

**Syria's Situation on Western Alliance's Treaties and Agreements****Sura Mohammed o'gllah\*<sup>1</sup> & Assist. Prof. Dr. Yousif Sami Farhan<sup>2</sup>***\*<sup>1&2</sup>University of Anbar, Education College for Women***ABSTRACT**

The Eisenhower Doctrine formed a new episode of the Cold War between the eastern and western blocs, as the United States of America and the Soviet Union sought to contain the countries of the Arab region, including Syria; to make it an area of influence for them, which made Syria stand against that project an opposition position; Because it did not want to link itself to a series of Western alliances that affect Syria, especially since it rejected all alliances, including the Baghdad Pact in 1955, as the Eisenhower principle was similar to the Baghdad Pact, which Syria rejected, and that the Eisenhower principle witnessed disparities by other Arab countries, nor Especially Egypt, which adhered to his rejection and sided with Syria. The Eisenhower principle led to the Syrian-Egyptian rapprochement, which led to the establishment of the United Arab Republic.

**Keywords:** Dwight Eisenhower, principle, Western alliances.

**I. INTRODUCTION**

This study examines Syria's position on the Eisenhower principle, especially after the United States emerged as a superpower competing with the Soviet Union. This competition was reflected in the Arab region, including Syria, given the importance of Syria as an important strategic location. As well as the influence of Syria on the rest of the countries of the Levant; Because Syria's acceptance of the Eisenhower principle means dragging the rest of the countries of the Levant to that project, so the importance of this research lies in knowing Syria's position on the Eisenhower project; Because Syria is one of the important and basic countries in the Arab region, and this research deals with the position of the Syrian government, as well as the political parties and newspapers, as well as the popular position on the project, and the reaction of each of them to accept or reject the Eisenhower principle. The research also reviews the role of the United States of America in putting pressure on Syria from through its economy, as well as the American plot to overthrow the regime in Syria; In addition to the mobilization of Turkish forces on the Syrian borders, all of this prompted Syria to turn to the Soviet Union and ask for help from it, which strengthened Syria's position and remained insistent on its position in rejecting the project.

**Eisenhower Doctrine in 1957**

After the failure of the Baghdad Pact to achieve its goals and the end of the tripartite aggression against Egypt in 1956, and the weakening of British and French influence in the Middle East, and the increase in Soviet influence and the growing national tide among the peoples of the region, the United States of America feared that this would lead to harming interests Western countries in the Arab region, exposing the pro-Western Arab regimes to the danger of falling; The American administration worked to change its policy towards the Middle East, and called the consequent position (filling the void), believing that the liberated countries in the region were unable to defend themselves against the danger of the Soviet Union. , with Dallas and his Secretary of State to reach a new solution on the situation of the United States of America in the Middle East .

On January 5, 1957, US President Eisenhower declared in a speech before the US Congress the importance of the Middle East for his country, saying: "The Middle East has reached a new political stage in its history" , and at the same time warned against international communism that threatens the countries of the region, and stressed The current vacuum in the Middle East must be filled by the United States of America before it can be filled by the Soviet Union, and asked Congress to grant it exceptional powers through which it could provide economic aid to the countries of the Middle East, and use the American armed forces without referring to the United Nations in order to confront any aggression Communist poses a threat to Western interests and its allies in the Arab region .

In March 1957, the US Congress approved the proposal of US President Eisenhower and authorized him to send the US armed forces to defend friendly governments in the Middle East facing an armed threat from the international communist government, and gave him the right to provide economic aid, as (20) million dollars were allocated as aid For countries that accept it .

The project entered into actual implementation on March 4, 1957, and the project aimed at consolidating American influence in the oil-rich region of the Middle East. For the United States of America to use its forces to protect its interests in the region .

President Eisenhower also sent Vice President Richard Nixon to Arab governments; He visited Lebanon, Turkey, Iran, Libya, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Tunisia, Sudan and the Zionist entity, and all of those countries declared their readiness to accept the Eisenhower principle, and opposition to it was limited to Egypt and Syria. Because he was targeting Syria in a large way, and the containment of Syria means, in the eyes of the Americans, the containment of other Arab countries , and two days after the announcement of the Eisenhower Doctrine, a correspondent of the United Press from Washington sent a message in which he said: "Syria is a wonderful example that explains why President Eisenhower presented his new project When a US senator asked US Secretary of State Dulles: "Does the principle apply to Syria?"; Dallas replied: "The danger in Syria is primarily the danger of sabotage and indirect aggression..." .

