



*Fighting Social Inequality*  
*CalsMUN 2023*

**Research Report**

**Forum:** Security Council

**Issue:** The Conflict Between United States and Iran

**Chairs:** Gözde Akçin & Gülin Keşmer





## Introduction

Tensions between the United States of America and the Islamic Republic of Iran, which have been fluctuating for the better half of the past century, have recently reached new heights with the eyes of the world laser-focused on the Russo-Ukrainian war. The two countries have been at odds with each other since a coup staged by the CIA overthrew Iran's democratic government in 1953. Over the years the conflict has seen regime changes, missile attacks, naval battles; bouts for control over Iran's oil reserves, the Middle Eastern political field, and most recently, nuclear power. Let us take a closer look at the political grudge that spans two continents and an ocean.

## Definition of Key Terms

### Nuclear Weapon

A nuclear weapon is an explosive device that releases energy through nuclear fission or fusion reactions. Its atom-splitting capability results in the release of a thousand times more energy than typical explosive devices.

### Uranium Enrichment

Uranium is a radioactive chemical element that is a critical component of nuclear energy production. The most common uranium isotope in nature is  $^{238}\text{U}$  with a percentage of 99,3%, while another isotope, Uranium 235 (barely 0,7% in nature) is useful for nuclear technology. Thus, to increase its amount,  $^{238}\text{U}$  needs to undergo enrichment. Uranium can take two forms, either low enriched (LEU) or highly enriched (HEU).

### Axis of Evil

"Axis of Evil" is a term used to depict Iran's, North Korea's, and Iraq's aggressive tendencies in the early twenty-first century. David Frum (a Canadian-born speechwriter for the American president) and presidential assistant Michael Gerson created the phrase for use by George W. Bush in his 2002 State of the Union address. He used it to describe foreign countries that purportedly supported terrorism and sought for WMDs when he was in office. The idea of such an axis was utilized to identify these shared adversaries of the U.S. and to mobilize the American people behind the War on Terror.

### State Sponsors of Terrorism

The United States Department of State designates certain nations as "State Sponsors of Terrorism" on the grounds that they have "repeatedly provided assistance for acts of international terrorism." Strict unilateral punishments are imposed for being included on the list. The countries on the list as of 2021 are Syria, Cuba, Iran, and North Korea. Formerly on the list were South Yemen, Iraq, Libya, and Sudan.



## Nuclear Program of Iran

Iran's nuclear program is a continuing endeavour to conduct scientific research into the development of nuclear weapons-capable technology. It is the main reason for friction between the two countries today. (More in "Background Information")

## Non-Proliferation Treaty

The Non-Proliferation Treaty, also known as the NPT or Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, is a global agreement that aims to stop the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology, foster cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and advance the cause of nuclear disarmament and general and complete disarmament. The pact was negotiated between 1965 and 1968 by the Geneva-based Eighteen Nation Committee on Disarmament, an agency of the United Nations. The NPT is frequently viewed as resting on a single agreement:

In exchange for the NPT, nuclear-weapon states sharing the benefits of peaceful nuclear technology and working toward nuclear disarmament aimed at eventually getting rid of their nuclear arsenals, and the NPT non-nuclear-weapon states committed to never acquiring nuclear weapons.

Although Iran has been a signatory to the NPT since 1970, it was determined to be in violation of the safeguards agreement, and the status of its nuclear program is still up for debate. IAEA Director General Mohamed ElBaradei warned in November 2003 that Iran has consistently and persistently failed to uphold its safeguards responsibilities.

## Weapon of Mass Destruction (WMD)

A weapon of mass destruction is a nuclear, radiological, chemical, biological, or other device that is intended to harm a large number of people.

## Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)

The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, commonly known as the Iran nuclear deal or Iran deal, is an agreement on the Iranian nuclear program. Iran and the P5+1 (China, France, Germany, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States) negotiated a comprehensive, 159-page agreement with five annexes on July 14, 2015.

Resolution 2231 of the UN Security Council, which was passed on July 20, 2015, supported this nuclear agreement.

According to several specifications outlined in the deal, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) regularly examines Iran's compliance with the JCPOA's nuclear-related provisions.



## General Overview

In order to comprehend the issue as a whole, a grasp of the history of the dispute between the two countries and a certain amount of background information is necessary.

Relations between Iran and the U.S. started in the middle to late 19th century, when Iran was still known to the west as Persia. During the Great Game, Persia was extremely suspicious of British and Russian colonial interests, while the United States was regarded as a more reliable foreign power. Even after the Soviet Union and the United Kingdom (both allies to the U.S.) invaded Persia during World War II, ties remained cordial all the way up until the latter years of Mohammad Mosaddegh's administration, which was overthrown by a coup backed by MI6 and the Central Intelligence Agency. Following this, the US government and the Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi regime forged a close connection and Persia became one of the closest allies of the U.S. However, after the 1979 Iranian Revolution, there was a sharp reversal in relations between the two nations.

President Eisenhower gave his "Atoms for Peace" speech in front of the UN General Assembly on December 8, 1953. There, Eisenhower acknowledged the contradictory potential and danger of the atomic age, which saw the militarization of the atom for nuclear weapons on the one hand and the peaceful use of the atom to create energy on the other. Afterwards, the UN launched a programme dubbed after the speech, where states seeking to develop civilian nuclear programs could access technology and teaching materials from Atoms for Peace. After the United States and Iran agreed to a civil nuclear cooperation agreement through the Atoms for Peace initiative, known as the Cooperation Concerning Civil Uses of Atoms, Iran's nuclear program started under Mohamed Reza Shah's rule in 1957. The deal called for collaboration on peaceful uses of nuclear energy and permitted the lease of several kilograms of enriched uranium to Iran. Two years later, the Shah founded the Tehran Nuclear Research Centre (TNRC), which is situated at the University of Tehran, and started negotiating with the US to supply Iran with nuclear materials and technology.

