

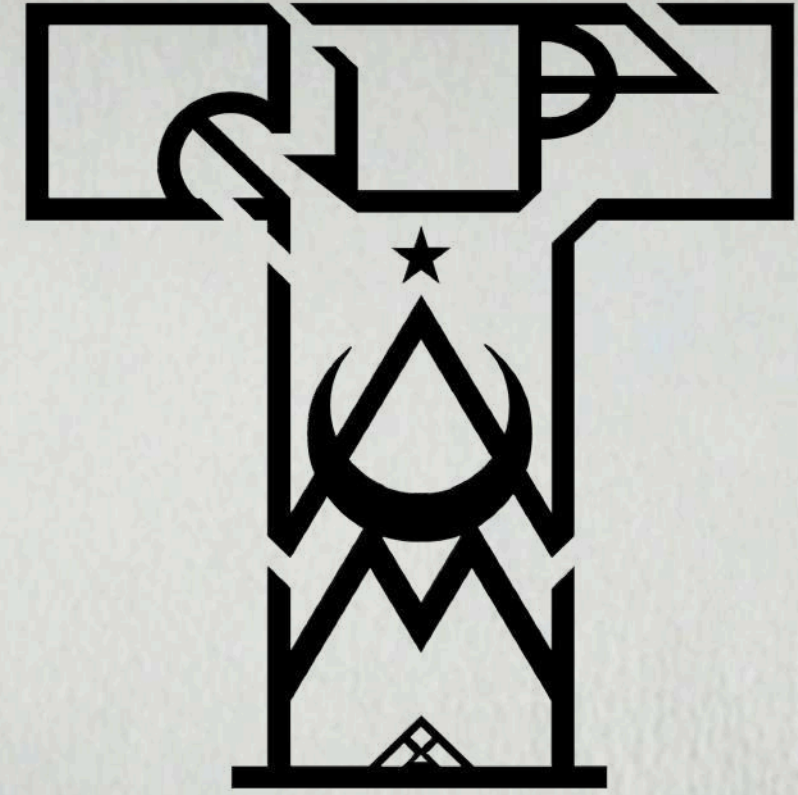
DIŞ BAKIŞ

FOREIGN POLICY THROUGH TURKISH EYES



with

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DEĞERLİ OKURLAR,

Diş Bakış'ın bu yeni sayısında, küresel sistemin en sancılı dönemlerinden birine, 2026 yılının başında patlak veren İran-ABD-İsrail Savaşı'nın derinliklerine odaklanıyoruz. 28 Şubat 2026'da başlayan bu çatışma, sadece askeri bir

karşılaşma olmanın ötesine geçerek; enerji güvenliği, deniz ticaret rotaları ve küresel ittifak mimarileri üzerinde sistemik bir sarsıntı yaratmıştır.

Elinizdeki bu sayıda, bölgenin ve dünyanın geleceğini şekillendiren çok katmanlı dinamikleri uzman isimlerin kaleminden okuyacaksınız. **Yavuz Kaya**, savaşın "stratejik aşındırma" ve "maliyet yönetimi" boyutlarını incelerken, **Farshad Adel** "Yeni Jeopolitik Düzen" içinde Orta Doğu'nun değişen rolünü felsefi bir derinlikle analiz ediyor.

Dr. Attiq-ur-Rehman'ın "dekapitasyon stratejisi" üzerine yaptığı çarpıcı değerlendirmeler, **Saadia Saif Niazi**'nin Trump dönemi politikalarının savaşa evrilen kronolojisi, **Dr. Muhammad Y. Gamal**, "Arap Körfezi"nin kırılğan yapısına ve bu savaşın tarihsel arka planına ışık tutarak, çatışmanın bölgesel bir krizden ziyade doğrudan bir "Amerikan savaşı" karakteri taşıdığını çarpıcı bir dille ortaya koyuyor.

Son olarak **Dalga Khatinoglu**'nun Hürmüz Boğazı krizinin küresel enerji piyasalarındaki yıkıcı etkilerine dair verileri, bu karmaşık denkleme anlamamız için birer fener niteliğindedir.

Türkiye'nin bu krizde üstlendiği "aktif denge" rolü ve insani diplomasinin sınırları, analizlerimizin ana eksenlerinden birini oluşturuyor. **TUDPAM** olarak, akademik titizlik ve stratejik öngörüyle hazırladığımız bu sayının, bölgedeki "soğuk kaosu" anlamlandırmak isteyen tüm araştırmacılar için ufuk açıcı olmasını temenni ederim.

İyi okumalar.



Hüseyin Yeltin

TUDPAM BAŞKANI

içindekiler

02 YAVUZ KAYA

İRAN-ABD-İSRAİL SAVAŞI NEREYE EVRİLİYOR?

07 FARSHAD ADEL

DRAWING OF NEW GEOPOLITICAL LINES AND
THE ROLE OF THE MIDDLE EAST IN THIS NEW
GEOPOLITICS

17 DR. ATTİQ-UR-REHMAN

TARGETING LEADERS
ASSASSINATING INTERNATIONAL PEACE

21 DALGA KHATİNOĞLU

LESSONS FROM THE 2026
STRAIT OF HORMUZ CRISIS FOR GLOBAL
ENERGY AND ECONOMY

29 MUHAMMAD Y GAMAL

THE GULF REGION IN DIRE STRAITS

33 SAADİA SAİF NİAZİ

U.S. POLICY TOWARD IRAN
UNDER TRUMP :
PRESSURE, PROTESTS, AND WAR

İRAN-ABD-İSRAİL SAVAŞI NEREYE EVİRİLİYOR?

STRATEJİK AŞINDIRMA, CAYDIRICILIK BASKISI VE BÖLGESEL DÜZENİN YENİDEN SINANMASI

28 Şubat 2026'da başlayan ve dördüncü haftasına giren İran-ABD-İsrail Savaşı, artık sınırlı misillemelerin toplamı olarak okunamaz. Çatışma, askerî karşılıklılık mantığını aşarak enerji güvenliği, deniz ticareti, caydırıcılık mimarileri ve ittifak dayanıklılığı üzerinde eş zamanlı baskı üreten çok katmanlı bir jeopolitik krize dönüşmüştür. Bu nedenle bugün belirleyici soru, hangi tarafın daha fazla ateş gücü kullandığı değildir. Belirleyici soru, hangi tarafın daha uzun süre stratejik maliyet üretebildiği, savaşı karşı taraf için daha pahalı hâle getirebildiği ve kendi çevresel desteğini çözümlenmeden tutabildiğidir. Mevcut denklem, cephedeki taktik hareketlerden çok dayanıklılık, maliyet yayılımı ve algı üstünlüğü üzerinden şekillenmektedir.



YAVUZ KAYA

Savaşın karakterini değiştiren temel unsur, çatışmanın artık yalnızca füze menzilleriyle değil, küresel enerji ve deniz güvenliği üzerinde ürettiği baskıyla da tanımlanmasıdır. Hürmüz Boğazı etrafında yoğunlaşan tehditler, tanker trafiğindeki daralma ve petrol fiyatlarındaki sıçrama, bu savaşın Orta Doğu sınırlarını aşan sistemik etkiler ürettiğini göstermektedir. G7 dışişleri bakanlarının enerji arzı ve deniz yollarının güvenliği konusunda ortak pozisyon açıklamak zorunda kalması da aynı gerçeği teyit etmektedir. Mesele artık yalnızca bölgesel bir askerî kriz değil, küresel ekonomik istikrarı sarsabilecek bir jeopolitik stres testidir.

Bu yüzden İran-ABD-İsrail hattındaki savaş, klasik anlamda bir sıcak çatışmadan daha fazlasıdır. Askerî baskı ile ekonomik şok üretiminin iç içe geçtiği geniş ölçekli bir aşındırma denklemdir.