The Syrian government opposed the Eisenhower project less than a week after its announcement. On January 10, 1957, it issued a statement rejecting the "filling the void" theory. It also rejected the right of major powers to interfere in the affairs of the region, and declared that the immediate danger that threatens the Arab world is not communism. Rather, colonialism and Zionism , as the Syrian ambassador in Washington, Farid Zain al-Din, stressed that the purpose of that project is the American intervention in the internal affairs of the region, and that the Arab people will reject it, whatever their goals, describing this step of the United States of America as a colonial policy of a new type . Syrian Defense Minister Khaled al-Azm said: "The Syrian government has expressed its opinion on the Eisenhower project in a frank manner that leaves no room for ambiguity and misinterpretation, and we confirm this statement issued after a deep study of all aspects that included this principle..." . .

The Speaker of the Syrian House of Representatives, Akram al-Hourani, also called for condemning Eisenhower's allegations about the Soviet threat to the Middle East, and said: "America gives itself the right to replace Western colonialism to maintain security in the region and preserve colonial interests. Putting it at the disposal of US President Eisenhower will turn some of it into sabotage operations, not to maintain security and stability."

The head of the Foreign Affairs Committee in the Syrian House of Representatives, Ihsan al-Jabri, stated: "The Eisenhower principle will not protect Western interests and the West's monopoly over Middle East oil and other raw resources without taking into account the aspirations of the peoples of the region." The forces in the Middle East, according to the American point of view, and that the Syrian patriots saw in the confrontation of the United States of America a great danger to them from the evasions of the Soviet Union, As for the position of the Syrian newspapers, they met the principle with strong opposition, and at the same time attacked the Arab countries sympathetic to it, such as Iraq, Lebanon and Libya As for the Syrian political parties, especially the People's Party and the National Party, which are known for their support for Western policy; They were unable to announce their position publicly because of the position of the Syrian public opinion rejecting the principle, and insisting that the Syrian Council of Ministers held a meeting headed by Shukri Al-Quwatli, in which the Council affirmed its categorical rejection of the Eisenhower colonial project .

In preparation for attending the meeting of Arab leaders scheduled to be held in Cairo, President Shukri al-Quwatli traveled to Egypt and met with Gamal Abdel Nasser. Al-Hussein bin Talal on January 19, 1957, to hold a quadripartite conference with Jamal Abdel Nasser and Shukri Al-Quwatli, and a joint statement was issued about that conference, as the Eisenhower principle was considered a program for the enslavement of peoples and the conferees rejected the theory (filling the void) and the conference ended with the signing of the Arab Solidarity Agreement , and the The conferees authorized King Saud bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, who received the invitation from Eisenhower to visit Washington; On January 20, 1957, King Saud bin Abdulaziz Al Saud traveled to Washington, and it seems that King Saud has changed some of his positions towards the Eisenhower Doctrine; Because the King stated during his meeting with President Eisenhower: "The Arab position rejecting the project is based on misunderstanding, and that he will convey the correct interpretation that he knew from his talks with Eisenhower to them, and that any project to use armed force in case of necessity to prevent communist penetration in the region is beneficial to the Arab leaders."

The American diplomacy succeeded in convincing the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia that the Syrian and Egyptian targets were helping the Soviet plans to enter the region and thus would affect the status of the monarchies .

A second meeting was held in Cairo on April 25, 1957, attended by the presidents of Syria, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Jordan. King Saud bin Abdulaziz wanted to issue a statement denouncing communism and its danger to the Arab countries, but Egypt and Syria refused that; Because the issuance of such a statement would be a support for the Eisenhower principle, and this led to the destabilization of the relationship between Syria and Egypt against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and thus the American administration succeeded in splitting the Arab ranks, as the Eisenhower principle sought to isolate Jordan and Saudi Arabia from Syria and Egypt .

