

us iran relations history

us iran relations history is a complex and multifaceted narrative that spans over a century, marked by periods of cooperation, conflict, and profound geopolitical shifts. This relationship has evolved through pivotal moments such as the 1953 CIA-backed coup, the 1979 Iranian Revolution, and ongoing tensions surrounding Iran's nuclear program. Understanding the historical context of US-Iran relations provides critical insight into the current diplomatic dynamics and challenges. This article will explore key phases in the bilateral relations, including early interactions, Cold War-era developments, the impact of the Islamic Revolution, and subsequent diplomatic and military confrontations. Additionally, it will address efforts at diplomacy and the broader implications for Middle Eastern geopolitics. The following sections will offer a comprehensive overview of the us iran relations history, highlighting significant events and policy shifts that have defined this enduring yet turbulent relationship.

- Early Relations and the Pahlavi Era
- The 1953 Iranian Coup
- The 1979 Islamic Revolution and Its Aftermath
- Hostage Crisis and Escalation of Tensions
- Post-Revolution Conflicts and Diplomatic Efforts
- Nuclear Program and Sanctions
- Recent Developments and Future Prospects

Early Relations and the Pahlavi Era

The us iran relations history began in the early 20th century, characterized initially by limited interaction influenced largely by Western powers' interest in Iran's strategic position and oil resources. During the Pahlavi dynasty, especially under Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, the United States established closer ties with Iran. This period was marked by significant American economic, military, and political support aimed at modernizing Iran and securing a reliable ally in the Middle East amid Cold War tensions.

Economic and Military Cooperation

Throughout the 1940s and 1950s, the US provided Iran with military aid and

economic assistance programs to strengthen its government and infrastructure. The Shah's regime was seen as a bulwark against Soviet influence in the region, and American companies were heavily involved in Iran's oil industry. This cooperation laid the foundation for a strategic partnership, although underlying tensions remained regarding Iran's sovereignty and domestic policies.

Political Influence and Growing American Presence

American influence expanded beyond economics and military support, encompassing cultural and educational exchanges. The US aimed to promote pro-Western values and secure Iran as a key ally. However, this involvement also sparked nationalist sentiments within Iran, sowing seeds of discontent among various political factions opposed to foreign interference.

The 1953 Iranian Coup

One of the most defining moments in the US-Iran relations history is the 1953 coup d'état, known as Operation Ajax, orchestrated by the CIA and British intelligence. This covert operation led to the overthrow of Iran's democratically elected Prime Minister Mohammad Mossadegh, who had nationalized the Iranian oil industry, challenging Western oil interests.

Background and Causes

Mossadegh's nationalization of oil was seen as a direct threat to British and American economic interests. The US government, fearing the spread of Soviet influence and the loss of Western control over Iranian resources, collaborated with the UK to remove Mossadegh and reinstate the Shah's authority. This intervention was justified by the US under Cold War imperatives but had long-lasting repercussions.

Consequences of the Coup

The coup strengthened the Shah's monarchy, leading to increased autocratic rule backed by the US. However, it also fostered deep resentment among the Iranian populace toward American interference, which contributed to anti-Western sentiments and set the stage for the eventual Islamic Revolution. The 1953 coup remains a controversial and critical event in the narrative of US-Iran relations history.

The 1979 Islamic Revolution and Its Aftermath

The Islamic Revolution of 1979 marked a dramatic shift in US-Iran relations

history, fundamentally altering the geopolitical landscape of the Middle East. The overthrow of the Shah and the establishment of the Islamic Republic under Ayatollah Khomeini ended decades of pro-American alignment and initiated a period of hostility and ideological confrontation.

Collapse of the Shah's Regime

Widespread dissatisfaction with the Shah's regime, including issues of political repression, corruption, and Westernization policies, culminated in mass protests. The Shah's departure and the rise of an Islamic theocracy broke the US-Iran alliance, with the new regime vehemently opposing American influence in the region.

Establishment of the Islamic Republic

The new government positioned itself as an anti-imperialist force, promoting Islamic governance and revolutionary ideals. This realignment led to a radical transformation in Iranian foreign policy, including the severance of diplomatic ties with the US and the adoption of an adversarial stance that has persisted to this day.

Hostage Crisis and Escalation of Tensions

The US embassy hostage crisis in Tehran from 1979 to 1981 was a pivotal event in US-Iran relations history, symbolizing the breakdown of diplomatic relations and intensifying mutual animosity. Fifty-two American diplomats and citizens were held hostage for 444 days, galvanizing US public opinion against Iran.