Washington açısından temel açmaz askerî kapasite eksikliği değil, bu kapasitenin hızlı ve düşük maliyetli bir siyasal kapanış üretememesidir. Trump'ın Hürmüz'ün açılması için 48 saatlik tehdit dili kullanması ve İran'ın enerji altyapısını hedef alma mesajı vermesi, sahadaki baskının siyasal kesinliğe çevrilemediğini göstermektedir. Büyük güçler açısından kırılma çoğu zaman burada başlar. Askerî üstünlük sürer fakat bu üstünlük karar verici bir sonuca tahvil edilemez.

Böyle anlarda güç, zafer üretmekten çok maliyet yönetimi ve yük paylaşımı arayışına dönüşür. G7'nin pozisyonu ve deniz güvenliği etrafında oluşan baskı da Washington'un savaşı tek başına taşıyan bir merkez olmaktan çıkarak maliyeti daha geniş bir çevreye yaymak istediğini göstermektedir. ABD'nin bugünkü sorunu güç yokluğu değil, gücü ucuz ve hızlı bir sonuca çevirememesidir.

İsrail bakımından da meselenin özü yalnızca fiziksel hasar değildir. Arad ve Dimona çevresine isabet eden İran füzeleri onlarca sivil yaraladı ve hassas bölgelerin çevresindeki kırılma görünümlerine hale getirdi. Buradaki kritik nokta, İsrail hava savunma mimarisinin bütünüyle çökmüş olması değildir. Kritik nokta, bu mimari etrafında yıllar içinde üretilen "mutlak geçirilemezlik" ve "dokunulmaz güvenlik" anlatısının aşınmaya başlamasıdır. Modern savaşlarda caydırıcılık yalnızca karşı tarafa verebildiğiniz zarar ile değil, kendi toplumunuza ve müttefiklerinize sürdürülebilir güven verebilme kapasitesiyle de ölçülür.

Bu nedenle Dimona çevresindeki baskı, maddi etkisinin ötesinde, İsrail'in savunma imgesine ve dokunulmazlık algısına stratejik bir aşınma yüklemektedir. Bu, askerî teknikten çok siyasal-psikolojik düzeyde etkili bir kırılmadır.

Savaşı daha tehlikeli hâle getiren boyut ise nükleer ve nükleer eşikli altyapının giderek daha görünür bir mesaj sahasına dönüşmesidir.

Savaşın uzaması, İran açısından yalnızca bir risk değil, aynı zamanda pazarlık alanını genişleten bir araç işlevi de görmektedir.

Hem Natanz etrafındaki gelişmeler hem de Dimona çevresindeki saldırılar, çatışmanın artık yalnızca taktik hedeflere değil, sembolik ve stratejik eşiği daha yüksek alanlara da yöneldiğini göstermektedir. Associated Press'in aktardığı üzere Birleşmiş Milletlerin nükleer denetim çizgisinde teyit edilmiş bir hasar ya da radyolojik sızıntı bildirimi bulunmamaktadır. Ancak bu durum riskin düşük olduğu anlamına gelmez. Tersine, nükleer çevrenin savaşın psikolojik coğrafyasına dahil edilmesi bile kontrol edilebilirlik alanının daraldığını ve tarafların gelecekte daha tehlikeli seçenekleri **meşrulaştırma** ihtimalinin arttığını göstermektedir. Başka bir ifadeyle, nükleer tesislerin doğrudan vurulup vurulmamasından bağımsız olarak, bu tesislerin etrafının savaşın sinyal alanına dönüşmesi başlı başına yeni bir stratejik eşiğe işaret etmektedir.

İran açısından bakıldığında da tablo tek boyutlu değildir. Tahran'ın mutlak askerî üstünlük kurduğu söylenemez ancak savaş pahalılaştırma, enerji sinir uçlarına temas etme ve karşı tarafın hızlı zafer olasılığını bozma kapasitesini koruduğu görülmektedir. Hürmüz üzerinden yürütülen baskı, Körfez enerji altyapısına dönük tehdit dili ve daha geniş bölgesel maliyet üretme arayışı, İran'ın stratejisinin salt askerî eşitlik değil, **karşı tarafın siyasal rahatlığını bozmak** olduğunu göstermektedir. İran'ın gücü burada, kesin sonuç üretmekten çok hızlı sonuç ihtimalini sabote etmesinde yatmaktadır. Bu nedenle savaşın uzaması, İran açısından yalnızca bir risk değil, aynı zamanda pazarlık alanını genişleten bir araç işlevi de görmektedir.

Türkiye ise bu denklemde dışarıdan izleyen pasif bir aktör **değildir**. İran'la komşuluk ilişkisi, enerji akışları, ticaret yolları, NATO üyeliği ve bölgesel taşma riski, Ankara'yı doğrudan etkilenen çevresel güçlerden biri hâline getirmektedir.



Cumhurbaşkanı Recep Tayyip Erdoğan ve Dışişleri Bakanı Hakan Fidan, İran Dışişleri Bakanı Abbas Arakchi ile İstanbul'da bir araya geldi.

“ Bu nedenle Türkiye açısından rasyonel çizgi taraflardan birine tam angaje olmak değil, savaşın kendi güvenlik çevresine sıçrama riskini sınırlamak, ekonomik şokları absorbe etmek, diplomatik kanalları açık tutmak ve güvenlik tahkimini eş zamanlı biçimde sürdürmektir.

Ankara'nın pozisyonu pasif tarafsızlık değil, yüksek riskli bir çevre istikrarı siyasetidir. Türkiye'nin özgünlüğü de burada ortaya çıkmaktadır. Savaşın merkezinde olmadan sonuçlarından doğrudan etkilenme ihtimali yüksek bir denge aktörü olarak hareket etmek zorundadır.

Bu da onu yalnızca bölgesel bir gözlemci değil, taşma etkilerini yönetmeye çalışan kritik bir çevresel oyuncu hâline getirmektedir. Bu bölüm, metnin en stratejik açılımlarından biri olmaya adaydır. Çünkü savaşın sonuçlarını sadece taraflar üzerinden değil, çevresel denge aktörleri üzerinden de okuma imkânı vermektedir.

İran-ABD-İsrail Savaşı, ani ve kesin bir kopuştan çok, dalgalı tırmanma, geçici frenleme ve uzayan aşındırma evreleriyle ilerleyen bir stratejik kriz görünümünü vermektedir. Washington hızlı ve düşük maliyetli bir kapanış üretememekte, İsrail askerî baskıyı tam stratejik kesinliğe çevirmekte zorlanmakta, İran ise mutlak üstünlük kuramasa bile maliyet yayma ve enerji baskısı üzerinden denklemi pahalılaştırabilmektedir. Bu nedenle karşımızdaki tablo yalnızca Orta Doğu'daki bir cephe savaşı değildir. Bu tablo, küresel enerji düzenini, Batı ittifak siyasetini, İsrail'in caydırıcılık mimarisini ve Türkiye'nin bölgesel konumunu aynı anda zorlayan çok katmanlı bir jeopolitik stres testidir. Savaşın sonucunu belirleyecek temel unsur da hangi tarafın daha çok vurduğu değil, hangi tarafın daha uzun süre çözülmeyen kalabildiği, maliyeti daha etkin yayabildiği ve kendi stratejik çevresini daha az aşındırdığı olacaktır.

DRAWING OF NEW GEOPOLITICAL LINES AND THE ROLE OF THE MIDDLE EAST IN THIS NEW GEOPOLITICS



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The The old world is gone. The world is changing very fast right in front of us.” This was the statement made by Marco Rubio in an interview on the sidelines of the Munich Security Conference, immediately upon his arrival in the city. It serves as a concise description of the Trump administration’s vision for international policy—a vision pursued through a unique approach that operates outside established structures and international norms, drawing new frontiers on the global stage. This is a new order whose primary objective is to cement American hegemony for the coming decades and preserve the country’s superpower status.

