

---

# Russia Intervention towards Syria Crisis through Astana Negotiation as a Conflict Resolution 2017

**Novia Larassati**

## **ABSTRACT**

Russia has regained its power in the era of Vladimir Putin's administration. Since regaining the power back, Russia is known to make a move to strengthen its relationship with the Middle East, especially Syria. In Syria, Russia put a lot of its interest mainly are its sovereignty interest and economic interest. In this case, too, Russia wishes that both countries can reach the national interest of each country. One of the ways for Russia to protect its interest and get away from its insecurity about its interest in Syria is to help on assisting in Syria Crisis. Syria Crisis began in 2011 alongside the Arab Springs. This thesis will explain why Russia decided to intervene in the Syria crisis through peace talks called Astana Negotiations. This thesis will use humanitarian intervention as a tool for breaking down the decision of Russia and in understanding the issue better.

**Keywords:** *Russia, Syria Crisis, Humanitarian Intervention*

## **ABSTRAK**

Rusia telah mendapatkan kembali kekuatannya di era pemerintahan Vladimir Putin. Sejak mendapatkan kembali kekuasaan, Rusia dikenal membuat hubungan dengan Timur Tengah, terutama Suriah. Di Suriah, Rusia memiliki banyak kepentingan terutama kepentingan kedaulatan dan kepentingan ekonomi. Dalam hal ini, Rusia juga berharap kedua negara dapat mencapai kepentingan nasional masing-masing negara. Salah satu cara bagi Rusia untuk melindungi kepentingannya dan melepaskan diri dari rasa tidak aman mengenai kepentingan nasionalnya di Suriah adalah dengan memberikan bantuan terhadap Krisis Suriah. Krisis Suriah dimulai pada 2011 bersama Arab Springs. Skripsi ini akan menjelaskan mengapa Rusia mengalami krisis melalui pembicaraan damai yang disebut Astana Negotiations. Skripsi ini akan menggunakan intervensi kemanusiaan sebagai alat untuk meruntuhkan keputusan Rusia dan dalam memahami masalah dengan lebih baik.

**Kata Kunci:** *Rusia, Krisis Suriah, Intervensi Kemanusiaan*

---

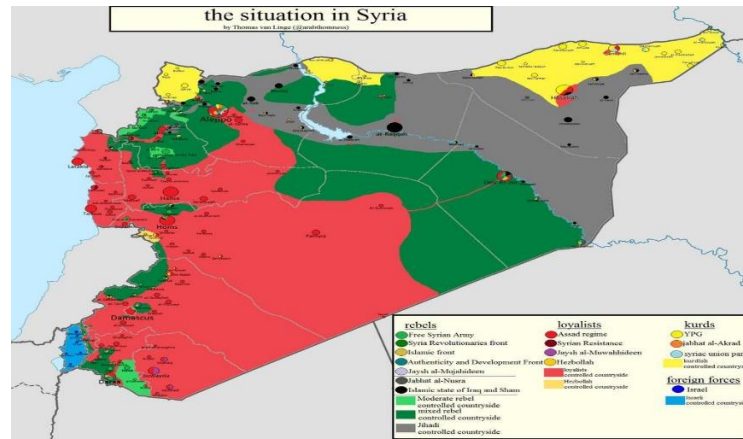
---

## INTRODUCTION

Russia in the era of Vladimir Putin's administration is known for back as a great and a powerful country once again. Since the power has regained back, Russia has been pursuing a foreign policy towards the Middle East, especially Syria. Although the power is not something can defined as a great power, Russia has been remarkably success on balancing its interest through the foreign policy (Katz, 2017). In this case, Russia sincerely hope that its foreign policy can strengthen the relationship between Russia and Syria and can mutually reach the national interest of each countries. Meanwhile, everything was seems smoothly happened, things change and Russia somehow getting insecure about its interest condition when in 2011, the Syrian conflict (Syrian Crisis) happened.

Syrian conflict (small Syrian Civil War) began in March 2011 alongside a string of revolutions in the Middle East, known as the Arab Springs. Unrest in Syria began when the civilians in the Syrian town of Dara'a, the Southern City was shot down by the security force for demanding release of the political prisoners. Initially, what happened in Syria was only the annoyance that arose in society because of the high number of unemployment, the spread of corruption, and the lack of political freedom under Bashar al-Assad's administration (BBC, 2018). Then, what really started the conflict in Syria was when President Al-Assad sent a deadly force to stop differences of opinion that ultimately sparked a national demonstration demanding the resignation of President Al-Assad from his position. As violence escalated in Syria, supporters of the opposition began to take up arms on the grounds; to drive out the attacking military in their area as well as the reason to protect themselves from government supporters.

