

## Week 1 of World War III

### Introduction

In my [article](#) on the logic of the war between Iran and the West I argue that 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. The article was written on Friday February 20, 2026. The next day the war started.

I concluded my article with the following statement: *"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."*

Starting with this contribution I will provide a weekly analysis of where the world stand in the war that might end all wars. I base my analysis on material that I collect daily from different sources, including military specialists. I recommend to follow the analyses of Mohammad Marandi, professor at the University of Tehran who provides excellent analysis of the war and developments in Western Asia. I administer his [website](#), where I publish all his YouTube videos that I can find.

### What kind of war?

It is important to understand the nature of the war. The first war against the Islamic Revolution in Iran started nine months after its victory in 1979. Led by Saddam Hussein Iraq and supported by the West and the Soviet Union it created a devastating situation for Iran. It was a war of survival that lasted eight years and took the lives of hundreds of thousands of Iranians.

The twelve days war of last year was a war of recalibration. Iran was attacked in a blitzkrieg, which it had not prepared for and had to react in order to create the space for reconstituting her military for her long term goals: the elimination of the US presence in West Asia and the elimination of the apartheid state of Israel.

The current war is not a war of survival for Iran. Iran has prepared for the last war with the West for decades. This is a war of liberation and a war of decolonization. And because of this nature of the war, the implications are wider than a limited military confrontation.

### Who are the parties in this war of decolonization?

#### The party of the colonizers

Historically speaking there are two parties in this war of decolonization: the party of the colonizers and the party of resistance against colonization. The party of the colonizers consists of the following state actors:

- The U.S. government. I don't refer to the Trump administration. I refer to the Military Industrial Complex (MIC) that fund the Republicans and Democrats. There are anti-war Democrats and anti-war Republicans, but once they are in power, they line up with the MIC. Remember that Trump was the anti-war candidate who promised to end all U.S. wars. Their ultimate goal is the recolonization of the world.
- The Israeli government. Again, it does not matter whether it is right wing Netanyahu or another left wing president. Their ultimate goal is the preservation of the apartheid state of Israel and its expansion towards a Greater Israel.

- The client states of the US in Western Asia: the family dictatorships in the Gulf region, the states based on the funding of their military by the U.S. (Egypt, Pakistan, Jordan etc), the NATO member Turkiye. Their goal is to protect the U.S. ambition for recolonization.
- The Western governments that were part of the colonial empire and have lost their leadership role to the U.S.. They support the U.S..

Then there are non-state actors supporting the party of the colonizer, notable the Westernized media that promotes the narrative of regime change in Iran and the proponents in social movements that act on this narrative:

- The extreme right wing Pahlavi supporters in the Iranian Diaspora
- The secular activists who use women's right and gay rights to promote regime change in Iran.

### **The party of the resistance against colonization**

The party of the resistance against colonization consists of the following state actors who actually confronts or has confronted the colonizer militarily:

- Iran is the leading military actor now.
- After Iran, Yemen is the most important state actor.
- Cuba has a long tradition in support the struggle against colonialism and is now under going through the most difficult period in their modern history.
- Russia and China have historically supported anti-colonial movement. Russia is fighting the US at its borders with Ukraine. China is threatened with a military confrontation over Taiwan. For now they support Iran with intelligence and weapon systems.
- Afghanistan and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea have fought wars against the U.S. and might support Iran in an escalation.

Then there are non-state actors.

- The axis of resistance in Western Asia: the Palestinian resistance movements, Hezbollah, the resistance movements in Iraq.
- The anti-imperialist masses in the Global South who are the victims of colonialism and are oppressed by their governments who are sustained by the West.
- The anti-imperialist movement in the Global North consists of two parts:
  - The wavering anti-war movement that also advocates regime change in Iran, but are against war. This is an unreliable part in the anti-imperialist movement, that will echo regime change because of women's right and LGBT. At the end of the day they will either be silent and intimidated or just openly support the party of the colonizer. They are all for Palestine, but not in defense of the only state that has consistently supported the Palestinian resistance and is now paying the prices for it. They are intimidated by the media that has colonized the mind of the people in the Global North.
  - The consistent anti-war movement that acknowledges Iran as an anti-imperialist force and its role in decolonizing the world.

## **The results of the week 1**

### **Israel and U.S. started the war; Iran will decide when it ends**

Western military analysts were surprised to see Iran's military power in action on a scale they have not seen before. Iran has destroyed American military bases in the region. They are relentlessly attacking Israeli military installations and towns in occupied Palestine. And they are in for a long war.

The U.S. and Israel are bombing Iran hoping that the Islamic government and its institutions would collapse and the population would come out in the street against the revolution. The opposite has happened. Millions of Iranians has taken to the street against the U.S. and Israel and in support of their revolutionary government. The martyrdom of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has fortified this support.

Trump hoped for a short war with a few casualties. Week 1 has shown that although Israel and the U.S. started the war, it is Iran that will decide when and how the war ends.