A few years later, after suspending the parliament, an aggressive modernisation program called the "White Revolution" was launched by the Shah in order to reconstruct key policies the country ran on. These plans included reducing religious education, passing a populist land reform law, and increasing opportunities for women across the country - although once put in practice, they also dealt a harsh blow on rural economies and traditional societal values. This situation naturally upset a broad range of groups whose positions of power fell under threat, from secular leftists opposing the Shah's dictatorship to aristocrats who feared losing land,

but perhaps most importantly, Iran's deeply entrenched Shi'i clergy. Around this time, an ayatollah (major religious leader) named Ruhollah Khomeini rose to the stage as one of the loudest critics of the Shah's regime. The riots he inspired eventually lead to his arrest in 1963, and later his forcible exile by the Shah in 1964, where he settled in Al-Najaf, Iraq, and began cultivating a formidably influential network and following to lay the groundworks of an Islamic republic.



Fourteen years later, thousands of teenage madrasah students protested in the streets in January 1978 after reading what they deemed to be defamatory remarks about Ayatollah Khomeini in the Eelt, a Tehran newspaper. Thousands of other Iranian youngsters, the majority of whom were recent immigrants from the countryside without jobs, joined them in denouncing the excessiveness of the dictatorship. Weakened by disease and astonished by the sudden outpour of anger against him, the Shah wavered between giving in and suppressing the protests, believing they were the result of a global plot to overthrow him. During anti-regime rallies, the government used force and killed numerous individuals, which only served to inflame the violence in a Shi'i country where martyrdom played a crucial role in religious expression. While Islamist demonstrators opposed his modernization goal, secular protesters criticized his authority, and the Shah fled the country on January 16. Ayatollah Khomeini returned from exile on February 1 and became the Islamic Republic's supreme leader.

Following the successful ousting of the pro-American Shah of Iran by Islamic fundamentalists, the United States came under harsh criticism, with the U.S. Embassy in Tehran standing as a prominent target. On November 4, 1979, Iranian students seized command of the embassy and held 52 Americans hostage, including the Chargé d'Affaires and the youngest staff members. They asked for the Shah's extradition to Iran (who at the time had been admitted to the U.S. for cancer treatment) so he could face justice for "crimes against the Iranian people". The "Iranian hostage crisis", as it was dubbed, continued for 444 days and cast doubt on then-president-Jimmy Carter's approach to foreign policy. Minutes after Ronald Reagan was elected, Iran released the hostages in exchange for the unfreezing of state assets. The U.S. cut off all diplomatic connections with Iran during the crisis and ever since April 7 1980, the two countries have not formally mended their relations.

The Iran–Iraq War was an armed conflict that started with the invasion of Iran by Iraq and lasted from September 1980 to August 1988, until both parties agreed to abide by United Nations Security Council Resolution 598. Almost immediately after Iraq was founded in 1921, in the wake of World War I, tensions between the two countries started to rise. Control of the Shatt al-Arab (the canal created by the meeting of the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers, whose southern end serves as the border between the two countries) was one long-lasting cause of dispute by the 1970s. The 1975 Algiers Agreement, where Iran withdrew assistance for a Kurdish rebellion in northern Iraq in exchange for the maritime border being moved to the thalweg, weakened Iraqi sovereignty over the waterway. Later, the Iranian Revolution of 1978-79 became a turning point in the course of the conflict. In July 1979, Saddam Hussein (then-president of Iraq and head of the Ba'ath Party) relied on the backing of his country's minority Sunni Muslims and feared that the Iranian revolution would spread to Shi'ite-dominated Iraq. In addition, Saddam aimed to revoke the 1975 border agreements and retake control of both banks of the Shatt al-Arab, Iraq's only route to the Persian Gulf, so he made the decision to attack Iran first in order to take advantage of the Iranian military's post-revolutionary weakness.

Iraqi soldiers attacked Iranian air bases with airstrikes on September 22, 1980. They then invaded Khuzestan, an oil-producing border area, by land. The invasion was initially a success; by November, Iraq had taken control of Khorramshahr and gained additional



territory. However, the Iranian resistance - fuelled by the addition of revolutionary militia to the conventional armed forces - quickly slowed the Iraqi advance. Iran began a counteroffensive in 1981, and by early 1982, they had regained almost all of their lost territory. Iraq made an effort to find peace before the year's end after pulling back its soldiers to the border areas from before the war. Iran declined under Khomeini's direction and insisted on escalating the conflict in an effort to topple Saddam's government. They made the first of many unsuccessful incursions into Iraqi territory in July 1982 in an effort to seize control of Basra, the country's port city.

As Iraq's fortifications stiffened in response to Iran's onslaught, the conflict along a front roughly parallel to the border came to a virtual standstill. The United States and other Western nations sent warships to the Persian Gulf to control the output of oil to the global market after both sides conducted air and missile attacks against cities, military installations, oil infrastructure, and shipping. Khomeini's leadership remained largely isolated from the global community during and after the hostage crisis involving diplomats at the American embassy in Tehran in 1979–81; Iran's primary friends during the conflict were Syria and Libya. In sharp contrast, besides having a significant numerical edge over Iran, Iraq had more advanced weapons and a more solid officer corps thanks to direct support from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and other Arab governments as well as covert help from Western countries like the United States. It is worth noting however that there was a period of internationally expressed horror over their use of chemical weapons against Iranian troops and Kurdish people in Iraq who were regarded as being pro-Iran.

Resulting from Iran's numerous offensive failures over the years, Iraq began its own string of ground assaults in the spring of 1988. Iran's clerical leaders were persuaded by Iraqi battlefield victories that they had slim chances of winning the war decisively. Under Security Council Resolution 598, which was negotiated by the United Nations, the two countries accepted a cease-fire; the war legally ended on August 20, 1988.

In the meantime, as Iran and Iraq continued their violent struggle, relations between the United States and many other countries were at an all time low. The strained political climate of the early 1980's led to what is officially known as the Iran-Contra Affair, commonly referred to as "The Iran-Contra Scandal" or "Irangate". Ronald Reagan, who won his seat in the White House in 1980, was unable to keep his Republican colleagues' political momentum going, and in the 1982 midterm elections, the GOP lost control of both the Senate and the

House of Representatives. The Boland Amendment, which limited the activities of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and Department of Defense (DoD) in international conflicts, was passed by the Democrats shortly after they gained control of Congress. The amendment was made expressly with Nicaragua in mind, because the Sandinista government there was being opposed by the anti-communist Contras. Around this time, seven Americans (diplomats and private contractors) were being held captive in Lebanon by Hezbollah, backed by Iran. One clear directive from Reagan to his advisers was to "find a method to bring those hostages home." McFarlane tried to accomplish this in 1985. At this point, the stage was set for the Iran-Contra affair to begin.



