and other countries have [already started a covert war](#) in Syria – it is uncertain whether democratic elections and a new constitution can avoid a Syrian war involving the West.

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