

Forum: The Arab League

Issue: Addressing the Prevalence of Political Instability and Foreign Involvement in Iran

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Introduction

Political Instability is defined by the International Community as “the potential for sudden and significant change in the leadership, policies or condition of a country.” Political Stability in general is instrumental to the development and growth of humanity or human population. Working towards the Sustainable development goals is the utmost priority of the United Nations organizations or the United Nations Development Programme. The ability to secure political stability leads to the implementation of a large amount of development and progress to be made on many of these goals. Political stability is vital for many of these sustainable development goals including, industry, innovation and infrastructure, decent work and economic growth, partnership of these goals and no poverty. By ensuring political stability in a nation the world can be more productive in reaching these goals with both eventual economic growth and improvement of the global workforce.

Economists tend to regard political instability as a serious malaise that is harmful to economic performance. During times when countries face political instability policy makers are more likely to shorten horizons which then leads to the suboptimal short term macroeconomic policies. Not only are horizons shortened but it is much more likely that during political instability frequent switches of policies occur which then create volatility thus, negatively affecting macroeconomic performance. Political instability then leads to negative effects on a wide range of macroeconomic variables including, GDP growth, inflation and private investment.

In the Arab world foreign involvement is extremely common and is usually done by countries to use the Arab Spring as an opportunity to increase their influence in that region. Iran

has been crippled because of foreign intervention for the past 60 to 70 years. Foreign involvement in Iran had started when Britain and the Soviet Union invade western Iran to counter the threat of expanding Nazi influence. When world war II had ended Iran had become a target of both pro-Western and pro-Soviet forces because of the country's vast oil reserves. The tensions continued to rise over the next decades as the British had warned Iran that any attempt to take over oil properties of the British without negotiations would have serious consequences. Then the Iranian government had offered to set aside 25% of the total(net) oil profits to compensate the British. The British however had refused to listen and with the aid of the US government and oil companies of the British an international economic blockade of Iran had occurred which was primarily focusing on freezing the countries assets. This blockade pushes the poor country to destitution.

Iran also known as the Islamic Republic of Iran is a country located in the middle east which is in Asia. The country is a big regional power in the middle east and follows the style of an autocratic theocracy. Iran is a vast country with a huge population of 80 million being one of the largest populations in the middle east. The country has massive oil supplies, ranking second in the world in oil reserves. In the middle of the 20th century, Iran had become a democratic nation under the leadership of Prime minister Mohammed Mossadegh who was more powerful then the pro US Shahs. In this time oil companies were nationalized much to the despise of the US and UK. There was a military coup in which the existing prime minister had fallen and a pro US Shah, Mohammed Reza Pahlavi had risen to power. Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, who was the Shah at that time became more autocratic and authoritarian. He established secret police, that was pushing for secular reforms on a society that was generally more conservative. The monarch however failed to push economic reforms that were successful. This led to the economy being more stagnated, with no progress to be seen.

These issues sparked a massive revolution in Iran in 1979. Exiled leader Grand Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini had led this revolution in which anti-government propaganda had been distributed. Eventually the Shah had abdicated and went into exile, following the massive pressure from the people. Ayatollah Khomeini had established a Shia authoritarian and theocratic administration that would mandate the country based on Shia Islam laws. The country was renamed to the Islamic Republic of Iran bringing the beginning of a constant conflict with the west. Following the massive reforms in Iran, Saddam Hussein of Iraq has launched an invasion in Iran.

During the rest of the 1980's Iran had fought a brutal war with Iraq that ended in a stalemate. Despite the war serving no benefits to the both countries, it had caused millions of losses of lives.

These instances and issues have led to the current situation in the modern day. In 2003, the United States of America had invaded Iraq and toppled the strong rule of Saddam Hussein. The US aimed to rebuild Iraq but found itself in an issue that they could not possibly solve. This led a massive power vacuum in the war crippled nation. Iran saw this as an opportunity to extend its influence and began funding Shia militias and paramilitary groups. These groups began fighting against coalition forces of the US and the new Iraqi government. This constant battle caused a huge crisis in the nation as the situation in Iraq had significantly worsened. Today, Iraq is widely being controlled by Iran as its influence over the region is undeniably strong. In the mid-2000s Iran started to increase its nuclear program through research and development. This alarmed many nations all around the world, even though Iran claimed it to be used for peaceful purposes. Sanctions were implemented against Iran targeting its oil industry, which is the main source of the country's income. This significantly damaged the Iranian economy as the GDP growth had slowed causing multiple recessions to take place.

