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## Strategic Control of Energy Trade: Iran's Economic Leverage Through the Strait of Hormuz in Times of Conflict

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### ABSTRACT

*This article examines Iran's strategic control over energy trade and the Strait of Hormuz as a powerful instrument of economic leverage during recent war. It argues that Iran's geographic position at one of the world's most important oil passage has enabled it to influence global energy markets, and strengthen its bargaining position in the time of war. The article also discusses the historical evolution of Iranian relations with the United States and Israel, the 1979 Islamic Revolution, and the subsequent breakdown of diplomatic ties. It also explores how the nuclear issue, sanctions, proxy conflicts, and repeated military confrontations have expanded the rivalry. The article further analyses recent escalations, including the Iran–Israel clashes of 2025 and recent Iran-US-Israel war in 2026, to show how Iran uses the Strait of Hormuz as a tool of deterrence and negotiation. At the same time, it highlights the limitations of the strategy, especially Iran's own dependence on Hormuz for oil exports and the vulnerability of its energy infrastructure to foreign strikes and sanctions.*

**Keywords:** Iran, US, Islamic Revolution, Strait of Hormuz, Sanctions

### Introduction

Talks held in Geneva with the mediation partner Oman and interact talks held between Washington and Tehran. But the immature and desperate launching of strikes from the US and Israel on Iran; in spite of ongoing negotiations between Washington and Tehran over Iran's nuclear enrichment for the sake of nuclear weapon. After these massive strikes Iran responded on Saturday with missile and air strikes across the Middle Eastern region including in Israel, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, UAE and Iraq only on US air bases found in these states. There are clashes between US and Israel's statements. Israel stated that they only targeted their military and nuclear related infrastructure. But on the other hand, President Donald Trump said that the US had started a 'major combat operation' in Iran expected at 'eliminating threats from the Iranian regime.' These strikes held after just two days of US-Iran nuclear negotiations which ended without any resolution (Al Jazeera Staff, 2026). The US-Israel attacks symbolize the most serious escalation since the transitory but penetrating June 2025 war (Susan M. Akram et al., 2026).

This conflict ended after 12 days when the US President stated that they destroyed Iran's nuclear facilities found in Natanz, Fordow and Isfahan (Adam Zaidan, 2025). Iranian spokespersons alleged that their program was delayed but not demolished. In response, Iran targeted Al Udaid

Air Base in Qatar fortunately there were no casualties reported there. But after 12 days of escalation, Iran suffered 610 citizen casualties and Israel claimed 28 on their side. Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian signed legislation for tentative collaboration with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), excepting its inspectors from accessing Iran's nuclear facilities unless specifically authorized by the country's Supreme National Security Council. After the President's statement, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi stated that Iran would not give up its uranium enrichment because the situation was serious and severe. In August 2025, according to Iranian state media, Iranian police arrested 21,000 people related to the 12-day war with Israel.

Because of the massive air strikes and the assassination of many important IRGC leaders, Iran blocked the Strait of Hormuz a waterway through which no less than 20 percent of the world's oil supply passes (Al Jazeera Staff, 2026; CPA, 2026). This conflict is a great threat for the Middle Eastern region because many Middle Eastern states run their economies on the basis of oil production and supply. It is also a serious matter of nuclear enrichment, great power competition, resource grabbing from third world states, and because of the conflict, the whole world would face its impact in future. This escalation signifies the predictable outcome of a 46-year cold war that began not with ancient hatreds, but with a revolution that essentially challenged the regional order. We are perceiving the impact of two mismatched forces first, the Iranian resistance to American hegemony, and the other, Israel's dependence on it. Before 1979, Iran and Israel sustained a tactical partnership that extended far beyond diplomatic courtesies. Under Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, the relationship involved shared intelligence operations, joint military missions, and billions in mutual trade (Joe Coleman 2025; Natan Sachs 2019).

