

Week 2 of World War III

Introduction

This my analysis of week 2 of World War II. 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 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.

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Week 2: Epic Mistake instead of Epic Fury

The military dimension

The goal of Israel and the U.S. is regime change: the destruction of the Islamic Revolution that started in 1979. Their military strategy is based on carrying out a decapitation strike that would be accompanied by an uprising of the population that would bring the government and the military down. That would take a couple of days of at the utmost a couple of weeks. It was called "Epic Fury".

The decapitation happened to a certain extent, but the people came to the streets in millions not against the government and military, but in support of them. What does this tell us? It shows that the spirit of the Islamic Revolution of 1979 is very much alive. On 22 September 1980, Iraq, under the leadership of Saddam Hussein, invaded Iran with the support of the West and the Soviet Union. There was no army. There was no military infrastructure or missiles. Put the revolutionary people of Iran demonstrated that a popular revolution can prevail against all odds, because the people are the army.

Now, 45 years later, Iran is in a much better position to defend its revolution.

The objectives of Iran, as explained in my first [article](#) are twofold: The expulsion of the U.S. from West Asia and the destruction of the apartheid state of Israel. The first two weeks have revealed the Iranian strategy:

1. Destroy the military infrastructure of the U.S. in West Asia: its military bases, its harbors where their navy reload their missiles, their radar system that constitute their eyes and ears, their communication systems, their aircraft carriers and ships. They do what with missile attacks from drones, ballistic and hypersonic missiles and by underwater missiles. The American media don't provide accurate reporting of the damage, but other media are sharing images and videos of the damages.
2. Destroy the military infrastructure of Israel, which is located in cities. So the major cities of Israel are being bombarded. Israel has established a strong censorship so the media don't report it, but again the visuals are shared on social media. Use decapitation of the Israeli leadership to intimidate them. Russian intelligence sources have released a report claiming that Israel has suffered massive personnel and strategic losses following the first 72 hours of Iranian retaliatory strikes. According to these findings, the casualties include high-ranking officials and specialized personnel, including 11 nuclear scientists and 6 IDF generals. The house of Benjamin Netanyahu was struck by a missile. His brother died. He was not there.

3. Bring in other parts of the axis of resistance step by step. In week 2 Hezbollah joined the war. The US and Israel thought that with the decapitation of its leadership, the movement had died. Again, this appears to be wishful thinking. It is stepping up its defense and offense. It thwarted multiple Israeli ground advances, scoring direct hits against both troops and armored vehicles from Israel. Their operations are targeted advancing Israeli troops, military bases, equipment, and settlements. In the same week the resistance in Iraq shot down a military refueling plane killing six crew members. The United States Embassy in the Iraqi capital Baghdad has been hit by a missile attack that destroyed part of its air defense system.
4. Use military might to impose economic damage to Western economies by closing the Strait of Hormuz. Any vessel seeking to sail through the Strait of Hormuz must obtain Iran's approval; otherwise, it could become a target of Iranian attacks. Now Iran decides who get oil from the Gulf States.
5. If the war continues, people will come to the street against the U.S. and Israel to demand an end to the war. In Pakistan, which has a Shia population of 20%, 35 people were killed in protests against the war in different cities. Imagine what will happen if the war goes on for weeks and months to come.

Iran has prepared militarily for this war for decades, They have build underground cities for the production of missiles and drones. They have stockpiles that can be used for many years. Iran's strategy is working. Iranian foreign minister Araghchi has rightfully mocked the US/Israel operation as "Epic Failure".

The political dimension

A major development took place last week that illustrates the stability of the political system of the Islamic Republic of Iran. On March 8, Iran's Assembly of Experts, appointed 56 years old Mojtaba Khamenei, as the new Leader of the Islamic Revolution and the third Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Mojtaba Khamenei is the son of martyred Supreme Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei. His wife, sister and mother were also martyred during attack on February 28. He studies at prestigious religious institutions. Religious experts praise him for his coherent and structured intellectual framework across the codified Islamic sciences.

At seventeen years old, he volunteered on the front lines during the Iran-Iraq War. His conscious effort to not be associated with any particular political current in the country has earned him tremendous respect across Iranian society, winning the confidence of senior clerics, political figures, scholars, and the wider public. He has placed significant emphasis on social responsibility and service to disadvantaged communities.

In the U.S. David Ellison, the son of Oracle co-founder and Trump ally Larry Ellison bought Paramount over the summer, putting CBS, Paramount Pictures and more under his control. The \$8 billion deal was approved by the Trump administration. The next step of the Ellison family's was the acquisition Warner Bros, the company that owns CNN. The Wall Street Journal reported that Ellison privately assured Trump officials he'd make sweeping changes to CNN. Iran show that it has a functioning democracy. The U.S. shows that it has a functioning dictatorship by the ruling capitalist class.

The economic dimension

Iran has closed the Strait of Hormuz and determines which ships can sail freely. Following Israel's strikes against Iranian oil storage sites Iran has now declared oil facilities in the region as legitimate targets. Oil prices are going through the roof.

Next week

The war is going according to Iran's plans. The Americans are preparing a ground invasion of the Kharg Island. Ninety percent of Iran's crude oil comes through a terminal on the island, transported through pipes from the mainland. Very large tankers - capable of carrying up to 85 million gallons of oil - are able to come up to the island, which is close enough to deep waters, to take the oil. The U.S. has ordered amphibious assault

ships with 5,000 marines to prepare for a ground invasion of the Karg Island. Iran is waiting for them. Iran's military warned it could target oil installations, ports and docks in the gulf region when the US tries to capture the Kharg Island. This will be a major escalation of the war.

Next week I will go into what the goal of the destruction of the apartheid state of Israel means and the prospects of this war going nuclear.

But my episode will appear on Sunday. I will be travelling to South Africa to attend a seminar at the University of Kwazulu Natal in Durban on Unsettling the canon, exploring southern knowledge for sustainability in the posthuman era. I will present a paper on how to decolonize a discipline: the example of mathematics. I will return on Sunday to The Hague.

All weeks

Week 0: before the start of the war

<https://www.sandewhira.com/index.php/2026/02/20/the-logic-of-the-war-between-iran-and-the-west/>

Week 1

<https://www.sandewhira.com/index.php/2026/03/07/week-1-of-world-war-iii/>

Week 2

<https://www.sandewhira.com/index.php/2026/03/14/week-2-of-world-war-iii/>.

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