Civil War Termination
Applying Historical Lessons to the Syrian Conflict
American University Intelligence Analysis Practicum, Spring 2014

Thesis
The most prevalent factor in ending civil wars is foreign involvement; however, when the recipient of the foreign involvement is a fragmented force, the involvement will be ineffective in terminating the war.

Case Studies
1. Afghanistan
2. Bosnia
3. Iraq
4. Lebanon
5. Mali
6. Sudan
7. Tajikistan

Data Set
42 civil wars
49 variables examining civil war:
- Causes
- Structure
- Turning Points
- Endings

Findings for Syria
- Negotiations will fail
- The Assad regime will stay in power
- Even if the Assad regime is removed, the conflict will continue
- Conflict termination is a long way off