Events Leading to the Crisis

The crisis was triggered by the US decision to admit the exiled Shah for medical treatment, which Iranian revolutionaries saw as American complicity in supporting the ousted monarch. The embassy takeover was orchestrated by militant students demanding the Shah's return to Iran for trial.

Impact on Bilateral Relations

The hostage crisis led to the severance of diplomatic ties and the imposition of economic sanctions by the United States. It entrenched hostility and mistrust, shaping US policy toward Iran for decades. The event became a defining symbol of the adversarial relationship that continues to influence regional and global politics.

Post-Revolution Conflicts and Diplomatic Efforts

Following the revolution and hostage crisis, us iran relations history entered a period marked by conflict, including the Iran-Iraq War and various proxy confrontations, alongside intermittent attempts at diplomatic engagement.

Iran-Iraq War and US Involvement

During the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq War, the US provided support to Iraq, viewing Iran as a greater threat to regional stability. This involved intelligence sharing, military aid, and economic sanctions aimed at weakening Iran. The conflict further deepened animosities and distrust between the two nations.

Diplomatic Attempts and Challenges

Despite hostilities, there were moments of attempted diplomacy, including backchannel communications and multilateral negotiations. However, these efforts often faltered due to mutual suspicion, divergent political goals, and external pressures.

Nuclear Program and Sanctions

The development of Iran's nuclear program has been a central issue in us iran relations history over the past two decades, leading to intense international negotiations and a regime of sanctions designed to curb Iran's nuclear ambitions.

Concerns over Nuclear Capabilities

The US and its allies have expressed concern that Iran's nuclear program could enable the development of nuclear weapons, posing a significant threat to regional and global security. This has resulted in multiple rounds of sanctions and diplomatic initiatives aimed at containment and verification.

Key Agreements and Sanctions Regimes

Efforts to resolve the nuclear issue include the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) agreed in 2015, which placed limits on Iran's nuclear activities in exchange for sanction relief. However, the US withdrawal from the JCPOA in 2018 and the reimposition of sanctions have strained relations and complicated diplomatic efforts.

Recent Developments and Future Prospects

In recent years, us iran relations history has continued to evolve amid fluctuating tensions, regional conflicts, and ongoing diplomatic negotiations. Issues such as missile programs, regional proxy conflicts, and cyber activities further complicate the relationship.

Continued Tensions and Regional Impact

Iran's involvement in regional conflicts in Syria, Iraq, and Yemen, alongside US military presence and alliances, has maintained a state of strategic rivalry. Both nations engage in proxy conflicts and political maneuvering that influence broader Middle Eastern stability.

Diplomatic Engagement and Challenges Ahead

Despite challenges, diplomatic channels remain open to varying degrees, with international actors playing roles in facilitating dialogue. The future of us iran relations history depends on complex negotiations addressing nuclear issues, regional security, and mutual concerns over sovereignty and influence.

- Historical context of US-Iran relations
- Major events shaping the bilateral relationship
- Impact of Cold War geopolitics
- Consequences of the Islamic Revolution
- Role of nuclear negotiations and sanctions
- Current challenges and diplomatic efforts

Frequently Asked Questions

What were the key events that shaped US-Iran relations before 1979?

Before 1979, US-Iran relations were largely positive, with the US supporting the Shah of Iran, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi. Key events include the 1953 CIA-backed coup that overthrew Prime Minister Mohammad Mossadegh, reinstating the Shah's power, and strong military and economic cooperation during the Cold

War.

How did the 1979 Iranian Revolution impact US-Iran relations?

The 1979 Iranian Revolution drastically deteriorated US-Iran relations. The overthrow of the Shah and establishment of the Islamic Republic led to the US Embassy hostage crisis, where 52 American diplomats and citizens were held hostage for 444 days. This event marked the beginning of decades of hostility.

What was the significance of the US Embassy hostage crisis in US-Iran relations?

The US Embassy hostage crisis (1979-1981) was a pivotal event that caused a complete breakdown in diplomatic relations. It led to economic sanctions, severed diplomatic ties, and entrenched mutual distrust and animosity between the two nations that persist today.

How did the Iran-Iraq War affect US-Iran relations?

