**US Involvement in Syria**

* Arab Spring occurred in 2011
* This was an uprising by the people against oppressive regimes



* Syrians began protesting the rule of Bashar Assad



* The Assad regime violently suppressed the protests
* Russia and Iran support the Assad regime
* The Syrian gov’t used barrel bombs and chemical weapons on civilians



* al-Nusra Front was established by ISIS as the Syrian version of al- Qaeda

Arming the Rebels

* Obama authorized the CIA to arm anti-government forces in 2013
* The goal is to destroy ISIS
* This will cost up to $1 billion annually
* This support goes to “moderate” rebels such as the Free Syrian Army and Army of Mujahedeen



* US planned to deploy troops to neighboring nations to train rebel forces
* US is also providing air support starting in Sept. 2014
* Targets are ISIS training sites and other strongholds

Results

* Reports state up to 700 civilians have been killed as a result of US-led airstrikes
* Gov’t forces have lost territory
* US airstrikes have killed 45,000 militants
* No ground troops have been authorized in Syria
* 300 US Special Ops advise, train, and recruit moderate rebels
* 1st US military death in Syria occurred this month