

The logic of the war between Iran and the West

Introduction

We are about to witness a dramatic transformation in world history that can be compared to the transformations that occurred because of World War I and World War II. Imagine living in 1914 before the start of World War I. In Germany Kaiser Wilhelm II ascended the throne in 1888 and thought his German empire would last forever. The 84-year-old Emperor Franz Joseph I of Austria-Hungary had already ruled for 66 years and saw himself as a symbol of stability in Europe. The Romanov dynasty in Russia came to power in 1613. Tsar Nicholas II, the last Tsar, was a ruler who believed in his divine right to absolute power. The Ottoman Empire was founded in 1299 and was the longest living empire in Europe before the start of the war. Sultan Mehmed V of the Ottoman Empire came to the throne in 1909. None of these leaders and their followers imagined in 1914 that four years later their empires would be dissolved and they would be ousted from power. The breakdown of the empires led to the creation of new states, among them Poland, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. In 1917 the first socialist revolution created a new society that became the Soviet Union and would impact the revolutionary movements for decades to come.

This was a result nobody had seen coming in 1914 when the war started with the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, the heir presumptive to the throne of Austria-Hungary, in Sarajevo in 1914 by a Bosnian Serb nationalist. The Austro-Hungarian Empire was a state that had colonized nations such as Czech lands (Bohemia, Moravia, part of Silesia) and Slovakia, and Slavic states such as Croatia, Serbia and Slovenia. The assassination was the spark that lit World War I. It came with at the expense of 15 to 22 million deaths (both military and civilian).

In 1932 the National Socialist German Workers' Party (the Nazi's) led by Adolf Hitler won the parliamentary elections for the Reichstag. In 1933 Hitler was installed as Germany's new chancellor. In 1935 Winston Churchill wrote about Hitler: *"While all these formidable transformations were occurring in Europe, Hitler was fighting his long, wearing battle for the German heart. The story of that struggle cannot be read without admiration for the courage, the perseverance and the vital force which enabled him to challenge, defy, conciliate, or overcome all the authorities or resistances which barred his path."*¹

Hitler in return admired British colonialism. He said: *"What India was for England, the territories of Russia will be for us"*.² Hitler did not start World War II to exterminate the Jews. He started a war to colonize Eastern Europe, especially the Soviet Union, after the model of the British colonization of India. On September 1, 1939, Hitler's army invaded Poland as the first step in colonizing Eastern Europe.

World War II lasted six years and led to the killing of 70-85 million people, with the Soviet Union and China bearing the brunt of the casualties (24 million in the Soviet Union and 20 million in China). Just like World War I, the Second World War led to profound a transformation of the world. Before the war Germany was the leading industrial nation in Europe. France and Britain were the leading colonial powers in the rest of the world with the vast colonial empires. The U.S.A. was a rising power, but did not dominate the world. After the war Germany was split in two states: the German Democratic Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany. The colonial empires began to crumble. The U.S. became the dominant hegemonic power in the West. Between 1944 and 1949 eleven countries became socialist and formed the socialist bloc: Albania, Poland, Vietnam, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Romania, Czechoslovakia, North Korea, Hungary, China, and East Germany

(German Democratic Republic). The countries in Eastern Europe, North Korea and China were not European colonies. Vietnam was a French colony. Socialism was an attractive narrative of liberation for many colonized countries fighting for freedom. Between 1950 and 1989 eleven countries joined the socialist bloc: Cuba, Laos, Afghanistan, Angola, Benin, Cambodia, Congo-Brazzaville, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Somalia and South Yemen. These countries had a one-party system and a planned economy. There are other countries that articulated the goal of socialism in their constitution, although they have a multi-party system and some form of economic planning, but not central planning: Bangladesh, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, India, Nepal, Portugal, São Tomé and Príncipe, Sri Lanka and Tanzania. These developments were the result of World War II. Around 1980 there became a big pushback that led to the disintegration of the socialist bloc. Some wars, such as World War I and II can lead to a fundamental transformation of the world. In this essay I develop the argument that the coming war between Iran and the West has the potential of such a dramatic transformation. I will go into how this might look like and what the forces are that drive this transformation. I start by putting the coming war in the context of the ongoing wars against the Islamic revolution since 1979. Then I go into the conditions determining the coming war with Iran. I conclude with the extreme scenario for an all out war and possible dramatic transformation.

The past wars against Iran

The Iran-Iraq war: the first sacred defense

The coming war between Iran and the U.S./Israel will be very different from the past wars. On 1 February 1979, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini returned from exile, marking the final victory of the Islamic revolution. Nine months later, on 22 September 1980, Iraq, under the leadership of Saddam Hussein, invaded Iran with the support of the West and the Soviet Union. Iraqi aircraft bombarded ten Iranian airfields, and the following day, Iraqi troops crossed the border, advancing into Iran to occupy the oil-rich region of Khuzestan. The ultimate goal of Iraq and the West was to topple the new Islamic government. However, they miscalculated the strength of the Islamic Revolution. Contrary to the propaganda in Western media that portray the Iranian revolution as a backward medieval response to modernity without any popular support, the reality on the ground was and is very different. Within three months, the Iraqi invasion had stalled as the Iranian population mobilized to defend their revolution. Iran's counteroffensive eventually regained lost territory.