In addition, there are jihadist groups that control most of the northwest region, while the ISIS group can seize control of the northeastern region of Syria. However, the ISIS could only control some territories due to the group's dismantling of its territory by Russian-backed Syrian government forces, Turkey-backed rebel brigades, and an alliance of US-backed Kurdish militias (BBC, 2018).



1. 1 Situation Map in Syria

Source: <https://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/war/images/map-syria-2014-01-18.jpg>

One year after the Syrian Crisis started in 2011, the talks about finding a solution on how to save Syria were started in Geneva under the aegis of the United Nations which known as the Geneva Peace Talks. So far, the Geneva Peace Talks has produced eight rounds (Pawlak, 2017). Meanwhile, at the beginning of January 2017, another process on to save Syria emerged that focused on attaining the cessation of hostility, rather than on finding political solutions. The process was led by Russia, Turkey and Iraq. The process took a place in Astana, Kazakhstan which is later named as Astana Peace Talks/ Astana Negotiations.

## RESEARCH QUESTION

Based on the background of the research, the thesis mainly will be focused on addressing the research question as follows:

“Why does Russia intervene in Syria Crisis through Astana Negotiations?”

## SCOPE OF RESEARCH

To make the research of this thesis more specific, the writer decided to limit the research by focusing on find out Russia’s intervention in Syria Crisis through Astana Negotiations in 2017, including the factors and the reasons Russia’s decision on doing intervention towards Syria. The reasons researcher only chose the Astana Negotiations in 2017 is due to it is the latest peace talks where the talks is expected to be succeed on achieving peace in Syria after

several previous negotiations had failed to reach its aim. However, to conduct the analysis properly, the research will use the Humanitarian Intervention Theory as the perspective.

## **METHODS OF RESEARCH**

This research will use the descriptive methodology. It is defined by Sugiyono (2003, p. 11) that descriptive research is the research that is done to know the independent variable value, one variable or more without making a comparison or connection with other values. In addition, the descriptive methodology used is the descriptive-qualitative methodology. A descriptive qualitative method is a part of qualitative research. This method can be defined as descriptive research and tends to use inductive analysis approach. The aim of this method is to collect detailed information, identify problems, make comparisons or evaluations as well as uncover the facts, phenomenon, variables, and circumstances occurred when the research is conducted.

The qualitative research method is a method that cannot be measured using numbers, statistics, or matters relating to the exact, but it is a research which is formed by the words, scheme, and pictures (Sugiyono, 2003, p. 14). Qualitative research method seeks for a depth understanding of why and how the phenomenon can occur.

This research employs a secondary accumulation method. Secondary accumulation method is a technique which is chosen by the author to find the reference from literature, journal, e-book, books, and newspaper. According to Arikunto (2006, p. 158), documentation is finding and collecting the data about the thing which is formed through notes, transcripts, books, newspapers, magazines, notations, agendas, and etc. The other information is from the internet or electronic media which is relevant to the research.

In this case, the qualitative-descriptive method is used to consider the actions that will affect the subject according to the researcher point of view. This method is subjective regardless of trying to be as objectively as possible. Qualitative-descriptive methods try to find out what cannot be measured quantitatively and require an understanding. Thus, the qualitative-descriptive method let the researcher to provide subjectivity regarding a social phenomenon such as social structure that has a lot of impact on human life. However, the subjectivity of the researcher must be based on concepts, theories, as well as data and facts that are in accordance with the actual conditions so that an objective explanation can be built.

## THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

In this paper, the researcher has selected a theory that will help to addressing the research question that has been proposed which is Humanitarian Intervention. Humanitarian Intervention is military force intervention that aiming to stop a fight or a war among states or some conflicting groups with the purpose to save the people in that country from the violation of human rights, such as providing a necessary security, providing foods to feed the starving people, halting a genocide or ethnic cleansing, and other similar purposes (Viotti & Kauppi, 2010, p. 419).

Based on the International Relations Theory Book (Viotti & Kauppi, 2010, pp. 420-421), Humanitarian Intervention Theory have a several competing factors by policymakers; Sovereignty, National Interest, and Human Rights.