Today’s world is the product of political, security, and geopolitical rules largely rooted in World War II and the Cold War. However, it is self-evident that one cannot navigate an era defined by intense international competition centered on cutting-edge technologies and astonishing human advancements using the rules left over from World War II. A revision of the structures and the dominant world order is inevitable, a task that the United States, as the world’s superpower, has undertaken.

This comes at a time when, in recent years—especially following the emergence of new powers like China on the international stage and initiatives such as BRICS and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization—many have spoken of the end of the American era and the dawn of a new age, one in which new poles of power would impose a “new order” on the world. Yet today, we are witnessing this new order being shaped by the United States through a power-centric policy, a process I will elaborate on in this analysis.



The United States and the Politics of Power

Donald Trump’s entry into the political arena and his ascension to the pinnacle of power in the United States was a unique event that appeared quite extraordinary. The victory of a media-business figure over a seasoned and renowned politician like Hillary Clinton in the 2016 presidential election was seen by many as signifying the end of the era of politicians.

This perception was, to some extent, accurate, but it did not signify the end of politics or politicians; rather, it heralded the beginning of a new era in politics—one that is currently unfolding during Trump’s second administration. Precisely as the renowned German philosopher Hegel prophesied: “When philosophy paints its grey in grey, one form of life has become old, and by means of grey it cannot be rejuvenated, but only known. The owl of Minerva takes its flight only when the shades of night are gathering.” (G.W.F. Hegel, *Philosophy of Right* – 1820). It now appears that the twilight of one era has arrived, and a new epoch is emerging, shaping a “New Geopolitical Age.”

In essence, the United States is architecting a new order that, if successful, will put an end to the rules and relations left over from World War II. This new architecture will also create new ways of engagement and new actors. It is an order in which many old boundaries will be redrawn, many former alliances will dissolve, and new alliances will form, where emerging players may well take the place of more established ones on the international stage. Drawing any new map requires risk-taking and actions outside established structures—a task only possible for those with the audacity to act beyond the system and break with tradition. The Trump administration, leveraging its leader’s unpredictable and distinctive character, has undertaken such a task.

Indeed, Donald Trump’s second administration should be regarded as the boundary between the established post-World War II structures and the beginning of a new era in international politics. This explains why Trump and his team hold a contemptuous view of international institutions like the United Nations, readily withdraw from international treaties, consistently flaunt American superiority to European allies, and explicitly point to the ineffectiveness of security alliances like NATO.



The Dawn of a New Geopolitics

“New Geopolitics” is the term I employ to delineate the process of the “new order” in the world. This concept refers to the mechanism whereby new international alliances culminate in the formation of a new order that will govern relations between nations. The paramount objective of this order is the consolidation of American superpower status in the decades to come—decades marked by the further expansion of technology and the emergence of new human achievements, currently advancing at an exponential rate, transforming high-tech industries into the top priority for nations.

According to this perspective, the Middle East can serve as both the source and destination for investment in emerging fields, provided it first achieves stability. To attain this goal, the U.S. government must first resolve several contentious issues in the region, with the Iran case at the forefront. This American approach was pursued incrementally through the resolution of smaller conflicts, such as the Azerbaijan-Armenia dispute and the settlement of the Kurdish issue in Syria, eventually leading to the time to address the Iran file.

Nevertheless, the development of these technologies and industries requires capital and energy. For this reason, the Middle East will play a highly prominent role in America’s future policies.

This is highlighted in the 2026 U.S. National Defense and Security Strategy, which states that the Middle East must increasingly become a place for peace and investment, serving as both the origin and destination of investments extending beyond the energy sector.

For years, the Islamic Republic of Iran sought to lead an order based on the idea of resistance by crafting a narrative of the region as “West Asia.” This order, which rejected Western perspectives on the region and sought to establish a comprehensive framework of ideas based on Islamic unity and the rejection of Western—particularly American—domination over West Asian countries by separating the will of Muslim nations from their predominantly Arab rulers, was at times able to prove itself a potentially dangerous alternative to the American-led Western axis’s vision.

However, this very issue ultimately became an Achilles’ heel, the source of the multiple blows now afflicting the leader of the resistance movement in the region: the Islamic Republic of Iran. Excessive anti-Americanism, the failure to resolve the challenge of engaging with the U.S., and the emphasis on radical and absolute (in the Clausewitzian sense) slogans—such as the elimination of Israel—alongside gaining international notoriety as an anti-system element, led to the economic siege of the Islamic Republic and widespread sanctions.

These gradually caused the erosion of the Islamic Republic’s infrastructure across all sectors.

Consequently, despite Tehran having a “presence” in four Arab capitals in the region, its “influence” steadily waned due to continuous attrition and increasing economic pressure.

Ultimately, after roughly a decade of the Islamic Republic’s security ascendancy in the region, we witnessed the successive collapse of strongholds like Gaza, Lebanon, and Syria. Finally, the flames of war and severe strikes engulfed Iran itself. In fact, what has transpired so far is not merely an attempt to overthrow the Islamic Republic but rather an effort to neutralize the Iranian threat to the new order in the Middle East and render Tehran’s decision-making in this regard ineffective.

With the military blows inflicted upon Iran’s armed forces and the news of Israeli fighter jets flying over Tehran’s skies during the twelve-day war, what crumbled was the wall of fear and reverence in the Arab Middle East regarding Tehran’s decisiveness and intentions.

Now, more than ever, conditions are ripe for pursuing the subsequent phases of normalizing relations between Middle Eastern countries and Israel and consolidating the Abraham Accords order. This situation will advance with greater momentum, especially following the recent war and Iran’s attacks on Arab nations in the region, ultimately aiming to achieve the integration of Israel into the “new Middle Eastern order.”

The Middle East is a region abundant with cheap energy, governed by authoritarian rulers. These rulers can, with a single directive and free from bureaucratic constraints, allocate billions of dollars in capital for research and development in fields like high-tech industries.

The fusion of the Middle East’s oil wealth with advanced American technologies, forming a strategic partnership with the U.S. in this domain, will enable American industries to leverage this opportunity to thwart China’s ambition of becoming the world’s high-tech superpower by 2049.

In an era where progress in cutting-edge technologies and high-tech industries has become a priority even more critical than economic growth for both the U.S. and China, America’s power as a superpower will only be secured if it can establish stability in the Middle East, optimally utilize the opportunities there, and—most importantly—prevent the expansion of Chinese influence in the region and China’s potential exploitation of the aforementioned Middle Eastern advantages.

This process is currently being pursued with vigor and will approach its final stages with the resolution of the Iran file.

New Axes and Foresight for the Future

The “new order” is not designed solely for the Middle East; rather, the Middle East, as a fragile and unstable region, must be a priority for resolution. Stabilizing this region through conflict resolution will pave the way for addressing other dossiers. Outlining new strategic lines in U.S.-Europe relations is another phase in implementing the “new order” by the United States, with the dispute over Greenland representing its most significant component.

The U.S. is interested in establishing a presence in Greenland for strategic and geopolitical reasons, and through this, America could effectively be recognized as a European country as well! Although incorporating Greenland into U.S. territory might seem somewhat out of reach today, this action is certainly on America’s long-term agenda, as it would guarantee U.S. dominance over the European continent for decades to come.

In such a scenario, Europe—which will be under pressure due to U.S. policies—will likely attempt to recover some of its independence from America by drawing closer to China and giving the green light to China’s win-win initiatives.