#### **Objectives of Research**

1. To analyze the importance and impact of Strait of Hormuz on the international economy.
2. Examine the influence of Iran on Strait of Hormuz and its proxies.
3. Analyze the nuclear issues along with sideline deals and history of JCPOA.
4. Examine the asymmetry of oil markets which affect the global economy.
5. Assess the implications and power shift because of the Iran-US-Israel war.
6. Test whether US is superior from International Law.

#### **Questions of Research**

1. What is the importance and impact of Strait of Hormuz on the international economy?
2. How Iran influence on Strait of Hormuz along with his proxies?
3. What is JCPOA and nuclear issue along with sideline deals between US and Iran?
4. What is the asymmetry of oil markets which affect the global economy?
5. What are the implications of recent US-Israel and Iran war and power shift due to this war?
6. Is US being superior from International Law?

#### **Significance of Study**

This research examines how Iran uses the Strait of Hormuz as a strategic weapon of economic leverage during the recent war. It is because nearly 20% of world's oil and LNGs passes through this 30-kilometre narrow waterway. The ability of Iran to influence this naval traffic gives it bargaining power over energy-dependent states, especially Gulf states. This research shows that Hormuz leverage is not only military but also economic. Since the threat of escalation raises, the world faces increasing global fuel prices, inflation, and increasing impact on neighboring states towards their policies. So now onwards, Hormuz is significant more than a shipping route. It functions as a geopolitical leverage point which allows Iran to change the dynamics of conflict without going to conventional war.

**Literature Review**

This literature on the strategic control of energy trade and Iran's leverage provides an excellent academic background on which this conflict starts and since never comes to resolution. Strait of Hormuz is the most important and significant natural strait found between Iran and Oman in the Middle East. Because of recent escalation, a global energy crisis started and markets rise and fall effect common man as well as developing and developed states (Candace Dunn et al., 2025). This research talks about Iran's geopolitical landscape and its coercive power capacity. In recent warfare, Iran has all cards and is able to influence the maritime route of the Strait of Hormuz and seize trade flow from Hormuz.

This literature also links with Iran's economic instability since 1979 after the Iranian revolution. Iran wants sanctions relief or revenue needs and builds bargaining power with energy-dependent states. Iran generates revenue from Hormuz and increases negotiation leverage, wanting to offset isolation from western markets (Ali Mamouri et al., 2026). This recent escalation causes a negative impact on the international economy as well as moving towards world order changes. Recent conflict changes regional power dynamics and increases the leverage of Iran in Strait of Hormuz. Because of the closure or disruption of oil prices boost up and world faces supply Although the literature covered historical and recent events like the strategic importance of Hormuz, sanctions, energy crisis, and Iran's leverage in this conflict, there are still some gaps. The author chose this specific subject for research and assures that this study fulfills requirements by using thematic study with the help of historical context and recent escalation. Many researches review only a realistic perspective but not liberal nor constructive. This researcher wants to fulfill this gap and focus on realist and liberal perspectives. This data is collected through available researches and policy literature in relevant fields.

**Research Methodology****Research Design**

The researcher used qualitative means of study to scrutinize how Strait of Hormuz is used as an economic leverage point by Iran in recent conflict time. Hormuz is selected as a case because it plays a crucial role in energy flow and its tactical importance for naval trade, which makes it significant for analyzing coercion, distraction, and weakness in war situations.

**Research Approach**

The researcher used a descriptive analytical approach to outline the geopolitical and economic importance of Hormuz. A systematic interpretation is also applied to evaluate how the geographic position of Iran can be converted into a strategic threat for US and Israel and for the wider international energy markets. This approach gives the impression appropriate because this subject involves realistic mapping of energy trade routes and clarification of political behavior under recent war and escalation.

**Data Collection**

The researcher used secondary data collected from different peer-reviewed journal articles, policy reports, energy security publications, institutional reports, and credible newspaper analysis. These resources are used to create a higher understanding of Hormuz as a chokepoint, Iran's coercive actions and the effect of disruption of oil and shipping markets, and the response of global and regional actors on it. Secondary data is appropriate because the topic is about strategic behavior, historical context, policy making and drafting which is already documented across multiple reliable resources.