During the Iran-Iraq War (1980-1988), the US officially remained neutral but provided support to Iraq, including intelligence and military aid, to counter Iranian influence. This further strained US-Iran relations, with the US viewing Iran as a regional adversary.

What role did the US play in Iran's nuclear program controversy?

The US has been a key opponent of Iran's nuclear program, suspecting it aims to develop nuclear weapons. This led to international sanctions, diplomatic negotiations like the 2015 JCPOA (Iran nuclear deal), and subsequent US withdrawal from the deal in 2018 under President Trump, escalating tensions.

How did the 2015 Iran nuclear deal influence US-Iran relations?

The 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) temporarily improved US-Iran relations by limiting Iran's nuclear activities in exchange for sanctions relief. However, US withdrawal in 2018 and the reimposition of sanctions reversed these gains, leading to heightened hostilities.

What has been the impact of US sanctions on Iran over the years?

US sanctions have significantly impacted Iran's economy, limiting its oil exports, financial transactions, and access to global markets. These

sanctions aim to pressure Iran on issues like its nuclear program and regional activities but have also affected ordinary Iranians and complicated diplomatic efforts.

What recent developments have occurred in US-Iran relations?

Recent developments include indirect talks aimed at reviving the JCPOA, ongoing regional tensions, incidents such as the US killing of Iranian General Qasem Soleimani in 2020, and fluctuating diplomatic engagements under different US administrations seeking either confrontation or negotiation.

Additional Resources

1. *All the Shah's Men: An American Coup and the Roots of Middle East Terror*

This book by Stephen Kinzer explores the 1953 CIA-led coup that overthrew Iran's democratically elected Prime Minister Mohammad Mossadegh. It delves into the political motivations behind the coup and its long-term effects on US-Iran relations. Kinzer argues that the intervention sowed deep mistrust and resentment, setting the stage for decades of conflict.

2. *The Iran Hostage Crisis: The First Fifty Days*

Written by David Farber, this detailed account covers the 1979 hostage crisis in which Iranian militants seized the US Embassy in Tehran and held 52 American diplomats hostage. The book examines the political and social upheavals in Iran leading to the crisis and the American response, highlighting the profound impact on bilateral relations.

3. *Guests of the Ayatollah: The First Battle in America's War with Militant Islam*

Mark Bowden's gripping narrative provides an in-depth look at the Iran Hostage Crisis, focusing on the hostages' experiences as well as the US government's efforts to resolve the situation. The book contextualizes the crisis within the broader struggle between the US and the newly established Islamic Republic of Iran.

4. *The Rise and Fall of the Pahlavi Dynasty*

This historical analysis by Misagh Parsa traces the reign of the Pahlavi monarchs in Iran and their relationship with the United States. It covers the modernization efforts, political repression, and eventual overthrow of the Shah, shedding light on how US support for the monarchy influenced Iran's internal dynamics and bilateral ties.

5. *Negotiating with Iran: Wrestling the Ghosts of History*

This book by Marc A. Chernick explores the complex diplomatic efforts between the US and Iran, focusing on attempts to resolve issues such as nuclear proliferation and regional security. It emphasizes how historical grievances and mutual suspicions have complicated negotiations.

6. *The United States and Iran: Sanctions, Wars and the Policy of Dual Containment*

Ray Takeyh provides a comprehensive history of US policy towards Iran from the 1979 revolution to the early 21st century. The book discusses the use of economic sanctions and political isolation as tools to contain Iran's influence, analyzing their effectiveness and repercussions.

7. *Persian Mirrors: The Elusive Face of Iran*

By Elaine Sciolino, this book offers a cultural and political portrait of Iran, including reflections on the historical relationship with the United States. Sciolino's firsthand experiences as a journalist help illuminate the complexities and misunderstandings that have shaped bilateral relations.

8. *The Secret CIA History of the Iran Coup*

This collection of declassified documents and analysis reveals the inner workings of the 1953 coup orchestrated by the CIA and British intelligence. It provides critical insight into the covert operations that drastically altered US-Iran relations for decades.

9. *Between Two Revolutions: The United States and Iran, 1979-1989*

This scholarly work by Mark J. Gasiorowski examines the decade following the Iranian Revolution, focusing on the political, military, and diplomatic interactions between the US and Iran. It highlights how the hostage crisis, Iran-Iraq War, and shifting regional alliances influenced the often fraught relationship.