### a. Sovereignty

According to International Law, there are no sovereign states that can intervene in domestic affairs of other sovereign state otherwise it get requested by the legitimate government of the conflicted state. However, according to UN Charter for collective security, using a military force (including the armed forces) is allowed as long as it is needed and the possibility of it can endangered the international peace and security. Basically, self-defense is needed in responding the aggression against a sovereign state.



### 1. 2 Russia's Alliances in Syria

Source: [https://i.dailymail.co.uk/i/newpix/2018/04/04/17/4AD2BF5F00000578-5577929-image-a-25\\_1522859377330.jpg](https://i.dailymail.co.uk/i/newpix/2018/04/04/17/4AD2BF5F00000578-5577929-image-a-25_1522859377330.jpg)

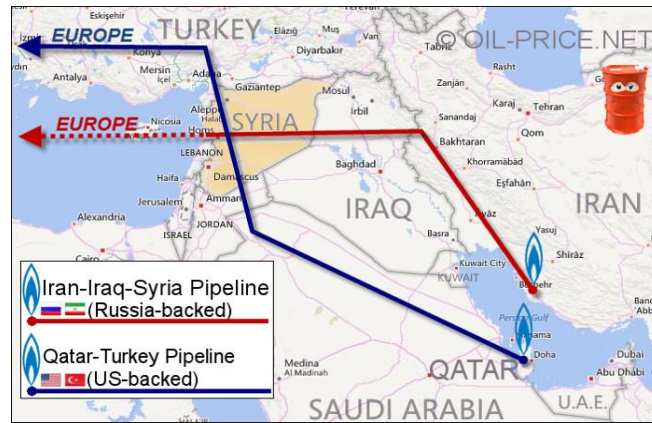
With the demands of the opposition for a new talks (agreement), after looking at the Geneva Peace Talks that was led by the United States had been failed to accomplish their aims to end the Syrian Civil War, a new talks or agreement later was formed in the late of 2016 named Astana Negotiations. The Astana Negotiations which held in the Astana, Kazakhstan led by 3 sovereign countries; Russia, Turkey –a key backer of the rebel group–, and Iran –Syrian Government’s strongest allies– (Tahhan & Collins, 2017).

b. National Interest

Intervention is argued that it must be done when there is a vital national interest to be protected or to be reached. However, when one consider it as the decisive criteria, the truth is that there is no particular way to escape from the practical difficulty to trying to define what national interest is. National Interest is a subject that has multiple interpretations, but it does not mean that all interventions taken are because of national interest and the reason to make an acts of aggression.

According to Thomas W. Robinson, National Interest can be classified as six classification of interest, which is: 1. The Primary Interest, such as political and cultural identity; 2. Secondary Interest, such as protection of the citizens abroad and ensuring diplomatic immunities for the diplomatic staff; 3. Permanent Interest, such as long-term interests of the state; 4. Variable Interest, such as the cross currents of personalities, public opinion, sectional interests, partisan politics and political and moral folkways; 5. The General Interest, such as economic interest, trade interest, diplomatic relations; 6. Specific Interest, this is the logical outgrowths of the general interests and this is defined in terms of time and space (Sharma & Sharma, 2000).

The Russia involvement in Syrian Crisis (Civil War) is one of the reasons behind the current state of Russia’s relationships in the Middle East. Syria was one of the closest allies of Russia since the Cold War, so it is kind of understandable for Syria’s Government to ask for Russia’s help on ending the Syria Crisis (Pakhomov, 2015).



### 1. 3 Russian Pipeline

Source: <http://www.oil-price.net/cartoons/russian-gas-pipelines.jpg>

While in its economic interest, Russia wants to keep in touch with Syria by helping because Russia do not want to lose all of its energy (oil and gas) investment and its valuable military contract with Syria (Michael, 2016). In fact, Syria is known as the biggest consumer of Russia weaponry and as a country where Russia's energy (oil and gas) have been investing. So, if anything happened in Assad administration or anything change in Syria governance, for sure it will cost a very bad impact for Russia's economy.

Aside of that, Russia is also known as one of the country that give an aid to Syria. As an example, in January 2016 Russia delivered 22 tons of humanitarian aid to several cities in Syria (Ruptly, 2016). In February 2016, Syrian military transport together with the support of Russian fighter Su-30 brought another humanitarian aid to the inhabitants of the militant city of Deir ez-Zor. The total of humanitarian aid that was given by Russian were around 50 tons or more (Ruptly, 2016).

