



Dictator Down

December 9, 2024

After 13 years of civil war, a rebel force seized the Syrian capital over the weekend, toppling more than half a century of the Assad [dictatorship](#), with despot Bashar al-Assad fleeing to safety in Russia.

Good riddance. But what next? Will any semblance of freedom come to Syria and be sustained?

“Syria is a mess,” President-elect Donald Trump [posted](#) on his Truth Social platform, concluding: “THE UNITED STATES SHOULD HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH IT. THIS IS NOT OUR FIGHT. LET IT PLAY OUT. DO NOT GET INVOLVED!”

He’s not wrong.

Still, events in Syria add to the foreign policy challenges, increasingly military challenges, awaiting the new administration—from the war in Ukraine, Lebanon, Gaza, to the threat of Chinese aggression across the Taiwan Strait against economically and geographically strategic Taiwan.

Or conflict might erupt in the South China Sea—a body of water that China claims more than 90 percent of ... an outrageous, illegal contention, which nonetheless the PLA Navy increasingly enforces.

Recently, Chinese Communist Party leader Xi Jinping [gave](#) President Biden—meant for the President-elect, of course—four red lines that America was not to cross. The first two are instructive: “the Taiwan question” and “democracy and human rights.”

In short, it would be bad manners and really ruffle tender Beijing feathers were the U.S. to continue to arm and protect free, democratic Taiwan and to raise the issue of the numerous genocides the CCP regime continues to inflict on ethnic and religious minorities.

And everybody else.

It’s a dangerous world. Much of which the United States has pledged to defend. Good luck, Mr. Trump.

No wonder there is “a record high” percentage of Americans [who](#) “want the government to spend more on the military.”

This is Common Sense. I’m Paul Jacob.