The war lasted eight years, from 1980 to 1988 and led to the killing of 200.000 Iranians. During this time, Saddam Hussein employed chemical weapons against both civilians and military personnel in Iran, a violation of the Geneva Convention. Iraq received assistance from the United States, West Germany, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and France in developing chemical weapons. These countries supplied Iraq with the raw materials needed for its chemical weapons factories. In Iran, this war is referred to as the "War of Sacred Defense."

The Iraq-Iran war was a war by a foreign country. Within Iran, another war has been going on: the violent opposition against the Islamic Revolution. It came from the Mojahedin-e-Khalq (MEK), also known as the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI). It was founded in 1965 as a Marxist group that opposed the regime of the Shah. It also opposed the Islamic Revolution and very soon it began to carry out terrorist attacks on a large scale with bombings and assassinations. Their leadership fled to France and later relocated to Iraq under the protection of Saddam Hussein. They supported Saddam Hussein in the Iraq-Iran war. The MEK was designated a terrorist organization by the U.S., EU, and other countries due to its history of violence, including assassinations and bombings. The designation was lifted in the U.S. in 2012 and in the EU in 2009 after lobbying efforts of anti-Iran forces in those countries. The MEK is responsible for the killing of 21,000 Iranians since the beginning of the Islamic Revolution.

The Islamic revolution of 1979 was overwhelmingly supported by the population. But there was always a section of the population that was against the revolution. There were

supporters of the old regime of the dictatorship of the Shah. There was the MEK, that organized armed resistance with Western support against the revolution. There were protests against various government policies, but not necessarily against the Islamic system. There were mass protests in 2009 led by the Green Movement, in 2019 led by the Democracy Movement and in 2022 after the death of 22 year old Masha Amini who was taken into custody by the Guidance Patrol.

The most serious war against Iran, was not militarily, but economic. In 1979, president Carter froze about US\$ 12 billion of Iranian assets, including bank deposits, gold and other properties. Since then there has been a constant stream of boycott regulations by the US against Iran. The US also implemented a trade embargo. Subsequently, all kinds of embargo were introduced that led to a broad embargo, banning Iranian imports and transactions. US companies and their subsidiaries were banned from conducting business with Iran. Penalties were imposed on foreign firms investing in Iran. Sanctions were introduced targeting Iran's banking system by disconnecting it from the SWIFT financial network. Assets of Iran's Central Bank in the US and the EU have been frozen.

The Twelve Day War: the second sacred defense

The Twelve Day War in June 2025 was a new type of war. Israel and the U.S. now engaged in a direct military confrontation with Iran and not through a proxy like Iraq. On June 13, Israel with the support of the U.S. staged a surprise attack on Iranian military and nuclear sites while negotiations were going on between Iran and America. It also hit residential areas in Tehran, resulting in the deaths of top military commanders (including the IRGC commander-in-chief and the armed forces chief of staff) and senior nuclear scientists. Iran retaliated that night, launching the first of its 22 missile waves, dubbed Operation True Promise III.³ On June 22 the U.S. launched Operation "Midnight Hammer." Seven B-2 stealth bombers dropped bunker-buster bombs on the Fordow and Natanz nuclear facilities, while submarines fired Tomahawk missiles at the Isfahan Nuclear Technology Center. Iran retaliated against the U.S. intervention by striking the Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar, the largest American military base in West Asia. On June 24, a cessation of hostilities was reached (not a ceasefire). Over a 1.000 Iranians were killed and widespread damage was inflicted on residential areas, government buildings, and hospitals.

In Israel over 1,000 buildings were damaged or destroyed, primarily in the Tel Aviv area, with some neighborhoods being obliterated. Critical infrastructure was hit, including the Bazan oil refineries in Haifa, and the Weizmann Institute, a military research institute. The military headquarters, the Kirya base in Tel Aviv, was also struck and damaged. The preparation for the Twelve-Day War in June 2025 was profoundly shaped by the extensive and coordinated efforts of Israel's Mossad and the American CIA. Their involvement spanned years of intelligence gathering, complex covert operations on Iranian soil, and high-level strategic deception. In the early hours of June 13, as Israeli warplanes approached, Mossad agents launched a coordinated wave of attacks from inside Iran. Their targets were key air defense systems and ballistic missile launchers. The agents used advanced weapons, including a three-part "special weapon" smuggled into the country and micro-drones equipped with artificial intelligence to hunt down commanders and scientists.

