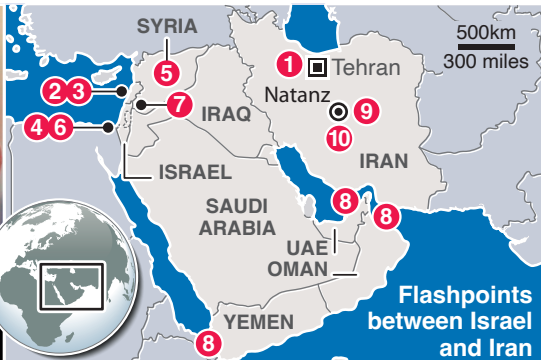


Shadow wars in the Middle East



1 1950s: Israel and Iran are allies during reign of Iran's last monarch, **Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi**

1979: Friendship abruptly ends with Islamic revolution and rise of **Ayatollah Khomeini**



2 1982: Israel invades Lebanon to expel **Palestine Liberation Organization**. Israeli-backed militias massacre thousands of civilians in Sabra and Shatila refugee camps

1985: Hezbollah ("Party of God") – proxy for Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps – founded, calling for destruction of Israel

1987: First Palestinian intifada, against Israeli occupation of West Bank and Gaza, sees rise of **Hamas**, and later **Palestine Islamic Jihad**

3 2006: Israel invades Lebanon to suppress Hezbollah attacks

4 2007: Hamas seizes control of Gaza Strip from **Fatah** – Palestinian political party

5 2011: Civil war erupts in Syria. Israel carries out hundreds of strikes inside Syria against Iranian arms shipments to Lebanon

6 2014: 50-day conflict in Gaza – sparked by kidnapping of three Israelis – ends with deaths of 73 Israelis and more than 2,250 Palestinians



2017: Hamas agrees to Fatah's goal of establishing Palestinian state in West Bank and Gaza Strip. Israeli PM **Benjamin Netanyahu** (top) dismisses Hamas deal as meaningless

7 2018: Iranian-backed forces attack Israeli positions on Golan Heights near disputed Syrian-Israeli border

8 2019-21: Tit-for-tat attacks on shipping – Israel targets some 20 ships carrying Iranian oil or weapons

9 Apr 2021: Iran blames Israel for explosion at its largest uranium enrichment facility in Natanz

Oct: Israel likely behind cyberattack that paralyzes payments at over 4,300 Iranian fuel stations

10 Jan 2023: Israel accused of drone strike against Iranian weapons factory in city of Isfahan

Oct 7: Hamas launches surprise assault on Israel