

The Dirty War on Syria: Interview with Tim Anderson

By [Prof. Tim Anderson](#) and [Brendan Stone](#)

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

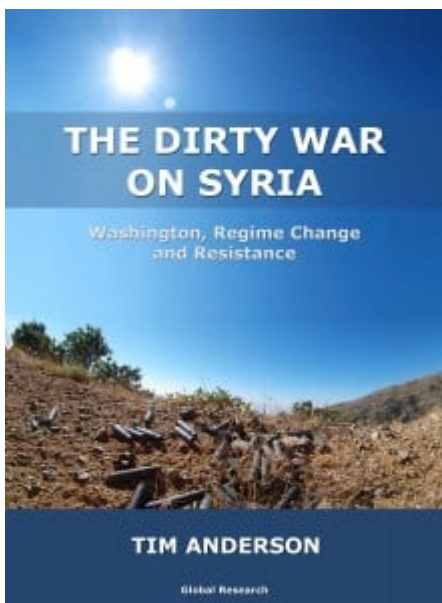
Theme: [Terrorism](#), [US NATO War Agenda](#)

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Unusual Sources' Brendan Stone [interviews Tim Anderson](#) about his important new book, "[The Dirty War in Syria](#)," which addresses the monumental lies and profound propaganda that has accompanied Washington's regime change operation in Syria.

[Listen to the interview here](#)

The following is an extract from the introductory chapter of [Prof. Tim Anderson's comprehensive account](#) of the real – and propaganda – war against Syria:



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Although every war makes ample use of lies and deception, the dirty war on Syria has relied on a level of mass disinformation not seen in living memory. The British-Australian journalist Philip Knightley pointed out that war propaganda typically involves ‘a depressingly predictable pattern’ of demonising the enemy leader, then demonising the enemy people through atrocity stories, real or imagined (Knightley 2001). Accordingly, a mild-mannered eye doctor called Bashar al Assad became the new evil in the world and, according to consistent western media reports, the Syrian Army did nothing but kill civilians for more than four years. To this day, many imagine the Syrian conflict is a ‘civil war’, a ‘popular revolt’ or some sort of internal sectarian conflict. These myths are, in many respects, a substantial achievement for the big powers which have driven a series of ‘regime change’ operations in the Middle East region, all on false pretexts, over the past 15 years.

[This book](#) is a careful academic work, but also a strong defence of the right of the Syrian people to determine their own society and political system. That position is consistent with international law and human rights principles, but may irritate western sensibilities, accustomed as we are to an assumed prerogative to intervene. At times I have to be blunt, to cut through the double-speak. In Syria the big powers have sought to hide their hand, using proxy armies while demonising the Syrian Government and Army, accusing them of constant atrocities; then pretending to rescue the Syrian people from their own government. Far fewer western people opposed the war on Syria than opposed the invasion of Iraq, because they were deceived about its true nature.

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Prof. Tim Anderson is a distinguished author and senior lecturer of political economy at the University of Sydney, Australia

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