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us iran relations history: The US-Iran Relationship Penelope Kinch, 2016-07-18 Since the Revolution of 1978/79, which eventually brought to power Ayatollah Khomeini and his circle of conservative, though politically active, clerics, the relationship between Iran and the USA has represented one of the world's most complex and hostile international entanglements. In this book, Penelope Kinch analyses the extent to which political identity has contributed to challenges in the relationship and the role of myths in foreign policy. Kinch first examines the construction of political identity in each country, and thereby traces the imagined norms which have their impact on international behaviour. Looking at the misperceptions that have precluded closer communication between the two states, Kinch examines both historical issues, such as the 1979 US embassy hostage crisis as well as more contemporary crises, most notably over Iran's nuclear power programme.

us iran relations history: U.S.-Iran Relations Avery Elizabeth Hurt, 2017-12-15 The modern history of U.S.-Iran relations is a collection of iconic images: the Shah in regal glory on his throne; the Shah fleeing his country; the rapturous welcome of Ayatollah Khomeini; the parading of

blindfolded American hostages; the burning wreckage of American rescue helicopters; Oliver North testifying on the Iran-Contra scandal; the volatile defiance of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad; the hope of the Green Movement; and the persistent gloom of Ali Khomeini. Yet behind these images are decades worth of diplomatic efforts, policy statements, official speeches, and passionate opinion pieces written by politicians, policymakers, human rights activists, and engaged citizens. Readers who examine these disparate viewpoints will gain a deep understanding of the vital, urgent, strategic importance of this long fraught relationship.

us iran relations history: America and Iran John Ghazvinian, 2021-12-07 A NEW YORK TIMES NOTABLE BOOK OF THE YEAR • A hugely ambitious, “delightfully readable, genuinely informative” portrait (The New York Times) of the two-centuries-long entwined histories of Iran and America—two powers who were once allies and now adversaries—by an admired historian and former journalist. In this rich, fascinating history, John Ghazvinian traces the complex story of the relations between these two nations back to the Persian Empire of the eighteenth century—the subject of great admiration by Thomas Jefferson and John Quincy Adams—and an America seen by Iranians as an ideal to emulate for their own government. Drawing on years of archival research both in the United States and Iran—including access to Iranian government archives rarely available to Western scholars—the Iranian-born, Oxford-educated historian leads us through the four seasons of U.S.-Iran relations: the spring of mutual fascination; the summer of early interactions; the autumn of close strategic ties; and the long, dark winter of mutual hatred. Ghazvinian makes clear where, how, and when it all went wrong. America and Iran shows why two countries that once had such heartfelt admiration for each other became such committed enemies—and why it didn’t have to turn out this way.

us iran relations history: United States-Iranian Relations United States. Congress. House. Committee on Foreign Affairs. Subcommittee on Europe and the Middle East, 1990

us iran relations history: Role Theory and Role Conflict in U.S.-Iran Relations Akan Malici, Stephen G. Walker, 2016-10-04 U.S.-Iran relations continue to be an international security problem in the Middle East. These two countries could have been friends, but instead they have become enemies. Stating this thesis raises the following questions: Why are the United States and Iran enemies? How and when did this relationship come to be? When the relationship began to deteriorate, could it have been reversed? What lessons can be learned from an analysis of past U.S.-Iranian relations and what are the implications for their present and future relations? Akan Malici and Stephen G. Walker argue that the dynamics of U.S.-Iran relations are based on role conflicts. Iran has long desired to enact roles of active independence and national sovereignty in world politics. However, it continued to be cast by others into client or rebel roles of national inferiority. In this book the authors examine these role conflicts during three crucial episodes in U.S.-Iran relations: the oil nationalization crisis and the ensuing clandestine coup aided by the CIA to overthrow the Iranian regime in 1950 to 1953; the Iranian revolution followed by the hostage crisis in 1979 to 1981; the reformist years pre- and post- 9/11 under Mohammad Khatami from 1997 to 2002. Their application of role theory is theoretically and methodologically progressive and innovative in illuminating aspects of U.S.-Iran relations. It allows for a better understanding of the past, navigating the present, and anticipating the future in order to avoid foreign policy mistakes. Role Theory and Role Conflict in U.S.-Iran Relations is a useful resource for international relations and foreign policy scholars who want to learn more about progress in international relations theory and U.S. relations with Iran.