#### c. Human Rights

In the last half of twentieth century, human beings have rights that may supersede those claimed by the sovereign state. The groundwork was laid by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, passed by the UNGA in 1948. When such human rights violations are endangering the international peace and security, there is a legal way to solve this under the UN Security Council auspices.

## **RESULT AND ANALYSIS**

In this paper, the writer would like to analyze the main issue of this thesis which is the reason behind Russia involvement in Syrian Civil War through Astana Negotiations as a Conflict Resolutions in 2017 by using the Humanitarian Intervention Theory. For the prolonged crisis that happened in Syria which got much attention from the world, the writer thinks it is necessary to find out the reason why this civil war/ crisis could happen and causing much death for the Syrian citizens. It is also necessary to find out the solutions for this crisis through an ongoing Peace Talks on Syria Crisis. As it is known that the Peace Talks that have been doing by several international actors such as Russia Federation do not come for free, there must be some interest it has in Syria, and it will give an adverse impact for it if the crisis in Syria does not put to an end. However, for some political actors, the act done by Russia Federation is a normal thing to do since it was known that the relationship between Russia and Syria has been running for years since the World War II. This thesis believes, Russia helped Syria to put an end on the crisis through Astana Negotiations because of its relationship has since the Post-Cold War; security interest and economic interest in Syria.

### **A. Russia's Sovereignty Interest on Syria Crisis.**

Sovereignty Interest of Russia in Syria crisis will be reached through de-escalation zone that had been agreed upon the Astana Negotiations on May 2017 by the three guarantor states. De-escalation zone was a term that rarely used throughout the conflict, either it is international conflict, not domestic conflict, but the memorandum that has been signed by the guarantor states (Russia, Turkey, and Iran) could be defined as an area where all the hostilities between the conflicted parties should be ceased. The memorandum contains banning both the Syrian Government and the Syrian Opposition from using any kinds of weapons in the area. It also orders rapid, safe, and unhindered humanitarian access and restoring the public services such as electricity and water (TRTWorld, 2017 ).





*4. 1 Russian generals attend a briefing in the Defense Ministry in Moscow, Russia, Friday, May 5, 2017.*

Source: <https://a57.foxnews.com/foxnews-image.com/>

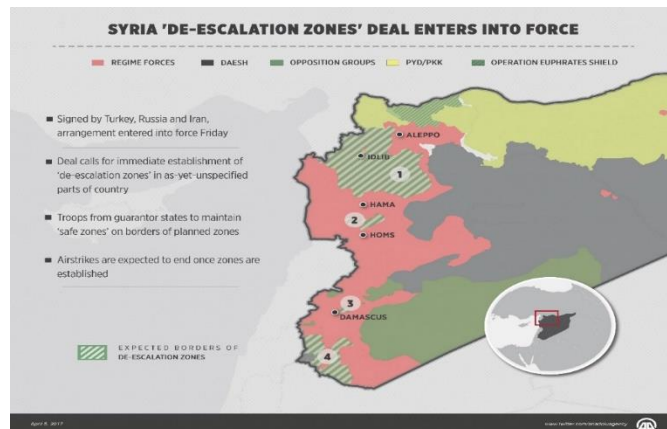
There are four of de-escalation zones that have been agreed by the guarantor states in Syria, it was:

**1st zone:** This zone is the largest one. It covers Idlib province as well as northeastern areas of Latakia province, western areas of Aleppo province and northern areas of Hama Province.

**2nd zone:** This zone includes the Rastan and Talbiseh enclave in northern Homs province. More than 150,000 civilians live in this area.

**3rd zone:** This zone covers Eastern Ghouta in the northern Damascus countryside, where a little less than 700,000 people are living. This area excludes the regime-besieged area of Qaboun. Russian Defence Ministry official Lieutenant-General Sergei Rudskoi said this was because Qaboun contained the al-Qaeda-linked group formerly known as the Nusra Front.

**4th zone:** This zone covers the opposition-held south along Syria's border with Jordan. It includes parts of Deraa and Quneitra provinces in which about 800,000 civilians are living.



#### 4. 2 Maps of The De-escalation Zones of Syria

Source: <https://www.mintpressnews.com/understanding-syrias-new-de-escalation-zones/227663/>

The President of Russia, Vladimir Putin, stated that the guarantor states will take anything at cost to solve the problems of Syria Crisis through the Astana Peace Talks/Astana Negotiations, and one of it was creating a de-escalation zone to four cities in Syria. However, even though the de-escalation zones almost the same with the safe zones –the term that is widely used in conflict to define a physical place where people can feel safe–, but de-escalation still lack from the protective framework. Even though the memorandum said the zones would be cleared from any ceasefire, there is no guarantee that it will stay like that if there are other Syria Opposition Groups that are not part of the ceasefire and it also allows the guarantors to fight against the militant group from both within and outside the designated areas (TRTWorld, 2017 ).

