

Iran since the Islamic Revolution



■ **2009:** Iran begins backing Yemen's **Houthi rebels** with money, training, and arms shipments. Conflict becomes proxy war between Iran and Saudi Arabia



■ **2011:** Iran deploys **Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps** to Syria to preserve President **Bashar al-Assad's** hold on power

■ **2012:** Iran-backed Lebanese Hezbollah takes direct combat role in Syria to support Assad regime



■ **2013:** U.S. President **Barack Obama** and newly elected Iranian President **Hassan Rouhani** (above) speak by telephone – highest-level contact in three decades

■ **2015:** Deal with world powers on Iran's nuclear programme gives Tehran relief from sanctions



■ **2018:** U.S. President **Donald Trump** announces withdrawal from 2015 nuclear deal. Iran continues to develop non-nuclear ballistic missiles

■ **Feb 11, 1979:** U.S.-born Shah's government falls, 10 days after triumphant return from exile of revolutionary leader **Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini** (above). Islamic Republic is proclaimed on April 1

■ **Nov 4, 1979, hostage crisis:** Pro-Khomeini students take 52 Americans hostage at U.S. embassy in Tehran. **Hostages held in captivity for 444 days**



■ **1980-1988, Iran-Iraq war:** Iraq invades Iran. Eight-year war kills estimated 500,000 Iraqi and Iranian troops

■ **Oct 1983:** Iran-backed **Hezbollah** bombs U.S. Marine barracks in Beirut, Lebanon, killing 241 service personnel



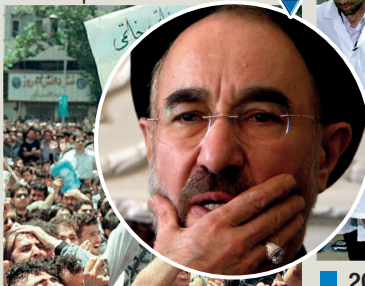
■ **1989:** Pragmatic conservative **Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani** becomes president – central figure in reforming regime

■ **1995:** U.S. President **Bill Clinton** imposes total trade and financial embargo on Iran, claiming Tehran backs terrorism



■ **Jun 1996:** **Hezbollah** bombs U.S. Air Force housing complex in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, killing 19 Americans

■ **1999:** Political stand-off between reformist President **Mohammad Khatami** (inset) and conservatives leads to violent protests



■ **2005-2013, Ahmadinejad era:** Ultra-conservative **Mahmoud Ahmadinejad** is elected president. His nuclear brinksmanship triggers crippling UN sanctions

■ **2001:** Iran and Saudi Arabia sign security pact



■ **2002:** U.S. President **George W. Bush** places Iran on list of "**axis of evil**" states, with Iraq and North Korea. Washington cites Iran's sponsorship of terrorism and nuclear weapons programme



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