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The rebuilding of Syria after the fall of Bachar al-Assad is both an economic and a social challenge – provided that the new political frame holds and ensures the minimum stability that is needed to restart the engine. Arguably, the economic collapse of the Assad regime contributed a lot to the internal weakening of the system. The poverty rate in Syria has reached an estimated 70% (officially) to 90% (unofficially) of the population, fueling social pressure against the president who had transformed an already weak economy into a sort of mafia system essentially relying on the selling of captagon (around two-thirds of Syria's exports). Syria's gross domestic product has contracted by 85% since the start of the war, its basic infrastructures are almost destroyed entirely or not functioning, and the World Bank deems that it will take at least 10 years to rebuild them. The country has very few resources – its agriculture has been devastated by the fighting and the oil fields are still controlled by the Syrian Defense Forces in the Kurdish region, therefore not available to the government in Damascus. Strong territorial imbalances are a result of the fragmentation of battlefields.

There is now a need to build in parallel a working production system and a new system of relationships with the outside world. The Assad regime depended heavily on Russia and Iran who are now out of the game, while the international community is ready to engage in order to ensure stability for Syria in the long term. The political normalization of Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham is an absolute prerequisite to lift the sanctions that still hinder the efforts of the international business community. The first emergency is to provide housing for the refugees who plan to return. Indeed, the contribution of the Syrian diaspora to the rebuilding of the country will be crucial. So many small entrepreneurs and active Syrians have left the country and taken with them the manufacturing system, notably through a massive migration to Southeast Türkiye. They may be willing to come back but need a consistent framework they can work within – a new social consensus and a new, transparent, to provide hope for the future of Syria.