McFarlane informed Reagan that Iran had contacted the US about purchasing weapons for its conflict with Iraq's neighbour. However, there was still a trade embargo in place between the United States and Iran from the hostage crisis of '79. This meant that any arms deal made between the two countries had to be covert, but they would be able to exchange their hostages for missiles and other weapons, while also supplying the Contra guerrilla in Nicaragua with money from the arrangement. Weinberger and Schultz objected to the exchange, but Reagan pursued it with the support of McFarlane and CIA Director William Casey. The contentious deal and the ensuing political controversy threatened to topple Ronald Reagan's administration.

The arms deal between the United States and Iran was revealed in 1986, far into Reagan's second term, by the Lebanese newspaper *Al-Shiraa*. Reagan initially denied having discussions with Iran or the terrorist organization. Attorney General Edwin Meese began an investigation into the weapon sale at the same time and discovered that around \$18 million of the \$30 million that Iran had paid for the weapons was missing. The National Security Council's Lieutenant Colonel Oliver North then came forward and admitted that he had routed the missing funds to the Contras in Nicaragua, who had subsequently used them to buy weapons.

For the remainder of his presidency, the American media relentlessly pursued Reagan on the subject. The president himself appointed the Tower Commission, which looked into the administration's role and came to the conclusion that Reagan's lack of oversight allowed those working under him to funnel the money to the Contras. Reagan testified before the commission in sessions that were broadcast nationwide during a Congressional probe in 1987. Later, the Iran-Contra Affair was the subject of an eight-year investigation by Independent Counsel Lawrence Walsh. In total, 14 people—including North, Poindexter, and McFarlane—were charged.

Reagan was never indicted, and George H. W. Bush, who served as Reagan's vice president and was elected president in 1988, pardoned Weinberger in advance in 1992. Reagan departed office as a well-liked leader, despite having made a promise to supporters that he would never negotiate with terrorists - which he or his deputies did when arranging the weapons trade with Iran. Meanwhile, The Islamic Republic of Iran has been listed as the "leading state sponsor of terrorism" by the U.S. government since 1984, claiming that Iran offers "a variety of support, including financial, training, and equipment, to [terrorist] organizations throughout the world, particularly Hezbollah."

Two weeks into April of 1988, the USS Samuel B. Roberts hit a mine while conducting naval exercises off the Persian Gulf. Claiming that the mine was Iranian-laid, the U.S launched a retaliatory attack dubbed "Operation Praying Mantis" four days later, sinking two Iranian warships, damaging another, and destroying three oil production complexes owned by the National Iranian Oil Company. Iran contested that this was a breach of the Treaty of Amity, Economic Relations and Consular Rights, signed between the two countries in 1955, and filed a lawsuit to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in 1992. This sparked a legal dispute that lasted eleven years, seeing both parties drag up many prior engagements, and a verdict



was reached in 2003 that can best be described as “inconclusive”, where the Court found that neither the claims nor counter-claims made by either party could be entertained under its jurisdiction.

On July 3, 1988, two SM-2MR surface-to-air missiles launched by the USS Vincennes (a guided-missile cruiser of the United States Navy) brought down Iran Air Aircraft 655, an organized passenger flight from Tehran to Dubai through Bandar Abbas. All 290 passengers on board the Airbus A300 lost their lives. The jet was struck shortly after taking off while flying over Iran's territorial waters in the Persian Gulf along the flight's customary path. This sparked a disagreement between the two governments - to this day, the U.S. claims that the Vincennes crew mistook the Airbus for an F-14 Tomcat jet fighter that had been a part of the Iranian Air Force's inventory since the 1970s.

In his State of the Union address on January 29 2002, President George W. Bush referred to North Korea, Iran, and Iraq as "an axis of evil, armed to threaten the peace of the world," in an apparent effort to put more pressure on "rogue states" that might use WMDs or give them to terrorists. Bush said that his administration would take action to stop "regimes that sponsor terror" from endangering the United States and its allies with WMD, despite the fact that he gave no fresh information regarding the activities of these nations. North Korea, Iran, and Iraq, according to Bush, "represent a severe and growing danger" and might give terrorists access to WMD and missiles, "providing them the capacity to match their hatred."

As the US voiced concerns that Iran was attempting to develop nuclear weapons in 2003, through a transparency agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency, Iran identified the majority of the facilities that were visibly connected to uranium-enrichment activities. From February 2003 onward, Iran provided the agency with a number of declarations, all of which were later deemed to be insufficient. Iran agreed to halt its uranium enrichment activities and ratify an additional protocol that called for them to provide a more thorough declaration of their nuclear activities and extend the IAEA's access rights to sites in the country as part of an agreement reached between Iran and European foreign ministers. This was not enough to halt mounting foreign sanctions, however, and in November 2013 Iran, the U.S. and five other nations signed the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the first stage in a six-month process that aimed to permanently end the decade-long international standoff over Iran's nuclear program. In accordance with its provisions, Iran consented to destroy a large portion of its nuclear program and permit more thorough international inspections of its facilities in exchange for sanctions relief worth billions of dollars. This marked possibly the most important understanding between Washington and Tehran since the Iranian revolution of 1979.

Four years later, President Donald Trump issued an executive order that indefinitely suspended entry to the country for all Syrian refugees and barred all other refugees for 120 days. The order also banned foreign nationals from seven countries with a Muslim majority from entering for 90 days. Iran replied by testing its ballistic missiles in response to the prohibition, which it described as "an evident insult to the Islamic world." The back-and-forth raised questions about the future of the Iran nuclear deal as it represented a dramatic



escalation in hostilities between the two nations.