This will present China with a highly enticing prospect: the opportunity to lead an Afro-Eurasian axis against the American-led Transatlantic axis, consolidating its influence across Asia, Europe, and Africa—a contiguous landmass known as the “World Island” (in Mackinder’s terms).

However, U.S. influence in the Middle East will serve as a significant obstacle to achieving this goal, preventing the integration of Europe and Asia by acting as a critical geographical barrier—the Middle East.

This is a region traditionally serving as the point of convergence and fusion of Eastern and Western cultures and politics, and it is considered the world’s vital artery for the transit of goods and energy.

Defining this region within the American value chain and integrating it into the “new American-centric world order” will enable the U.S. to prevent the formation of an Afro-Eurasian pole, maintain its distance from China, and keep Europe dependent on it.

Accordingly, America’s Middle Eastern allies will play a fundamental role. Resolving contentious dossiers in this region and establishing stability in the Middle East constitute the most crucial part of America’s strategy to cement its superpower status in the future world. Consequently, we see that America’s Middle Eastern allies have played an essential role in new U.S.

Initiatives, such as the Board of Peace, appears to play a significant role in future American plans—particularly in areas like financing major projects, especially in the technology sector.

Conclusion

Based on the foregoing, we are witnessing the world standing on the threshold of a new era. Strategic and geopolitical relations have presented us with new prospects. In this landscape, the Middle East will play a more prominent and distinct role than in the past, and the ongoing developments in the region are currently laying the groundwork for the formation of a “new geopolitical order” in the world.

In this process, resolving the Iran file has been one of the most critical matters now being pursued. America’s success in neutralizing the Iranian threat will pave the way for establishing the new Middle Eastern order and provide the foundation for subsequent actions.

Nevertheless, maintaining stability in the Middle East will always be challenging. It is clear that with Iran removed from the strategic equation of the Middle East, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, and Israel will enter a Thucydides’ trap. Therefore, maintaining stability in the Middle East will require defining a new role for Iran as a major ally of Israel.

The successful completion of the project to contain Iran signifies the beginning of the next phase of regional developments. Their ultimate goal is the “integration of Iran into the new regional and international order.” In this process, Iran is seen as a crucial actor that must serve as a partner to the U.S. and a major ally of Israel in the region to create balance in the post-new-order-consolidation processes.

Sooner or later, the ambitions of Turkey and Saudi Arabia may pose significant challenges to the continuity of the new order. In such circumstances, a country like Iran—with its population of 90 million, abundant resources, unique geographical position, and distinct socio-cultural context that allows for engagement with the U.S. and Israel—could play a fundamental role in calibrating the balance of the regional order.

TARGETING LEADERS

ASSASSINATING INTERNATIONAL PEACE



DR. ATTIQ-UR-REHMAN

The beginning of 2026 marked a major shift in contemporary world politics with the start of the Iran–United States–Israel war and with the collapse of the ongoing Washington–Tehran negotiation on the nuclear issue. The combination of American and Israeli attacks on Iran initiated in February 2026 surprised Tehran with the targeting of its military and political leadership, which compelled the Islamic regime to conduct several airstrikes on Israel and the surrounding Gulf nations.

The Iranian attacks on Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, Jordan, Oman and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) were the responses to the assassination of its supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. The targeting of nation's supreme leaders, and the symbol of Iranian exceptional ideological strength, was merely a pre-emptive act of war, but its consequence in subsequent uncertain reactions changed the entire war theatre.

It showed the inaccurate calculations of war carried out by American and Israeli defence planners, because the Iranian resistance validated their commitment to standing against America's growing influence in the Gulf region. The commitment to continue their operations against the US-Israel strategic nexus led the Iranian nation to indisputably appoint Mojtaba Khamenei, the son of the assassinated supreme leader, as their new leader. The selection of a new leader to lead the country amidst a serious crisis augmented the US-Israeli anti-Iranian operations, which could be measured from a wide range of Western media reports. These reports tried to confirm the injuries of the new leader, Mojtaba Khamenei, which were plausibly denied by the Iranian authorities.

Prior to Iran, the arrest of Venezuelan President, Nicolas Maduro in January 2026 was an explicit violation of the country's sovereign values because a brief military operation to capture Maduro was not authorised by the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

It was the Operation Absolute Resolve to capture Maduro from the presidential palace with the arrest of his wife, Cilia Flores. The operation demonstrated the upgraded American direct-action capability to secure a decisive victory aspired by the Trump administration. It was planned to control Venezuela's largest oil reserves. The targeting of Maduro's family cannot be separated from the Iranian case, where the deaths of the supreme leader's several family members in the US-led military operation aggravated Tehran's aggression. It was Operation Epic Fury conducted by the US armed forces through airstrikes to dismantle the Iranian leadership through assassination, and later targeting the funeral public gatherings, resulting in a decisive reaction of the Islamic regime and its solidarity against American aggressive action.



It further resulted in different international news reports about the killing of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in a missile strike. No doubt, the Jewish leaders, along with some Western media reports, are rejecting the claims of Netanyahu's death with several convincing arguments, such as the release of a video message allegedly created with the help of artificial intelligence technology. This scenario suggests that the killing of leadership for certain geostrategic objectives will become a central strategy of contemporary power politics, in which eliminating leadership is perceived as providing desired outcomes of wars for states.

In addition to the formal condemnation of such acts raised by several **Muslim countries**, the multilateral cooperative frameworks of the international community proved **ineffective** before the growing inclination of armed operations towards adopting a decapitation strategy.



The decapitation strategy generally refers to eliminating the formal government authority, command structure, or the leading official decision-making personalities through killing or arresting them under a conclusive armed operation. Its transformation in modern warfare was mainly introduced by the United States under the Trump administration, while using cutting-edge technologies combined with advanced intelligence gathering and specific strategic manoeuvres.

” No doubt, the inclusion of disinformation campaigns, cyber-attacks, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), and missile strikes in these military operations provides substantial advantages.

However, their impacts on the international scope of peace and stability, under the shadow of hybrid warfare, cannot be overlooked. This updated version of hybrid warfare is intended to establish new precedents of targeting leadership during armed crises where the United States is a trendsetter. Further validations of the argument can be obtained from the post-9/11 scenario when Operation Red Dawn, conducted by the United States in Iraq, captured Saddam Hussein.

In 2003, it was carried out without the UNSC's consent, a legitimate guarantor of international peace and security. The capture of Saddam Hussein and then his assassination raised various critical arguments from around the world on the US invasion of Iraq, which was initially designed to find the Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs) on Iraqi soil.

Based on this description, the continuation of such war-fighting patterns worldwide could undermine the international norms that strongly support the vision of peace and diplomacy. The combination of peace and diplomacy helps reduce the likelihood of nations taking corrective actions to achieve their geostrategic goals. In this way, the international community, and especially the leaders of great powers, are required to refrain from taking coercive actions against leaders in their hostile interactions, because targeting leaders generally triggers offensive retaliatory responses centred on specific military operations.

The covert nature of such operations, sometimes, multiplies the complexities of the international security environment while explicitly undermining the norms-based global world order. Beyond the covert or overt executions of military operations against national leaders, these operations openly violate the conception of state sovereignty and its institutionalisation in the world through the UN Charter. It weakens the role of multilateral diplomatic forums in regulating the global order, undermining constructive dialogue among national leaders.

So, the respecting national leaders, instead of attacking, could provide effective avenues for constructive interstate engagement to reduce their long-standing formal inflexibilities.

The presence of leadership provides sufficient opportunities for peace talks to revive diplomatic interaction between states, as was the case between Washington and Tehran before the 2026 war. Therefore, the rational calculation of the great powers and the pragmatic responses of world leaders are required to protect national leadership during the armed crisis. The national leaders could be treated as appropriate tools for defusing interstate tensions through productive diplomatic conversations rather than as prime targets of war.