In 2010, huge civil wars erupted in the middle east causing the Arab Spring to take place. Iran again saw this as an opportunity to expand its influence and quickly implemented measures to do so. Iran had started to fund sides with whom the government agreed politically. This had included the funding of support of the Houthis in the Yemeni Civil War and the Baathist government in the Syrian Civil War. The funding of Iran was directly opposed to Gulf monarchies such as Saudi Arabia, who were funding sides opposed to the sides Iran was funding. Many analysts claim this situation to be the "Second major cold war" or the "Middle Eastern Cold War". Following this constant cycle of funding groups that cause conflict in the middle east Iran had agreed to a nuclear deal to limit its program in 2015. However currently this deal appears to be dismantled as the United States had withdrawn from the deal following the decision by President Trump.

Currently, Iran has one of the worst human right records in the world. The nation severely restricts fundamental human rights such as the freedom of press and of speech, freedom of religion as well as gender inequality and discriminatory laws against women and religious minorities. Overall, years of foreign involvement and intervention had caused a lot of economic and political instability which in turn had caused many humanitarian crises some impacting the situation Iran is in today.

Definition of Key Terms

Political Instability

Political instability is defined as the potential of significant and sudden change in the leadership, policies and the overall condition of a country. Political instability is likely to shorten horizons for policy makes which then lead to short term macroeconomic policies which are negatively affected. Some of the causes of political instability include the increase in price of oil, or the change in political control of the government or the nation.

Foreign Involvement

Foreign involvement or interventionism are the policies taken by a nation state or other jurisdictions to manipulate the economy or the society. The most common types or application of foreign involvement are the ones to manipulate the economy and political affairs of a nation. An example of foreign involvement is the British when they were involved in the economic blockade of Iran when they refused to negotiate over Britain's oil properties.

Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

Gross domestic product also known as the GDP is the total monetary measure of market values of all the goods and services produced in a time period. The broader the measure of domestic production the more of a comprehensive measure of a given country's economic status or health. GDP can also measure how a certain economy is performing relative to other economies around the world.

Assets

Assets specifically in financial accounting is any resource that is owned by an economic entity and or a business. Assets are basically anything that can be controlled or owned that produces value. Assets can also be held by any economic entity which in turn produces positive economic value.

Liabilities

Liabilities are something people, companies or governments owe. Liabilities are usually a sum of money. Liabilities can be settled across a specific period through economic benefits that include money, goods and services.

Sustainable Development Goals

Sustainable development goals are a set of 17 goals to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. These goals were adopted by world leaders in September 2015 and are set to be fulfilled by 2030. Some of these goals include no poverty, affordable and clean energy, Industry, innovation and infrastructure and many more.

Theocracy

Theocracy is a system of the government where the priest rules in the name of God. Theocracy also refers to a form of government in which a deity is recognized as the supreme ruling authority.

Proxy War

Proxy wars are wars that are heavily influenced by major powers who are not directly involved in that war.

Shia Islam

Shia Islam is the second largest branch of Islam all around the world. The main difference between Shia Islam and Sunni Islam comes from the disagreement over who should have succeeded Prophet Muhammed. Shia Muslims are in the majority in Iran, Iraq and Bahrain.

Grand Ayatollah

The Grand Ayatollah is the highest authority figure in Shia Islam. The Ayatollah is usually a cleric who has significant religious knowledge. There are many Grand Ayatollahs rather than one.

Coup

A coup is the sudden removal of an existing government from power.

Proxy War

A proxy war is a war that is heavily influenced by major superpowers who are not directly involved in the conflict. The most famous cold war was the one fought by the United States and Soviet Union.

Security Council (P5 + 1)

The security council is a group that includes the 5 permanent members of the United Nations as well as Germany. Germany has been included due to its political and economic influence. This was the same group that had negotiated the 2015 deal with Iran.