Following the ban, asserting that it had failed to limit Iran's missile development and regional influence, Trump withdrew the United States from the JCPOA in 2018. In 2019, Iran began breaking agreed-upon limitations to its stockpile of low-enriched uranium and started enriching uranium to greater percentages (though still far short of the purity required for weapons), which Tehran claimed accounted for foreign violations of the agreement. Additionally, they restarted heavy water production at their plant in Arak, developed new centrifuges to speed up uranium enrichment, and started enriching uranium at Fordow, rendering the isotopes created there useless for medical use.

Trump declared his intention to designate the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) of Iran as a foreign terrorist organization (FTO) on April 8, 2019. The designation was justified, according to administration officials, by the IRGC's involvement in "active and enthusiastic acts of terror," such as the 1983 bombing of the U.S. Marine barracks in Beirut and the 1996 bombing of the Khobar Towers complex in Saudi Arabia. It was the first time that the United States had classified an official military organization of a foreign state as an FTO; the designation is subject to legislative review. The IRGC had already been targeted for sanctions under several Executive Orders, which generally carry fines akin to those associated with FTOs and had discouraged the majority of foreign companies from doing business with the IRGC. The designation was made in response to the Administration's claims that Iran is involved in a variety of "malign actions" in the Near East, but it has raised concerns among some U.S. officials that Iran or its allies would try to strike U.S. personnel in the area in retribution.

According to American authorities, a U.S. military surveillance drone was shot down in the month following the withdrawal by an Iranian surface-to-air missile in international airspace above the Strait of Hormuz in an "unprovoked attack", in defiance of Iranian claims that the drone was flying over Iranian territory. Iran also denied American accusations that it recently attacked oil vessels in the Persian Gulf.

At least 25 militiamen were reportedly killed and another 55 were injured as the US carried out airstrikes against Kata'ib Hezbollah's weapon storage facilities and command centres in Iraq and Syria on December 29, 2019. According to the U.S. Department of Defense, the operation was carried out in retaliation for repeated assaults on Iraqi military installations housing coalition forces engaged in Operation Inherent Resolve (OIR), particularly the attack on a Kirkuk air base that claimed the life of an American civilian contractor on December 27, 2019. The hard-line Shi'ite outfit supported by Iran called Kata'ib Hezbollah denied being behind the attacks.

On January 8th, 2020, Ukraine International Airlines Flight 752 was shot down shortly after departure from Tehran, killing all 176 people on board. The majority of the passengers on board the flight, which was headed to Kyiv from Tehran before continuing on to Canada, were Iranians and Iranian Canadians. No one claimed responsibility during the following days, but there were indications that a missile had been behind the event. Iran eventually acknowledged that it had in fact attacked the jet after mistaking it for an American missile.



The Iranian forces that downed the Ukrainian aircraft were on high alert for a U.S. reaction to a missile attack that Iran launched hours earlier on American troops in Iraq, as retaliation for the assassination of senior Revolutionary Guards commander, Qassem Soleimani. Throughout the eight-year conflict between Iran and Iraq, Soleimani had commanded the Thar Allah 41 corps, an elite Iranian unit stationed in Kerman city. He was promoted to become one of the top ten military commanders of Iranian contingents dispersed throughout Iraq's borders after the war. In 1998, Soleimani was named the leader of the Quds Force and later elevated to the rank of general, given the responsibility of conducting military and covert activities outside Iranian boundaries while also guarding the Iranian revolution from possible coup attempts. The retaliatory missile strike was Iran's most direct attack on the United States since the 1979 seizure of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran.

When Joe Biden was running for president, he pledged to rejoin the JCPOA on his first day in office. A year later, after eight rounds of shuttle diplomacy in Vienna, he has yet to take up the accords again. The Biden administration reasoned that by applying pressure to Iran, they could persuade them to strike a "better deal" rather than quickly returning to a one that benefited all parties. Now in the wake of the U.S.' attitude, frustrated Iranians chose a more conservative administration, and Iran has advanced its nuclear program.

Since President Ebrahim Raisi's election, only hard-liners have been in charge of Iran. Raisi, a Khamenei acolyte, was a member of the judiciary in 1988 when thousands of political prisoners were killed in a mass execution at the conclusion of the Iran-Iraq war. As a member of the judiciary, he played a part in the state carrying out the death penalties. President Donald Trump's unilateral withdrawal from the nuclear agreement in 2015 caused the Iran nuclear deal to fail. As a result, Tehran is currently enriching uranium to 60% purity, which is just a small technical step away from weapons-grade levels. The Islamic Republic already has enough uranium to make at least one nuclear bomb, non-proliferation specialists caution. Iran has claimed that its foes overseas, notably the United States, are inciting the discontent as the protests have grown more intense without offering any supporting data. Pro- and anti-government protesters have been shouting at one another outside the stadiums during a World Cup whose organizers had wanted to separate politics from the field.

Finally and most recently, with an offer to purchase Iranian missiles, Russia has sought to restock its arsenal. When Nikolai Patrushev, the secretary of the security council, visited Tehran in November, it was said that he had missiles on his shopping list. Due to international pressure and Iran's own internal political unrest, Iran has so far refrained from delivering ballistic missiles to Russia and may continue to do so. Before the missiles were in the picture, according to Ukraine, Iran first sent up to 2,400 of its drones, which were employed in fatal strikes on places like Kyiv and Zaporizhzhya. They had "nearly exhausted" their supplies, Podolyak continued, but "as far as we knew" Iran had given Russia the technology, so it was up to Moscow to produce any more. Additionally, according to Western countries, Iran has not decided whether or not to provide Russia with missiles, which partly reflects how deeply Tehran wants to get involved in the conflict in Ukraine and its long-standing ties to Moscow.



## Major Parties Involved

### Organisations

#### Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)

Established after the Islamic Revolution in 1979 by Ruhollah Khomeini, in order to prevent a repeat of the coup in 1953, the IRGC is officially tasked with “safeguarding the Islamic republic”. It has been an instrumental tool wielded by the state for a variety of purposes ranging from internal security affairs to economic growth and wars with foreign countries. With its own flag, army, air force, navy, and intelligence unit that rivals the government's, it has grown to be the country's leading military power.