### **The military situation**

For now this war is a missile war. Israel and Arab states with U.S. bases have expensive defensive system that fire costly missiles to destroy incoming drones and missiles from Iran. Already in week 1 they are rapidly running out of defensive missiles. In the coming weeks Israel and the U.S. bases will not be able to do anything about incoming Iranian missiles. The number of people that will be killed will soon rise and American body bags will return in greater numbers. The Americans are reporting a few deaths. Iran talks about hundred of dead American soldiers at their bases in the region. Iran has a stockpile of weapons that enable them to go for years. The stockpile of Israel and the U.S. are being depleted.

### **The breakdown of colonial censorship**

Israel has imposed total censorship on reporting about the war in Israel. Iran has invited international journalist to visit Iran to report on the war. A telling example is CNN. On March 3 Israel detained two Turkish journalists from CNN for reporting about the war. In Iran a CNN journalist is invited to report with censorship. He drives for many hours from the border to Tehran without a censor. He is looking for signs of the collapse of the system. But all the shops are open. The shops are really well stocked even with fresh things like fruits and vegetables. There are no long lines at gas stations. You don't see any degree of panic anywhere. In Tehran you can see the destruction caused by bombardments, but again there is no panic and shops are open. There is no imminent collapse.

What does this tell us? In week 2 the West is already losing the media war. The images of the destruction of Tel Aviv and other cities are to be found in social media posts and not in the mainstream media. More and more people are turning to the alternative media to get their information, and there the West is losing the media war.

### **The escalation ladder**

We are just in week 1, and already we are seeing how the escalation ladder will function. In Lebanon Hezbollah was declared dead in the Western media. In week 1 they have joined the war. Israel wants to invade Lebanon and take control, but Hezbollah is destroying their tanks.

Yemen has not joined yet. The escalation of the war is managed by Iran. Not everybody comes in at the same time.

There is another dimension of the escalation ladder. In Pakistan after the martyrdom of Khamenei dozens of people stormed the American consulate. Dozens were killed. These kind of action from the population will occur more and more in the coming weeks in Western Asia until it becomes a pattern.

## **The expectations for week 2**

### **Will Bahrain fall?**

An important country to be watched in the coming weeks is Bahrain. In week 1 Iran has struck the U.S. Fifth Fleet, headquartered in Bahrain. It has an area of operations encompassing nearly 2.5 million square miles of water area. This includes the Arabian Gulf, Red Sea, Gulf of Oman and parts of the Indian Ocean. Their operational reach is comprised of 21 countries, including three critical choke points at the Strait of Hormuz, the Suez Canal, and the Strait of Bab el-Mandeb at the southern tip of Yemen. The command plays a central role in maritime security operations and protection of shipping lanes. Iran has destroyed it. Bahrain is defenseless. It has a population of 80% Shia's, who rejoice whenever an Iranian rocket hits a target in the country run by a Sunni

dictator. How long will it take for the Shia's to engaged in regime change in Bahrain? If the country falls in the coming, it will send a strong warning to other dictatorships in the Gulf that their time to leave has arrived.

### **The economic impact**

On Monday March 2 the Ras Tanura oil refinery owned by Saudi Aramco, halted operations after debris from intercepted Iranian drones caused a small fire. On the same day Iranian drones targeted an energy facility in Ras Laffan belonging to QatarEnergy, the world's largest LNG producer. QatarEnergy suspended the production of LNG and other products at the impacted sites. QatarEnergy also stopped production of some products like urea, polymers, methanol, aluminum and others. Another drone targeted a water tank belonging to a power plant in Mesaieed. On Monday an Iranian drone hit the Mussafah Fuel Terminal in southwest Abu Dhabi. On Tuesday, a drone caused a fire at the Fujairah Oil Terminal along the eastern coast of the United Arab Emirates. On the same day Iranian drones struck fuel tanks and a tanker at the port of Duqm in Oman causing explosions. Another drone strike hit the Port of Salalah, which handles fuel and industrial minerals. On Tuesday Iran declared the Strait of Hormuz closed, warning that any ship attempting to pass would be "set ablaze". Since then, several other tankers have been hit. This is week 1 and oil prices are going through the roof. The steep rise will continue in week 2 and prepare the world for a major economic crisis.

### **A change in tone is coming**

Trump thought a quick win was possible. Going into the second week with depleting defensive missiles and an economic crisis brewing Trump will start looking for an off ramp. But there is none. The Arab states will beg for an end of the attacks, and Iran will put forward a strong demand: get rid of all U.S. military bases. Possibly already this week, and if not certainly in the coming weeks there will be pleas for a ceasefire. There will be none. World War III has just started.

Sandew Hira  
The Hague  
March 7, 2026  
[www.sandewhira.com](http://www.sandewhira.com)  
[info@sandewhira.com](mailto:info@sandewhira.com)