Sunni Islam

Sunni Islam is the largest sect in Islam, having 85% of Muslims. Sunni Islam believes that Prophet Muhammed never chose a successor, after his death some of the most prominent Muslims elected Abu Bakker as the Caliph. Sunni Islam believes that this had made him the legitimate successor.

Key Issues

The funding of militias and terrorist groups by Iran

Iran has had huge tension with the international community and one of the biggest reasons for this is its funding of certain groups. It is believed that Iran spends about 16 billion dollars to support groups and organizations annually. The groups have been labelled as terrorists or some groups have committed human right abuses. The funding goes to groups such as Bashar Al Assad's government Syria, support and arms being given to the Houthis in Yemen and funding given to Hezbollah in Iraq. All three of these groups have violated human rights according to a variety of sources and they have been recorded.

About 150 million dollars of funding goes to pro-Iranian militias in Iraq (according to the FDD) which is absolutely staggering. Escalation of violence and bloodshed in these regions has been caused by Iran's funding of these groups. This is an extremely big and complex issue as these acts will lead to more political instability in Iran due to international pressure. History has repeated to show that to force Iran to stop funding these types of groups with diplomatic and economic sanctions has not been effective. This is a very complex issue as resorting to violence may be the only solution and that will cause more foreign interventions which will lead to political instability.

However, the reason why Iran is funding these groups is because of the rivalry between Iran and Saudi Arabia. Iran continues to fund these groups because the country itself is engaged in proxy wars with Saudi Arabia and other nations in the gulf. According to the estimates by the FDD about 100 million dollars of funding goes to Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad per year.

The reason behind this rivalry and the creation of these proxy wars is because of religious and ideological differences. The main difference between these two countries in terms of religious or ideological means is that Iran's ideology is fundamentally Shia Islam while Saudi Arabia's ideology is Sunni Islam. Hence the class of these ideologies are the single biggest factor behind this war.

This aspect also comes into the big picture with the very famous and controversial nuclear deal. World leaders like French President Emmanuel Macron and President of the United States of America Donald Trump believe that a nuclear deal should involve Iran cutting the funding of such groups. It has been noted that Iran has been funding 700 to 800 million dollars per year to Hezbollah, a claimed terrorist organization by the UN. The classification of such groups includes ones which have undetermined human rights records.

In conclusion the funding of these groups in neighboring countries of Iran creates more tension in the economic and diplomatic world. Iran needs to build foreign relations with the rest of the world, and this can only be done if the funding of these groups stops. Foreign relations are important as without foreign relations there would be more interventions causing more political instability. More political instability then leads to more economic depression causing a humanitarian crisis.

Nuclear Program of Iran

Iran's nuclear problems regarding its program is a very controversial topic that has made it to headlines in the past decade. The countries nuclear programs are viewed as a very threatening possibility this is mainly because of the concern over the use and intention of this nuclear program. Iran is claiming that the nuclear program is being developed for peaceful purposes however it is very complex to gauge how true this might be. On May 25th 2012 an IAEA report found that samples taken have enrichment levels of up to 27% higher than the previous level of 20%. It is important to note the fact that if the nuclear program of Iran is intended for peaceful purposes such as nuclear energy then it can benefit the economic status of the nation as this source of energy will provide the country with countless benefits.

Iran however did sign an agreement on behalf of the United Nations with the P5 +1 nations. Unfortunately, the deal had its own fair share of issues and it has a very high chance to fail now. This is because the United States has chosen to withdraw from the agreement or deal following the infamous election of President Trump. This is primarily due to the economic pressure and blockade put forward by the United States and its threat of implementation of sanctions against any member nation that trades Iran. This measure effectively killed the agreement meaning that Iran would now face an economic blockade and diplomatic pressure from the United States of America.

Even though the agreement had ended Iran did allow inspectors from the United Nations to access their certain nuclear facilities. This is certainly a positive step and these types of measures will allow Iran to build their foreign relations causing less political instability and more economic growth. Despite this positive measure from Iran it would be unfair to not point out that the situation in North Korea escalated within a short period of time. Therefore, it is the responsibility of member nations all around the world to carefully monitor the situation before it may worsen.

