The Right Side of History



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The onset of confrontation

"For one to question, 'Why did they take over the embassy?' and to say that our problem with the US arose from that point, is an inaccurate statement in my view. First, our problem with the US didn't begin with the event that took place on the 13th of Aban [November 4, 1979]. It began on the 28th of Mordad [August 19, 1953]. The Iranian nation's opposition to the US dates back to that time. Second, the 13th of Aban actually signified the discovery of a plot and a great danger to the Revolution. The students discovered this – God bless them. They were able to gather the documents. With great difficulty, they pieced together the documents that had been put through the shredding machine and were able to realize what had been going on inside the embassy."

The sweet morsel

"The US couldn't tolerate the Revolution, [because] the Revolution had ripped a sweet morsel right out of the US's throat. Iran had been an unparalleled prize that was in the possession of the US. Iran was entirely under the domination and power of the US. The US took Iran's oil, they plundered its underground resources, they seized its facilities and its money, and they sold whatever goods they wanted to Iran at whatever price they pleased. This was what the situation had been like, and then this was taken away from the US. The [Islamic] Revolution stood up against the US. They [the US] weren't willing to easily give up. Therefore, the plots began. From the very beginning of the Revolution, the United States began its provocations against the Iranian nation. [They were] against the Iranian nation! They weren't just against the Islamic Republic; they were against the [Iranian] nation. The US started by severing relations. The severance of ties was first started by the US. Then it started imposing sanctions, which were followed by various other actions one after another. Truly, anyone who knows – who remembers and doesn't forget – what the US has done over the years, realizes the truth of Imam's [Khomeini's] statement, 'Let out all your shouts on the US."

The inherent conflict between two currents

"The conflict between the Islamic Republic and the US isn't a difference in tactics. It isn't an incidental disagreement. It's an inherent difference. If they have the chance, the US will shoot down an Iranian passenger plane with 300 passengers to fall into the sea. If they have the chance, they will compel someone like Saddam [Hussein] to attack Iran and will provide him with all kinds of support. If they have the chance, they will launch a direct attack on the country. If they have the chance, they will carry out all sorts of activities using propaganda against the Islamic Republic. If they have the chance, they will do anything they can. This is the state of affairs concerning the confrontation and encounter between the Islamic Republic and the US."

"Some people distort history when writing it. They attribute the conflict between

"Some people distort history when writing it. They attribute the conflict between the Islamic Republic and the US to your chants of 'Down with the USA.' They're being naïve. It's foolish to think that simply because a nation chants 'Down with the USA,' its enemy would become this antagonistic for that reason alone. No! The 'Down with the USA' slogan isn't a matter of such gravity that the US would oppose, confront, and challenge Iran solely because of that. The issue is a matter of an inherent conflict – an inherent incompatibility. It's a clash of interests between two currents: the US and the Islamic Republic."

The US accepts nothing but submission

"Some people ask, 'Alright, we haven't surrendered to the US, but does that mean we'll never have relations with them? Are we going to oppose the US forever?' The answer [to that question] is as follows. First, the US's arrogant nature accepts nothing other than submission. This is something that all the US presidents have wanted. They just didn't state this openly. But the current [US] president has stated this. He said Iran must surrender. He essentially gave this matter away. He exposed the US's inner nature. [They wanted] the submission of a nation – a nation like Iran with all its capabilities, its vast wealth, its background of thought and knowledge, and all its bright,



highly motivated young people. What would be the meaning of such a surrender?!"

Cooperation with Iran is incompatible with supporting the Zionist regime

"The US sometimes, but not always, says that it's willing to cooperate with Iran. Cooperation with Iran isn't compatible with cooperating with and helping the accursed Zionist regime. The accursed Zionist regime with this situation that [it has created and] the entire world has witnessed, understood, and condemned is being assisted by the US. The US is backing it; they're supporting it. Given this situation, cooperation with Iran is meaningless and unacceptable. Yes, if they were to completely stop supporting the Zionist regime, remove their military bases from this area, and stop interfering in the region, these matters could potentially be reviewed. This isn't something foreseeable for now, nor for the near future."

We must become strong

"We cannot make guesses about what's going to happen in the distant future, but everyone must know this that the solution to many of our problems is us becoming strong. We must make the country strong. The government must carry out its work in its various sectors with strength. The military forces must carry out their duties with strength. The youth must pursue their education and scientific advancements with strength. If the country becomes strong and the enemy senses that confronting this powerful nation will bring no profit but only loss, then the country will definitely become immune. There's no doubt about that."