Lessons from the 2026 Strait of Hormuz Crisis for Global Energy and Economy

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Abstract

The 2026 Strait of Hormuz crisis has starkly demonstrated how asymmetric warfare can weaponize strategic maritime chokepoints, triggering catastrophic global shocks to energy markets, food security, and supply chains. With over 11 mb/d of oil and significant LNG supplies taken offline, the crisis exposed the inadequacy of existing bypass pipelines and highlighted the extreme vulnerability of fossil fuel-dependent economies to geopolitical leverage. While the turmoil underscored the strategic value of alternative land-based corridors like the Middle Corridor through Turkey, it ultimately serves as a definitive wake-up call for the global community to accelerate the transition to decentralized renewable energy, diversify transit routes beyond narrow maritime passages, and rethink global security architecture to prevent a single geographic bottleneck from pushing the world economy to the brink.

Özet

2026 Hürmüz Boğazı krizi, asimetrik savaş yöntemlerinin stratejik su yollarını küresel bir ekonomik silaha dönüştürebildiğini ve enerji arz güvenliğinin ne kadar kırılgan olduğunu en somut şekilde ortaya koymuştur. Petrol ve LNG sevkiyatındaki devasa kesintiler küresel piyasalarda fiyat şoklarına, gıda enflasyonuna ve tedarik zinciri krizlerine yol açarken; mevcut baypas boru hatlarının ve coğrafi çeşitlendirme çabalarının tek başına yeterli olmadığı görülmüştür. Türkiye gibi ülkelerin hem diplomatik ara buluculuğu hem de alternatif bir transit koridoru olarak stratejik önemi bu süreçte artmış olsa da, krizin asıl dersi; fosil yakıtlara olan bağımlılığın azaltılması, yenilenebilir enerji yatırımlarının hızlandırılması ve küresel enerji mimarisinin deniz temelli dar boğazlardan kurtarılarak daha esnek ve kara koridoru odaklı bir yapıya kavuşturulmasının zorunluluğudur.

In a matter of weeks, a narrow maritime corridor—barely 40 kilometers wide at its narrowest point—pushed the global economy to the brink. The 2026 Strait of Hormuz crisis has demonstrated, perhaps more clearly than any recent event, how asymmetric warfare can weaponize critical chokepoints and transmit shockwaves far beyond the battlefield.

Iran's asymmetric hybrid confrontation with Israel and the United States has not only challenged Middle Eastern security dynamics but has also disrupted global energy markets, supply chains, and even food security. Facing structural limitations in conventional warfare and perceiving an existential threat to regime survival, Tehran appears to have increasingly relied on the weaponization of strategic chokepoints—most notably the Strait of Hormuz. This approach has effectively turned energy flows into geopolitical leverage, contributing to what is arguably one of the largest supply disruptions in the history of modern oil markets.

Scale of Disruption and Immediate Energy Market Impact

Prior to the crisis, roughly 20 million barrels per day (mb/d) of crude oil and petroleum products—around one-fifth of global consumption—transited through the Strait of Hormuz, alongside 20% of global LNG trade.

Since early March 2026, near-complete disruption of this route has removed an estimated 11.4 mb/d from global oil and 330 million cubic meters per day of LNG supply.

This shock is comparable to—and likely exceeds—the disruptions seen during the 1973 oil embargo and the 1980s Gulf War. Brent crude prices surged from around \$70 per barrel to above \$100, briefly exceeding \$110, reflecting both physical shortages and a substantial geopolitical risk premium. Analysts at major institutions, including Goldman Sachs and the International Energy Agency (IEA), have described the event as among the most severe supply shocks on record.

Beyond maritime disruption, the crisis has exposed vulnerabilities in regional energy infrastructure. Missile strikes on Qatar's Ras Laffan industrial complex—one of world's largest LNG export hubs—have reportedly taken approximately 17% of the country's LNG export capacity (around 12.8 million tonnes per year) offline for an extended period. Similar attacks targeting facilities in Kuwait and other Gulf states have further constrained both upstream and downstream recovery capacity.

Importantly, roughly one-quarter of Hormuz oil flows consist of refined petroleum products rather than crude.

This underscores a critical but often overlooked point: downstream infrastructure in Gulf countries is as vital to global energy security as upstream production.

Limits of Geographic Diversification and Bypass Infrastructure

Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates maintain bypass pipelines—notably the East-West pipeline (with a design capacity of up to 7 mb/d) and the Habshan-Fujairah pipeline (around 1.5–1.8 mb/d).

However, their effective operational capacity covers only an estimated 13–28% of normal Hormuz flows.

Constraints at export terminals—such as Yanbu's loading limitations—and the absence of viable LNG bypass options significantly reduce their effectiveness. Other regional producers, including Kuwait, Qatar, and Iraq, have limited contingency infrastructure, while projects such as the Iraq-Turkey corridor have progressed slowly.

The crisis illustrates a fundamental reality: while pipeline diversification can mitigate risk, it cannot fully substitute for a critical maritime chokepoint like Hormuz.

Secondary Effects: Food Security, Aviation, and the Global Economy

The shock has extended far beyond energy markets, disrupting global supply chains. According to UNCTAD estimates, roughly one-third of global seaborne fertilizer trade—including urea, ammonia, sulfur, and phosphates (around 16 million tonnes annually)—passes through the Strait of Hormuz.

Disruptions have driven fertilizer prices sharply higher, raising input costs for agriculture and threatening crop yields. This, in turn, increases the risk of food inflation and political instability, particularly across import-dependent economies in South Asia, Latin America, and parts of Africa.

The aviation sector has also been significantly affected. Jet fuel prices have more than doubled in some regions, forcing airlines to raise fares and cut routes, thereby placing additional pressure on tourism and global mobility.

Even economies with limited direct exposure to Hormuz—such as the European Union, which sources only a 4% share of its energy through the strait—have been affected through global price transmission, higher transport costs, and inflationary pressures. This highlights the deeply interconnected nature of modern energy markets.



Turkey, despite its relatively diversified energy mix and growing renewable capacity, has not been immune to the economic fallout. Rising global energy prices, increased import costs, and inflationary pressures have affected the Turkish economy. However, the crisis also underscores Turkey's strategic importance as an emerging energy and transit hub.

Through projects such as TANAP and its integration into the Southern Gas Corridor, as well as its central role in the so-called Middle Corridor linking China, Central Asia, the Caucasus, and Europe, Turkey is uniquely positioned to benefit from efforts to diversify both energy routes and broader trade flows. In this context, disruptions in maritime chokepoints may further enhance the strategic relevance of overland corridors passing through Turkey.

At the same time, Ankara has maintained an active diplomatic posture. In contrast to a passive approach, Turkey—alongside countries such as Pakistan and Egypt—has engaged in mediation efforts aimed at de-escalating tensions between Iran and the United States. This reflects a broader strategic reality: regional crises cannot be contained geographically, and their economic consequences inevitably spill across borders.

Meanwhile, the crisis has provided Russia with an unintended, albeit temporary, economic advantage. Higher global prices have enabled increased export revenues and partially offset the impact of sanctions, illustrating how systemic shocks can redistribute geopolitical leverage.

Key Lessons for the Global Economy

- 1st** Diversification must go beyond routes. Reliance on fossil fuel systems concentrated in a handful of chokepoints remains a structural vulnerability. Accelerating investment in renewables, nuclear energy, and storage is not only a climate imperative but a core energy security priority. The IEA has already emphasized the need to align decarbonization goals with supply security considerations.
- 2nd** Land-based transit corridors require urgent scaling. East–West trade routes linking China, Central Asia, the Caucasus, Turkey, and Europe have expanded rapidly in recent years. Further investment in such corridors — as well as projects like Iraq's Faw–Turkey route — can reduce dependence on maritime chokepoints for both energy and critical goods.
- 3rd** Energy security is inherently global. No country is insulated from systemic shocks. Even limited direct exposure does not prevent spillover effects through price mechanisms and supply chains. This calls for stronger international coordination beyond existing tools such as strategic reserve releases.
- 4th** Chokepoint security architecture must be rethought. Future hybrid conflicts may target other strategic corridors, including the Strait of Malacca or the Suez Canal. Enhancing resilience will require not only military deterrence but also decentralized energy systems and more flexible supply chains.