**Analytical Method**

Research material is collected through thematic content analysis. This analysis is systematized around major themes including strategic importance of Strait of Hormuz, Iran's use of proxies,

the impact of conflict on global energy prices, limits of Iran due to sanctions and military risks, Iran's own dependence on Hormuz and Kharg Island. This helps to identify patterns, similarities, and paradoxes across the literature to balance clarification of the issue.

### **Process Tracing**

In this study, the researcher used process tracing to examine the ordered set of events through which escalation may lead to threats of disruption, uncertainty of global market, higher insurance and naval transport costs, and diplomatic pressure on other state actors. This method is useful for connecting the causes and effects in the strategic context and also for explaining how the leverage of Iran operates not only through direct escalation but also through naval blockade. It helps to explain whether Strait of Hormuz functions as a powerful source of economic power or as a secondary and limited instrument of pressure.

### **Limitations**

The limitation of this research is that it depends on secondary information rather than classified material. As a result, it is not aware of private diplomatic negotiations and military plans. The other limitation is that international oil prices and shipping behavior are influenced by numerous factors, so it can be tough to isolate the accurate effect of tensions in Strait of Hormuz alone. Even though this method provides a strong framework for scrutinize Iran's economic influence at a time of war for estimating tactical role of Hormuz in international energy politics.

### **Result and Data Analysis**

This thematic analysis of secondary data resulted in the identification of five themes that, when put together, show the connections between recent and June conflict along with blockage of maritime route. These five themes are interconnected with patterns found from different credible sources, like authentic economic briefs, newspapers, and different reports. Themes provide complete information about the strategic importance of Strait of Hormuz, Iran's control, its leverage and vulnerabilities, US response, economic impact, and escalation risk of the recent conflict.

#### ***Theme 1: Strategic Importance of Strait of Hormuz***

Strait of Hormuz is strategically important because it is the main maritime route from the Persian Gulf to open ocean and is one of the most significant energy checkpoints in the world. Strait of Hormuz is an important maritime route because 20% of world's crude passes through it. A large number of oil and LNG shipments pass through it, and disturbance in Hormuz causes increased transport cost, inflation on oil prices, and destabilization in global oil markets while also making an effect on regional and global economies.

#### ***Theme 2: Iran's Control and Leverage***

Iran's leverage and control over Strait of Hormuz stems from its strategic position at one of the world's most important energy checkpoints. A substantial share of global oil and LNGs passes through this 30km narrow aquatic route. Iran can strain impact on maritime routes, increase shipping costs, and create disturbance in international energy markets through its actions. This leverage gives Tehran a bargaining chip during warfare, since even minor interference causes pressure on rival states and impacts on global trade flows without requiring complete closure of Hormuz. This control is also controlled by economic cost and escalation making Hormuz both basis of power and risky tool of coercion.

#### ***Theme 3: US Response and Military Strategy***

Primary maritime strategy aimed to confine Iran and increase pressure on Tehran into negotiations suitable to Washington and Tel Aviv. US bombed Iran and killed many civilians while also trying to destroy their nuclear facilities and assassinate Iranian Supreme Leader as well as IRGC's top leadership. US used B-2 bombers with heavy bombs on Iranian civilian infrastructure

while Iran conducted precise strikes under the shadow of international law. US moved its high advanced technological warships around Iran in the ocean, using missiles, bombing, and air defense systems in this conflict. As Iran control on maritime route so USA wants to break Iran's hegemony from Hormuz. This all mess relevant two military strategies based on naval prohibition discriminatory informants rather than the complete closure of Hormuz.

**Theme 4: Economic Impact on Global Level**

This recent war generates serious economic consequences at the international level by troubling energy flow through Strait of Hormuz and increasing uncertainty across global oil markets. The blockage of Hormuz has reduced LNG and crude shipments, pushed crude prices upward, and increased transportation costs for trade-dependent states. These shockwaves spread beyond the energy sector to affect fertilizer supplies, aviation, consumer prices, and inflation risk rates, especially in import-dependent states in Asia, Europe, and the Middle East. As a result, the war has not only disturbed regional stability but also weakened the global economy by intensifying fears of supply chain disruption.