Events developed rapidly towards the application of the Eisenhower principle; British Foreign Minister Selwyn Lloyd announced before the British House of Representatives his government's support for the project, and the British Foreign Office prepared a memorandum on Syria entitled (The Middle East and the nature of the threat and means of combating it), which stated: "Syria is of vital importance to the to the West because of the transit of oil from Iraq... and because communications from the Mediterranean to the countries of the Baghdad Pact pass through it, and accordingly our main goal is to have a stable Syrian government." Changing the regime in Syria, the Iraqi government also sent its foreign minister, Muhammad Fadel al-Jamali to Washington, and when he met Dulles, the US Secretary of State, he explained to him: "Iraq loses seventy thousand dollars every day because of the damage to the Iraqi-Syrian oil pipelines, and that Syria has become A dangerous center for Iraq because it represents the center of communism in the region, and you can help us there."

Therefore, the US President assigned his personal envoy, James Richard, to visit the Middle East, in order to put pressure on the governments that stood against the project, and try to persuade them to agree to it; In addition to obtaining new supporters for the American project, and during James Richard's visit to the region, Syria refused to invite or receive him, and the Syrian Foreign Ministry announced the rejection of the project and thus Richard canceled his visit to Syria .

The Bermuda Conference was held on March 22, 1957, and the conference was attended by US President Eisenhower and British Prime Minister Macmillan (H. Macmillam) and its two foreign ministers. The goal of that conference was to develop plans for subversive activity against the countries that rejected the project, including Syria and Egypt, and the United States of America announced in the conference Regarding its entry into the military committee of the Baghdad Pact and as a result, the Syrian Foreign Minister Salah al-Din al-Bitar stated , saying: "The participation of the United States of America in the Baghdad Pact has proven that there is no difference between the Eisenhower principle and the Baghdad Pact, and our position with regard to the Baghdad Pact is well known. There is no need to talk about it", and the US administration has adopted several methods to pressure Syria to accept the Eisenhower Doctrine; So it directed economic pressure on Syria, as well as organizing plots to overthrow regimes that are not loyal to the American policy. to damage and paralyze the Syrian economy" , and Syria was subjected to a military threat from the United States of America; US Senator W. Fulbright stated: "The United States of America may enter the war against Syria, if Jordan is attacked on its part, and he accused both Syria and Egypt of threatening Jordan's independence" .

The United States of America was trying to isolate Jordan from Syria and Egypt; This is because the Jordanian government headed by Suleiman al-Nabulsi adopted a policy loyal to the Syrian and Egyptian policies, and wanted to conduct negotiations with Syria and Egypt to establish a federation with it; Nabulsi's relationship with King Hussein deteriorated; Because union with the republican system will lead to a threat to the monarchy ; King Hussein dismissed the Nabulsi government, and Eisenhower issued a declaration of counting: "Jordan's independence and security are vital to American security." On April 25, 1957, President Eisenhower issued his orders to the American Sixth Fleet to head towards the eastern Mediterranean under the pretext of preventing any action by Syria and Egypt against Jordan .

These events were accompanied by the visit of the political advisor to King Saud bin Abdulaziz Youssef Yassin to Syria, and he met with President Shukri al-Quwatli, trying to persuade him to stay away from Egypt and to depart from the policy of positive neutrality, as he promised him to provide great support from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United States of America, but Shukri al-Quwatli refused that The offer, and Youssef Yassin also contacted the representatives of the National Assembly supporting the Syrian government, trying to persuade them to stay away from Egypt and agree to the Eisenhower project; But they refused that and gave him a deadline of six hours to leave Syria , and during that period a delegation from the Soviet Union visited Syria and held meetings with Syrian officials who denounced the Western policy in the region , and as a result of Syria's rejection of the Western alliances, Israel carried out the aggression on the Syrian borders to pressure on the Syrian government; to change its anti-Western policy; On May 28, 1957, the Syrian government submitted a complaint to the UN Security Council against (Israel), but the United States of America stood by (Israel) in the Security Council .

Mass demonstrations erupted in Damascus denouncing the Eisenhower project and the American policy loyal to the Zionist entity, which prompted the Syrian public opinion to turn towards the Soviet Union, and Khaled Al-Azm traveled at the head of a Syrian delegation to the Soviet Union to conclude a military and economic agreement, according to which Damascus was provided with weapons and given a loan financially to establish a number of development projects, and that this rapprochement between Syria and the Soviet Union infuriated the United States of America, as it began conspiring against Syria to change its regime; The Syrian government announced that it had discovered an

American plot to overthrow the regime in Syria on August 12, 1957 ; The Syrian government expelled three American diplomats from the country, including Howard Stone, the American expert on military coups, who conspired with elements hostile to the Syrian government outside and inside Syria to overthrow the regime. One of his assistants .

