

# News

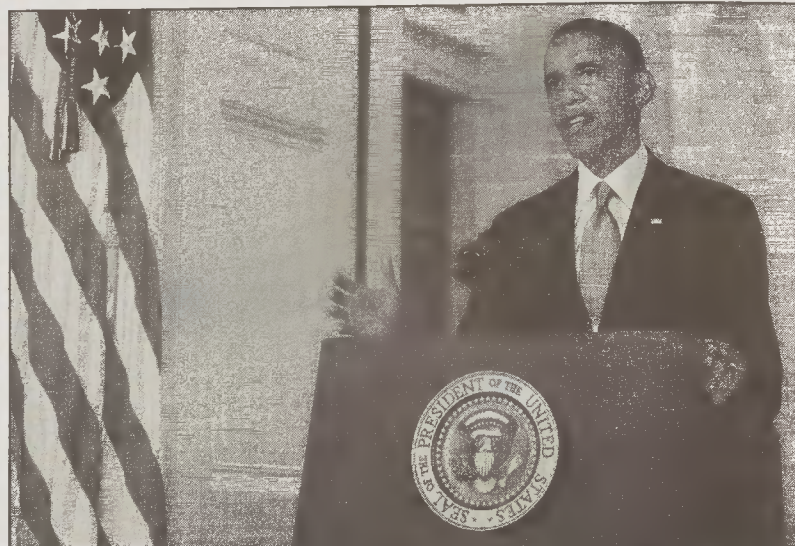
## Obama Addresses Nation on Syria, Putin Responds

Monique Kreisman, news editor

President Obama warned the nation of possible military intervention in Syria in an address on Sept. 10 in response to the use of chemical weapons in Syria on Aug. 21 that killed over 1,400 people. In response to his speech, president of Russia Vladimir Putin published an editorial in the *New York Times*. While Obama's speech sought to prepare the nation for the possibility of military action, Putin's article asked for caution.

One major difference in the presidents' positions is the question of responsibility for the chemical attack. The Syrian government has been at war with a rebel army for two years, and leader of Syria al-Assad claims that the insurgents are to blame for the use of chemical weapons. While Obama stated, "We know the Assad regime is responsible," Putin responded that it was "opposition forces" and not the Syrian army.

Another point of debate is which course of action will ultimately make the world a safer place. Obama argues that using a military strike to denounce the use of chemical weapons is in the best interest of the U.S.; Putin writes that it would set off a violent chain of events in the unstable Middle East, causing more war and destruction. Since the conclusion of World War II, the use of chemical weapons has been a violation of international law. Obama stated that if Assad's actions go unchallenged, American troops may face poison gas on the battlefield one day, and Syria's chemical weapons may fall into the hands of terrorist organizations. In contrast, Putin writes, "A strike would increase violence and unleash a new wave of terrorism. It could undermine multilateral efforts to resolve the Iranian nuclear problem and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and further destabilize the Middle East and North Africa. It could throw the entire system of international law and order out of balance." From Obama's perspective, taking action against Syria would affirm international law; Putin believes U.S. intervention would undermine it.



via hollywoodreporter.com

Whatever happens, Obama stated, "I will not put American boots on the ground in Syria." He acknowledged that after Iraq and Afghanistan, Americans are very wary of entering into another war. However, the president concluded his speech with a challenge to members of Congress and Americans to watch the videos of the victims in Syria and ask themselves what kind of world we would live in if dictators are allowed commit atrocities against civilians.

## Tokyo Named as Location for 2020 Summer Olympics

Hannah Nielsen, staff writer

With just a few months until the upcoming Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia, there's a new Olympic fever in the air. On September 8, 2012, the International Olympic Council announced that the 2020 summer Olympics will be held in Tokyo, Japan.

The 2020 summer Olympics will not be Tokyo's first time hosting, as the city also hosted the 1964 summer Olympics. In fact, Tokyo will be updating some of the arenas used in the previous games, including the Tokyo Metropolitan Gymnasium and the National Olympic Stadium, to be used in 2020. Some scheduled improvements will consist of installing a retractable roof and modernizing the overall look of some of the buildings. This choice of recycling rather than rebuilding is sure to save the country large sums of money. Japan can also avoid the cost of improving their transit system, which countries normally do in anticipation for the excess of athletes and tourists. The "bullet" train in Japan was actually developed for the 1964 games.

Economic advantages are certainly evident for Japan compared to many other nations that have gone into debt after hosting an Olympics due to intense construction and preparation for such a massive international event. Post-Olympic costs usually fall on the taxpayers to offset the cost of building stadiums that don't bring in enough post-Olympic revenue.

The games are not always an economic curse, however. In fact, the 1964 Tokyo Olympics were so successful that they took Japan out of a post-WWII depression and launched the country into world recognition for innovations such as the bullet train and technological advancements that allowed sports fans from around the globe to watch the games on their television sets. Undoubtedly, the Japanese government is hoping that the 2020 games will again serve to boost the spirits of their citizens who are still rebuilding from the 2011 earthquake and tsunami in Japan.

### Olympic Timeline:

2008 Summer Olympics- Beijing, China  
2010 Winter Olympics- Vancouver, Canada  
2012 Summer Olympics- London England  
2014 Winter Olympic- Sochi, Russia: Olympic Games (February 7-23, 2014)  
2016 Summer Olympics- Rio de Janeiro: Olympic Games (August 5-21, 2016)  
2018 Winter Olympics- Pyeong Chang, South Korea  
2020 Summer Olympics- Tokyo, Japan

## Apple Unveils Redesigned iPhone

Elizabeth Jones, staff writer

The much-anticipated iPhone 5 was released on September 13, and some say it resembles a gadget out of a sci-fi movie. Apple has come up with a device that can withstand 25 hours on one charge, has fingerprint identification, and is priced at only \$99.

It comes equipped with a billion transistors and an impressive sixty-four bit architecture fit for a desktop computer. According to CNET news, it also is five times faster than the old iPhone. The 5C (plastic) starts at \$99 and was released September 13th, and the 5S (metal) starts at \$199.00 and will be released September 20. People are calling the new iPhone 5 the "gold standard."

Users do not have to worry about password-protecting their phones anymore, as the iPhone 5 is nicely furnished with a fingerprint detection sensor, which allows only the owner to open his phone by pressing the center key. Users can also add fingerprints to their phones to permit multiple people to access it. The back-side is illuminated for lowlight performance, has a five element lens, and is 25% smaller. The phone is outfitted with a sapphire crystal lens cover, which offers better protection and has a reputation for giving a sharper, clearer image. It is capable of taking a picture 45% faster and possesses a shared photo screen, which enables users to easily share photos with friends and family.

As an added bonus, there is no need to search for Bluetooth or click around to adjust the brightness on the phone because those settings are incorporated in a control center that allows users to access all of the most commonly used features at once. A staggering 57% of voters for CNET said that they were most looking forward to more battery life for the iPhone 5, which now carries a total of 250 hours standby time. In a five year period, Apple has made approximately \$150 billion, and the company is sure to make more with this impressive new line of iPhones.