**Theme 5: Risk of Escalation and Global Conflict**

The risk of escalation in the recent war is substantial because actions performed in Strait of Hormuz can quickly expand from limited into a wider regional and global crisis. As tensions increase, strikes on energy infrastructure threaten naval ships passing through Hormuz and also disturb the whole global energy market as it fluctuates because of the reduction of crude demand. Since Strait of Hormuz is an important checkpoint for international energy and trade, any misadventure can pull in other states, damage global markets, and transform regional hostility into extensive conflict with global consequences.

**Discussion**

**Historical Context**

As the whole world see that America wants to grab resources from other states after the British colonized era. America, the ex-colony of Britain, wear a beautiful dress code called democracy, use always only two words for invading in other sovereign states, first one is democracy and the second one is national security threat and nuclear proliferation as we see a in Iraq regime change Operation of Saddam Hussain's regime. Anyhow before the fall of Shah Raza Pahlavi in late 1970s Iran was an American ally in Middle East after Israel. According Ken Pollack

*"Remove all of the baggage-all of the ideology, the history, whatever else-and look in purely geostrategic terms... it's hard to figure out why the U.S. and Iran would necessarily be in conflict. In fact, during the Shah's era, before 1979- recognizing that there were all kinds of other problems-the U.S. and Iran worked together splendidly at the strategic level."*

The history between Iran and US is an incessant source of conflict oppressed into severe conflict with global penalties. In 1953, the United States engage in recreation a substantial role in a rebellion that removed legitimately elected Premier Mohammed Mossadeq, reinstating the Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi to power (CFR, 2026). Mossadeq wanted to nationalize the oil industry while the Shah endorsed a denationalized system. Nationalization would allow Iran, instead of Great Britain, to revenue from Iran's natural resource. Consequently, the British insisted the US to aid the coup plot. The British at first wanted collaboration in scheduling the rebellion from President Truman, but he declined. After President Eisenhower's election in 1953, the British move towards him with the rebellion idea. Eisenhower agreed and ordered the CIA to go aboard on Operation Ajax, a secret operation against Iran's government. Operation Ajax destabilized Mossadeq's government by corrupting significant figures, establishing wrong rumors in newspapers and frustrating street violence.

On August 19, 1953, Mossadeq was forced from power and the Shah took over. US gain advantage from it, because US took over Iranian oil and reallocated British production shares to US establishments. US companies developed 40 percent of Iran's oil, Anglo-Iranian Oil's far ahead retitled British Petroleum, share abridged to 40 percent, and French and Dutch companies attained the other 20 percent. US reinforced 20 years of dictatorship undertaking Pehlevi who is supported by and depend on US aid system and military sport but during Shah's regime, Iranian society step forward to modernization and liberalization. President Jimmy Carter critic Raza's and it's poor human rights position. Raza's regime depends on US support so on the demand of the US president, Raza moves Iran towards liberalization. And on the fulfillment of demand Washington valued strategic importance of US Iran relations and US stated That US Iran alliance help to balance USSR influence in Middle East.

But the ground reality is different, Iranian common men face authoritarianism and corruption and Iranian countrymen think it is directly linked with United States of America. Therefore, Iranian nation wanted stability and peace in their state and wants Islamic Government. Common man looking towards Ayatollah Khomeini for leadership, against Shah Raza Pehlevi. As Khomeini look upon Raza's Regime a corrupt and US puppet or declared us as "Great Satan" and Isreal as "Little Satan" (ZNetwork, n.d.). To cut it short, after the briefing of Prime Minister of that time Shah leaves Iran on January 16, 1979 and Khomeini took over leadership on February 1, 1979 (ZNetwork, n.d.). In Khomeini regime Iranian students attacked on American embassy found in capital and took 67 American embassy official's hostages (CFR, 2026). These students focused on US and Shah's relations. In October 1979, US officials informed that Shah diagnosed with cancer and wants to entry in US. But Washington rejected his request.

