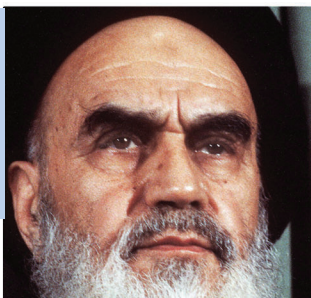


Ups and downs in U.S.-Iranian relations

1953: CIA-backed coup ousts Prime Minister **Mohammad Mossadegh** – who had moved to nationalise Iran's oil industry. **Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi** restored to power



1963: Shah embarks on campaign to modernise and westernise country

Jan 1979: Frustrated by monarchy's corruption and autocracy, Iranians overthrow Shah. **Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini** (above) returns from exile, seizes power and declares U.S. "Great Satan"

Nov: Islamic militants take 52 Americans hostage inside U.S. embassy in Tehran for 444 days, prompting Washington to break off relations

2003: Iraq descends into sectarian conflict after U.S.-led invasion. Washington accuses Tehran of arming and funding Shia militias attacking U.S. forces in Iraq

2006-08: U.S. rallies international opposition to Iran's nuclear activity. Three rounds of UN sanctions imposed on Iran

2009: President Obama takes office. Relations with Iran strained by violent aftermath of re-election of President **Mahmoud Ahmadinejad** (right)



2010: Further round of UN penalties against Iran. U.S. and Israel secretly cooperate to sabotage Iran's nuclear programme

2011: Syria's civil war erupts. Iran actively supports President **Bashar Assad** while U.S. slowly escalates aid to rebels



1950

1960

1970

1980

1990

2000

2010

1980: Iraq's **Saddam Hussein** invades Iran, and U.S. provides him with support



1986: President **Ronald Reagan** admits to covertly selling arms to Iran and using proceeds to bankroll secret war in Central America

1997: Election of Iran's reformist President **Mohammad Khatami** offers hope for thaw in relations

2002: President **George W. Bush** (left) brands Iran part of an "axis of evil"

Aug 2013: **Hassan Rouhani** becomes President of Iran, promising new course of moderation

Sep 23: Obama and Rouhani attend UN General Assembly meeting, setting up possibility of first exchange between American and Iranian leaders in nearly 35 years