The riots of January 2026

On January 20, 2026, at the Davos conference, United States Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent has claimed that Washington engineered a dollar shortage in Iran to send the rial into freefall and cause protests on the streets. The rial rose from 80.000 per dollar to 260.000, causing a massive inflation. On December 28, 2025, shopkeepers in Tehran started peaceful protest against economic hardship. According to Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) ten foreign intelligence services, led by the Mossad and the CIA, coordinated by a command room outside of Iran, stepped in to turn the peaceful protest into an armed uprising against the Islamic government. Mike Pompeo, former CIA director, wrote on January 2 in an X/Twitter post: *"Happy New Year to every Iranian in*

the streets. Also to every Mossad agent walking beside them." He added: *"The Iranian regime is in trouble. Bringing in mercenaries is its last best hope."* Mossad wrote on its X/Twitter account: *"Go out together into the streets. The time has come. We are with you. Not only from a distance and verbally. We are with you in the field."*

On January 8 and 9, all operatives of Mossad and CIA went in to transform the peaceful demonstration in terrorist riots with the hope that this would lead a general armed uprising and foreign military intervention. Armed groups attacked shops, banks, bus stations, and mosques. The attacks on the mosques were reminiscent of the Kristallnacht (night of the broken glasses) in Germany in November 1938 when Nazi gangs destroyed synagogues and Jewish business were vandalized and ransacked. In Iran the secular terrorists hoped to invoke a general uprising against the Islamic Republic.

The Islamic Republic was prepared for this type of war. The government cut off the Internet, which was used by the command room outside Iran to coordinate the actions. Mossad and CIA had anticipated the shutdown. Before the attacks they had smuggled 60,000 Starlink terminals into Iran. Starlink is a satellite-based internet service developed by Space X of Elon Musk and used in Ukraine. Iran was able to jam Starlink and use its signals to trace the owners of the terminals. The violent attacks lasted only two days, but more than 3,100 Iranians were murdered by these gangs, among them hundreds of police officers, firefighters and security personnel. Some were burned and decapitated. In the Western press these atrocities were not mentioned.⁴ The riots were a continuation of the Twelve Day War.

The conditions determining the coming war with Iran

The coming war with Iran cannot be detached from the past wars. These wars had clear aims: destroy the Islamic Revolution of Iran, overthrow the revolutionary system and install a puppet regime so that the resources of the country can be plundered by Western companies and the driving force in the resistance against the occupation of Palestine is eliminated. It is important to note that these aims have not changed. What have changed are the conditions under which the new war will take place. These conditions determine the potential long term effects of the war for world history. I will go into the conditions.

1. Iran is ready for the new war: it has developed major military capabilities

The Twelve Day War had a big impact on Iran. Iran was attacked by Israel/U.S. and engaged in a counterattack of Israel, but accepted a cessation of hostilities, because it needed time to rebuild its forces. And it did so in a remarkable way in a very short period of time. The basis for the recovery is a very advanced military system of Iran. During the Iraq-Iran war, the resistance against the invasion had to start from scratch. There was no revolutionary army. The 1979 revolution was a peaceful revolution from the people which was met with deadly violence from the Shah. A revolutionary army was built in response to the invasion of Iraq. It was built by young people. Mohammad Marandi, who is writing a book with me on the Iranian revolution, was 17 years old, when he joined the war. The current Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iran, Abbas Araghchi, was 19 years old when he joined the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. The famous general Soleimani was 23 years old when he started to fight in the War. Ayatollah Ali Khamenei was a senior cleric when he became a leading commander in the war at the age of 41.

In the decades after the war, Iran managed to build an elaborate military organization. This organization invested in developing sophisticated military hardware. Iran's indigenous military technology is very advanced. By the way, many women contribute to the development of Iran's military technology, which goes against the idea that women in Iran have been kept in backward conditions. The Twelve Day War started with the decapitation of senior military top commanders. Within a day Ayatollah Khamenei stepped in, reorganized the military top and organized the counterattack on Israel.⁵ After the war the process of improving the military organization and technology went into overdrive and so was the production of weapon systems.

In the coming war three types of weapons systems of Iran will play an important role. They are all produced by and in Iran:

1. Ballistic missiles. A ballistic missile is essentially a man-made meteor. It goes up in the atmosphere, the engine stops, and gravity pulls it down onto the target on earth at incredible speed up to 30,000 km per hour. This makes it both devastatingly effective and technologically distinct from any other type of weapons. There are four types based on their range: short-range (<1,000 km), medium-range (1,000-3,000 km), intermediate (3,000-5,500 km) and intercontinental (>5,500 km). The shortest distance between Iran and Israel is 1,700 km. American military bases are in the reach of a few hundred km. The newest version of Iran's ballistic missile is the Khorramshahr-4 variant. It has a range of 2,000km. It can carry multiple warheads of up to 2000 kg. This means a single missile can carry several smaller warheads, each capable of being directed to a different target. This complicates enemy missile defense enormously, as they would have to intercept multiple incoming threats from a single launch. This is a more sophisticated capability than most other Iranian missiles, which carry a single, large warhead. Unlike a traditional ballistic missile that follows a predictable, parabolic path, the Khorramshahr-4 can change course during its final approach, making it nearly impossible for interceptors to predict its trajectory and hit it. It has a higher probability of hitting its target. One of these missiles can have the effect of a small nuclear bomb, without a radioactive fallout.⁶
2. Cruise missiles and drones. Cruise missiles are like small airplanes programmed to fly a specific route towards a target. They use internal navigation systems (like terrain mapping, GPS, or inertial guidance) and often have sensors to match the terrain below with a stored map. They are designed to hit a specific coordinate or target. The entire vehicle, except for the fuel, is essentially the warhead. The body of the missile is the bomb. Drones are typically "remotely piloted" or can fly autonomously. They are constantly sending and receiving data. A human pilot on the ground can control its flight path in real-time, change its mission, circle an area, or abort a landing. A drone is a platform that carries a payload. That payload could be cameras, sensors, electronic jammers, or weapons. A combat carries missiles or bombs attached to its wings. The drone itself is not the weapon; the weapons it drops are.
3. Naval systems. Iran as fast-attack craft armed with anti-ship missiles, including anti-ship ballistic missile (300km range). It also has submarines and patrol vessels.

Iran's ballistic missile system is so advanced, that they are now a bigger headache for Israel and the U.S, than nuclear weapons. That is why the U.S. and Israel insist that they should be part of the negotiations. But Iran has categorically refused to put it on the table.

Apart from its weapon system Iran's military infrastructure is also very advanced. Its missiles and production facilities are in underground cities that cannot be destroyed by air bombardments. These cities house thousands of missiles and drones and have multiple launching platforms.

The weakest part of Iran's military is its air defense system. Since the Twelve Day War is has moved to rebuild its defense with the aid of Russia and China. China has provided Iran with radar systems specifically engineered to counter stealth aircraft and ballistic missile threats. China has provided Iran with surface-to-air missile (SAM) batteries. Iran has shifted its GPS system from the American system to the Chinese one (BeiDou).⁷ Iran believes that is now in a better position to confront a U.S./Israeli attack and is ready for it.

2. Iran's military doctrine has change: from defense to offense

The first sacred defense was a defensive war. Iraq attacked Iran, and the Islamic Revolution defended its existence. The second sacred defense (the Twelve Day War) was a reaction to a Blitzkrieg attack. It taught Iran an important lesson. It cannot go on waiting for yet another attack. Its upgraded military system enables the Islamic Republic to move from defense to offense. Iran's ballistic missile and drone programs remain the central pillars of its military power and its newly offensive doctrine. On January 6, 2026 Iran's Supreme National Defense Council published a statement that says that Iran has reserved the right to launch pre-emptive strikes based on "objective signs of threat".

Iran now believes the costs of waiting outweigh the risks of acting first.⁸ With its new advanced radar systems it and the data provided by its satellites it will see early signs of a pending attack and will initiate a pre-emptive strike. While the U.S. and Israel are uttering all kind of threats thinking that they are intimidating Iran, the policy in Iran has changed. They are not going to wait for another attack, that ends with a ceasefire, which will be only a pause for a new attack. This time they will go for an all out war, that will transform the whole region.

3. The endgame for the axis of resistance

In the news about action and reaction between Iran and America/Israel many people forget two major aims that the revolutionary leaders of Iran have articulated for the axis of resistance:

1. The expulsion of the U.S. from West Asia. On January 8, 2020 Ayatollah Ali Khamenei proclaimed that the end of the US forces presence in the region will to be the solution to all the problems in the region. The U.S. has military bases in nine countries in Western Asia: Qatar, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Turkey and Iraq. It used to have a base on a part of Syria, that it had occupied. Additionally, the U.S. operates a strategic base on the island of Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean, which is often included in the Central Command's (CENTCOM) area of responsibility for operations in West Asia.
2. The destruction of the apartheid state of Israel and the complete liberation of Palestine.

These goals seemed to be unachievable for decades, but now the geopolitical circumstances are such that its achievement is closer than ever. It will be the result of an all out war. When I discuss a possible scenario's of how this war might develop, keep these two goals in mind. They are closely linked. The U.S. army which boasts of being the strongest army in the world have suffered humiliating defeats in Vietnam and Afghanistan. In the coming war they might suffer the third major defeat.

4. The rise of the multipolar world

The coming war takes place in the context of the decline of the West and the rise of the Rest. There are now multiple centers of power. The BRICS is an economic force, that will play an increasingly important role in the world economic system. The Shanghai Cooperation Organization is a significant security system outside the West. In the multipolar, the axis of Russia, China and Iran will play an important role in shaping the future.