us iran relations history: A Companion to U.S. Foreign Relations Christopher R. W. Dietrich, 2020-03-04 Covers the entire range of the history of U.S. foreign relations from the colonial period to the beginning of the 21st century. A Companion to U.S. Foreign Relations is an authoritative guide to past and present scholarship on the history of American diplomacy and foreign relations from its seventeenth century origins to the modern day. This two-volume reference work presents a collection of historiographical essays by prominent scholars. The essays explore three centuries of America’s global interactions and the ways U.S. foreign policies have been analyzed and

interpreted over time. Scholars offer fresh perspectives on the history of U.S. foreign relations; analyze the causes, influences, and consequences of major foreign policy decisions; and address contemporary debates surrounding the practice of American power. The Companion covers a wide variety of methodologies, integrating political, military, economic, social and cultural history to explore the ideas and events that shaped U.S. diplomacy and foreign relations and continue to influence national identity. The essays discuss topics such as the links between U.S. foreign relations and the study of ideology, race, gender, and religion; Native American history, expansion, and imperialism; industrialization and modernization; domestic and international politics; and the United States' role in decolonization, globalization, and the Cold War. A comprehensive approach to understanding the history, influences, and drivers of U.S. foreign relation, this indispensable resource: Examines significant foreign policy events and their subsequent interpretations Places key figures and policies in their historical, national, and international contexts Provides background on recent and current debates in U.S. foreign policy Explores the historiography and primary sources for each topic Covers the development of diverse themes and methodologies in histories of U.S. foreign policy Offering scholars, teachers, and students unmatched chronological breadth and analytical depth, *A Companion to U.S. Foreign Relations: Colonial Era to the Present* is an important contribution to scholarship on the history of America's interactions with the world.

us iran relations history: Imperialism and Expansionism in American History Chris J. Magoc, David Bernstein, 2015-12-14 This four-volume encyclopedia chronicles the historical roots of the United States' current military dominance, documenting its growth from continental expansionism to hemispheric hegemony to global empire. This groundbreaking four-volume encyclopedia offers sweeping coverage of a subject central to American history and of urgent importance today as the nation wrestles with a global imperial posture and the long-term viability of the largest military establishment in human history. The work features more than 650 entries encompassing the full scope of American expansionism and imperialism from the colonial era through the 21st-century War on Terror. Readers will learn about U.S.-Native American conflicts; 19th-century land laws; early forays overseas, for example, the opening of Japan; and America's imperial conflicts in Cuba and the Philippines. U.S. interests in Latin America are explored, as are the often-forgotten ambitions that lay behind the nation's involvement in the World Wars. The work also offers extensive coverage of the Cold War and today's ongoing conflicts in Iraq, Afghanistan, Africa, and the Middle East as they relate to U.S. national interests. Notable individuals, including American statesmen, military commanders, influential public figures, and anti-imperialists are covered as well. The inclusion of cultural elements of American expansionism and imperialism—for example, Hollywood films and protest music—helps distinguish this set from other more limited works.

us iran relations history: Eagle Eyes Over Iran Pasquale De Marco, 2025-05-09 ****Eagle Eyes Over Iran**** provides a comprehensive overview of Iran, a country with a rich history and culture that has played a significant role in world affairs for centuries. In this book, Pasquale De Marco explores the complex and fascinating world of Iran. Pasquale De Marco examines Iran's history, from the ancient Persian Empire to the present day. Pasquale De Marco also discusses Iran's people, culture, politics, and economy. *Eagle Eyes Over Iran* is an essential resource for anyone who wants to learn more about Iran. It is a well-written and informative book that provides a balanced and objective view of this important country. ****Eagle Eyes Over Iran**** covers a wide range of topics, including: * Iran's history, from the ancient Persian Empire to the present day * Iran's people, culture, and society * Iran's politics and government * Iran's economy and natural resources * Iran's foreign relations * Iran's role in the Middle East ****Eagle Eyes Over Iran**** is a valuable resource for students, scholars, businesspeople, and anyone else who is interested in Iran. It is a comprehensive and up-to-date book that provides a wealth of information about this important country. ****Eagle Eyes Over Iran Book Description**** If you like this book, write a review on google books!

us iran relations history: American-Iranian Dialogues Matthew K. Shannon, 2021-10-07 Bringing together historians of US foreign relations and scholars of Iranian studies,

