**Summary:**

According to Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel. the Syrian government likely used chemical weapons in the ongoing war against rebel factions in the country. The conflict began in 2011 and is still ongoing as of 2013. President Bashar Assad is known to have chemical weapons. and a few months ago they were being loaded and prepared. President Obama has said that any use of chemical weapons in Syria would be a “red line” that would require intervention. because it is a violation of the conventions of war.

Senate republicans hope that now that this “red line” has been crossed. the United States will begin supplying the rebels with military aid. as opposed to strictly humanitarian aid.

**Commentary:**

This news event is relevant to world history because of the dangerous actions taken by the government of Syria. While the current use of chemical weapons is believed to be on a small scale. large scale use of these weapons could result in the even more massacre of the people of Syria. This also has worldwide effects. because of Obama’s “red line” requiring intervention. If the Syrian government openly uses chemicals warfare against its people. it is assumed that the United Nations will have to intervene on this crisis. resulting in a coalition effort in support of the rebels.

**Article:**

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2013/04/25/syria-chemical-weapons-reversal-hagel/2112377/>