Despite its apparent usefulness, however, the organization has had a rocky relationship with the state during certain parts of its history, even playing a major part in the impeachment and removal of Iran's first president (Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani) from office. Later on, with the support of favourable presidents like Mohammad Ali Raja'i and Ali Khomeini, the IRGC yielded a batch of senior government officials and a president of their own (Mahmoud Ahmedinijad), and was a major player in suppressing the protests that flared up with his dubious re-election.

IRGC owned businesses were not spared from the impacts of foreign sanctions against Iran's robust nuclear program, although they profited from smuggling and reduced competition in the legal market. This led to them being supporters of the JCPOA deal in 2015. Ever since the U.S.' withdrawal in 2018, followed by targeted sanctions and assassinations of key figures like Qassem Soleimani, the organization has been showing signs of instability and internal power struggles.

#### Quds Force

Alternatively called the "Qods" or "Jerusalem Force", this is an elite wing of the IRGC that functions as its foreign operations unit. Although it was formed around the same time as the IRGC, it saw its first official deployment in its involvement with the Lebanese Civil War in 1989, where it aided Hezbollah in its goal of repelling Israeli forces. Later on it lent its support to Afghanistan's Northern Alliance against their conflict with Taliban.

The point where the Quds Force started drawing international attention was in 2003, when the U.S. invaded Iraq and the force was tasked with aiding Shi'i militias with resistance efforts. They were also involved in the aftermath of the Arab Spring in 2011, active in the political spheres of Syria, Yemen and Iraq, and responsible for organizing ground forces against ISIS.

#### Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)

The primary foreign intelligence and counterintelligence organization of the United States government is the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), birthed by the World War II Office of



Strategic Services (OSS) and formally established in 1947. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the military had previously carried out U.S. intelligence and counterintelligence operations, which were hampered by redundancy, competition, and a lack of coordination. These issues persisted, in part, into the twenty-first century.

From the 1953 Mossadegh coup until the present, there are numerous allegations that the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) has regularly meddled in the internal affairs of Iran; perhaps most infamously, the last Shah, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, is alleged to have worked with the CIA. Its personnel might have been associated with the 1980s Iran-Contra scandal. More recently, in 2007–2008, it was alleged that the CIA was aiding the Sunni terrorist organization Jundallah in its campaign against Iran. However, a subsequent inquiry disproved these allegations.

In Iran, Mohammad Mossadegh had widespread fame. He implemented a number of social and economic initiatives during his time in office, with the nationalization of the Iranian oil industry being the most significant. Through the Anglo-Iranian Oil Co., Great Britain enjoyed long-term control over Iran's oil supply. The prime minister terminated negotiations after several months of discussions and ruled out further British involvement in Iran's oil sector. Then, after Britain requested assistance from the US, the CIA organized Mossadegh's ouster in order to hand over control to Iran's final Shah.

### IAEA

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), an intergovernmental body, works to encourage the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and to prevent its use for any military objectives, including the development of nuclear weapons. It was founded as an independent

organization inside the United Nations system in 1957; despite being controlled by its own founding treaty, the organization answers to both the General Assembly and the Security Council of the UN and has its headquarters at the UN Office in Vienna, Austria.

Iran has been the focus of one of the most thorough investigations in the IAEA's history. They signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) as one of the original signatories in 1968, and in 1974, the shah signed an additional safeguards agreement with the IAEA.

Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the revolutionary leader after the 1979 revolution, at first rejected a nuclear program as a Western-oriented holdover of the monarchy - however, during their conflict from 1980 to 1988, Iran and Iraq both engaged in covert nuclear activity. An Iranian resistance group reported in August 2002 that Tehran was concealing two important nuclear reactors, one in Natanz for uranium enrichment and the other in Arak for plutonium production.

This was when the IAEA started paying close attention to Iran. The Vienna-based U.N. agency published 30 assessments on Iran's nuclear program and its hidden actions going



back to the 1980s between June 2003 and September 2010. In the beginning, Tehran went above and beyond standard precautions, cooperating with inspections of non-nuclear sites. On September 24, 2005, however, the IAEA's executive board determined that Iran was in violation of the NPT as a result of "failures and breaches of its obligations to comply with the NPT Safeguards Agreement," namely for concealing a variety of strategic nuclear operations. Iran was given adequate time by the board to respond to important IAEA questions and make key scientists available for interviews.

However, the board voted on February 4, 2006 to bring the situation before the UN Security Council for potential punitive action as Iran moved to enrichment. In order to put Iran under pressure to stop uranium enrichment, permit more thorough inspections, and fully cooperate with the IAEA, the Security Council imposed four rounds of sanctions. But as of September 2010, Iran persisted with its uranium enrichment and defied the Security Council on the grounds that the NPT allows it the freedom to conduct all types of civilian nuclear work.

Iran began nuclear talks with the six major world powers—Britain, China, France, Germany, Russia, and the United States—after President Hassan Rouhani took office in 2013. Negotiators came to a definitive agreement on Iran's nuclear program in 2015 in exchange for the lifting of sanctions. The deal contained clauses that would increase the IAEA's monitoring efforts in Iran. The organization was in charge of examining Iran's compliance with the agreement. A second Roadmap was also signed by Iran and the IAEA to address questions still open about Iran's nuclear programs, particularly any potential military implications.

### TNRC

The Tehran Nuclear Research Center (commonly known as the TNRC) houses several of Iran's primary nuclear research facilities such as Jabr Ibn Hayan Multipurpose Laboratories, Molybdenum, Iodine and Xenon Radioisotope Production Facility, Radiochemistry Laboratories and the Tehran Research Reactor. At its many laboratories, the TNRC carried out a variety of covert operations, including the synthesis of polonium, laser enrichment, plutonium separation, and uranium conversion.

The United States has provided a research reactor with a nominal capacity of 5 megawatts under IAEA safeguards to the Tehran Nuclear Research Centre in 1968. With support from Argentina, the reactor core was scheduled to be renovated and replaced in the late 1980s. A facility for creating radioisotopes has been built, and there are unsubstantiated rumours that it is also capable of creating plutonium from used nuclear fuel.