The consequences of the fallout of the agreement of the nuclear program included many sanctions which hit Iran's main industries. The biggest industry struck by sanctions is the oil industry, with estimates showing that it has cost Iran around 160 billion dollars annually. Furthermore, Iran has basically lost its control of accessing its assets abroad, these are estimated to be more than 95 billion dollars. On July 7th 2019 sources say that Iran will enrich uranium past the agreed upon limit of 3.67% purity. However, there is hope as there is a timeframe for the removal of these sanctions.

The human rights problem in Iran

The problem of human rights is evident in Iran all around the world. The vast violations of their human rights have caused international pressure and foreign involvement which then cause political instability. Iran has had one of the worst human rights records in the middle east. They have carried out press censorship as well as online censorship which have caused international tension. Iran has carried out mass number of executions as there is a large amount of capital punishment. According to Amnesty International, at least 208 people had reportedly been killed in protests. A further 7,000 people have been arrested for long periods of time. It is said that Iran is in the top three nations in terms of executions. Iran has also implemented measures that limit

freedom of speech and expression which is extremely important as highlighted in the Human Rights Council (HRC).

There have been numerous examples of people and political groups being banned and executed. The Kingdom Assembly of Iran which is a political group has been banned and two of its members have been executed. According to rights groups, Iran has executed at least 253 people in 2017. Gender inequality is also a massive issue in Iran as the nation discriminates against women. Women are segregated from men in public, they are forced to wear hijab at all places and have huge difficulty to get jobs despite being extremely talented.

Iran has restricted freedom of different religions and has openly persecuted minorities especially the ones of religion. Shia Islam is being made the single religion inside Iran and this is being done with the policy that has been carefully linked to Sinification as well as Russification that have also been implemented in China and Russia. These policies are being implemented with the prosecution of Sunni Muslims, Christians, Jews and many more. The goal in mind for Iran is to unify the culture and religion to make a population that is completely Shia hence it has more control. In 1988, there was an execution of thousands of political prisoners who were falling outside the laws of the Islamic Republic. The government has released a video of the widespread use of torture for propaganda purposes.

The type of punishment Iran has been using can be classified as extremely violent and this has mainly been done because of religion. The Iranian government has been basing their punishments from scriptures which are religious and have huge penalties for the person who has committed them. These crimes include treason and theft and much more.

Major Parties Involved and Their Views

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia is the main superpower alongside Iran in the middle east. These superpowers have different initiatives and have been funding different groups throughout the middle east. To put things into more context Saudi Arabia is fundamentally Sunni Islam while Iran's regime favors Shia Islam. There are 10 to 15% of Shia's in Islam while there are 40% Sunni's in Iran. These

countries are primarily reasons why proxy wars are all over the middle east. This rivalry could also be referred to as the Cold War of the Middle East as both countries do not partake in direct wars but influence proxy wars. Over the course of many years these two countries have been fighting many wars however these are far from their own respective lands, meaning that these are proxy wars. The wars include Yemeni Civil War or the Syrian Civil War as well as the Iraqi Civil War.

To put things into more context Saudi Arabia has mentioned how they are investing a whopping 100.4 billion USD in their army because of the opposing threat from Iran. Saudi Arabia has been purchasing a lot of its equipment from the US and other countries. Iran on the other side has also been investing heavily in the army mainly buying equipment from Russia and China. This has caused the two nations to further sour their relations and has caused a lot of the total budget to go to the army instead of the people. This has also caused a lot of economic depression and life for the people is hard as ever.

There has been no economic or diplomatic cooperation in the past few years between the two countries. There are also no negotiations between the two countries because of how tense their diplomatic and economic ties are. However, Iran is open to hold diplomatic talks with Saudi Arabia although this may never take place.

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

The International Atomic Agency is a branch of the United Nations that is tasked to mandate and make sure nuclear energy is being used to advantage of global stability around the world. The International Atomic Energy Agency has been responsible for mandating and monitoring the nuclear program in Iran. As an UN agency the International Atomic Energy Agency plays a vital role in ensuring and determining the action that needs to be taken by the international nations and intergovernmental organizations.