In 2021 Iran and China signed a 25-year cooperation deal, which focused on expanding trade, infrastructure development and energy integration. In January 2025, Iran and Russia signed a 20-year Comprehensive Strategic Partnership Treaty, aimed at strengthening economic and defense cooperation and countering Western sanctions. In February 2026 China, Iran, and Russia have signed a comprehensive strategic pact. The agreement, announced simultaneously in Tehran, Beijing and Moscow, was described by the three governments as a cornerstone for a new multipolar order. It covers cooperation in energy, trade, military coordination and diplomatic strategy. So a new world order is arising in which Russia, China and Iran are coordinating their policies to create this order. It is a way to combat the effect of the sanctions and economic boycott by the West.

The U.S. and Europe are facing long periods of economic decline.

The long term economic prospects for Europe and the U.S. are miserable. Europe is cut off from cheap oil and gas from Russia for a long period to come. Their industry has to deal with rising energy costs and strong competition from China for high quality products. The U.S. sanctions and tariffs are hurting the U.S. economy. The U.S. debt-to-GDP ratio has not only increased over the past decade but has also shifted to a permanently higher plateau. It moved from a stable level around 105% before 2020 to a new range above 120% post-pandemic, with projections pointing towards continued growth.

The economic decline of the West leads to social and political instability and periodic crises. The rise of fascist groups in Europe and the drive towards fascism in the U.S. are the expression of such social and political instability. When the new war starts, this instability will impact its outcome.

5. The impact of the Gaza genocide

The Gaza genocide has made the state of Israel a pariah state in the eyes of the world. Its supporters in the West have lost their moral credibility. People in the West, who are not supporter of the Islamic Revolution, might not support Iran in the war, but neither would they support Israel and the U.S. because of the Gaza genocide. The Gaza genocide also had a big impact on the Sunni-Shia divide. Despite the continuous efforts to exploit this divide, Iran is acknowledged in large parts of the Sunni community as the only credible Muslim country that actually supports the liberation struggle of Palestine, while other countries mainly pay lip service to this cause, and some covertly and openly support the Israeli regime. A telling example of the new Sunni-Shia relation is Afghanistan. On February 15 the Taliban Sunni government said it is ready to cooperate with Iran if an attack is launched on the Islamic Republic.

6. The question of Muslim unity

The statement of the Taliban is not so much the result of the indignation about the Gaza genocide. It is the outcome of a long policy of building unity among Muslims that Iran has promoted. The Taliban (literally: students) was founded in 1994 in Afghanistan by students from Islamic seminaries in order to fight for the establishment of an Islamic state. They came to power in 1996 after winning a civil war and established the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan. During their reign they committed massacres against Afghan religious and ethnic minorities including the Shia's, destructed important cultural monuments and banned women from school. After the attack by Al Qaeda in September 2001, the United States invaded Afghanistan in December 2001 accusing the Taliban of supporting Al Qaeda. They overthrew the Taliban government and established a puppet regime. Subsequently the Taliban launched an insurgency to fight the U.S. occupation. The insurgency lasted for twenty years. In 2021 the U.S. occupation army was defeated by the Taliban guerrillas.

Iran supported the Taliban insurgency against the U.S. invaders. General Qasem Soleimani believed that the Taliban continued to have popular support among a significant segment of the Pashtun tribes and populations in southern Afghanistan and parts of Pakistan, and he felt that the only path to long-term regional stability was for all the parties to engage in dialogue. The year 2011 was a significant turning point in the relationship, and high-ranking delegations of the Taliban began visiting Tehran. As time went by, the relationships became warmer and even personal, so much so that when General Suleiman, Abu Mahdi al-Muhandes and their companions were murdered at Baghdad International Airport by the Trump regime, a high ranking Taliban delegation traveled to Tehran and visited his house to pay condolences to his family.

Iran has continuously tried to build unity among Muslims in the fight against Western imperialism and the occupation of Palestine. In the new war this might pay off in a big way.

7. The popular support for the Islamic Republic of Iran

Western media don't report this, but millions of Iranians have taken to the street to express their support for the government and the revolution. In mid-January, in different cities millions attended the funeral processions for security personnel killed during the riots. On February 11, on the 47th anniversary of the 1979 Islamic Revolution, again millions came to the street to celebrate the revolution and express their support. The government is preparing them for the coming war.⁹

On January 25, 2026 a large billboard was erected in Tehran's Revolution Square with a bird's-eye view of a damaged U.S. aircraft carrier with exploding fighter jets on its deck, strewn with bodies and blood. A physical map in Palestine square in Tehran that went up

in February 7-8, 2026 informs the population about the specific targets in occupied Palestine that will be hit in Iran's attack on Israel:

- Ben-Gurion International Airport – Israel's primary aviation hub
- The Kirya (HaKirya) – IDF headquarters and Ministry of Defense, Tel Aviv
- Gilot Base – IDF Intelligence Directorate (Aman) & Unit 8200, Herzliya
- Tel Aviv-Jaffa, Ramat Gan, Herzliya, Bnei Brak – Explicitly labeled as "on the first day" in Hebrew text on the display.

