

# Iran at a Crossroads

# Map of Iran



1953 – the CIA and the Overthrow of  
Mohammad Mossadegh

Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi: Puppet,  
Grandiose leader, “Protector of the Gulf”

1979 - Khomeini: “True Believer” and Revolutionary.  
The U.S. Embassy takeover

1980-'88: The Iran-Iraq War

1983 – The bombing of the U.S.  
Marine Corps barracks in Lebanon:  
Iran's spreading influence

9/11: Iran helps the U.S. in Afghanistan, but by 2002, Iraq is labelled part of “Axis of Evil”



2006: Iran supports Hezbollah  
to repel Israeli invasion of  
Lebanon, resulting in standoff

2009: “Green Movement”  
challenges re-election of  
Mahmoud Ahmedinejad

Crippling U.S. economic sanctions, Stuxnet, and targeted assassinations lead in 2015 to nuclear agreement, the JCPOA

The Shia Arc: Iraq, Syria,  
Lebanon plus Yemen, a  
challenge to Saudi Arabia and  
U.A.E.

2019: Iran attacks Saudi oil facilities at Abqaiq: muted reaction from U.S.

2020: Major Gen. Qasem Solemani, Commander of the Qods Force, Assassinated in U.S. drone strike in Baghdad

2022: Attempts to revive JCPOA fail. Iran announces enrichment of uranium to 84% purity.

2023: China facilitates Iranian-Saudi non-aggression pact.  
China's role as trading partner,  
investor in Iran & Saudi Arabia



What are the prospects for peace between Iran and its neighbors, especially Saudi Arabia and Israel?

Should the U.S. continue its  
hard line against Iran?  
Implications of continuing or  
abandoning this policy