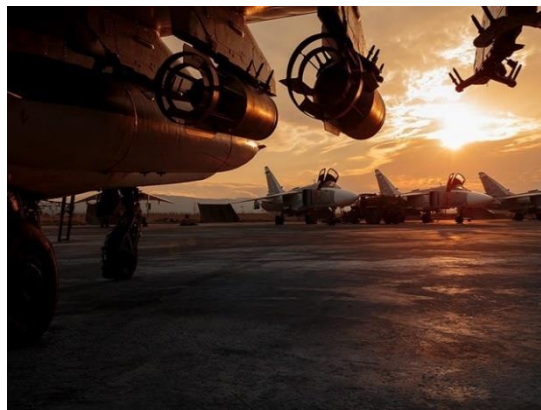
The plan of this de-escalation zones was mainly the reason for Russia to free up the Syrian Military from that areas and need to be focused more and can be deployed to the eastern and southern Syria. It is done so that the Syrian military can eliminate the terrorist activity that somehow also can be a threat for Russia Federation, prevent the Israeli and Jordanian forces to splitting the southern and the southwestern parts of Syria, and prevent the United States to splitting the eastern part (Turbeville, 2017).

In addition, the important thing was the de-escalation zones appeared to be an attempt to free up the Syrian Military from the zones and fight and retake Deir-ez-Zour –one of the largest city in Syria–. Moreover, it also announces by the Russia Federation that it will help the Syria Military Forces to fight and retake Deir ez-Zour by participating in the military operation by Syria (Turbeville, 2017).

## B. Economic Interest of Russia in Syria Crisis

The Russia involvement in Syrian Crisis (Civil War) is one of the reasons behind the current state of Russia's relationships in the Middle East. In fact, Syria was one of the closest allies of Russia since the Post-Cold War, so it is understandable for Syria's Government to ask for Russia's help on to end the Syria Crisis (Pakhomov, 2015).

The relationship that had been established since the Post-Cold War produced a lot of cooperation between Russia and Syria, where one of them happened in the economic aspect, which in the end Syria becomes one of the countries where the economic interest of Russia was laid on. It is proven by the fact that Russia wants to keep in touch by helping Syria out because Russia does not want to lose any economic interest; military contract and energy investments, in Syria (Michael, 2016). If anything could happen, the last thing Russia wants is the collapsed of Syria or the prolonged crisis in Syria. It was known very well, that Syrian is one of countries and allies of Russia being the biggest consumer of Russia weaponry and a state where Russia's energy (oil and natural gas) have been investing. So, the world can ensure that if anything could happen towards Syria, the last thing Russia wish is the collapsed of the Syrian government, because it can really damage the economy of Russia quite bad.



*4. 3 Syria's Aircraft*

Source: <https://www.mintpressnews.com/understanding-syrias-new-de-escalation-zones/227663/>

According to The Moscow Times, in 2011, Russia had a substantial arms trade with Syria, and it was nearly \$20 billion of investment projects. These projects are aiming to cover

infrastructure, energy, nuclear power plant, and tourism. While according to the Russian State Agency, Russia had such profitable military contracts with the Syrian Government (Assad regime) that worth to \$4 billion. They include MiG-29 fighters, Pantsir missiles, artillery systems, and several anti-tank weaponry. Moreover, it was once again that Syria is the biggest consumer of Russia weaponry systems, even since the Soviet Union era (Michael, 2016).

Between 2007 and 2012, Russia has accounted for 78 percent of Syria's weapons purchased according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. Russia successfully sold its arms to Syria for \$4.7 billion in 2007-2010. In 2008, it was recorded that Syria ordered more modern weaponry systems to Russia, and it was agreed to purchase MiG-29SMT, Pantsir air-defence system, tactical missile systems, Yak-130 aircraft, and two Amur-1650 submarines. Because of the purchase of arms equipment, Damascus is known as one of the biggest clients in Syria against Russia (Michael, 2016).