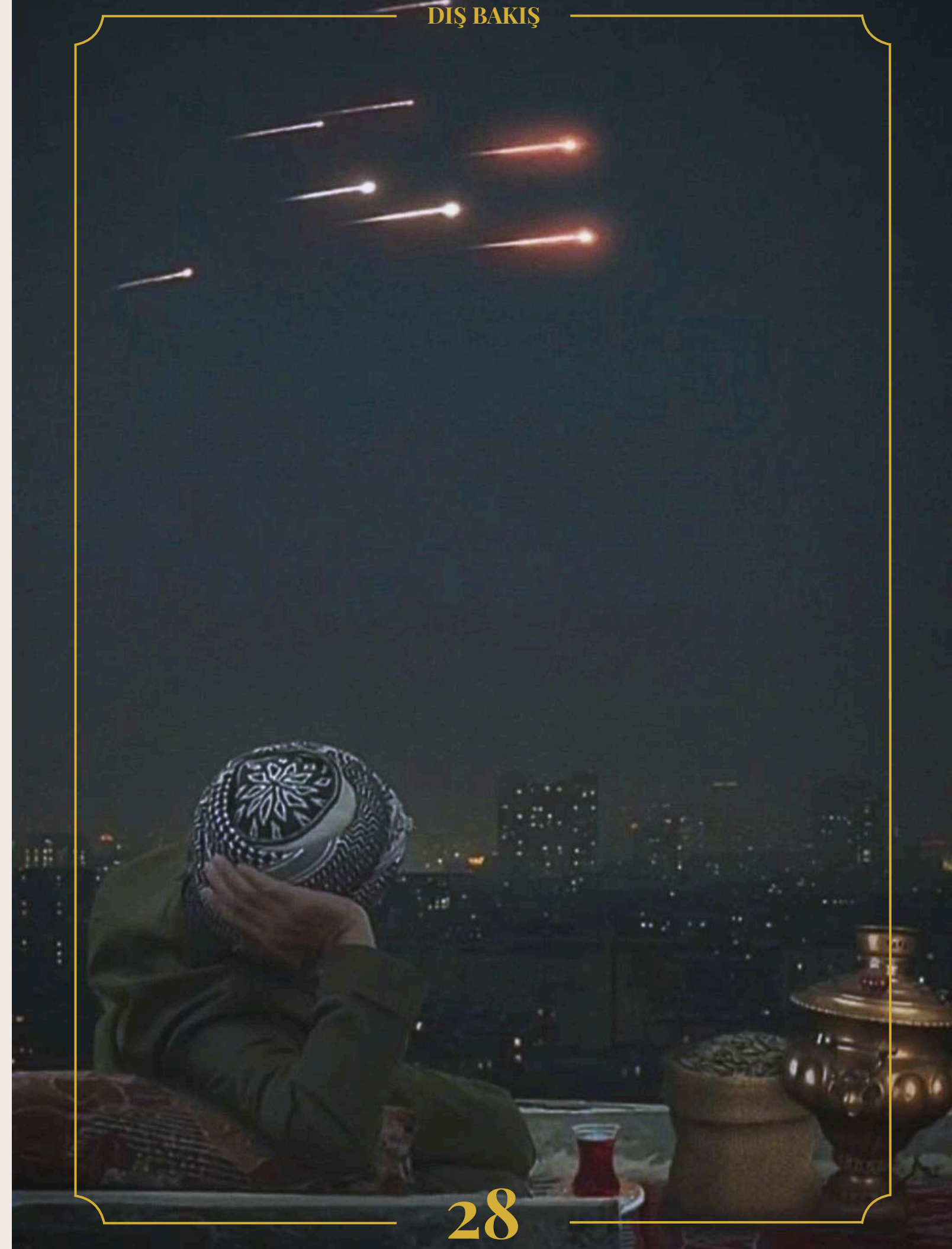
Conclusion and Policy Implications

The 2026 Hormuz crisis has underscored how asymmetric warfare can disrupt the global economy with relatively low-cost tools. It highlights the urgent need for a structural shift in how energy security is understood and managed.

Governments and international institutions should prioritize three areas:

- Scaling up investment in clean and nuclear energy systems
- Accelerating the development of alternative transit corridors
- Strengthening coordinated emergency response mechanisms

Without such measures, similar shocks are likely to recur—potentially with even greater economic and political consequences. The future stability of the global economy will depend not only on technological progress but also on how effectively policymakers internalize the lessons of today's chokepoints.





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The Gulf Region in Dire Straits

The American and Israeli assault on Iran, and contrary to what President Trump calls is an unprovoked full-fledged war. And it is not just another Gulf war but an American war. The terminology is not mere semantics as the fact shows that in almost all “Gulf” wars the United States has been an active participant as since the war in 1991 in the wake of Iraq’s invasion of Kuwait and a decade later in 2003 in what the US has erroneously called the WMD (weapons of mass destruction). The first Gulf war broke out in 1980 between Iraq and Iran and lasted for eight long and painful years during which time the US and Israel were both involved through the provision of weapons to both sides, a profitable practice that remains till today. It is interesting that other wars such as the Korean war, Vietnam war, Afghanistan war, Iraq war and other “smaller” wars in Libya, Nicaragua and Panama have all one common denominator: the USA as the country who started the war, in all cases.

As the fog of war, any war, blurs vision of what is actually taking place both on the ground and more importantly behind the scenes in many capital cities, it is perhaps prudent to limit the focus on smaller more precise angles.

One of these angles is the Arab Gulf region: so small, so fragile and yet so rich. Under normal circumstances this prognosis of size, fragility and wealth would not attract any attention had it not been for one item that the west craves so much: oil. It is interesting to observe that though the other side of the Gulf is occupied by a single country with a not-too-dissimilar culture, relations between the two sides have been tense, muddled and acrimonious for too long and particularly since the first Gulf war.