Under the pressure of protesters and public demand of diasporas of Iran found in US influenced US and Shah admit in hospital in United States. USA responded this incident through economic and diplomatic pressure. US president stopped oil import from Iran and freeze all asserts in US banks and ceased trade with Iran. But it not imposes pressure on Iran and they did not release the hostages. US also failed in boots on ground military action and his mission ended with the death of 8 hostages. This hostage disaster is obliged as a turning point of US-Iran relationship. When Reagan becomes the President of United States hostages were return back to US. However, in his administration we see no improvement in relations of both states. In 1983, Hezbollah started a series of anti-US terrorist attacks and in 2003, US Supreme Court declared that Iran sports different terrorist organizations. Iran Contra-Scandal followed Hezbollah attack. During the Iran Contra-scandal, US sold illegal weapons to Iran and used profit to support Contras in Nicaragua.

In 1990, USS Vincennes short down a commercial flight in Iranian air on Strait of Hormuz. Because of this incident 290 Iranian were died. Even though, US pay penalty of \$61.8 million to Iran but did not pay for the loss of aircraft not offer official apology to Iran. In Clinton's administration relations between Iran and US were improved and they welcome Khatami's Election who was supporter of peace and wants normal relations with US. Khatami argued that both states start to build relations through informal and cultural exchange. During the Bush administration there have been no improvements in US Iran relations. In his State of Union Address in 2000, Bush declared a part of "Axis of Evil" In response Iran gives a public statement " The Islamic Republic is to be a target of the hate and anger of the world's greatest evil; We never seek placed by officials". Moreover in 2003 Iran Give a proposal to build good ties between both rival states.

Iran numerous efforts on different issues like to disarm Hezbollah and turn them into political organization. Secondly end to spotted all jihad groups and Hamas or supplies that Iran could encourage Palestinian to go towards political route rather than military but US rejected all these

offers. Besides it, Bush stated that Iran is not only a threat for US but for the whole world. US and Iran are interlinked with energy interests and security of global world. Almost 20% of oil supply passes daily from State of Hormuz. Their relations are very tense as we see its consequences in the result of Iran-US-Israel war and Iran retaliate or close strait of Hormuz as expected. We also see that the whole region involved in this and the word consequences globally.

### **US–Iran–Israel Relations Since 2000s**

Iran has pursued a nuclear program since 1957, with variable degrees of success (CFR, 2026). In the late 1980s, during the Iraq War, Iran decided to develop nuclear armament to ensure its security. In 2002, NCRI (National Council Resistance of Iran) exposed the existence of two Iranian nuclear sites hidden from IAEA (Euronews, 2025). By 2003, diplomatic engagements launched an intensive effort to stop Iran's nuclear program. In 2006, UNSC adopted Resolution 1996, calling Iran to suspend uranium enrichment. From 2011 till 2015, because of economic sanctions, Iran's economy declined by 20% and unemployment rose by 20%. Hassan Rouhani was elected president of Iran in 2013, promising to lift sanctions and boost Iran's economy. The result of negotiations emerged as the JCPOA (Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action) in 2015 (CFR, 2026). The JCPOA required Iran to reduce its uranium enrichment by 98% for 15 years, cut operating centrifuges by 2/3 for 10 years, and provide inspector access to nuclear facilities.

The JCPOA entered into force on January 16, 2016, and Iran received sanctions relief of nearly \$100 billion (Al Jazeera, 2026b; CFR, 2026). In 2018, the USA withdrew from the JCPOA agreement during the presidency of Donald Trump, and Washington imposed sanctions on Iran. In April 2019, US declared IRGC a terrorist organization. Tensions escalated with the assassination of Qasim Suleimani in December 2019. In the second presidency of Donald Trump, he gave himself the title of 'peacemaker' but could not prove it. In 2025, Israel started a 12-day conflict with Iran and Iran retaliated. In the last days of this war, America struck Iran's nuclear facilities with B-2 bomber aircraft (Euronews, 2025). This war ended on a ceasefire mediated by Qatar. But after 8 months, in February 2026, Iran was under attack by US and Israel collectively.