Nov. 3, 2025



Words of Wisdom

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The US's arrogant nature accepts nothing other than submission. This is something that all the US presidents have wanted. They just didn't state this openly. But the current [US] president has stated this.





Memorable Frame



A gap-filling book in the battle of narratives in global debates

Imam Khamenei's endorsement of the book "Roosevelt Street Station" was published (Wednesday), October 30, 2023, during a ceremony at the Cultural Research Institute of the Islamic Revolution. The event was attended by the book's author, experts, and researchers in contemporary Iranian history, as well as a number of activists who had been involved in the seizure of the US embassy, known as Spy Den, in Tehran on November 4, 1979.

The text of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution's book endorsement is as follows:

In the Name of the Most Exalted

This is a thorough, informative account of an important event that took place in the history of the Revolution, the seizure of the US Spy Den in 1979.

This book fills one of the gaps in our media and propagational efforts as we have not devoted sufficient attention to the battle of narratives in global debates. As a result, our enemies and ill-wishers have taken advantage of this oversight and distorted many events.

We must commend the author of this book for his valuable efforts and vigilant action in this important field. The writing flows well and is clear, while the research and analyses are logical, honest, and convincing.

The title chosen for the book is brilliant.

Mehr 1403 AHS

[October 2024]

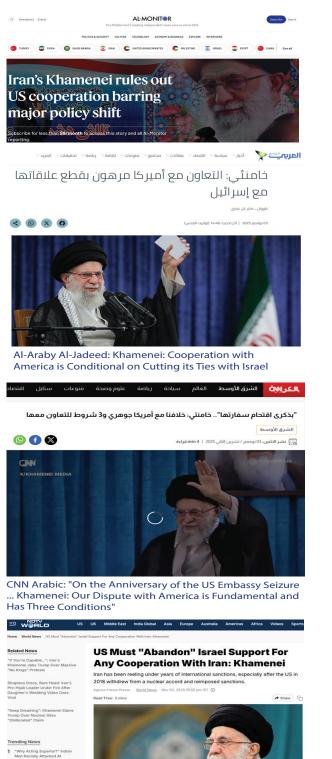


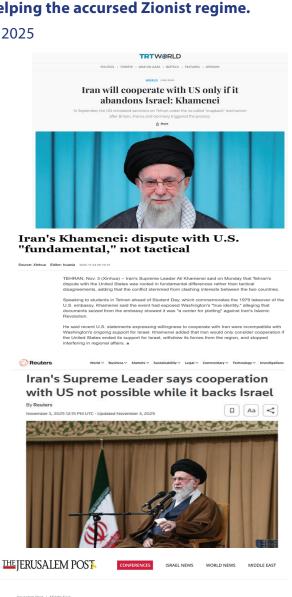
Reflections

The conflict between the Islamic Republic and the US isn't a difference in tactics. It's an inherent difference.

The US says that it's willing to cooperate with Iran. Cooperation with Iran isn't compatible with cooperating with and helping the accursed Zionist regime.

Nov. 3, 2025







Iran's Khamenei says conflict with US 'inherent',

As long as Washington continues to support Israel and to maintain military bases and interfere in the Middle East region, Iran will not cooperate with the US, Khamenei said.

Israel support makes cooperation impossible





Become Familiar with the Quran

(Inspired by Imam Khamenei's letter to American university students on May 25, 2024)



اِن تَنصُّرُوا اللهُ يَنصُّرُكُم (سورة محمد، الأية ۷) لَئِن شَكَرتُم لَازيدَنَّكُم (سورة ابراهيم، الأية ۷) الَّذينَ جاهَدوا فينا لَنَهديَنَّهُم سُبُلَنا و اِنَّ اللهُ لَمَعَ المُحسِنين (سورة العنكبوت، الأية ٦٩)