#### *4. 4 Russia's Pipeline in Syria*

Source: <https://www.mintpressnews.com/understanding-syrias-new-de-escalation-zones/227663/>

Russia's export to Syria was worth \$1.1 billion. Russian Stroytransgaz was building a natural gas processing plant 200 kilometers in the Al-Raqqa region and the company was involved in technical support for the construction of the Arab Gas Pipeline. Stroytransgaz is belonged exclusively to Putin's close friend, a wealthy Russian businessman Gennady Timchenko. The Ruffabula website stated that the company Stroytransgaz has been operating in Syria since 2000, and it has at least four projects there. The Russian company has got a

contract for construction of the Arab Gas Pipeline length of 319 km and a gas processing plant №1 (South Middle Area Gas Exploitation Project (Michael, 2016).

A source said that the HESCO Company has oil and gas infrastructure over 15 years in everywhere it is the subcontractor of the Russian Stroytransgaz, such as Syria, Sudan, Algeria, and the United Arab Emirates (Michael, 2016).

Russian company operates as well the “Northern Project,” the second gas refinery, designed for production and processing of five gas fields to the south-east of Raqqa, and the gas pipeline between Aleppo, Homs, and Idlib. There are four facilities in total. The first of them is under the control of the Assad regime in Homs. Two others now are in the territory controlled by ISIS. However, the pipeline also passes through the territory controlled by the moderate Syrian opposition, although the final point is controlled by the government.

It seems that the facilities located on the ISIS-controlled territory have been operating despite the bloody war. Moreover, they are still being operated by HESCO (which results in Stroytransgaz). Of course, in order to continue to operate, they had to “negotiate” with ISIS. Moreover, of course, they had to pay off this move (Michael, 2016).

It needs to be mentioned about Tatneft, an energy firm that was very well-known of Russia in Syria. This company began to pump Syrian oil through a joint venture with the Syrian national oil company in 2010. Tatneft planned to spend \$12 million on exploratory wells in Syria close to the Iraqi border. Russian TMK, ITERA, and national carrier Aeroflot also know had business interests in Syria.

It is quite obvious that Russian companies in Syria are losing assets and profit as a result of the war. Russia is decided to avoid Syria-Libyan state of affairs in which NATO forces helped rebels to topple Moammar Gadhafi. Russia lost there an estimated \$10 billion of contracts with Gadhafi’s regime, according to Russian media (Michael, 2016).

However, Syria itself is not a big player in the world gas and oil market. Even in the early 2000s, Syria was producing a little more than 520,000 barrels of oil per day, which makes roughly 0.6 percent of the world’s total production. Gas production in Syria was also not that large on a global scale; it was about 9 billion cubic meters per year in 2010. So, the crisis does not have any crucial impact on the world’s oil and gas market. It leads us to the next point.

Next, Russia tries to defend its gas export in Syria, preventing a potential competing pipeline. Some observers report that several Europe and Middle East countries desired a

Qatari pipeline project that would connect the gas and oil fields of Qatar and crossing Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Syria, and Turkey before making its way to Europe countries.

Such a pipeline would lead to a substantial reduction in the amount of gas that Europe is buying from Russia. With the development of the Qatari pipeline, Europe would not depend so much on Russian gas and, therefore, would not fear a new gas crisis between Russia and Ukraine. Europe's concerns that its gas market may be held hostage to Russian gas giant Gazprom create tensions and push EU countries to look for diversifications of energy supplies. Indeed, a Qatari pipeline would be a disaster for Russia as it has a vital interest in controlling gas supplies to Europe, where Gazprom sells 80 percent of its gas (Michael, 2016).

Qatar has invested heavily in liquefied natural gas plants and terminals that enable it to ship its gas in tankers to the world's consumers. However, liquefaction and shipping increase total costs and Qatari gas has lost in European markets to cheaper pipeline gas from Russia, according to Foreign Affairs (Michael, 2016).

That is why, in 2009, Qatar proposed to build a pipeline to send its gas northwest via Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and Syria to Turkey, suggesting an investment of billions of dollars. When asked for their agreement, Syrian President Bashar al Assad refused to sign the plan because he wanted to "protect the interests of its Russian ally," which is Europe's top supplier of natural gas.

After rejecting the offer, Syria signed the Iran-Iraq-Syria pipeline that would carry Iranian gas from the Persian Gulf through Iran, Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon and then under the Mediterranean to Europe. This project is not directly beneficial to Russia's Gazprom, but the pipeline would be owned and operated by Russian allies with whom it can be easily negotiated. The announcement of the Iran-Iraq-Syria pipeline agreement came in 2011. The parties signed the documents in July 2012. Construction was planned to be completed in 2016, but the civil war and chaos in Syria ruined these plans (Michael, 2016).