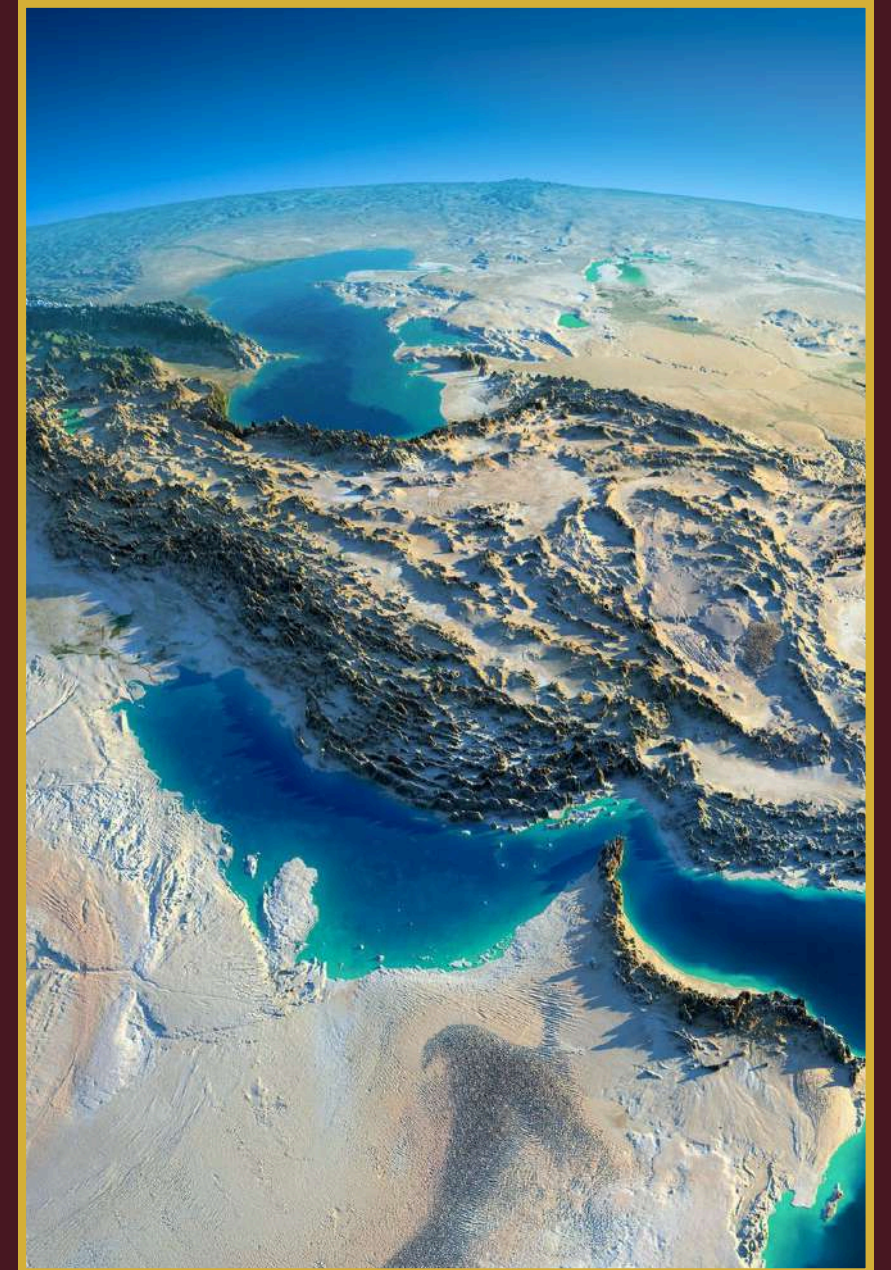
The two sides of the Gulf have been fighting over the name of the same Gulf: Persian on one side and Arabian on the other. No attempts have been successfully made to bridge the gulf of semantics.

This is no small matter as maritime names is a huge issue in international law and politics from Japan (and of course South Korea) to the “Gulf of America” (though many of us grew up knowing it as only the Gulf of Mexico)!

Though Persia and Arabia are divided by a gulf, they are bound by a profound shared legacy that has impacted the world, and more so the western world, through science, mathematics, philosophy, art, poetry, language and religion. Through its attempts to achieve modernity, Iran (since its name change in 1932) has sought to assert itself regionally and outside of its own borders. In this respect Iran is no different from Israel or the United States.



Arabia, on the other side of the gulf, unable to appreciate the geopolitical needs of its larger and more dexterous neighbour, misunderstood and mistrusted Persia.

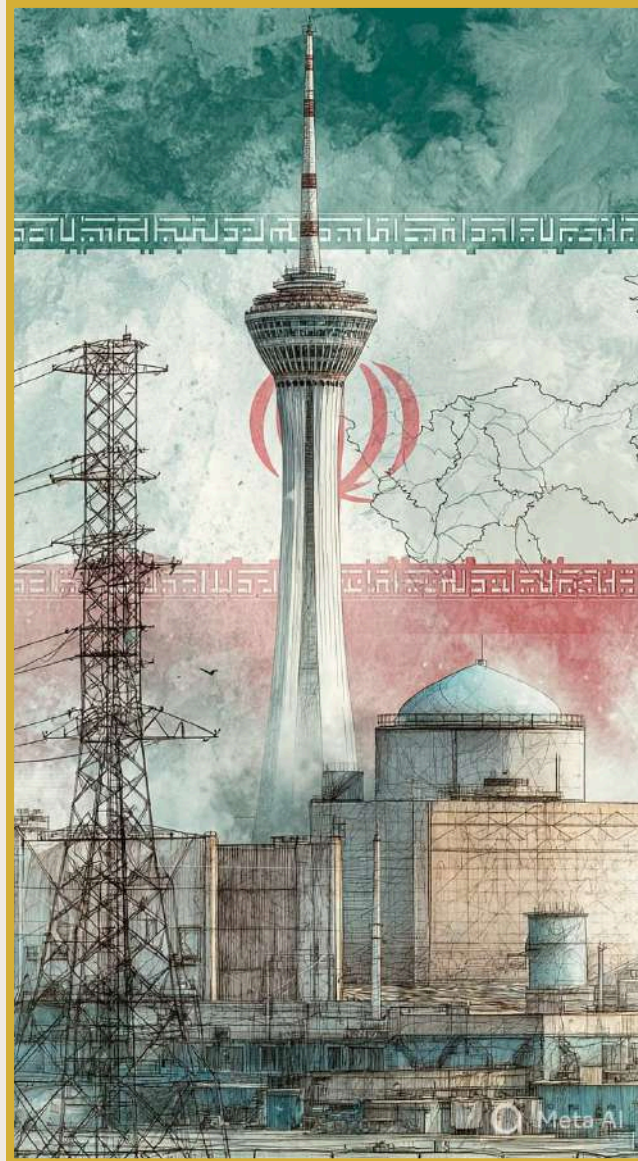


This led to the adoption of a foreign policy that relies heavily, if not entirely, on the west and particularly on the United States from technology to investments to weapons.

The United States has under President Trump, openly and shamelessly announced that the rich Gulf states must pay for American protection. The US has convinced all the Gulf States that military bases, already in the region, must be paid for. While Saudi Arabia denies the existence of any American bases on its soil, American sources confirmed that American equipment and American personnel came under attack in Saudi Arabia. The definition of an American military base in Saudi Arabia remains a contested terminological issue. The decision to host the military bases proved to be a poor strategic decision, a poisoned chalice in fact.

On the surface, it seemed like a wise decision and a safe bet in light of the revolutionary fervour of the Shiite Islamic Republic which is anathema to the Gulf states both politically and religiously. The Sunni kingdoms and emirates of Arabia do not approve of either and an American cover was promoted by the US as the best option. On his first international trip after winning his second term of office President Trump made a visit to the Arabian Gulf where he collected approximately \$4 trillion in protection money.

Alas, that conviction was shattered on the 9th of September 2025 when Israel bombed Qatar in a bid to assassinate Palestinian negotiators. American defence systems did not deploy setting off a strong call to review the arrangement: what were the American bases for? Were they to defend the Gulf from anyone but Israel? Who mans the defence systems and whose decision it was to activate or not to activate them? Were they working in the first place?



The Gulf States held a meeting, and too much was said and discussed but apparently little was done apart from a pact signed and televised between the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia and the Prime Minister of Pakistan a week later!

In January 2026 the United Arab Emirates signed a similar protocol with India. Since the war on Iran started in February 2026 nothing tangible was made public of the extent of the two agreements, or the level of support India and Pakistan have offered the small, fragile and rich Gulf states.

Iran, on the other side of the “Arabian Gulf” views the American bases in neighbouring Arab states on the other side of her “Persian Gulf” as launchpads for attacks on her territory. Though Iran warned that states hosting such bases could be seen, under international law, as accomplices in the war, it did not attack the states themselves. It was only after Israeli and American missiles have hit civilian population, energy plants, cultural sites and girls’ schools that Iran retaliated.

It is sad to see how much world attention is focused on the Strait of Hormuz, while such enthusiasm was lacking for the borders with Gaza.