8. The colonization of the mind of the West

Western media have created this fantasy that millions of people come to the street in Iran to overthrow the Islamic government. But time and again these fantasies proved to be just fantasies, not reality. There are protests against the government in Iran as in many other democratic countries. People come to the street in a peaceful way to utter their grievances. That is allowed and protected by law and security agencies. Western media portray every protest as the beginning of the fall of the system, which they would not do for demonstrations in the West.

The eight o'clock news (which are in fact eight o'clock lies) provide daily misinformation about Iran. A clear example is the information about women in Iran. Western media argue that the Islamic Revolution has led to a decline of the emancipation of women. The opposite is true. The Islamic Revolution began a path in which women's progress found meaning; not in opposition, but in interaction with family roles and indigenous values. The female literacy rate has risen from about 36% before the Revolution to over 98%. Tens of thousands of girls' schools have been established across the country, and women's admission to university courses has increased from 31% to over 50%, and Iranian women are frontrunners in many scientific and technical fields. Women's life expectancy has increased from 57 to more than 78 years. Maternal mortality during childbirth has decreased by 90%, and access to health services are provided to women even in the most remote areas of the country. The number of women representatives in the parliament has increased from 4 before the Revolution to dozens. The presence of women in the managerial, judicial, scientific, and cultural fields has grown significantly, which is the practical manifestation of women's participation in 'their own political and social destiny'. Adopting a family-oriented approach, the Islamic Republic of Iran has established a broad legal framework to protect women and the institution of the family, including laws prohibiting sexual harassment in the workplace. The model of the Iranian woman today is a woman who can be a prominent scientist, a specialist physician, or a successful manager, and she can also, simultaneously, play the role of mother and wife with authority and dignity in the family circle. This multidimensional model is a response to the reductionism of both extremes and shows that one can take a step towards excellence by relying on one's own culture. Contrary to distorted media reports in the West, there is no clash between Islam and women's rights. Islam does not oppress women but empower them.¹⁰

The consequence of the misinformation is that it easily leads to miscalculations, such as the miscalculation about the imminent fall of the Islamic Revolution. Another dangerous miscalculation is that a military attack will easily lead to regime change. With their misinformation the media are mobilizing support for this attack.

The extreme scenario: all out war

The timing

The American military buildup in the region is moving at a high pace. Its first purpose is to intimidate Iran. It is already clear that this is not working. Iran has responded with the threat of an all out war. The Americans cannot walk back and declare that it was all a mistake. So the chances are very high that they will carry out some form of an attack in cooperation with Israel.

There is a small chance that for now the Americans refrain from a military attack, because they realize that their forces in the region including their aircraft carriers are

sitting ducks, and very soon thousands of body bags will be sent home within a week. On the other hand they have maneuvered themselves in a position where they have to attack if Iran does not give in to their demands.

Iran on the other hand is not keen on an attack now. They have a stock of missiles and are still rebuilding their forces. They produce 300 missiles per month and may need many more.¹¹

So both parties would like to avoid a military confrontation now, but the pressure on the American is there. The Israeli's wants an attack. Extremist forces within the U.S. (both Republicans and Democrats) want war. The Iranian Diaspora that was mobilized in support of the recent riots want war. I expect that war will be coming, because of a small miscalculation by the Israeli or Americans.

I present ideas of how the new all out war might develop and how this might lead to a dramatic transformation of the world. These ideas are not final. I try to figure out what the implications might be of certain actions by the warring parties. Obviously, I might be terrible wrong.

The duration

General Soleimani once warned Trump about his threat of war: *"You will start this war but we will be the ones to impose its end."*¹² The American calculation of the war with Iran is something like operation Midnight Hammer. They come in, bomb a few targets and expect a manageable retaliation from Iran, so that everything is ended in a few days. America can proclaim victory and the number of casualties are limited. That will not happen in an all out war that Iran will carry out. They would have enough missiles to attack Israel and American targets for many months based on their stockpile and monthly production. The aircraft carriers would sink to the bottom of the sea.

Imagine what will happen in Israel and the U.S. if the war with Iran drags on, without an end in sight and casualties mount in Israel and American bases in the region.

The duration is linked to the ultimate aim of Iran in an all out war: expulsion of the U.S. from West Asia and the liberation of Palestine. The war ends only when the goals are achieved.

The backbone of the Iranian offense is the destruction of the air defense of the American military bases in combination with the destruction of the Israeli air defense. Thus Iran will control the skies of Israel and the countries of the American bases. The bombing would be much like the Israeli bombing of Gaza, where there was no air defense.

