

War with Iran,-- a likely Event?



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Iran at a glance

- **Iran, the second largest country in the Middle East, has 5,000 years of history**
Full name :Islamic Republic of Iran
- **Population 68.5 :million**
- **Capital :Tehran**
- **Area :(636,313 sq miles)**
- **Major language :Persian**
- **Major religion :Islam**
- **Life expectancy 69 :years (men), 72 years (women)**
- **Main exports :Petroleum , 3rd in oil, and 2nd in gas reserves in the world**
- **GNI per capita :US \$2,770 (World Bank, 2006)**

Modern history

- 1905-9 Constitutional revolution
- 1919 a military coup by British support
- 1953 Coup by CIA, removal of Dr. Mossaddeq, the elected Prime Minister
- The 1979 Islamic Revolution ousted the Shah

The US Hostage crisis 1979

- Washington and Tehran cut diplomatic ties after militant Iranian students took over the U.S. Embassy in the country in 1979, holding 52 Americans hostage for 444 days.
- Intended export of the revolution in the region led to eight year war with Iraq
- Changes after the Death of Khomeini,

Election of president Bush in 2000,

a major shift in the US foreign policy in the Middle East

- **Bush Doctrine: The New American Century (A new strategy in the world), including:**
 - **To fill the vacuum of the FSU**
 - **Change of rogue regimes: Iraq, Syria, Iran, Lebanon &**
 - **control of the strategist region of the world: oil resource**
 - **President Bush declared Iran part of an "axis of evil" in 2002.**

Why the US wants to attack Iran

- 1. Eliminating Iran's nuclear program
- 2. Crippling Iran by hitting its internal infrastructure -
- political, industrial and military -- ideally forcing
regime change that would favor U.S. interests
- 3. Using an attack -- or threatening an attack -- to
change Iranian behavior in Iraq, Lebanon or other
areas of the world

What Iran wants?

- to discourage the US from pursuing regime change in Iran or supporting the opposition
- Iran does not want to see the tension with the West disappear
- Since its inception, the IRI has always functioned best in crisis mode

The main difference

- The role of Iran in Iraqis crisis
- Nuclear proliferation (Iran insists its nuclear program is peaceful, but the U.S. and its allies are skeptical)
- Terrorism
- Energy security
- Israel and Palestinian issues

The realities

- Iran is the only country in the Middle East that people are pro-American
- Despite deep economic and political discontent, Iranians have no desire for abrupt change
- The government's enmity toward the US does not reflect Iranian people
- The US has lost political capital among Iranians
- IAEA uncertain if Iran can make Nuclear bomb
- The Three countries in the region have NB

Solution

Ignoring Iran is not an option

Bombing Iran does not change the situation for better

- Undermining Iran's territorial integrity mobilizes Iranians against the US
- Full diplomatic, open and direct talk must prevail
- The US should not remain indifferent to human rights issues in Iran

The US Attitude Must change

- Gen. John Abizaid, the former CENTCOM Commander :



- ‘We’ve Treated The Arab World As A Collection Of Big Gas Stations ’
- “Of course” the Iraq war is “about oil”, he said