

Iran after the Iran-Israel War: History of Iran's relations with the West and its future

➤ Contact with Western colonialism since the first half of the 19th century:

- ◆ Particularly important were the two wars between Iran (Qajar dynasty) and Russia in the first half of the 19th century
- ◆ The origin of anti-Russian sentiment in Iran and the mixed feelings of admiration and distrust towards Britain (and European countries in general)

➤ Oil nationalization movement:

- ◆ 1941 Allied occupation of Iran
- ◆ Nationalization of oil industry by the Mosaddegh Government (1951)
- ◆ Coup to overthrow the Mosaddegh Government by CIA and MI6 (1953)
 - The origin of Iran's anti-Americanism

➤ “Islamic” Revolution of 1979:

- ◆ Under the idea of "Islamic unity," the United States and Israel has been considered "the common enemy of Islam."
- ◆ The slogan of the Islamic Revolution "Neither East, Nor West, Islamic Republic."
- ◆ The discourse of “resistance” against colonialism and imperialism

➤ An outline of Iran's foreign relations after 2013:

- ◆ Conclusion of the nuclear agreement (JCPOA) (2015)

- ◆ The Trump administration's unilateral withdrawal from the JCPOA and the reinstatement of sanctions against Iran (2018)
- ◆ Iran has begun uranium enrichment activities that far exceed the provisions of the JCPOA since 2019
- ◆ The United States bombed and killed Soleimani, commander of the IRGC Qods Force (January 2020)
- ◆ Iran retaliated by bombing the US's Ayn al-Assad Air Base in Iraq.
- ◆ The assassination of Fakhrizadeh, head of the Research and Innovation Organization of the Ministry of Defense by Israel (November 2020)
- ◆ “The Strategic Measures for Relief of Sanctions” Act was passed, which made it virtually impossible to restore the JCPOA
- ◆ In April 2024, Israel bombed the Iranian Consulate in Damascus, and Iran retaliated by launching a missile attack on Israel. Israel also bombed Iran.
- ◆ The conflict between Iran and Israel, which had previously been limited to assassinations of important figures (mainly by Israel) and attacks on Iranian military facilities in Syria, got escalated into direct fights between the two countries.
- ◆ In July 2024, Hamas Political Bureau Chief Haniyeh was assassinated in an Israeli attack in Tehran
- ◆ In October, Iran attacked Israel in retaliation for the assassination of Haniyeh, and three weeks later Israel also bombed Iran.
- ◆ In April 2025, "indirect" nuclear negotiations began between Iran and the United States
- ◆ In early June of the same year, IAEA released a report stating that Iran had stored 408.6 kilograms of uranium enriched to 60%, and that it could enrich uranium to nuclear weapons-grade 90% within three weeks, making it possible to manufacture nine nuclear bombs.

- ◆ On June 13 of the same year, two days before the sixth round of nuclear negotiations, Israel attacked Iran, killing many Revolutionary Guard officials, nuclear scientists, and ordinary citizens, and Iran retaliated against Israel. The US also joined attacks against the Iran's nuclear facilities (Fordow, Natanz, Isfahan)
- ◆ US President Trump announced a ceasefire between Iran and Israel

➤ **Problems with the ceasefire:**

- ◆ The problems that led Israel to attack Iran have not been fundamentally resolved:
 - The risk of Israel attacking Iran again is still high.
- ◆ On the other hand, if the current Iranian regime accepts the US demands, the dissatisfaction of the hardliners in Iran will increase, and there is a risk that Iranian domestic political situation will become unstable.

➤ **Possible futures:**

- ◆ Where is the highly enriched uranium? : possibility to be used for developing “Improvised Nuclear Device”
- ◆ Collapse of Nuclear Non-Proliferation regime
- ◆ Increasing opposition to the IAEA inside Iran: Will Iran withdraw from the NPT?
- ◆ Possible strategic and security allies for Iran: Will Iran ally with Russia?
- ◆ Arrests of civilians on suspicion of cooperation with Israel: Possible “Witch Hunt” against minorities
- ◆ Several forces which may get power in case that Islamic Republic collapses:
 - A) “Moderate” and “democratic” political forces

- B) Pro-US but authoritarian pre-revolutionary monarchy
- C) Authoritarian military forces
- D) Political forces that have Mahdist tendency at the core of its ideology
- E) Minorities who could split Iran