The targets

The American bases would be destroyed. In the first week the number of American casualties would be in the thousands. An aircraft carrier has 5,000 people on board. The bases in the region have a total of 50,000 personnel. The largest are in Kuwait (13,500), Qatar (10,000), Bahrain (9,000) and UAE (5,000).

The target list in occupied Palestine is huge. On June 7, 2025 Iranian media announced that Iranian intelligence agencies have obtained millions of pages of sensitive Israeli documents in the largest intelligence operation "in history".¹³ The operation was carried out by the Ministry of Intelligence and involved the covert transfer of a "massive and complex" cache of classified Israeli documents into Iranian territory, including material on strategic sectors and critical facilities. The announcement followed after Israeli media reported the arrest of two Israeli nationals - Roy Mizrahi and Almog Atias - in the northern city of Nesher by Israel's Shin Bet intelligence agency. The arrests were linked to national security charges and suspected contacts with Iran.

The files outline past and current weapons development programs, efforts to upgrade and reproduce aging nuclear weapons, and joint projects with the United States and several European countries. It contains detailed organizational structures and personnel records from Israel's nuclear sector includes names of researchers, scientists, and executive managers. On September 24, 2025, the Iranian Intelligence Minister Esmail Khatib announced a partial release of these documents.¹⁴

Based on these documents it is likely that Iran will target the nuclear facilities of Israel. What will happen if the nuclear sites got hit. Iran knows the locations of the Israeli scientists involved in its development. Their homes might get bombed. It would be retaliation for assassination of Iranian scientist by Israel in the past.

I mentioned above the target list that were on display on billboards in Iran: the aircraft carriers, Ben-Gurion International Airport, IDF headquarters and Ministry of Defense, IDF Intelligence Directorate and the cities of Tel Aviv-Jaffa, Ramat Gan, Herzliya and Bnei Brak. These are small cities with 100,000-500,000 inhabitants. Their cities would be bombed like Gaza was bombed.

Nuclear war

Suppose Iran did not succeed in destroying Israel's nukes in its first week of bombing. Suppose Israel manage to at least have one nuclear bomb explode in Iran. Iran is the 17th largest country in the world with 1,7 million km². One nuclear bomb will have a devastating effect on 150-300 km². There will be radio-active fall out, and hundreds of thousands of people of the 90 million population of Iran will be killed. But unlike Japan, this would not stop the Iranian bombardment of Israel. On the contrary, it become more intense.

But the effect on the region and the world will be devastating. Tens of thousands of Muslim fighters will immediately mobilize to invade occupied Palestine and bring an end to the existence of Israel. And they would be cheered by millions across the planet. Russia and China will be on high alert for nuclear escalation with the U.S.. Demonstration in the West again a nuclear war will be massive. The scepter of a nuclear holocaust will dominate world politics. The world as we knew it before the nuclear attack will be gone. In the rest of the scenario building I will assume that there is no nuclear war.

Reaction in Israel

Israel, occupied Palestine, has a population of ten million: two million Arabs and eight million are Jews. One million Jews have a double passport. Some 200,000 have an American passport. One millions Jews are from Russia. They came in a large wave of migration after the fall of the Soviet union in 1990's.

Israeli's are not used to be at the receiving end of continuous bombardments like Gaza. If the number of casualties rises and goes into thousands without an end in sight, how will the rest of the population react? Probably a large number would want to leave occupied Palestine as soon as possible. That will have a negative effect on the morale of the rest of the Israeli Jews.

The Palestinians in Israeli cities will get a big boost to rise up against the occupation and the different factions of Palestinian resistance will see an upsurge in their membership. Palestine will enter the final battle for the liberation of its land.

Reaction of the population in the region

The overwhelming majority of the Muslim population across the planet will side with Iran, but their support will be oppressed by certain Muslim governments. In West Asia the support might be tangible from the population and their governments. The leaders of these governments will face tough choices. If it appears that Israel and the U.S. are getting hit very hard and the Iranians standing their ground and even gain the upper hand in the offensive, they might swiftly change their position in supporting the goals of Iran: expulsion of the U.S. from West Asia and the complete liberation of Palestine. Their incentives will be the prospect of a long lasting peace after the overthrow of the Zionist state.

Pakistan might issue a warning that a nuclear bomb on Iran will evoke a nuclear response from Pakistan. Saudi Arabia is said to have got nuclear bombs from Pakistan and paid US\$ 10 billion for it. It might not object to Iran's bombardment of the US base, but would not let Iran destroy the rest of its infrastructure, which Iran would not want to do.

Some countries have populations that consist predominantly of foreigners. The six member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) are good examples: Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates. In Qatar 88% of the total population and 95% of the work force consists of foreigners. In UAE it is 85% and 90%. In Kuwait it is 70% and 85%. In Bahrain it is 52% and 78%. In Oman it is 47% and 77%. And in Saudi Arabia it is 40% and 76%. If these countries are bombed by Iran because of their U.S. military bases, how will the foreign population react. Will they leave these countries and will their economies collapse? Will their government then support Iran hoping for its speedy victory?

