Matrix: The Just Liberation Wars and the Reactionary Wars of Powers in Syria

Anti-Assad Rebels
Nour al-Din al-Zenki, Ahrar al-Sham, various FSA factions, Jaysh al-Islam, etc.
Petty-bourgeois nationalists/ Islamists; partly fight against Assad regime (e.g. Al-Ghouta); Support Astana Deal; Subordinate to Turkish Regime and support its "Euphrates Shield" operation in Afrin; Partly fight against HTS in Idlib/Aleppo

In some areas these factions (more or less) collaborate in fighting against the Assad regime (e.g. Al-Ghouta, Homs, Daraa); but civil war between them is raging in the biggest rebel-hold enclave Idlib/Western Aleppo. Main division is approach to Astana deal and to Turkey's attempted occupation of Idlib. Revolutionaries support the anti-Astana forces (like HTS) in this civil war without lending political support to their petty-bourgeois Islamist agenda. They also oppose Turkey's invasion in Syria.

Anti-Assad Rebels
Hayyat Tahrir al-Sham and others (TIP etc.)
Petty-bourgeois Islamists; support Continuation of Struggle against Assad/Russia/Iran; Reject Astana Deal; Oppose Subordination to Turkish Regime

These rebel factions collaborate closely with the Turkish regime and support its military operation in Afrin. They serve as agents of Ankara in order to implement the Astana deal.

Turkey

Semi-colonial Turkey and U.S. imperialism have been traditionally close allies as part of the NATO alliance. However, the decline of the U.S. and the rise of Russia as well as Washington's collaboration with the Kurdish YPG have resulted in a massive detoriation of the U.S.-Turkish relationship.

USA

The Turkish regime wants to eliminate those rebel factions which oppose the Astana deal (e.g. HTS and others). For this goal Ankara uses the pro-Turkish rebel factions.

The Turkish regime closely cooperates with imperialist Russia in implementing the Astana deal. It therefore indirectly cooperates with Russia's closest allies - the Assad regime and Iran. However, this relationship is contradictory as each robber wants to get a larger share of the cake at the cost of the others.

The Turkish regime denies the Kurdish people its rights of national self-determination. This is why it attacks Afrin. Revolutionaries oppose the Turkish attack and defend the Kurdish people. At the same time revolutionaries denounce the PYD/YPG/SDF's collaboration with US imperialism as well as with the Assad regime.

The Kurdish PYD/YPG/SDF closely collaborates with US imperialism. It also collaborate tactically with the Assad regime. Furthermore it has looked for collaboration with Russian imperialism. The PYD/YPG leadership have always isolated the Kurdish people from the Syrian Revolution.

Kurdish PYD/YPG/ SDF
Petty-bourgeois nationalists/ Stalinists

U.S. and Russian imperialism are both rivals as well as allies in Syria. They collaborate against "terrorists" (Daesh/ISIS, anti-Astana rebel factions like HTS). They rival against each other for spheres of influence in Syria and the Middle East region. Revolutionaries oppose both camps.

These rebel factions fight a liberation war against the Assad regime, Russia and Iran. However, as they collaborate with Turkey and support the Astana deal, they are inconsistent liberation forces.

U.S. imperialism wants to eliminate HTS and other rebel factions; it has put them on its "list of terrorist organizations"; repeatedly attacked them and killed numerous leaders. HTS and others have declared U.S. as their enemy.

The relationship between the PYD/YPG/SDF and the Russia/Iran/Assad camp is contradictory. The PYD/YPG has collaborated with the Assad regime many times. However its role as servant of US imperialism in East Syria brings it in contradiction with the interests of the Russia/Iran/Assad camp.

HTS & other rebel factions fight a liberation war against the Assad regime, Russia and Iran. Until now they have consistently opposed the Astana deal. Revolutionaries stand on their side and for the military defeat of Assad/Russia/Iran.

Russia / Iran / Assad Regime

Close strategic alliance between Russia, semi-colonial Iran and Assad regime with Moscow being the dominant force. There exist only tactical differences between them.

Legend: *Just War:* → *Reactionary War:* - - - → *Relationship between the two parties:* ——— *Date of Publication: 13.03.2018*

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