U.S. Policy Toward Iran Under Trump

Pressure, Protests, and War

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Abstract

The transition of U.S. policy toward Iran under President Donald Trump, from the 2018 withdrawal from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) to the outbreak of open warfare in early 2026, represents a definitive shift from multilateral diplomacy to a strategy of absolute kinetic and economic confrontation. Defined by a "maximum pressure" campaign, Washington utilized aggressive sanctions, diplomatic isolation, and military posturing to destabilize the Iranian regime's revenue streams and deter its regional influence. However, this approach catalyzed a cycle of "counter-pressure" from Tehran, characterized by nuclear escalation and asymmetric maritime provocations. The escalation reached a breaking point in early 2026 when domestic unrest within Iran, coupled with perceived nuclear threats, prompted a large-scale U.S. and Israeli military intervention targeting Iran's strategic infrastructure. Ultimately, the 2026 conflict underscores the limitations of sustained economic coercion and regime-change rhetoric, illustrating how the absence of diplomatic off-ramps can transform a policy of strategic pressure into a full-scale regional war with profound global consequences.

Özet

Trump yönetiminin İran politikasının, 2018'deki Nükleer Anlaşma'dan (JCPOA) çekilme sürecinden 2026 yılındaki açık savaşın patlak vermesine kadar olan gelişimi; çok taraflı diplomasiye, mutlak askeri ve ekonomik çatışmaya dayalı bir stratejiye geçişi temsil etmektedir. "Maksimum Baskı" kampanyasıyla tanımlanan Washington; İran rejiminin gelir kaynaklarını istikrarsızlaştırmak ve bölgesel nüfuzunu kırmak için sert yaptırımlar, diplomatik izolasyon ve askeri caydırıcılık yöntemlerini kullanmıştır. Ancak bu yaklaşım, Tahran cephesinde nükleer kapasite artırımı ve asimetrik deniz provokasyonlarıyla karakterize edilen bir "karşı baskı" döngüsünü tetiklemiştir. 2026 başlarında İran'daki iç huzursuzluğun tırmanması ve nükleer tehdit algısının artmasıyla kırılma noktasına ulaşılan süreç, ABD ve İsrail'in İran'ın stratejik altyapısını hedef alan geniş kapsamlı bir askeri müdahalesine dönüşmüştür. Sonuç olarak 2026 çatışması; sürdürülebilir ekonomik baskı ve rejim değişikliği söylemlerinin sınırlarını ortaya koyarken, diplomatik çıkış yollarının yokluğunun stratejik bir baskı politikasını nasıl derin küresel sonuçları olan topyekûn bir bölgesel savaşa dönüştürebileceğini kanıtlamıştır.

The year
asymmetric
warfare
redefined
the price of
global stability.

U.S. policy toward Iran under President Donald Trump has combined intense economic pressure with escalating military confrontation, culminating in the current open war between the two countries in early 2026.

In 2017, when Trump first took office, the United States was still part of the 2015 nuclear deal, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), which limited Iran's nuclear program in exchange for sanctions relief. In May 2018, Trump formally announced that the U.S. **would exit the JCPOA**, declaring it a “defective” agreement that failed to protect American security. He argued that the deal enriched Iran while only delaying, not eliminating, its ability to pursue nuclear weapons and did not address Iran's missiles or regional activities.

After withdrawing, the administration **reimposed** all nuclear-related sanctions and added new ones, framing this as a “maximum pressure” campaign. Washington's goal was to force Iran back into negotiations on a broader agreement that would cover nuclear issues, ballistic missiles, and Iran's support for regional armed groups. By 2019, the U.S. had issued multiple rounds of sanctions targeting Iran's energy, banking, shipping, and Revolutionary Guard-linked entities in an effort to cut off the regime's revenue.

Iran responded with a policy of “counter-pressure,” gradually breaching JCPOA limits on uranium enrichment and stockpiles and conducting or tolerating attacks on Gulf shipping and regional energy infrastructure. This produced a cycle: U.S. sanctions squeezed Iran’s economy; Iran answered with calibrated nuclear steps and asymmetric actions; and Washington doubled down on sanctions and limited military strikes. This pattern hardened mutual mistrust and made diplomacy increasingly difficult.

Key features of Trump’s Iran approach strategy rested on several pillars: economic isolation, military deterrence, and political pressure for internal change in Iran. US through economic pressure, targeted Iranian oil exports, financial transactions, metals, and key companies, aiming to starve the government of funds. Secondary sanctions threatened foreign firms that did business with Iran, further isolating Tehran. Where as through military deterrence, Washington increased its military presence in the Gulf and on several occasions used force against Iranian or Iran-backed forces, arguing this was necessary to protect U.S. troops and partners.

Diplomatic isolation remains important tool to pressed allies to join or at least tolerate its sanctions, highlighted Iran’s regional activities in forums like the UN, and labeled the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps a terrorist organization.

Lastly, U.S. rhetoric increasingly called on ordinary Iranians to oppose their leaders, casting U.S. policy as support for the Iranian people against an oppressive regime. This approach differed sharply from the Obama-era emphasis on multilateral diplomacy and negotiated constraints.

Instead, Trump *bet* that sustained pressure could either force a “**better deal**” or so weaken the Islamic Republic that it faced serious internal challenge.

From crisis to open war in 2026, domestic unrest in Iran and escalating threats pushed the U.S.–Iran confrontation into a full-scale military conflict.



Nationwide protests in Iran against economic hardship and political repression drew international attention, and Iranian security forces responded with a harsh crackdown.

In January 2026, Trump publicly warned that the U.S. was “locked and loaded” to intervene militarily if Tehran continued killing protesters, and he expressed strong support for anti-government demonstrators.

At the same time, U.S. and Israeli concerns about Iran’s nuclear and missile programs prompted Washington to deploy major naval and air forces to the region, including carriers like USS Abraham Lincoln and USS Gerald R. Ford and accompanying destroyers, in a buildup reminiscent of the 2003 Iraq invasion. Trump officials justified preparing for war by citing the need to preempt Iranian retaliation, degrade its missile and military capacity, block any nuclear breakout, protect strategic resources, and potentially enable regime change.

In late February 2026, the U.S. and Israel launched **coordinated strikes** inside Iran against nuclear related sites, missile batteries, command centers and naval assets, presented as efforts to weaken the Islamic Republic and defend U.S. interests.

Trump announced the start of operations in a video address and urged Iranians to rise up, casting the campaign as support for the Iranian people.

Iran replied with missile and drone attacks on U.S. bases and assets across the Middle East and on Israeli targets, quickly broadening the war. Fighting and explosions were reported in several countries, while regional and international actors, including the EU and Oman, appealed for restraint and warned Washington against deeper entanglement.

Strait of Hormuz



The 2026 crisis proved that a single narrow corridor can hold the entire global economy hostage.

In the U.S., Congress started debating a war powers measure to limit Trump's ability to sustain large scale operations without explicit authorization, though its outcome remained **unclear**.

Trump's Iran policy evolved from quitting the nuclear deal to imposing maximum economic pressure, engaging in periodic clashes, and ultimately launching a wide ranging military campaign aimed at **crippling** Iran's regime and armed forces. This strategy of steadily raising pressure to force concessions or internal change left little room for compromise once both sides were fully committed to confrontation.

As Iran answered sanctions with nuclear escalation and regional moves, U.S. officials **increasingly framed Tehran** as an urgent threat that demanded decisive action. Mass protests in Iran in 2025–26 added a humanitarian and political rationale that Trump used to defend possible intervention and, later, open war.

When Washington and its partners began large scale strikes in February 2026, years of sanctions, military deployments, and regime change rhetoric merged into a **full scale conflict** that now defines the relationship between the United States and Iran.