American-Iranian Dialogues examines the cultural connections between Americans and Iranians from the constitutional period of the 1890s through to the start of the White Revolution in the 1960s. Taking an innovative cultural approach, chapters are centred around major themes in American-Iranian encounters and cultural exchange throughout this period, including stories of origin, cultural representations, nationalism and discourses on development. Expert contributors draw together different strands of US-Iranian relations to discuss a range of path-breaking topics such as the history of education, heritage exchange, oil development and the often-overlooked interactions between American and Iranian non-state actors. Through exploring the understudied cultural dimensions of US-Iranian relations, this book will be essential reading for students and scholars interested in American history, international history, Iranian studies and Middle Eastern studies.

us iran relations history: Conspiracy Theories in the United States and the Middle East

Michael Butter, Maurus Reinkowski, 2014-08-19 Conspiracy Theories in the United States and the Middle East is the first book to approach conspiracy theorizing from a decidedly comparative and interdisciplinary perspective. Whereas previous studies have engaged with conspiracy theories within national frameworks only, this collection of essays draws attention to the fact that conspiracist visions are transnational narratives that travel between and connect different cultures. It focuses on the United States and the Middle East because these two regions of the world are entangled in manifold ways and conspiracy theories are currently extremely prominent in both. The contributors to the volume are scholars of Middle Eastern Studies, Anthropology, History, Political Science, Cultural Studies, and American Studies, who approach the subject from a variety of different theories and methodologies. However, all of them share the fundamental assumption that conspiracy theories must not be dismissed out of hand or ridiculed. Usually wrong and frequently dangerous, they are nevertheless articulations of and distorted responses to needs and anxieties that must be taken seriously. Focusing on individual case studies and displaying a high sensitivity for local conditions and the cultural environment, the essays offer a nuanced image of the workings of conspiracy theories in the United States and the Middle East.

us iran relations history: US Foreign Policy and the Modernization of Iran Ben Offiler, 2015-07-19 US Foreign Policy and the Modernization of Iran examines the evolution of US-Iranian relations during the presidencies of John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson, and Richard M. Nixon. It demonstrates how successive administrations struggled to exert influence over the Shah of Iran's regime domestic and foreign policy.

us iran relations history: Checking Iran's Nuclear Ambitions Henry D. Sokolski, Patrick Clawson, Considering the latest Iranian nuclear developments, one might question whether a study now on how best to restrain Tehran is simply one that's come too late. To be sure, estimates vary as to when Iran could build its first bomb. Some believe Tehran could do it before the end of 2005; others think Iran would only be able to do so by the end of the decade. In either case, though, the die seems cast: If Iran wants, it has all that it needs eventually to build a bomb on its own. Certainly, trying to deny Iran further nuclear technology in the hopes that this will prevent it from getting nuclear weapons is no longer a credible strategy. The questions this edited volume addresses are whether or not any strategy can prevent Iran from going nuclear, what the proper goals of such a strategy might be (deterring use, keeping Tehran from deploying weapons, getting it to dismantle its nuclear program, etc.), and what other nonproliferation goals ought to be attempted (including trying to dissuade other nations from following Iran's example). The answers this volume offers are: 1) in the long-run Iran will gain little from going nuclear, and 2) much can be gained by enforcing the nonproliferation rules Iran agreed to and spelling out the costs to Iran of its continuing acquisition of nuclear weapons- related capabilities.

us iran relations history: The Unfinished History of the Iran-Iraq War Annie Tracy Samuel, 2021-10-21 An examination of how Iran's Revolutionary Guards (IRGC) view their history and their roles in the Iran-Iraq War.

us iran relations history: Iran Agenda Reese Erlich, 2016-01-08 Based on firsthand reporting

in Iran and the United States, *The Iran Agenda* explores the turbulent recent history between the two countries and shows how it has led to a showdown over nuclear technology