The IAEA stated in a report from May 2013 that it had not discovered any reprocessing activities at the TNRC and the MIX facility, but it emphasized that "It is only with respect to TRR, the MIX Facility and the other facilities to which the Agency has access that the Agency can confirm that there are no ongoing reprocessing related activities in Iran."



## Countries

### USA

The United States, the country that is most opposed to the Islamic Republic of Iran, has had a significant impact on the nation's current attitude through underestimating actions (such as their passive attitude toward any possibility of a revolution in Iran in the 1970s) or aggressive policies (such as the coup d'état that toppled Mossadeq). The US was unable to pursue a consistent strategy toward Iran after the revolution as well, switching between a harsh attitude during the Iranian Hostage Crisis and a more moderate one with the Iran-Contra Affair. Additionally, they used force, invading the Iranian Liaison Office in Erbil and launching rockets towards the military installations of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, which they considered to be a terrorist group.

Iran encountered stiffer repercussions than they had imagined once they made the decision to restart their nuclear program, with one of their motivations projected to be gaining sway over the Arabian Peninsula, such as punitive penalties imposed by the US and the UN as a result of their opposition to the Non-Proliferation Treaty. In any case, this was a plan that attempted to maintain regional balance while putting an end to the human rights violations Iran had been committing up to that moment. It was therefore not very surprising to see Iran turn once more to the international powers, as the sanctions had the potential to put an end to their revolution due to the unending economic crisis they were experiencing. The parties' mutual benefits, however, were severely harmed by the unanticipated U.S. withdrawal from the accord and the restoration of American sanctions against Iran. The U.S. put the entire deal in jeopardy in order to get more rights from it, which increased Iranian belief in mutualism. The

White House continues to press Iran to uphold its past commitment and asserts that they shouldn't continue their nuclear resurgence efforts, despite the fact that the Islamic Republic has remained more committed to the JCPOA.

### Iran

Iran, also known as Persia and formally known as the Islamic Republic of Iran, is a nation in Western Asia. It shares borders with Iraq, Turkey, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, and Pakistan, the Caspian Sea, the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman.

With the ultimate power in the hands of an autocratic "Supreme Leader," Ali Khamenei has been in this role since Khomeini's death in 1989. Iran's government is an Islamic theocracy with certain presidential-style features. The authoritarian Iranian government has come under heavy fire for major restrictions on and violations of civil liberties, including multiple violent crackdowns on huge protests, rigged elections, and restricted rights for women and children. In addition, it serves as a focal point for Shia Islam in the Middle East, which works to challenge the long-standing Arab and Sunni rule there. The nation is commonly regarded as Saudi Arabia's and Israel's biggest enemy since the Iranian Revolution. With its government taking part directly or indirectly in most contemporary Middle Eastern crises,



Iran is also regarded as one of the major movers in Middle Eastern affairs.

### Iraq

Iraq is a nation in Western Asia that is officially known as the Republic of Iraq. Turkey, Iran, the Persian Gulf, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and Syria are its neighbours. Baghdad is the nation's capital and largest metropolis. Arabs, Kurds, Turkmen, and other ethnic groups are represented within its borders. The 44 million people that live there are Muslim in the vast majority.

When the Shah's regime was overthrown by Iranian revolutionaries, Saddam Hussein's rigid and autocratic Republic of Iraq chose to take advantage of the unrest by declaring war on Iran. The eight-year conflict ended with the antebellum status quo since neither side fared well throughout it. Due to the ensuing conflict and Saddam Hussein's rule, Iran was unable to retain meaningful ties with Iraq, which shared a sizable portion of Muslims who belonged to the Shia sect. When he was overthrown, they began to retain a strong connection that culminated in their cooperation on practically every aspect, from the military aspect of moving against ISIL (aka ISIS) to business, with both sides being among the most frequent trading partners. With a Shi'ite leader in place, Iraq might currently be seen as falling under Iran's sway, yet their close ties to the U.S. also cannot be disregarded - though it should be remembered that the U.S. killing Qassem Soleimani in the Baghdad Airport slightly altered Iraq's cooperative opinion of the western powerhouse. In response, they asked that the U.S. military leave Iran, but due to the Trump administration's escalating threats of sanctions on Iran, they decided not to follow through with their demands and resumed their cooperation with ISIL. Iraq is the area most impacted by the antagonism between the U.S. and Iran, and

as a result, major protests and social unrest over the lack of a functioning government have cropped up frequently throughout their history. Because of this, it is extremely important to keep this region in mind when preserving a lasting peace.

### Saudi Arabia

Following the attack on the Saudi embassy in Tehran in January 2016 after Saudi Arabia murdered Shia preacher Sheikh Nimr al-Nimr, there have been no diplomatic ties between Iran and Saudi Arabia. The two nations' bilateral ties have become strained on a number of geopolitical problems, including differing views on how to interpret Islam, aspirations to lead the Islamic world, oil export policies, and relations with the United States and other Western nations.

Up until recently, tensions between Saudi Arabia and Iran were on the decline. Tehran and Riyadh began holding rounds of direct negotiations in Baghdad in April 2021 through Iraqi and Omani channels. However, recent events have lessened chances for any fresh Iranian-Saudi accord as bilateral negotiations have come to an end amid rising tensions.

With Riyadh supporting "rioters" after Mahsa Amini's murder in mid-September, Tehran believes that Saudi Arabia is to blame for the turmoil that has spread throughout Iran. Esmail



Khatib, the minister of intelligence for Iran, recently warned Saudi Arabia that Iran's "policy of patience" might not last forever. "From Iran's perspective, any instability in the region's nations is contagious, and any unrest within Iran has the potential to spread to those nations."

### Russia

Over time, Russia and Iran suffered significant setbacks in terms of politics and diplomacy; nevertheless, the Putin administration and the Arab Spring led to an increasingly close relationship between the two countries.