Under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, the IAEA's main goal is to ensure the nuclear program of Iran is being used for peaceful purposes. This is done by regular inspections

United States of America

The United States of America has earned its reputation of being a nation which is either directly or indirectly involved in the middle eastern affairs. The United States of America has somewhat affected every ongoing war happening in the middle east. Iran being a country which has faced constant interventions by other nations has become a politically unstable region. The US staged a coup to remove the democratically elected Prime Minister of Iran Mohammed Mossadegh in 1953 following a move to nationalize Iran's oil industry. This act would not cause tensions between the two nations for the next decade or so, as the US backed Shah of Iran who was a secular leader and was in control of Iran.

However, things changed in 1979 as there was a revolution against the Shah who was forced to exile the country following months of strikes against his secular rule and opponents who were often religious. Ever since the regime came to power in 1979 Iran had declared the United States to be its biggest enemy. To make matters worse the 1979 hostage crisis had occurred in which American officials and diplomats were forbidden from leaving the embassy in Tehran. This was the beginning of decade long tensions between the two nations which would build up too many other issues mainly in Iran.

The United States and Iran tension has included indirect encounters such as when Iran would fund groups that have actively fought US forces in many places in the middle east. For example, Iran had funded groups that have fought US troops in Iraq. This has caused further escalation of tensions between the two nations. Former President of the US George W Bush had declared Iran, Iraq and North Korea as the "Axis of Evil". This speech had caused further outrage across Iran, with tensions between the two nations further escalating. The United States has been dedicated to put an end to Iran's influence. This is because the US sees Iran's regime being a very hostile one as well as one which simply cannot be trusted. America has made it clear that they won't make efforts to restore diplomatic relations. Under President Trump the US had initiated the pull out of the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, because of how the deal is time bound and the wider issue of Iran funding terrorists has not come to an agreement.

China

China has been one of the few nations that has continued to support and maintain strong relations with Iran. China has built its reputation of supporting nations which do not have a positive relation with the United States. China has supported the likes of North Korea and for the near

future it looks to continue its strong diplomatic and economic relations with Iran. After the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action had been implemented China had agreed to expand its trade relations with Iran to 600 billion dollars for 10 years starting January 2016. In total 17 agreements had been signed including ones which have direct impact on Iran's nuclear program. The Chinese have also devised plans to build a high speed rail technology to connect Tehran with Mashhad.

During the Cold War, unofficial trade relations between Iran and China were gradually increasing. Trade had saw an immense increase as it had reached 1.627 billion dollars in the 1980s and 15 billion dollars in 2007. Mehdi Ghazanfari who is the deputy minister of commerce in Iran speculated that the trade exchanges between China and Iran would have exceeded 25 billion dollars in 2008. In recent history Iran had signed onto the One Belt One Road plan. Iran has been a very vital part of China's geopolitical ambitions in Middle East.

Among the vast agreements and trades between the two nations, oil and gas remains one of the most vital ones. In 2011, about 10 percent of China's total oil imports were from Iran. Furthermore, approximately 80 percent of China's total imports were oil from Iran. Because of this spike in trade, the Chinese government is now investing into the act of modernizing Iran's oil and gas sectors to have a secure access to the resources.

Iraq

Iraq has been one of the most influenced nations by Iran. Iran has continued to dominate Iraq's politics and economy which has shaped the country's future since 2003. Since the fall of Saddam Hussein in 2003, many Iranian Shia groups had gained power in the nation. This has led to the normalization of relations between the two countries. Since this massive change Iraq has been allowing Shia Muslims from Iran to take a pilgrimage to holy sites in Iraq. The two nations have signed countless number of economic and cooperation agreements. In recent history Iran and Iraq have been very close allies due to them supporting each other against ISIS. Iraq is one of Iran's closest allies in modern history due to the operation of the governments being mainly Shia. According to the NPR interview with Farhad Alaaldin, chairman of the Iraq Advisory Council who said that Iran has a huge influence over Iraqi politics.

However, the two nations have not been allies for the most part of the last century. In the after years of the Iranian revolution, Saddam Hussein had launched an invasion of Iran due to the

border disputes and the large oil rich areas in Iran's territory. This conflict had lasted for eight years and had caused the displacement of millions. During the war Iraq had implemented chemical weapons which mainly affected the innocent civilians.