President Shukri al-Quwatli traveled to Egypt to discuss the issue of the American conspiracy against Syria with President Gamal Abdel Nasser, as Gamal Abdel Nasser affirmed Egypt's support for the Syrian government in facing the pressures it is facing to force it to join the Eisenhower project, and said: "Egypt will stand by Syria's side to the extreme. Limit and unconditionally, and that all of Egypt's capabilities support Syria in our battle, which is the battle of Arabism... and that the Eisenhower project was set up to protect the states in the Arab countries from an armed attack by an Arab revolutionary state in order to achieve the Arab federal state represented by Egypt" .

After the failure of the United States of America to overthrow the regime in Syria, it resorted to using force against Syria, as it sent Deputy Secretary of State Louis Henderson to Turkey on August 24, 1957; He met with Adnan Menderes , the Turkish Prime Minister, King Faisal II of Iraq, Prime Minister Nuri al-Said and King Hussein of Jordan in order to unify efforts to carry out military action against Syria. Henderson also went to Lebanon to complete his conspiracy against Syria; He met with Lebanese President Camille Chamoun , who assured Henderson, saying: "If the United States of America does not do anything to confront the Syrian government during a maximum period of six months, it will not be able, with the presence of this government in the region, to maintain its pro-US policy" .

Henderson presented his report to the US State Department in Washington, in which he explained the seriousness of the situation in Syria after the spread of communism throughout the country, and that the Syrian people should stage a coup against their current government, and thus the United States of America continued to rise from its political and military position against Syria ; The United States of America announced American plans to supply the governments of Iraq, Lebanon and Jordan with weapons in preparation for military action against Syria. Syria has become threatened from all sides, from the north, Turkey, from the east, Iraq and Lebanon, and from the west (Israel) and Jordan from the south; In addition to the presence of the American Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean , and these events prompted the Soviet Union to send memoranda to the British government and the American administration on the issue of turbulence in the Middle East, and the Soviet Union warned those governments against using force in Syria On its border with Turkey, Syria witnessed Turkish military maneuvers; The Syrian government took military measures to stand up to any aggression that came upon it, organized popular resistance in the country, distributed pieces of light weapons to the population, and dug trenches around Aleppo to confirm its readiness for any emergency. A popular conference was held in Damascus, as the conferees announced Their standing by the government against any aggression against Syria, and the Syrian Parliament supported its government's internal and external policy and confronting conspiracies that destabilize Syria's security and stability, and Egypt sent units of its armed forces, and those forces arrived at the Syrian port of Latakia on October 13, 1957, as they included tankers Soldiers and three Egyptian destroyers to stand up to Turkish threats on the Syrian border .

Syria submitted a complaint to the United Nations General Assembly on October 15, 1957, about the Turkish threat to Syrian lands , and the Soviet Union supported Syria's position in submitting that memorandum, and the Soviet Union mobilized its military units on the Turkish borders in the Caucasus region and warned countries against interfering in Syria's affairs. ).

And when the General Secretary of the Soviet Communist Party Nikina Khrushuf stated: "If war breaks out, we are closer to Turkey than the United States of America. The Turkish government was forced to withdraw its forces from the Syrian border, and despite the attempts of the major powers to subjugate Syria and annex it to the Eisenhower project, it did not succeed in achieving this because Syria and Egypt were insistent on rejecting all Western alliances, and that the Syrian government and people despite the pressures that It was practiced against them by the major powers and the countries surrounding them, but they remained committed to their decision to refuse to link Syria to the policy of the Western alliances, and thus they failed to include Syria in the Eisenhower project.

## **II. CONCLUSION**

This study came to identify Syria's position on the Eisenhower project; And that at all official and popular levels, and the Eisenhower Doctrine had serious repercussions on Syria; Syria witnessed turmoil in all political and economic fields; As a result of American pressure on it, the state of Arab division has deepened as a result of this project; So Syria and Egypt became on one side, and Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Lebanon became; In addition to Jordan on the other hand, and finally, it can be said that Syria preferred positive neutrality between the eastern and western camps; I opposed linking the Arab region to Western military alliances on the premise that the defense of the Arab homeland

must stem from within and that its responsibility rests on the shoulders of its countries, and then it categorically rejected all Western projects.

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