The Russian Federation, which supports Iran's aspirations to develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, promised to assist them in building a nuclear reactor at Bushehr. Since they are currently working together to change the Middle East's power structure, it is unlikely that Russia will consent to anything that would be detrimental to Iran's essential interests. Additionally, the Russian ambassador spoke at the Vienna discussions to potentially resurrect the JCPOA. He declared that the quick pre-talks were "successful" and made the following speech: "It will take some time for the United States and Iran to come to an agreement. The beginning of actual action to accomplish this goal is what matters most." From the explanations given by a Russian ambassador, it is clear that Russia supports the full implementation of the JCPOA because it will free the Islamic Republic of Iran from financial constraints (at least from the U.S.) and allow it to pursue its aggressive policies in the Middle East more flexibly. Additionally, this implies that through its partner Iran, Russia might widen its sphere of influence in the area. For the benefit of their interests in the Middle East and, to be more precise, the Eastern Mediterranean, Russia must profit from the prolonged conflict between the U.S. and Iran.

### Timeline of Key Events

1953 - Iran's democracy overthrown by CIA

1957 - US and Iran sign a civil nuclear cooperation agreement

1979 - The Iranian Revolution takes place

1979-1981 - Iranian students storm the US embassy and take Americans hostage (Iran Hostage Crisis)

1980 - Iran-Iraq war starts

1984 - Iran is declared a sponsor of terrorism by the US

1986 - Iran-Contra Affair

April 1988 - "Operation Praying Mantis", U.S. sinks two Iranian ships in retaliation for alleged mining of USS Samuel B. Roberts

July 1988 - US brings down an Iranian plane full of civilians



1997 - Qassem Soleimani is appointed chief commander of the Quds Force 2002 - President Bush declares Iran, along with North Korea and Iraq, part of an “Axis of Evil”

2003 - Iran becomes a nuclear threat

2015 - Iran nuclear deal is signed with 6 nations

2017 - Trump becomes president and signs an executive order that bans nationals from 7 different Muslim-majority countries

May 2018 - President Trump announces withdrawal of US from the Iran nuclear deal April 2019 - US designates IRGC as a foreign terrorist organization

June 2019 - Iran blamed for attacks on oil tankers in the Persian Gulf and the downing of a US drone

June 2019 - Iran reduces commitments made to the Iran nuclear deal

December 2019 - US forces strike facilities in Iraq and Syria

January 2020 - US airstrike in Iran killing Soleimani, Iran responds by firing missiles at Iraqi bases housing American troops

January 2020 - Iran mistakenly shoots down Ukrainian plane of civilians 2021 - President Biden continues to enforce the Trump-era “maximum pressure” campaign

## Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue

With this issue being as complex as it is, there has not yet been a direct attempt to resolve it. However, there are a few resolutions passed by the United Nations aiming to help the situation that I would urge you to look at.

RES/2231

[http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/s\\_res\\_2231.pdf](http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/s_res_2231.pdf)

RES/1835

<http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/Disarm%20SRES1835.pdf>

Beside the resolutions mentioned above, the nuclear agreement signed in 2015 was also a step taken to help resolve the conflict although it was not a direct attempt to tackle the issue at its roots.



## Possible Solutions

As mentioned many, many times before, this matter is an extremely controversial one in no small part thanks to the diversity of the claims, stances, and policies that each country has. The fact that one of the key players has the right to a veto in the Security Council is but one of the many hurdles standing in the way of a peaceful resolution. Delegates must adhere to their countries' policies while avoiding bias at all times, prioritize international cooperation, and, above all, respect the UN and its processes in order to bring an end to this pressing issue.

There are countless angles to this problem, which means there are countless potential solutions. However, the following are ideas that may be beneficial:

### **1. Give Iran the Bare Minimum of "Existential" Security**

Recognize the detrimental impact of latent US regime change aspirations on the nuclear issue, taking into account the valiant efforts of several parties to secure a new accord. In order to cooperate with the factions in power through the Foreign Ministry in Tehran, the United States must abandon its implicit (and occasionally explicit) antagonism toward the notion of an Islamic regime in Tehran.

### **2. Military operations to deter or prevent the development of Iranian nuclear weapons should not be an option**

For regional and global security, pre-emptive and preventive military strikes by either the U.S. or Israel in the name of counterproliferation would, putting it simply, be a political disaster of epic proportions. Not only would it elevate Israel to enemy no.1 from an Iranian perspective (arguably worse than that role currently being filled by the U.S., where an ocean stands between the opposing forces, while Israel is barely two hours by plane), the idea of an "Iranian bomb" may shift into an "Islamic bomb" with joint outrage from the Muslim world, turning the current hostility between Israel and Iran into a problem for just about everyone around.

## Bibliography

A brief history of US-Iran relations

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/11/29/world-cup-2022-a-brief-history-of-us-iran-relations>

After a Year of Biden, Why do we still have Trump's foreign policy?

[https://www.codepink.org/biden\\_still\\_have\\_trump\\_foreign\\_policy](https://www.codepink.org/biden_still_have_trump_foreign_policy)

Axis of Evil



<https://www.britannica.com/topic/axis-of-evil>

Bush Labels North Korea, Iran and Iraq “Axis of Evil”

<https://www.armscontrol.org/act/2002-03/press-releases/bush-labels-north-korea-iran-iraq-axis-of-evil>

CIA Activities in Iran

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CIA\\_activities\\_in\\_Iran](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CIA_activities_in_Iran)

December 2019 United States Airstrikes in Iraq and Syria

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/December\\_2019\\_United\\_States\\_airstrikes\\_in\\_Iraq\\_and\\_Syria#:~:text=On%2029%20December%202019%2C%20the,militiamen%20and%20wounding%2055%20more.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/December_2019_United_States_airstrikes_in_Iraq_and_Syria#:~:text=On%2029%20December%202019%2C%20the,militiamen%20and%20wounding%2055%20more.)

