

Perspective

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What about Iran?

The rogue nation of Iran is constantly in the news. For many very little is known about this seemingly significant country. Iran's population has grown over the years, with a remarkable increase from 21.91 million in 1960 to 90.61 million in 2023. The growth rate has varied, with the highest increase recorded in 2020 at 5.80%. The various sections of the Islamic Republic of Iran Armed Forces together make up the largest military force in the Middle East, with approximately 960,000 personnel in total. As of 2025, the Islamic Republic of Iran Navy (IRIN) has a total of 8 ships in its fleet. This includes various types of vessels, such as frigates, submarines, and coastal submarines. Iran currently has approximately 16 fighter jets and combat aircraft in service consisting mostly of outdated American and Soviet jets. Iran will likely be the power which will eventually bring the king of the South together spoken of by Daniel the prophet (Daniel 11:40). The king of the South will extend all the way to Ethiopia (Daniel 11:43). In light of this, what would we expect Iran to do?

Why does Iran hate Israel?

Wikipedia states this about Iran: “The history of Iran (also known as Persia) is intertwined with Greater Iran, which is a socio-cultural region encompassing all of the areas that have witnessed significant settlement or influence exerted by the Iranian peoples and the Iranian languages—chiefly the Persians and the Persian language. Central to this region is the Iranian plateau, now largely covered by modern Iran...Iran is home to one of the world's oldest continuous major civilizations, with historical and urban settlements dating back to 4000 BC.”

The *Wall Street Journal* ran an article on November 27, 2023 titled, “The Real Reason Iran Hates Israel” which stated, “The Gaza War has led to another debate about what motivates Iran’s ruling elite. Washington has proffered primarily one realist theme: The mullahs wanted to disrupt the diplomacy aimed at Israeli-Saudi normalization, so they helped Hamas unleash a war to awaken the Arab street. Confronted with popular anger, the Arab potentates, they thought, would retreat. But this ignores a fundamental motivation of Iran’s theocracy: anti-Semitism. At least three generations of radical Iranian clerics have viewed Israel as illegitimate, usurping sacred Islamic lands in the name of a pernicious ideology advanced by history’s most devilish and stubborn people. Using the language of French Marxism, they call Israel a Western ‘colonial-settler state,’ and they believe Jews guide American imperialism in the Middle East. In this struggle between good and evil, Muslims have a religious obligation to resist Israel and global Jewry. The founder of the revolution, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, set the standard for the Islamic Republic of Iran. In his book *Islamic Government*, he wrote, ‘From the very beginning, the historical movement of Islam had to contend with the Jews, for it was they who first established anti-Islamic propaganda and engaged in various stratagems, and as you can see, this activity continues down to the present.’ He depicted Jews as distorters of the Quran, financial hoarders, and agents of the West...Khomeini’s anti-Semitic themes were picked up by his two most important disciples, former president Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, the ‘pragmatic’ cleric par excellence, and the current supreme leader, Ali Khamenei. Rafsanjani published a book, *Israel and Beloved Jerusalem*, claiming that resistance to the Jewish state was the sacred duty of ‘every Muslim and anyone who believes in God.’ Judaism for Rafsanjani was irretrievably ‘immersed in colonialism’ and ‘Zionism is the essential partner of global arrogance [America]... For four decades, the Islamic Republic has created a propaganda machine of hate. Iranian state agencies have routinely published an infamous booklet— “The Protocols of the Elders of Zion”—and other anti-Semitic tracts. ...”

Mideast regional troublemaker for Israel

There has been a rivalry between Iran and Saudi Arabia which caused Iran and Saudi Arabia to suspend diplomatic ties from 1987 to 1990 and again from 2016 to 2023. The most recent restoration of relations occurred in March 2023 after discussions brokered by China. The two nations normalized relations for the first time in seven years and reopened their embassies.