After the fall of the rule of Saddam Hussein, Iraq has been fragile in terms of political instability. This created a gap that simply needed to be filled, and Iran had an opportunity to play a major role in Iraqi politics. This political influence allowed Iran to directly control Iraq, making it somewhat of a proxy state. When ISIS had entered Iraq in 2014 things had escalated, following this Iran had immediately created the Quds Brigades and had supported Shia militia groups to counter ISIS.

Russia

Along with China, Russia has been a major ally of Iran in terms of international diplomacy, trade and economics. Russia has been backing Iran for the most part in the United Nations Security Council. Russia has supported Iran by backing the nation by its veto power. The main intention of backing Iran is to spread Russian influence across the middle east. Russia has been continuously supporting Iran by selling military equipment and technology as well as sending advisors to guide the nation.

Russia has supported the Baathist regime and government in Syria much like Iran mainly to contain the spread of American Saudi Arabia's influence. Russia has had similar plans to Iran in the middle east as the nation views the region as an opportunity to spread its own influence. Russia has provided significant military aid to the Baathist government in Syria as it has provided intelligence, equipment and weapons. Russia has been supporting those regions with a lot more air and naval support as it is a must when it comes to foreign involvement.

The issue of having both the United States of America and Russia is that a middle eastern war would likely be turned into something of a major global conflict. This major global conflict may be as dangerous as ever, especially to economic growth.

Development of Issue/Timeline

Date	Event	Outcome
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August 1941	Britain and Soviet Union invade western Iran.	This had been done by two major superpowers to counter the expanding threat of Nazi influence.
2nd September 1945	World War 2 ends.	Iran had become a target of pro-soviet forces and pro-western forces because of the country's oil reserves.
April 1951	Nationalizing the oil industry takes place in Iran that is mainly British owned Anglo-Iranian oil companies.	Britain had imposed an embargo and a blockade, that halted oil exports and hit the economy hard.
19th August 1953	The United States and British intelligence orchestrate a coup against Prime Minister, Mohammad Mossadegh.	This had taken place to overthrow the popular Prime Minister Mohammad Mossadegh to strengthen the monarch rule of the Shahs. Also, this had committed Iran to not develop any nuclear weapons.
January 1979	In 1979 the Iranian revolution took place in Iran, where Ayatollah Khomeini replaced the Shah monarch rule.	This revolution completely changed the political structure of Iran as the country would be Shia rather than Secular. This massive change had been led by the Grand Ayatollah Khomeini who was a strong religious figure.

November 1979	Protestors had seized the US embassy in Tehran and were held there for 444 days.	This moment caused huge international tensions between the US and Iran. This was said to be the reason behind the falling alliances of the nations.
19th January 1984	On January 19 th 1984 the United States had made the bold move of adding Iran to the list of states that have sponsored terrorism.	That move had caused immense controversy between the two nations. Sanctions were increased from the United States as relations soured and Iran faced a greater economic issue.
July 1988	There was a ceasefire agreement with Iran and Iraq that took place following tough negotiations in Geneva under the United Nations.	This had given Iran much more political freedom and allowed for the first 8 years of stability in the region.
3rd July 1988	The USS Vincennes, which is an American warship, shoots down an Iran flight.	This had killed all 290 people on board. The United States had said that the Airbus A300 had been mistaken for a fighter jet. Most of the pilgrims were on their way to Mecca. This had soured relations to a low point as tensions continued to rise between the two nations.

July 1999	A reformist newspaper closed which caused student demonstrations and protests.	Many students were arrested, and many were injured in riots.
January 2002	US president George Bush had mentioned in his State of the Union address that Iran is a part of an “axis of evil” alongside Iraq and North Korea.	This had caused massive outrage in Iran as the people developed more of a hatred towards the US. This further harmed relations between the two nations.
2002- 2003	An opposition group in Iran reveals that the nation is developing nuclear facilities with the help of Russia.	This was strongly objected by the US, following this Iran had suspended parts of their nuclear program and allowed UN inspectors to enter their facility. However, rounds of sanctions were imposed by the US and EU as Iran’s currency had lost two thirds of its value.
20th March 2003	Dictator Saddam Hussein is removed as the US and UK invade Iraq.	This had completely destabilized the region as there was a power vacuum. The US and UK could not find a replacement and Iran had found the opportunity to fund Shia military organizations in Iraq. This started a Civil War in Iraq.

