

who was unable to vote was against him, this was a convincing mandate. Washington complained of the wartime conditions, but were happy to endorse the polls in Afghanistan and Ukraine, both plagued by war and corruption. Associated Press reasonably concluded that Assad's support was not just from minorities, but had to do with his legacy of opening up the economy, his support for women, the real benefits in education, health and electricity and, last but not least, the President's capacity to move decisively against the sectarian armed groups (AP 2014).

The June 2014 presidential elections were the most authoritative indication of support for Bashar al Assad. Even though the great institutional advantage of the incumbent made this more of a hybrid of plebiscite and election, his support in the first competitive presidential elections in decades was clear and fairly consistent with other estimates. These are shown in the table below. I have included estimates which come from Bashar's enemies in Qatar and NATO.

Table 1: Relevant Polls on the Syrian Government, 2011-2014

Poll question	Date	%	Poll host
Revolution in Syria "unlikely due to Assad's popularity"	Feb 2011	na	Wikstrom Feb 2011 in Al Jazeera (Qatar)
91% opposed violent protest against government (5% supported it)	Late 2011	91%	TESEV (2012) poll (Turkey) of Syrians
Should Assad stay?	Dec 2011	51%	Doha Debates poll (Qatar)
Constitutional change poll	Feb 2012	Passed	Syrian Govt
Parliamentary elections (Ba'ath Party result) on a 51% turnout	May 2012	60%	Syrian Govt
Bashar support in Aleppo?	Mid 2012	70%+	3 FSA leaders in Aleppo
National support for Bashar?	2013	70%	NATO consultant
National support for Bashar?	2014	70%	Syrian Dr Taleb Ibrahim
Presidential elections (Bashar vote) on a 73.4% turnout (of all eligible)	June 2014	88% (64%)	Syrian Govt

We see significant concordance between agencies of the partisan or enemy sources, those linked to the anti-Government armed

The Dirty War on Syria

**Washington, Regime Change
and Resistance**

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