

# Six decades of Iran's nuclear programme

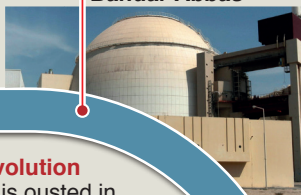
**1957** **U.S. nuclear aid**  
U.S. backs Iranian Shah **Mohammad Reza Pahlavi** (right) and his nuclear ambitions under **Atoms for Peace** programme



**1960** U.S. builds research reactor at Tehran University. U.S. provides fuel for reactor – 93% enriched uranium. Reactor goes critical in 1967

**1968** Iran signs nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Ratified in 1970, NPT allows civil nuclear programme under commitment not to acquire nuclear weapons

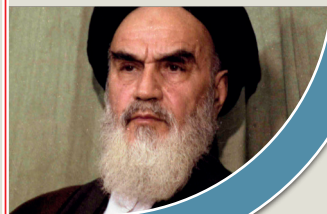
**1974** German and French companies agree to build nuclear power plants at **Bushehr** and **Bandar Abbas**



☢ Nuclear site ☒ Uranium mining  
☼ Research reactor



**1979** **Revolution**  
Shah is ousted in Iranian Revolution led by **Ayatollah Khomeini**. U.S. withdraws from nuclear agreements. Supply of enriched uranium banned, forcing Iran to become self-sufficient



**1980** **Iran-Iraq War**  
Iraq's **Saddam Hussein** invades Iran, backed by U.S. and West. One million killed in eight-year war



**1986** **Israel's bomb**  
Existence of Israel's secret nuclear weapons programme is revealed by whistle-blower **Mordechai Vanunu**



**1987** **Khan network**  
Iran contacts **Abdul Qadeer Khan**, father of Pakistan's nuclear weapons programme. Khan network allegedly sells bomb-related drawings and parts for centrifuges to enrich uranium

**1994** **First nuclear power station**  
Russian experts help Iran complete Bushehr nuclear power plant. Deal is part of joint agreement between Russia and Iran, which includes provision to build up to eight new reactors in Iran. Plant becomes operational in 2011



**2016** **Deal enacted**  
Number of centrifuges cut from 20,172 to 6,104. Enriched uranium stockpile cut from 8,910kg to 300kg – all below 3.67% enrichment

**2013** **Hassan Rouhani** (left) is elected Iranian president. Iran plus U.S., UK, France, Russia, China and Germany (P5+1) reach **Joint Plan of Action (JPOA)** to freeze Iran's nuclear programme in exchange for decreased sanctions

**2015** **Iran nuclear deal**  
JPOA leads to **Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)** between Iran, P5+1 and EU

**2005** **Mahmoud Ahmadinejad** elected as Iran's president. **Iran resumes enrichment**



**2002** Arak, Natanz nuclear facilities discovered

**2003** Iran agrees to suspend uranium enrichment during talks with France, Germany and UK

**2018** **May 8: U.S. President Donald Trump quits Iran nuclear deal**