To sum up, the Russian military operation in Syria aims to protect the interest of Russia's economy, but in the short term do not promise any significant benefits. At the same time, it costs a lot of expenses. With a serious involvement in the war in Syria, Russia will face significant economic losses and domestic risks.

The Russian economy has been already painfully hit by low oil prices, inflation, trouble devaluation and western sanctions over Moscow's role in Ukraine conflict which is still going on. It also suffers a dramatic deterioration of Turkey-Russia's economic relations over the fall of a Russian warplane on Turkish-Syrian border (Michael, 2016).



#### *4. 5 Syrian Crisis*

Source: <https://www.mintpressnews.com/understanding-syrias-new-de-escalation-zones/227663/>

However, Russia was forced to intervene as the Assad regime suffered a disastrous blow in the spring and the summer of 2015 after losing the city of Idlib in northern Syria and several other regions. It might be the key factor which motivated Russia to get involved in the Syrian crisis. On the other hand, Russia wanted to act before the international actors, and its allies make a no-fly zone over Syria, which could mean the end of the Assad regime.

Aside from that, Russia is also known as one of the countries that give aid to Syria. As an example, in January 2016, Russia delivered 22 tons of humanitarian aid to several cities in Syria (Two Syrian Cities Received Humanitarian Aid, 2016). In February 2016, Syrian military transport together with the support of Russian fighter Su-30 brought another humanitarian aid to the inhabitants of the militant city of Deir ez-Zor. The total of humanitarian aid that was given by Russian were around 50 tons or more (Ruptly, 2016).

## CONCLUSION

In the era of Vladimir Putin's administration, Russia is known for being back its feet, being a great and powerful country once again. Since the power is back, Russia has been pursuing a foreign policy towards the Middle East, especially Syria. Although everything is not much of great power, Russia has been remarkably successful at balancing its interest through foreign policy.

Moreover, Russian leaders, especially Vladimir Putin, sincerely hope that foreign policy towards the Middle East that has been made by them will strengthen relations between Russia and countries in the Middle East and can mutually reach the national interests of each country involved. Russia's national interest in the economic sector of the Middle East is very high; therefore it hopes that all foreign policy towards the Middle East can be achieved as well as possible and can form an alliance as in the past the alliance between Russia and countries the Middle East in the Post-Cold War era.

Meanwhile, everything seemed smoothly happened, things change, and Russia is somehow getting insecure about its interest condition when, in 2011, the Syrian conflict (Syrian Crisis) happened. The Syrian Civil War alongside the string of revolutions in the Middle East, the Arab Springs. The unrest of Syria has been lasting around 8 years with so many reasons for it to explode to the point it caught the attention of the world's eyes. The war between the Syrian Government and the Syrian Opposition began when Bashar Al-Assad send deadly forces to stop any demonstration in Syria, and this event sparks the outrage of the Syria Opposition. The widespread of violence done by both parties turn Syria to a battlefield called the Syrian Civil War. The heat of this conflict that has been there starting to put it into flame when several international actors like Russia decided to involve themselves into the conflict by supporting, either the Syrian Government or the Syrian Opposition, through financial, military, and political support. We can see that this civil war could be seen as a proxy war for the superpower states.

The involvement of several international actors put a complex situation in this war. Specifically the involvement of Russia in the conflict put the political actor in question on why Russia involving itself in the war and also promise the Syrian government to provide assistance to protect the country back to its normal state. Russia also placed its airbase in Latakia as proof of Russia ready to help anything it can do for Syria.



The prolonged war of Syria has touched all international actor to put an end on the war. The first idea of ended the war came from the United Nations by deciding to create a peace talk to find the solution on how to save Syria in Geneva under the United Nations Auspices called Geneva Peace Talks. The peace talks had several participants namely Iraq, Turkey, United Kingdom, Arab League, Kuwait, China, European Union, and Qatar, with the major players are the two most powerful states, Russia and the United States.

The Geneva Peace Talks has produced eight rounds of meeting, where all of the meetings were done in Geneva under the United Nations aegis and with the participants of several actors that decided to involve in the war and peace talks. The results of the Geneva Peace Talks were considered as failed because both parties were forced to agree on the solutions that had been made reluctantly.