2004 to 2006	Iran had decided to increase its enrichment of uranium.	This had caused the IAEA to declare Iran to be in violation of the nuclear treaty. The United Nations Security Council had decided to sanction Iran further.
February 2011	A massive civil war begins in Syria against the Bashar Al Assad government.	Iran found an opportunity to intervene in the civil war. They had supported the government and sent equipment, money and advisors.
January – June 2012	The European Union decides to boycott Iranian oil.	This had caused tremendous inflation in the nation as economic depression continued to be rampant.
June 2013	The reformist Rouhani is elected as the President of Iran.	This brought the end of the 8 year rule of the conservative Ahmadinejad. Following the election of Rouhani, Iran had indicated the willingness to talk with the west.
July 2015	The Security Council's negotiations with Iran becomes a deal after years of negotiations.	This had been the first significant agreement between Iran and the West since the Iranian Revolution.
May – June 2018	President of the US Donald Trump pulls out of the JCPOA deal. This is because there is	This had caused sanctions to be reinstated as the Iran nuclear deal fell apart. This

	no agreement towards Iran's funding of militias.	had caused a huge recession in Iran as the GDP failed to develop
May – June 2019	Explosions hit six oil tankers in the Gulf of Oman.	The United States accused Iran of causing further international tensions.
3rd January 2020	General Qasem Soleimani is assassinated by a US drone strike in Iraq.	This had been done by the US as the general had a strong link of militias in the middle east, some drafted as terrorists. Iran pulled back from the 2015 nuclear record.
8th January 2020	Iran had launched the Operation Martyr Soleimani	This had been done to retaliate against the US in which 110 people were injured.

Previous Attempts to Solve the Issue

Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action

The 2015 deal also known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action is one of the few most significant agreements between Iran and the west since 1979. The deal looked to sort out the nuclear program of Iran primarily. The main problem of this agreement was how it didn't attempt to deal with any other issues which have been pressing. For example, the deal did not look to solve the issue of Iran's funding of terrorist groups which have caused major middle eastern conflicts today. The deal did not look to solve Iran's participation in major conflicts such as the Iraqi Insurgency, Yemeni Civil war as well as the Syrian Civil War.

The main problem with the nuclear deal with Iran is that many of these conditions were in a time period hence they were time-bound. This caused tensions to rise over the follow up on this

agreement. The 2015 deal was not able to survive for long as the United States withdrew from the deal under the leadership of President Trump. With the withdrawal of the United States from this agreement the deal collapsed as the US started to implement sanctions again. This deal however can be used as a useful framework for future deals and it also sets a standard for future negotiation especially for Iran.

Resolution for the disapproval of Iran's Human Rights-December 2017

The United Nations General Assembly has created a resolution that criticizes Iran's human right records. This resolution was brought up on December 19th, 2017, as it was a pressing issue especially in middle eastern conflict. The main reason this resolution was brought up was due to the mass protests in Iran being brutally suppressed. This resolution has passed with 81 in favor, 70 abstentions and 30 against. The main problem with this resolution was the fact that this resolution did not provide any sort of solution and further action to this pressing problem. This resolution simply condemned Iran of its human rights violation and just was a act of disapproval. There were no clauses and efforts to try and discourage Iran from any further human rights abuses. However, it is important to note that this resolution showed the consciousness of the international community regarding Iran's actions.

Sanctions and pressure by the United States to stop the funding of terrorism

Under the Trump administration, the United States has implemented tough measures and has taken solid decisions. This is mainly circulated around the nuclear program in Iran and the funding of terrorist groups. To constrain Iran and its proxy nations the State Department has implemented a mandatory five-year review of Hezbollah. The group with other terrorist organizations has found themselves to be in the list of designated Foreign Terrorist Organizations. In 2015, when Iran had reached a nuclear deal with Iran and there were no acting sanctions, Iranian GDP grew 12.3% according to the BBC. The United States continues to implement an economic blockade of Iran as well as other sanctions such as embargo on dealings. They have also implemented a ban on selling aircraft material and parts to aviation companies in Iran.