Enemies of Islamic Republic cannot understand divine traditions

The enemy is unable to understand how the Islamic Republic is able to get up again each time from beneath all these pressures, stand firmly, and continue on its way. They don't understand this. They haven't been able to understand that apart from political calculations and contingencies in this world, there are other calculations and contingencies too. These are the divine traditions. These traditions are laws or rules. Almighty God has set rules in the material world. These are laws that are in effect, and we're seeing them in front of our eyes. The law of gravity is a law that we're seeing in front of our eyes, and everyone understands it. [But] there are also laws that not everyone can understand. The whole Quran is truly filled with verses about these laws. [For example, it says,] "Allah is with those who guard (against evil)" (Quran 2:194) and "Whoever strives hard, he strives only for his own soul" (Quran 29:6). There are also other such verses, "And who is truer in word than Allah?" (Quran4:122) God says that these are laws. One of these laws is, "Allah will help him who helps His cause" (Quran, 22:40). Or there is the verse, "If you help (the cause of) Allah, He will help you" (Quran 47:7). This is one of the divine traditions. If the path you are travelling, the work you are doing, and your direction are helping God - helping God here means helping God's religion and divine values - if you move in that direction, you will be victorious and God will help you. Of course, the condition is that you must move and take action yourself too. Don't [just] say something. You must take action. "If you are grateful, I will certainly give more to you" (Quran 14:7). And if you use a divine blessing in the right place, God will increase that blessing for you. This is a divine tradition, "(As for) those who strive hard for Us, We will most certainly guide them in Our ways; and Allah is most surely with the doers of good" (Quran 29:69). All of these are divine traditions.

From Imam Khamenei's speech on June 28, 2022





Milad Movahedian, PhD graduate in Political Sociology from Imam Sadiq University (pbuh) and researcher of Contemporary Iranian History

Let's not tell the story from the middle

Introduction

Some contend that the hostility of the US toward Iran began only after the seizure of the American embassy in Tehran and that, prior to this, the prevailing state of relations between the two countries had been normal and favorable. A brief study of the history of Iran–US relations over the past century, however, reveals that this hostility is rooted in a multitude of events, some of which belong to the initial months following the victory of the Islamic Revolution, while a significant part pertains to the era of Mohammad Reza Pahlavi's rule. Since some seek to shape the narrative for public appeal and prefer to tell the story from its midpoint and portray the US hostility toward the Iranian nation as a consequence of the embassy seizure, we sought to present a concise list of the US' actions against Iran in the months and years preceding November 1979. The purpose is to clarify whether the seizure of the US embassy in Tehran was the cause of this hostility, or its result.

Dominance over Iran's national interests during the second Pahlavi era

Until 1953, Iranians viewed the US as a third power that could be relied upon to escape British influence. For this very reason, Dr. Mohammad Mossadegh, the Prime Minister of the National Government, turned to the Americans to overcome the pressure and sanctions imposed by Britain. The US's conduct in response to Mossadegh's trust was shocking. Hand in hand with the British, they orchestrated Operation Ajax and, in an overt coup, overthrew the official government born from the nation's votes.

The coup of August 19, 1953, was not the end of blatant interference in Iran's domestic politics, but rather the beginning of America's comprehensive dominance over the national interests of Iranians. The establishment of the repressive SAVAK apparatus, the presence of thousands of military advisors within the Iranian army, the imposition of the Capitulation Law, and the dispatch of General Robert E. Huyser to carry out a coup in the final days of the Pahlavi regime are but a few examples of the dimensions of America's military and security domination over Iran during the Pahlavi period. These actions forged the roots of the Iranian nation's resentment toward the US – a resentment that eventually engulfed both the US and its strategic ally, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, and cut off their influence in Iran with the victory of the Islamic Revolution on February 11, 1979.

The approach of the newly established Islamic Republic toward the US

Although the primary slogan of Iran's Islamic Revolution was independence – and in the minds of the revolutionary public, independence meant liberation from foreign domination, particularly that of the US – the wisdom of the leaders and senior officials of the newly established Islamic Republic did not intend to transfer the hostility and resentment that the Americans had sown in the hearts of the Iranian people into the realm of foreign policy, nor did they seek to initiate conflict or confrontation with the US.

When Imam Khomeini (ra), the first leader of the Islamic Revolution, learned that some members of the

radical Fedai guerrillas (IFPG) entered the US embassy on February 14, 1979, with the intention of seizing it, he explicitly ordered that the group be expelled, refusing to allow the embassy to fall into the hands of enraged revolutionaries. Had Imam Khomeini (ra) intended to initiate a confrontation with the US, he would have welcomed the seizure of the US embassy at the very same time that the embassy of the Zionist regime was handed over to the Palestinians. Yet his approach was based on engaging with the US and avoiding the initiation of hostility or conflict on Iran's part.

