

## Session 7 - Iran . . . at a crossroads?

*“The U.S. does not have the ability to ‘fix’ Iran and has forfeited much of the goodwill of Iranians it built up over decades.”*

ENGAGEMENT/DIPLOMACY	ESTRANGEMENT
<p><b>WWII</b> - 30K U.S. troops in Iran to secure supply lines to Russia. Iran seen as post-war ally against Soviet Union.</p>	<p><b>1953</b> - CIA helped Brits depose democratically-elected Mossadegh over threat of oil nationalization, returned Shah to power</p>
<p><b>1977</b> - Carter declares Iran “an island of stability in one of the more troubled areas”</p> <p><b>1978</b> - 50K Americans living/working in Iran &amp; 50K Iranians studying in U.S. 2K Peace Corps '62-'76.</p>	<p><b>1979</b> - Islamic Revolution brought by coalition of religious groups, merchants, and liberal reformists</p> <p><b>80s</b> - Reagan tilts toward Iraq in Iran/Iraq war</p> <p><b>1988</b> - U.S. warship Vincennes mistakenly downed civilian airliner, killing 290 Iranians.</p>
<p><b>2001</b> - Candlelight vigils held in sympathy in Tehran after 9/11 attacks</p>	<p><b>2000s</b></p> <p>--U.S. invades neighboring states of Afghanistan &amp; Iraq.</p> <p>--Bush II declares Iran part of “axis of evil” along with Iraq &amp; N. Korea</p> <p>--U.S. &amp; Israel plant computer worm in Iranian nuclear plants</p>
<p><b>2015</b> - Obama/Kerry (with Britain, France, Germany, Russia &amp; China) conclude Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) to curtail Iran’s nuclear ambitions. Some U.S. sanctions were lifted, more in Europe</p>	<p><b>2020</b></p> <p>--Trump cancelled JCPOA and reimposed sanctions and ramped them up</p> <p>--U.S. assassinated Iranian Major General Soleimani, commander of Qods security force and a national hero</p>
<p><b>2020</b> - Biden ran on a platform of returning to the nuclear deal and removing sanctions if Iran resumed compliance with the JCPOA.</p>	<p><b>2022</b> - With Israel pressuring U.S. NOT to renew JCPOA and congress on both sides of the isle NOT enthusiastic, negotiations have stalled.</p>

### PROGRESS SINCE REVOLUTION

- Infant mortality dropped since 70s, and literacy rate has surged from 37% to 87%
- ¾ of population lives in urban areas, though some lack jobs/housing/entertainment
- Electricity, water, and internet available through the country

### IRAN IN CRISIS:

- Drug addiction - high rate of opium use in the world!
- Women’s rights - protests throughout the country for several months
- GNI/cap in PPP - \$15,760. Government ended subsidies on food and medicine imports last May, causing steep inflation (~52%) and slow growth (2.9%)