The main goal of the strong measures of the US is to force a change in the behavior of the regime in Iran. When sanctions were reinstated Iran's GDP was set to grow at 4.8% and shrink another 9.5% in 2019. The United States has continued to be involved in middle eastern affairs by

supplying Saudi Arabia with weapons and intelligence. This is being done as the US knows that Saudi Arabia is one of the nations which can counter the rising influence of Iran in the middle east. The United States has continued to pressurize Iran through different means such as the United Nations Security Council as well as encouraging nations to stop trading with Iran. Iran had sold 3.8 million barrels per day of oil and it has decreased to 2.3 million in 2019. This has proved to be effective for some nations however many counter nations such as Russia and China see this to be an opportunity to fight against the United States.

Possible Solutions

International Prosecution against Iran for their human rights

The human rights problem in Iran has been eminent in the nation as fundamental rights of humans are being restricted. Although there has been action done in the past by the UN regarding human rights however it did nothing but condemned the problem in Iran. For any effective and decisive action to take place there must be international prosecution against this problem. Nations in the international community should look to implement further sanctions and bring up this topic in a resolution to address at the UNGA.

With many nations pressurizing Iran to look into its human rights problem and bring change that is evident it is clear that the nation must do so. As mentioned before, the effectiveness of sanctions have been evident as Iran's economy is growing slower than ever. If nations can further this down, there would be a humanitarian crisis causing Iran to bring change. It is important to note that if countries like China and Russia continue supporting Iran, then sanctions won't be as effective as they should. It is up to the international community to decide how to create a collaborative effort to solve this issue.

New negotiations concerning Iran's nuclear deal with the P5+1 nation

The Nuclear Program of Iran has caused immense international tensions, which have increased the foreign interventions in Iran. The 2015 deal also known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action had potential concerning the nuclear issue in Iran, however it fell out due to many reasons. Firstly, this deal was time bound meaning it was not a long term legitimate solution. It also did not focus on the pressing issue of the funding of militias groups, which is extremely interconnected with the nation's nuclear program.

Instead of an agreement like the 2015 deal, new negotiations should be implemented. This negotiation should focus on being a solution which isn't time bound and closely monitored by the International Atomic Energy Agency. Iran should agree to eliminate its stockpile of medium enriched uranium, reduce about two out of three number of gas centrifuges for 13 years and cut its stock of low enriched uranium by 98%. However, these numbers would be up to the jurisdiction of experts that have a clear view in nuclear, uranium technology.

With the nuclear program being addressed, negotiations should be addressed more on the funding of militias. If Iran would agree to these terms, then the international community can promise for more diplomatic ties with the nation. These negotiations should offer much more benefits to the Iranian government that can be implemented to form a more concrete agreement. Sanctions could be dismantled as the Iranian government would get a chance to grow at a quicker pace. If Iran would agree to the conditions of the agreement, sanctions should be lifted and there should be more economic incentives that reduce economic depression. Nuclear technology can still drive the nation as long it is being used for peaceful purposes and there is the supervision of the IAEA.

Involving NGO's in the form of public diplomacy to address the human rights problem

The issue of human rights in Iran has continued to make headlines in many countries. This pressing issue has caused a lot of political tensions with Iran as the international community looks to develop a better global human rights model. The UN special rapporteur stated that "The human rights situation in the Islamic Republic of Iran continues to warrant serious concern, with no sign of improvement." Iran has fundamentally restricted human rights to create a country which is unified under their regime's terms. This problem has been addressed with economic blockades, international sanctions and pressure from the UN. The implementation of these measures has not been concerned as an effective measure as the nation continues to violate human rights.

Iran has been endowed with many NGOs because of the political renaissance of the 1990s. These organizations are dealing with key issues such as improvement of prison conditions for dissidents and judicial reforms. There are writers associations and various rights groups that are some examples of NGOs that are struggling to fulfil their tasks. The main reason behind this problem is the lack of public diplomacy and international support that is required for these NGOs to function. Governments like the United States can highlight the work of these NGOs in its publications and

human rights reports. This would encourage more and more nations to implement the same measures.

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Appendix

- I. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=veMFCFyOwFI>