On seeing the failure of the Geneva Peace Talks, Russia offered a proposal to create a new peace talk that could replace the Geneva Peace Talks with the aim on attaining cessation of hostilities rather than forging of a political solution, called Astana Peace Talks. Astana Peace Talks was another process on to save the Syria that led by Russia, Turkey and Iraq. The name of the peace talks came from the place where the process took a place in Astana, one of the city in Kazakhstan. The differences between Geneva Peace Talks and Astana Negotiations are the place where the meeting will be held, the goals of each talks, and the guard of the peace talks as it had been said that Astana Negotiations were guarded and guaranteed by Russia, Turkey and Iraq.

In this thesis, the writer proves that Russia has a security interest and an economic interest towards Syria Civil War/ Syria Crisis. Thus, if anything happened to Syria, especially the Assad's administrations, it sure will give a lot of damage for Russia quite bad since Syria is known for being the biggest consumer of Russia weapons or any military arms and a state where Russia invest its energy, so that is the last thing Russia wish could happen to Syria. Moreover, another reason for Russia to involve in the conflict is because of the long partnership between them and the way Russia wants to strengthen the bond between two countries that have been running for years since the Post-Cold War (when Russia and several countries around it still named as the Soviet Union).

## Bibliography

### Books

- Arikunto, S. (2006). *Metodologi Penelitian*. Yogyakarta: Bina Aksara.
- Sharma, U., & Sharma, S. K. (2000). *Principles and Theory in Political Science*. New Delhi: Atlantic Publishers and Distributors (P) Ltd. Retrieved from Your Article Library.
- Sugiyono. (2003). *Metode Penelitian Bisnis*. Bandung: Pusat Bahasa Depdiknas.
- Viotti, P. R., & Kauppi, M. V. (2010). *International Relations Theory*. United States: Pearson Education, Inc.

### Reports

- Ruptly. (2016, February 11). *Russian-Syrian humanitarian aid delivered to the city besieged by militants Deir ez-Zor*. Berlin: Ruptly.tv. Retrieved from Коммерсантъ:  
<https://www.kommersant.ru/doc/2913220>
- Ruptly. (2016). *Syria: Russian military deliver humanitarian aid to Aleppo's displaced residents*. Berlin: Ruptly.tv.

### Websites

- BBC. (2018, March 2). *Awal Mula Perang Suriah: Bagaimana Konflik Panjang dan Berdarah Bisa Terjadi*. Retrieved from Mata-Mata Politik: <https://www.matamatapolitik.com/awal-mula-konflik-suriah-bagaimana-konflik-panjang-dan-berdarah-bisa-terjadi/>
- Katz, M. N. (2017). *Russia Policy towards Middle East*. Retrieved from Middle East Policy Council: [mepc.org/commentary/russias-policy-toward-middle-east](http://mepc.org/commentary/russias-policy-toward-middle-east)
- Michael. (2016, May 21). *Russia's Economy Interest Behind Its Risky Military Move in Syria*. Retrieved from Inform napalm: <https://informnapalm.org/en/russia-s-economy-interests-behind-risky-military-move-syria/>
- Pakhomov, N. (2015, November 18). *What Does Russia Really Want in Syria?* Retrieved from The National Interest: <https://nationalinterest.org/feature/what-does-russia-really-want-syria-14375>
- Pawlak, P. (2017, March). *Mapping the future of Syria: State of play and options*. Retrieved from European Parliament: Think Tank:  
[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document.html?reference=EPRS\\_BRI\(2017\)599362](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document.html?reference=EPRS_BRI(2017)599362)
- Tahhan, Z., & Collins, D. (2017, January 25). *Astana summit: Opposition sets demands for new talks*. Retrieved from Al Jazeera: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/01/astana-summit-opposition-sets-demands-talks-170124163538146.html>

TRTWorld. (2017 , May 11). *Here's why Syria's "de-escalation zones" aren't "safe zones"*. Retrieved from TRTWORLD: <https://www.trtworld.com/mea/syrias-de-escalation-zones-are-not-the-same-as-safe-zones-353902>

Turbeville, B. (2017, May 10). *Understanding Syria's New De-escalation Zones*. Retrieved from MPN News: <https://www.mintpressnews.com/understanding-syrias-new-de-escalation-zones/227663/>

*Two Syrian Cities Received Humanitarian Aid*. (2016, February 3). Retrieved from вести.ru: <http://www.vesti.ru/doc.html?id=2715716&tid=95994>