1.	Record Nr.	UNINA9910788905703321
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	Titolo	The Soviet Union and Syria : the Asad years / / Efraim Karsh
	Pubbl/distr/stampa	London ; ; New York : , : Routledge, , 2014
	ISBN	1-317-81850-4 1-315-81898-1
	Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (215 p.)
	Collana	Routledge library editions. Syria ; ; volume 2
	Disciplina	327.4705691
	Soggetti	Soviet Union Foreign relations Syria Syria Foreign relations Soviet Union Soviet Union Foreign relations 1953-1975 Soviet Union Foreign relations 1975-1985
	Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
	Formato	Materiale a stampa
	Livello bibliografico	Monografia
	Note generali	"First published in 1988"--T.p. verso.
	Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references.
	Nota di contenuto	Cover; Half Title; Title Page; Copyright Page; Original Title Page; Original Copyright Page; Table of Contents; Dedication; Acknowledgments; 1. Introduction; 2. Cooperation and conflict; The formative years; The October 1973 War; Disengagement; Closing the ranks; 3. Crisis over Lebanon; 4. Towards a bilateral treaty; Reconciliation; November 1977 and after; Towards a Friendship and Cooperation Treaty; 5. From crisis to war; The Syrian-Jordanian crisis; The Soviets and the missile crisis; Prelude to war; War over Lebanon; 6. From Brezhnev to Gorbachev; Chernenko and the Syrians Gorbachev: continuity or change?7. Conclusions; A marriage of convenience; Implications for the West; Notes; Appendices
	Sommario/riassunto	This Chatham House Paper examines the nature of Soviet relations with Syria, assessing the commitments made and the gains reaped by Moscow and Damascus in the economic, military and political spheres. After discussing Soviet interests in the region in general and with regard to Syria in particular, the author traces the evolution of the relationship between Moscow and its major Middle Eastern ally since Asad came to power in 1970.While the study argues that huge Soviet military aid has intensified the pro-Soviet alignment of Syrian policy, it contends that Asad's perception of his co