### **Iran's Economic Dependency and Energy Sectors**

Despite huge reserves of gas and oil, Iran is passing through severe energy crisis due to prolonged sanctions over decades, mismanagement, and corruption which weakened its structure and distorted energy markets. Iran holds the second largest gas reserves and the world's fourth biggest oil reserves; despite this, Iran faces scarce fuel prices in daily life activities with impact on industrial infrastructure making the economy more fragile. A large purchaser of Iran's oil is China. According to 2025 data, China imports more than 80% of oil from Iran approximately 1.38 million barrels per day. It is about 13.4% of the total 10.27 million barrel per day of oil that China imports by sea route (Al Jazeera, 2026a).

Now in the ongoing situation, Tehran earns a handsome amount from its crude. Since clashes between Iran and US-Israel, stable capacities and higher prices bring millions of dollars revenue for Iran. Because of the blockage of Strait of Hormuz, oil prices rose and world oil markets continue to rise. It is estimated that Iran earned 139 million dollars per day by its light crude oil till March 2026 (Al Jazeera, 2026a). Oil prices rose from \$90 to \$100–112 per barrel. Iran's position is very clear they agreed on ceasefire after the approval of these terms and conditions; US and Israel pay penalty for damage; ensure complete cessation of US and Israel's attacks; US shut down bases from the Middle East; international guarantees that Iran will not be under attack again in future; and recognition of Iran and control to manage Strait of Hormuz (Al Jazeera, 2026a).

### **Weaknesses and Limitations of Iran's Strategies**

For more than 10 years, Iran invested heavily in the Jask oil terminal, a strategic export hub located on Gulf of Oman designed to shift Iranian exports outside the Persian Gulf during crisis. But this terminal played a minimal role in Iran's exports. Iran loaded only 1.84 million barrels per day during March 1–25. It is clear that Iran is heavily dependent on Kharg Island around 84% of Iranian crude exports from Kharg island till March 2025, with Jask contributing only 4.4%. This creates clear vulnerability because any adventure by US and Israel on Kharg Island would severely cripple Iranian crude exports. Iran's strategy of using Strait of Hormuz is also checked by its own dependence on the waterway for its oil exports. Another limitation is Iran's weakened missile system capabilities according to CENTCOM, missile launcher capacity has been reduced by 90% and drone systems by 86% from the first day of war (Arab Center DC, 2026).

Iran's proxy networks are also weakened. Iran's proxy network including Hamas, Hezbollah, and Houthis are weakened and limited in their ability to help Tehran in recent war (The Guardian, 2026). Operation EPIC Fury and the subsequent campaign The Roaring Lion eliminated most of Iranian warships and planes. CENTCOM claimed they sunk 60 Iranian warships (19FortyFive, 2026).

### **Root Causes Towards Recent Conflict**

There have been no diplomatic relations between Iran and Israel since the Islamic Revolution of 1979 (Wikipedia, n.d.). Hostilities between both states started from the mid-1980s with Iran-Israel proxy wars that shaped Middle East politics. These proxy wars converted into a full-scale war in 2024, 2025, and 2026 (Euronews, 2025; Arab Center DC, 2026). First leader of the Iranian revolution, Rohullah Khomeini, cut off all ties with Israel and converted the Israeli embassy into a Palestinian Liberation Organization office (ZNetwork, n.d.). According to Iranian revolution ideology, they not only cut all ties with Israel but were engrossed on eliminating the existence of the Israeli state. Now the most recent threat from Iran, according to Israel, is its nuclear program. In 2026, Israel along with the United States imposed a full-scale war on Iran and assassinated its Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and other top leadership of IRGC. After his assassination, his son Mujtaba Khamenei succeeded him. Under his leadership, Iran retaliated and targeted US air bases found in Gulf states, Israel, and its oil, military, and civilian infrastructure.