The Muslim mobilization for the final liberation of Palestine

As the war drags on, hundreds of thousands of Muslim fighters in the whole region will register to train and join the movement to go into occupied Palestine and fight for the liberation of Al Quds (Jerusalem). Once this movement is building, the governments in the region might face a new Arab spring: Egypt, Jordan, and the GCC countries might be confronted with armed rebellions in their country. Their government might be gone within a year. Erdogan of Turkey has to decide whether it is time to join the movement to liberate Jerusalem or wait and hope that it will fail.

Russia and China

Russia and China will have a major influence on the all out war. For now, both countries are in favor of the two state solution, mostly because formally there is no alternative yet. But if they grasp the ultimate aim of the war, they might just move in and refrain from stopping the war. The chances are high that the U.S. will call in Putin and Xi Jinping to plead for a ceasefire. But now Iran will set the conditions for a cessation of hostilities, not a ceasefire. The condition would be the creation of safe passages for the U.S. to leave the region and for Israeli's to leave occupied Palestine. It is not about just stopping the Iranian bombardments. This effectively means breaking the backbone of the U.S. empire in West Asia and final liberation of Palestine.

The impact on the US

In the U.S. the MAGA base of Trump will rise up in mass demonstrations and they will be joined by Americans from all walks of life and political currents. Trump promised to stop endless wars and is now breaking this promise with the body bags returning from West Asia. The media will try to bring in the Iranian Diaspora as a counterforce, but the impact of the body bags will be stronger than the spoken words of the Pahlavi supporters. The longer the war goes on, the more deep division within the American society will develop with even the possibilities of armed conflicts and a civil war. Radicalization in the U.S. might take many varied forms, from left to right extremism.

The impact on Europe

In Europe the tensions between the Jewish and Muslim population will rise exponentially. When hundreds of thousands of Muslim fighters enter occupied Palestine and start liberating Palestinian land house by house with Jews being killed in the thousands, that will immediately lead to a situation in which the memories of the Jewish Holocaust will be pitted against the memories of the genocide in Gaza. Europe will be torn by these tensions and the reaction of the government will determine the long term stability of the multicultural societies of Europe.

The impact on Venezuela and Cuba

The defeat of the U.S. military might in West Asia will have direct impact on the American pressure on Venezuela and Cuba. Trump has imposed an embargo's on Cuba and Venezuela. An American defeat in West Asia will encourage Russia and China to pressure the U.S. in lifting these embargos.

What is better: an all out war or endless talks?

The strongest asset of America and Israel is their fighter jets. They have assembled a fleet of around 200 fighter jets, that can and will hit Iran hard despite their new defense system. Iran will take casualties, as Vietnam has taken one million casualties and 200,000 in Afghanistan before they liberated their country from U.S. domination. But once you take my analysis into account, you wonder: what is better for long term peace in the world: an all out war to defeat American imperialism and Zionism or endless threats, talk and periodic attacks on Iran from within and outside? The world that will arise from the ashes of war is one in which the Zionist state of Israel ceases to exist, America has lost its status of super power and China, Russia and Iran will lead the world hopefully to a peaceful, prosperous and just future.

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² Idem, p. 268.

³ See an analysis of Operation True Promise III from a non-Iranian perspective.

<https://www.ecssr.ae/en/research-products/reports/2/202692>.

⁴ China.org.cn quotes official figures from the government of Iran that 3,117 people were killed during recent unrest, citing the country's Forensic Medical Organization.

http://www.china.org.cn/world/Off_the_Wire/2026-01/22/content_118293433.shtml.

⁵ See <https://en.mehrnews.com/news/240297/Israel-allies-miscalculated-Iran-s-capabilities> about the role of Ayatollah Khamenei during the Twelve Day War.

⁶ See <https://www.avapress.com/en/news/345831/wall-street-journal-iran-s-missile-power-has-changed-the-equation> for some numbers. See also

<https://understandingwar.org/research/middle-east/iran-update-february-11-2026/>.

⁷ <https://www.samaa.tv/2087336078-iran-receives-chinese-sams-amid-efforts-to-rebuild-air-defence>.

⁸ <https://understandingwar.org/research/middle-east/iran-update-january-6-2026/>.

⁹ www.prestv.ir carried many videos and photo's of these mass rallies.

¹⁰ See <https://din.today/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Iranian-women.pdf> for the data.

¹¹ <https://understandingwar.org/research/middle-east/iran-update-february-11-2026/>.

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¹³ <https://www.timesofisrael.com/iranian-media-claims-tehran-acquired-trove-of-sensitive-israeli-nuclear-files/>.

¹⁴ <https://english.alarabiya.net/News/middle-east/2025/09/24/iran-says-it-has-documents-linked-to-israel-s-nuclear-program>.