us iran relations history: *Rethinking Iranian Nationalism and Modernity* Kamran Scot Aghaie, Afshin Marashi, 2014-07-01 While recent books have explored Arab and Turkish nationalism, the nuances of Iran have received scant book-length study—until now. Capturing the significant changes in approach that have shaped this specialization, *Rethinking Iranian Nationalism and Modernity* shares innovative research and charts new areas of analysis from an array of scholars in the field. Delving into a wide range of theoretical and conceptual perspectives, the essays—all previously unpublished—encompass social history, literary theory, postcolonial studies, and comparative analysis to address such topics as: Ethnicity in the Islamic Republic of Iran Political Islam and religious nationalism The evolution of U.S.-Iranian relations before and after the Cold War Comparing Islamic and secular nationalism(s) in Egypt and Iran The German counterrevolution and its influence on Iranian political alliances The effects of Israel's image as a Euro-American space Sufism Geocultural concepts in Azar's Atashkadeh Interdisciplinary in essence, the essays also draw from sociology, gender studies, and art and architecture. Posing compelling questions while challenging the conventional historiographical traditions, the authors (many of whom represent a new generation of Iranian studies scholars) give voice to a research approach that embraces the modern era's complexity while emphasizing Iranian nationalism's contested, multifaceted, and continuously transformative possibilities.

us iran relations history: *Mohammad Mosaddeq and the 1953 Coup in Iran* Mark J. Gasiorowski, Malcolm Byrne, 2004-05-01 Mohammad Mosaddeq is widely regarded as the leading champion of secular democracy and resistance to foreign domination in Iran's modern history. Mosaddeq became prime minister of Iran in May 1951 and promptly nationalized its British-controlled oil industry, initiating a bitter confrontation between Iran and Britain that increasingly undermined Mosaddeq's position. He was finally overthrown in August 1953 in a coup d'état organized and led by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, along with British intelligence. This coup initiated a twenty-five-year period of growing dictatorship in Iran, leaving many Iranians resentful of the U.S.—legacies that still haunt relations between the two countries today. This book examines the turbulent political climate that prevailed in Iran during Mosaddeq's tenure, the confrontation between Iran and Britain for control over Iran's oil, the strategic considerations that led U.S. officials to intervene, and the details of the coup itself. Based on exhaustive research by leading academic experts in the field, this is the most authoritative account of the tragic events that led to the overthrow of Mosaddeq. With the recent declassification of CIA and other documents regarding the events of 1953 in Iran, there is an opportunity for new in-depth analysis into not only the coup d'état itself but also the events that led up to it.

us iran relations history: *Revolutionary Iran and the United States* Joseph J. St. Marie, Shahdad Naghshpour, 2016-04-08 A unique and major contribution to the scholarly and policy debate on American foreign and economic policy toward the Islamic Republic of Iran. A volume that will be of interest to scholars and policy makers who struggle to understand the complex rivalry between these two nations and wish to analyze the Iranian/American relationship since 1979. Authors frame the conflicted relationship between Iran and the United States as a low intensity conflict, embodying elements of superpower gamesmanship, insurgent tactics and economic warfare. *Revolutionary Iran and the United States* is unique in its approach by exploring how diplomatic, military, and economic weapons are employed to bolster each nation's strategic and tactical advantage. This analysis encompasses the political, military, and economic facets of the rivalry.

us iran relations history: *The Iran Agenda Today* Reese Erlich, 2018-09-18 Based on frequent, first-hand reporting in Iran and the United States, *The Iran Agenda Today* explores the turbulent recent history between the two countries and reveals how it has led to a misguided showdown over nuclear technology. Foreign correspondent Reese Erlich notes that all the major U.S. intelligence agencies agree Iran has not had a nuclear weapons program since at least 2003.

He explores why Washington nonetheless continues with saber rattling and provides a detailed critique of mainstream media coverage of Iran. The book further details the popular protests that have rocked Tehran despite repression by the country's Deep State. In addition to covering the political story, Erlich offers insights on Iran's domestic politics, popular culture, and diverse populations over this recent era. His analysis draws on past interviews with high-ranking Iranian officials, the former shah's son, Reza Pahlavi, and Iranian exiles in Los Angeles, as well as the memory of his trip to Tehran with actor Sean Penn. Written in skillful and riveting journalistic prose, *The Iran Agenda Today* provides inside information that academic researchers find hard to obtain.

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the Syria-Iraq crisis, and the re-alignments that have put Iran at the crossroads of East and West. Other issues covered include energy security, regional economic cooperation, the endemic sectarianism highlighted by Iran-Saudi competition, and the deadlock on the Middle East peace process. The third section then examines the issue of a Middle East nuclear weapons-free zone and the likely consequences of the Iran nuclear deal on this prospect, which, in turn, raises the issue of regional proliferation and counterproliferation. The last section explores some possible various scenarios and the challenges of implementation as a relatively long-term agreement, providing specific policy recommendations for the regional actors and the external powers that are stakeholders in the volatile Middle East.

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