International media reported that Pakistan played a key role as a mediator. In March 29 and 30, 2026, Pakistan's foreign minister Ishaq Dar met the foreign ministers of Egypt, Turkey, and Saudi Arabia. After this meeting, on March 31st, Pakistan's foreign minister visited China, invited by Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi. Both discussed the ongoing conflict and Pakistan wanted China's role in negotiations between US and Iran. Pakistan proposed an immediate ceasefire followed by several weeks and agreements to open Strait of Hormuz. Iran wants permanent ceasefire rather than a temporary one. Iranian media reported that Iran gave 10 points of demand which include: protocol for safe passage from Hormuz, ceasefire in the region, help on reconstruction, and lifting of sanctions from Iran. Iran's region ceasefire includes permanent ceasefire in Lebanon. Iran's this statement weaken the position of talks with United States. But on the other hand, President Trump stated that Iran wants ceasefire despite Iran reject recent ceasefire proposal.

As ceasefire continued till 6 April US expanded deadline till 7th. But during deadline US continued bombing on Iranian energy sectors and missile sites. As Iran started drone strikes on Gulf states especially UAE again and Hezbollah continued pressure on US linked amenities in Iraq. On 13 April, this conflict shifted on maritime coercion and both states want cease fire but on their own terms and conditions. Both sides did not show flexibility especially US. Central Command states that they block naval route of Iran and it is reported that 15 naval ships deployed by US in Persian Gulf. Because of the of US Iran did not able to export their oil which

gave them a huge set back. At the same time US officials build pressure on Iranian IRDC for negotiation on nuclear enrichment and want guarantees for navigations but Iran refused and prepared for further rounds of mediation by regional mediators.

### **Suggestions**

This war changed the whole perspective of liberalism and democracy, and the world moved towards realism where power is absolute. This realist shift causes more inflation and damage in the world. Here are some suggestions for ending this unethical war. Firstly, a short-term ceasefire is immediately necessary, which will create space for negotiations and reduce escalation and damage of human lives and civilian infrastructure. This short but effective step will reduce the fear of escalation. Then, third-party mediation would make an effective impact on negotiations. Neutral mediators like Pakistan and China can play an important role in negotiations and give good deals to both states (Al Jazeera, 2026a). Both states should sign a Mutual Non-Aggression Treaty. As Iran wants guarantees from US and Israel that they will not attack again on civilians, military, and nuclear infrastructure. On the other side, US and Israel want Iran to limit its nuclear enrichment. A solution that satisfies both sides requires reciprocal guarantees. As Iran uses the Strait of Hormuz as a negotiation tool using Hormuz for bargaining, not for blackmailing the solution is that if US gave relief from sanctions to Iran, Iran should open Strait of Hormuz. Iran wants an immediate and permanent ceasefire and compensation of damaged infrastructure, which is the right of a sovereign nation (Al Jazeera, 2026a).

### **Conclusion**

The recent Iran-US-Israel war has shown that energy routes are not only channels of trade, but also a powerful tool of strategy in times of conflict. Iran's position over Strait of Hormuz has given it a major source of economic and political leverage, allowing Iran to influence global energy markets whenever tensions rise in the Gulf (CFR, 2026). On the other side, this conflict also exposed Iran's own weaknesses. Although Tehran can pressure its rivals through Hormuz, it is also highly dependent on the same route for its own oil exports. Decades of sanctions, economic mishandling, and military pressure have made its economy fragile and limited its capacity for long-term stability. The roots of this crisis go back many years. The hostility between Iran, the United States, and Israel did not begin with the latest war, but after the Iranian revolution of 1979 (ZNetwork, n.d.), through the hostage crisis, the nuclear issue, proxy wars, sanctions, and repeated military escalation. Because of this long history, every new conflict in the region has the potential to grow into a wider conflict with global consequences.

This war also makes clear that military force alone cannot bring long-term peace. Airstrikes may damage infrastructure and weaken capabilities for a time, but they do not solve the causes of the conflict. If the crisis continues, it will deepen humanitarian suffering, increase energy insecurity, and destabilize the Middle Eastern Region in future. Therefore, the only practical way to stop this war is diplomacy. A real solution will require ceasefire, negotiation, sanctions relief, and security guarantees for all sides (Al Jazeera, 2026a). The Strait of Hormuz remains both Iran's greatest strength and its greatest vulnerability. The future of the region will depend on whether states choose conflict or compromise.

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