

# U.S.-Iran rivalry

Once close allies, the U.S. and Iran have been locked in an often volatile standoff with tensions flaring repeatedly since Iran's Islamic Revolution



■ **2023:** *Hamas* attacks Israel; Gaza war begins as Hezbollah fires from Lebanon and Yemen's *Houthis* target Red Sea shipping

■ **2024:** Israeli strike on Iranian consulate in Damascus and Beirut killing of Hezbollah leader *Hassan Nasrallah* (below) trigger two direct Iranian missile attacks on Israel; U.S. assists Israeli air defences on Israel



■ **Apr 2025:** U.S. and Iran hold first nuclear talks in seven years under second Trump presidency

■ **Jun:** U.S. B-2 bombers strike Iran's nuclear sites, joining Israel's campaign against Islamic Republic in a 12-day war

■ **2026:** Currency collapse sparks nationwide protests, with chants questioning legitimacy of Supreme Leader *Ali Khamenei* (right)



**Regime's crackdown kills thousands as President Trump warns of "very strong action"**



■ **1953:** CIA-backed coup ousts Prime Minister *Mohammad Mossadeq*, restoring Shah *Mohammad Reza Pahlavi* (above)

■ **1967:** U.S. provides Iran with nuclear reactor and enriched uranium fuel

■ **1968:** Iran signs *Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty*, permitting civilian nuclear programme

■ **1979:** Islamic Revolution topples Shah, installing *Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini*



■ **1979-81:** Iranian students seize U.S. embassy in Tehran, holding 52 Americans hostage for 444 days, shattering diplomatic relations

■ **1980-88:** Iran-Iraq War kills over one million people as U.S. backs *Saddam Hussein* to contain revolutionary Iran

■ **1983:** *Hezbollah* bombing kills 241 U.S. troops in Beirut; U.S. later declares Iran "state sponsor of terrorism"

■ **1985:** Iran-Contra scandal exposes *Reagan* administration's secret arms sales to Tehran

■ **1988:** U.S.-Iran naval clashes in Persian Gulf culminate in accidental shootdown of Iranian passenger jet, killing all 290 on board

■ **1992-96:** U.S. expands sweeping economic and oil sanctions on Iran

■ **1998-2000:** Brief thaw emerges as U.S. admits role in 1953 coup and eases some sanctions

■ **2002:** President *George W. Bush* (below) brands Iran part of an "axis of evil", abruptly ending secret cooperation



■ **2003:** U.S. invasion of Iraq sparks sectarian conflict; Washington accuses Tehran of backing Shia militias attacking U.S. forces

■ **2006:** Iranian President *Mahmoud Ahmadinejad* sends unprecedented letter to White House while advancing uranium enrichment



■ **2013:** President *Barack Obama*, and President *Hassan Rouhani* (below) reach interim nuclear deal with limited sanctions relief



■ **2016:** U.S. and Iran conduct prisoner swap following nuclear deal implementation

■ **2018:** President *Donald Trump* withdraws from nuclear deal and reimposes sanctions

■ **2019:** U.S. designates *Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps* terrorist organisation

■ **2020:** U.S. kills Iranian general *Qasem Soleimani*. Iran retaliates with missile strikes on U.S. bases in Iraq

■ **2022:** Mass protests erupt after death in police custody of *Mahsa Amini*