In accordance with this approach, Imam Khomeini (ra), in numerous speeches, repudiated servitude to the US but did not reject engagement and relations with the country, provided they were balanced and equitable. He stated:

"If what is meant by 'relations' is the kind that previously existed between Iran and the US during the former Shah's era, then that was not a real relationship. It was a master and his servant, who obeyed every order and executed every command. If we intend to advance Islam, we must no longer be servants. It is better to have no relations with those who seek to plunder us, until a time when they come to their senses and understand that the East also exists in the world. On that day, we may establish relations – relations that are mutual and balanced. Otherwise, what are we to do with a relationship of the old kind, or the kind they now desire?

If Mr. Carter were to step down from his majestic throne, come down to earth, and reach an understanding with us ground-dwellers, then we too would reach an understanding with him, provided that he makes amends for the injustices committed against us. We have no quarrel with the American

people. There is no conflict between nations themselves. If a future government emerges that reaches an understanding with us—one that does not place them in the White House and us in huts, where palace-dwellers are masters and hut-dwellers mere subjects – if they abandon this notion and understand us as we are, perceive us as we are, why should we not have relations with them? We would even establish relations with the US government."

It should also be noted that alongside this official stance taken by Imam Khomeini (ra), the Interim government, was in the hands of figures from the Freedom Movement of Iran (FMI), who held a positive view toward the West and had no intention of initiating enmity or conflict with the United States. The question then arises: In the face of this positive approach, what course of action did the US adopt?

Efforts to overthrow or deviate the path of the Islamic Republic

Leaving aside the US's extensive support for the Pahlavi regime and its attempts to preserve it until the very last moments, we arrive at the period during the March 1979 referendum, where the Iranian nation cast an affirmative vote of nearly 100 percent in favor of the Islamic Republic. In light of this clear expression of the Iranian people's will, did the US change its conduct and respect their choice, or did it continue along its previous course?

Documented historical records show that from the earliest days following the victory of the Revolution, the US embassy in Tehran functioned not as an ordinary diplomatic mission, but as a center for fomenting conspiracy and directing efforts to derail the Islamic Revolution. One of its first actions was the recruitment of senior managers and specialists from SAVAK, including

individuals such as Jamshid Amani and Isa Pejman (former heads of SAVAK's Kurdish Affairs Bureau). They were hired by the US embassy with the aim of extending US influence over the separatist Kurdish unrest in the country's western regions.

Such provocative activities can be clearly traced in the new missions outlined in the reports of the CIA station chief in Tehran, where he describes four key missions for the new phase of his operations:

- **1.** Forming a political coalition of moderates inclined toward the US.
- **2.** Pressuring the government through Kurdish separatist groups.
- **3.** Reactivating the TACKSMAN I and TACKSMAN II bases.
- 4. Preparing the groundwork for a coup. These cases represent only a fraction of the US' planning and operations, as admitted by the country's own senior security officials, undertaken to overthrow, if possible, the newly established political system chosen by an entire nation or, at the very least, to divert the Islamic Revolution from its path and infiltrate the structures of governance in order to install individuals who would act in accordance with American interests.

Let's not tell the story from the middle

In conclusion, it can be stated that the seizure of the US embassy in Tehran was the result of an enmity and hatred, the seeds of which were planted in the hearts and minds of the Iranian nation on August 19, 1953, by the US itself, and which was nurtured and grew throughout the 25 years of despotic rule under the second Pahlavi regime. Therefore, based on the historical evidence cited in this text, what was seized on November 4, 1979, was not merely the US embassy but a center for

plotting and espionage against the national interests of Iranians. Furthermore, this event was itself the consequence – not the cause – of a series of conflicts and hostilities that the US had perpetrated against the Iranian people over many years.

Those who narrate the story of the US hostility toward Iran, beginning with November 1979 and the seizure of the US embassy in Tehran, have no interest in recounting the first half of this story; a half of the story replete with hostility, the violation of a nation's rights, and the abuse of the embassy premises to station CIA operatives and plan the coup and overthrow of an established, nationally elected political system.

Timeless Truths

The intention behind the seizure of the US Embassy was to convey to the US regime that this Revolution is not to be trifled with. This Revolution, nation, and country are not like other revolutions, nations, or countries that they'll simply sit back, remain silent, and tolerate a situation where people on the other side of the world dream up wild plans and hatch plots against them. The movement of the students with regard to the US Embassy showed that our nation will stand firmly and uncompromisingly against loud-mouthed, demanding, importunate, arrogant, oppressive power like the United States.

Excerpt from Imam Khamenei's speech in a meeting with a number of school and university students on Nov. 2, 1994.



https://Khamenei.ir