The Trump administration has been proffering a game-changing move in the Mideast. Needless to say, Iran does not want the climate of the Mideast to change. It enables the Iranian regime to be the bad boy troublemakers

of the region. Iran does not like talk which has been generated by the Abraham Accords signed on September 15, 2020 at the White House between Israel and the UAE, Bahrain, Morocco, and Sudan, which has been a significant step in this process. These agreements aim to build a "warm peace" between Israel and the four Arab countries, contrasting with the past agreements that resulted in a "cold peace."

Naturally, Hamas officials are urging Arab countries not to normalize relations with Israel, particularly in light of the war in Gaza. Saudi Arabia has not yet normalized relations with Israel, and has said that it is sticking by the Arab Peace Initiative which calls for Israel's withdrawal from Arab territories and the establishment of a Palestinian state. In a recent interview with Tucker Carlson, Prince Alwaleed bin Talal emphasized Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 does not require diplomatic normalization with Israel to succeed.

Can the United States reclaim its greatness in the Middle East and the world?

There is no doubt that in the past four or more years the United States has lost face in the world. The United States has declined in global popularity and there has been a shift in the balance of power. The 2025 Democracy Perception Index shows a significant drop in U.S. global standing, with the country's reputation taking a particularly sharp hit in EU countries. China has been more popular than the U.S.

On his trip to Saudi Arabia, U.S. President Donald Trump used a major foreign policy speech in Riyadh to offer an "olive branch" to Iran, a longtime U.S. adversary, amid talks that Tehran back off of its nuclear program. He said in his speech: "I want to make a deal with Iran. If I can make a deal with Iran, I'll be very happy," Trump said at a U.S.-Saudi investment forum. "We're going to make your region and the world a safer place. But if Iran's leadership rejects this olive branch and continues to attack their neighbors, then we will have no choice but to inflict massive, maximum pressure."

From the news service, thehill.com, an article dated May 13, 2025 was posted, "5 takeaways from Trump's Day in Saudi Arabia": "Trump used his remarks...to offer an optimistic outlook about the future of the Middle East. He announced he would be open to easing sanctions on Syria at the urging of allies, saying, 'we want to give them a fresh start' following the fall of Bashar Assad's regime and years of civil war."

America has been adrift for so long; it hasn't known where it is going. With the demoralizing woke movement and downward spiraling morality, the U.S., along with the rest of the Western World, has lost its way; America has lost its sense of national purpose. This is reflected when we are unable to project the United States's power forcibly on the world scene. In his classic text, *Politics Among Nations*, author Hans J. Morgenthau writes: "Diplomacy, one might say, is the brains of national power, as national morale is its soul."

God says, "...the whole head [diplomacy or government] is sick and the whole heart [national morale] faint." (Isaiah 1:5) Morgenthau further states: "Often in history the Goliath without brains or soul has been smitten and slain by the David who had both."

Having lost much of its actual power, America is rapidly losing its prestige as well. If another wise powerful nation is not respected, or even feared, it only invites neglect and eventual attack. And how much worse is America's lack of respect among both its allies and enemies today!

Can the U.S. and Britain regain what has been lost? It is a noble idea to want to return to a former national greatness a nation once had, but there are few examples of it happening to be read in history. God said in the book of Daniel that the Medes and the Persians came into power because the Babylonian Empire was weighed in the balances and found wanting (Daniel 5:27-28). The Babylonian Empire was carved up and absorbed into the empire of Persia and the Median Empire. After Persia, another great empire arose to the Greeks.

President Trump has thrown down the gauntlet. We don't expect Iran to accept any deal. The Iranian leaders will continue to stir the pot in the Mideast and try to push Israel into the Mediterranean Sea. In the end, we can expect Iran to be a supporter and catalyst for war and mayhem against Israel.

Nearly every president since 1948 has tried to bring about peace in the Middle East. As much as men try, the only solution to bring peace is the return of Jesus Christ and the establishment of the Kingdom of God on earth. Then the Middle East will experience total peace. Jesus will be King of kings and Lord of all the earth, and the saints will take the kingdom and rule with Him (Daniel 2:44; 7:18).