How The CIA Overthrew Iran’s Democracy in 4 Days

<https://www.npr.org/2019/01/31/690363402/how-the-cia-overthrew-irans-democracy-in-four-days>

ICJ “Case Concerning Oil Platforms (Islamic Republic of Iran v. United States of America)”

<https://web.archive.org/web/20121014012509/http://www.icj-cij.org/docket/files/90/9715.pdf>

International Atomic Energy Agency

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International\\_Atomic\\_Energy\\_Agency](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Atomic_Energy_Agency)

Iran Air Flight 665

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iran\\_Air\\_Flight\\_655](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iran_Air_Flight_655)

Iran and the IAEA

<https://iranprimer.usip.org/resource/iran-and-iaea>

Iran as #1 State Sponsor of Terrorism

<https://www.unitedagainstnucleariran.com/state-sponsored-terrorism#:~:text=As%20a%20res ult%2C%20the%20U.S.,sponsor%20of%20terrorism%20since%201984.>

Iran Contra Affair

<https://www.history.com/topics/1980s/iran-contra-affair>

<https://www.britannica.com/event/Iran-Contra-Affair>

Iranian Report Details Chain of Mistakes In Shooting Down Ukrainian Passenger Plane



<https://www.npr.org/2020/07/12/890194877/iranian-report-details-chain-of-mistakes-in-shooting-down-ukrainian-passenger-pl>

Iranian Revolution

<https://www.britannica.com/event/Iranian-Revolution>

Iran - Iraq War

<https://www.history.com/topics/middle-east/iran-iraq-war>

<https://www.britannica.com/event/Iran-Iraq-War>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iran%E2%80%93Iraq\\_War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iran%E2%80%93Iraq_War)

Iran Nuclear Deal: What it all means?

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-33521655>

Iran retaliates for Gen. Soleimani's killing by firing missiles at U.S. forces in Iraq

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/u-s-base-iraq-comes-under-attack-missiles-iran-claims-n1112171>

Iran's Revolutionary Guard Named a Terrorist Organization

<https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/IN/IN11093>

Iran - Saudi Arabia Relations

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iran%E2%80%93Saudi\\_Arabia\\_relations](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iran%E2%80%93Saudi_Arabia_relations)

Iran Seals Nuclear Deal with west in return for sanction relief

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/nov/24/iran-nuclear-deal-west-sanctions-relief>

Iran shoots down American drone in international airspace in 'unprovoked attack,' US says

<https://www.cnn.com/2019/06/20/us-drone-shot-down-by-iranian-missile-in-international-airspace.html>

Iran strikes back at US with missile attack at bases in Iraq

<https://apnews.com/article/ap-top-news-persian-gulf-tensions-tehran-international-news-iraq-add7a702258b4419d796aa5f48e577fc>

Iran - United States Relations

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iran%E2%80%93United\\_States\\_relations#:~:text=The%20United%20States%20attributes%20the%20embargo%20on%20trade%20with%20Iran](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iran%E2%80%93United_States_relations#:~:text=The%20United%20States%20attributes%20the%20embargo%20on%20trade%20with%20Iran)



Iran - US World Cup Clash Rife with Political Tension

<https://www.voanews.com/a/iran-us-world-cup-clash-rife-with-political-tension-/6855922.html>

Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Islamic-Revolutionary-Guard-Corps>

Nuclear Weapons Definition

<https://www.britannica.com/technology/nuclear-weapon>

Operation Praying Mantis

<https://www.navybook.com/no-higher-honor/timeline/operation-praying-mantis/>

Revolutionary Guard Corps: US labels Iran force as terrorists

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-47857140>

Ruhollah Khomeini

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Ruhollah-Khomeini>

Sixty Years of “Atoms for Peace” and Iran’s Nuclear Program

<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/up-front/2013/12/18/sixty-years-of-atoms-for-peace-and-iran-s-nuclear-program/>

State Sponsors of Terrorism

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/State\\_Sponsors\\_of\\_Terrorism\\_\(U.S.\\_list\)#:~:text=%22State%20Sponsors%20of%20Terrorism%22%20is.list%20imposes%20strict%20unilateral%20sanctions.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/State_Sponsors_of_Terrorism_(U.S._list)#:~:text=%22State%20Sponsors%20of%20Terrorism%22%20is.list%20imposes%20strict%20unilateral%20sanctions.)

Tehran Nuclear Research Center (TNRC)

<https://www.nti.org/education-center/facilities/tehran-nuclear-research-center-tnrc/>  
<https://www.globalsecurity.org/wmd/world/iran/tehran-tnrc.htm>

Tensions between Iran and Saudi Arabia are resurfacing

<https://responsiblestatecraft.org/2022/11/21/tensions-between-iran-and-saudi-arabia-are-resurfacing/>

Timeline: The U.S., Iran And The Nuclear Question



<https://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=112187088>

The Iranian Hostage Crisis

<https://history.state.gov/departmenthistory/short-history/iraniancrises>

The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action

<https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/JCPOA-at-a-glance>

The Iranian Nuclear Threat and US Policy

<https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/iranian-nuclear-threat-and-us-policy-part-i>

The United States and Iran: A Dangerous but Contained Rivalry

<https://mei.edu/publications/united-states-and-iran-dangerous-contained-rivalry>

The U.S. - Iran Conflict

<https://www.belfercenter.org/publication/us-iran-conflict>

The US-Iran conflict: A timeline of how we got here

<https://edition.cnn.com/interactive/2020/01/world/us-iran-conflict-timeline-trnd/>

The Tension Between America and Iran, Explained

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/05/16/world/middleeast/iran-tensions-explainer.html>

Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Treaty\\_on\\_the\\_Non-Proliferation\\_of\\_Nuclear\\_Weapons](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Treaty_on_the_Non-Proliferation_of_Nuclear_Weapons)

Ukraine Accuses Iran of Premeditated Terrorist Act in 2020 Plane Shootdown

<https://www.voanews.com/a/voa-exclusive-ukraine-accuses-iran-of-premediated-terrorist-act-in-2020-plane-shootdown/6388049.html>

US-Iran Conflict Latest News and Updates

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/topic/us-iran-conflict>

Verification and Monitoring in Iran

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/focus/iran>



What Comes Next in the Standoff Between the U.S. and Iran?

<https://www.worldpoliticsreview.com/tense-u-s-iran-relations-have-put-the-middle-east-on-the-brink/>

What is the Iran Nuclear Deal?

<https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/what-iran-nuclear-deal>

Who is Qasem Soleimani

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/profile-who-is-qasem-soleimani-/1690827>