

Matt Lundquist

Global Studies 7B

Mr. Kaufman

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Syria Uses Chemical Weapons

In the article “Syria to Allow UN to Inspect ‘Chemical Weapons’ Site,” the BBC World News analyzes the recent alleged chemical weapon attack near Damascus, the capital of Syria. The attack killed about 300 people in the eastern and western suburbs of Damascus (“Syria Profile”). In order to confirm that chemical weapons were indeed used, Syria has allowed the United Nations to send experts to inspect the site. United Kingdom Foreign Secretary William Hague said that some evidence could have been tampered with or destroyed in the past five days since the attack. If this is true, then the UN may find no evidence of chemical weaponry which could be a huge problem for those attempting to find out who was responsible for the attack (“World Fact Book”).

Syria has been in the news quite a bit lately, and I selected this article because it shows how the civil war there is affecting the average people. I find it interesting that the Syrian government was willing to use these horrible weapons against its own people. World War I was the last time chemical weapons were used in a large way during a war, and the Syrian government is demonstrating just how barbaric it is by using chemicals weapons again (“Briefing” 8). I also found it interesting that right after this attack happened the governor of Hama, a west-central Syrian city, was killed in a car bomb attack. I wonder if these two attacks were connected (“Briefing” 15).

What I also wonder about this article is the conclusion of the investigation. I really want to know if they found chemical residue at the site, and if so, how much was

it tampered with. Also, who was responsible for setting off the weapons, and what will the UN do if it discovers the Syrian government was responsible?

I believe that this event connects with modern life because it shows the tricky relationship between the U.S. and Syria because the 2 countries have not always been allies. The U.S. should do all that it can to prevent innocent Syrians from being murdered, but I'm not sure exactly what our government can do. I don't believe that the U.S. military should get involved in another war, but at the same time I don't think it is right for us to just stand by and let a dictator gas and kill his own people ("Syria: Chemicals"). This reminds me of our studies of the Holocaust and World War II last year, and the difficult decision that was made about whether to get into that war before we were actually attacked by the Japanese at Pearl Harbor. Problems like these keep occurring, and at some point I wonder if we might need to send our military to Syria to stop these senseless killings ("Syria Profile").

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