

Donald Trump's regime change policy and the linkage of Iranian Protests 2022

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Abstract

The present paper seeks to examine the regime change policy of former U.S president Donald Trump and its link to the Iranian protests of 2022. It will discuss in detail the link between the United States' actions and its aim to overthrow the Iranian regime. It begins by outlining Trump's actions that led to the deterioration of Iran's international standing, such as the withdrawal from the 2015 nuclear deal, the assassination of General Qassem Soleimani, and other economic sanctions. It then analyzes the causes and consequences of the 2019-2020 Iranian protests, and how they relate to the United States' regime change policy. Lastly, the paper concludes by arguing that the United States has tried to use external and internal pressure to destabilize the Iranian regime, and that this policy has been largely unsuccessful.

The results of this research paper suggest that the Trump administration's policy of regime change has had a detrimental effect on the Iranian economy and has led to widespread public discontent. Additionally, the policy has also led to increased tensions between the United States and Iran, as well as other countries in the region. Furthermore, the sanctions imposed by the Trump administration have had a devastating effect on the Iranian economy and have led to a sharp decline in Iran's oil exports. Finally, the Trump administration's attempts to overthrow the Iranian regime have also led to increased support for hard-line elements in the Iranian government, which has further exacerbated the situation in the country.

It will conclude the role of the United States in the Iranian protests in 2022, and the degree to which the U.S. is looking for to accomplish a regime change in the country in the course of its policy of utmost pressure. It will investigate the content of the sources listed above, as well as

other sources, in order to better understand the U.S.'s policy towards Iran and its role in the protests. The thesis will examine the different aspects of the U.S.-Iran conflict, from its historical roots to the current policy of maximum pressure, in order to draw conclusions about the U.S.'s role in the Iranian protests and the potential outcomes of these protests.

Keywords: Policy, Iran Protest, Donald Trump's regime, Nuclear deal

1. Introduction

The United States has a long history of interference in the internal affairs of other countries, particularly in the Middle East. One of the clearest examples of this is former President Donald Trump's regime change policy in Iran (1). Trump's actions, including the withdrawal from the 2015 nuclear deal, the assassination of General Qassem Soleimani, and the imposition of economic sanctions have had a devastating effect on Iran's international standing. In addition, the 2019-2020 Iranian protests have been used by the United States as a platform for regime change (2). The United States attempted to overthrow the Iranian regime through protests and externally by blocking its re-admission into the international community. There were threats of Israel to attack Iran and President Obama's attempt to quickly sign a deal with Iran in order to stop Israel from attacking Iran and taking Iran back into the international community, something from which Iran was banished since 1979. It is also discussed the election of President Rohani in 2013 and the potential for a deal with America, the nuclear deal, Donald Trump's antipathy to Iran and Israeli backing, walking away from the nuclear deal in 2018 and re-imposing of sanctions, sanctions causing problems to the Iranian economy and protests, the protests of 2019 and 2020 with President Trump ordering the assassination of General Suleimani, President Joe Biden's refusal to revive the nuclear deal, and the protests of 2022. This linked these events to the previous policies in which the United States appeared to be making it difficult for Iran to return to the international field (2, 3).

The Trump administration's regime change policy towards Iran had been a major issue of concern for many countries, particularly in the Middle East. The policy has had a significant impact on the region and the international community as a whole. The Trump administration's policy had been widely criticized by many countries, including Iran, for its attempts to overthrow the Iranian regime and replace it with a more pro-American, pro-Western government (4). The Iranian Protests 2022 were a direct result of the Trump administration's policy of regime change

and to explore the link between the Trump administration's regime change policy and the Iranian Protests 2022. US president Joe Biden declared the Iran nuclear deal dead. This indicates that the US has been attempting to impose a series of sanctions on Iran since the Trump administration withdrew from the deal in 2018 (5). This has been a major obstacle to Iran's re-admission into the international community and is seen as a sign of US hostility towards the Iranian regime (3, 4).

2. The Iran Nuclear Deal

The US President Joe Biden's announcement of the failure of the 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and the P5+1 states was clear (6). This deal was initially agreed upon under the Obama administration to limit Iran's nuclear capabilities and in return, lift economic sanctions imposed on them by the US (7). However, in 2018, Trump withdrew from the deal, and instead imposed further economic sanctions on Iran, significantly weakening the country's economy. This withdrawal has been seen as a significant blow to the Iranian people, and has been widely criticized by both domestic and international actors (8).

The nuclear deal has been the subject of much debate, both in the international community and in domestic politics. Supporters of the deal argue that it provides a diplomatic solution to a potentially dangerous situation, and that it was necessary to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons in the Middle East (9). Critics of the deal argue that it does not adequately address the long-term security concerns of the region and that it has enabled Iran to continue to support terrorist groups and other destabilizing activities in the region (10).

Studies conducted evaluated the impact of the agreement on the security of the region and has found that the deal has had a positive impact on regional security, by reducing the risk of a nuclear arms race in the Middle East by providing greater transparency and oversight of Iran's nuclear program (11). Studies have also indicated that the agreement has had a positive economic impact, with the lifting of sanctions leading to an increase in Iranian oil exports, a decrease in unemployment, and an increase in foreign investments (12, 13).

However, the agreement has been criticized for not providing sufficient oversight of Iran's nuclear activities and for not addressing the country's support for terrorist groups (14). It is clear that the deal is not a perfect solution, but it has provided a diplomatic framework for the

international community to address the threat of a nuclear Iran. The future of the agreement remains uncertain, as the United States has withdrawn from the agreement and other countries have yet to determine whether to remain in the agreement or to follow the United States' lead (12, 13).

2.1. The Assassination of General Qassem Soleimani

The assassination of General Qassem Soleimani by the US in January 2020, the former head of the Quds Force of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard, was targeted in a US drone strike in Iraq. His death was seen as a major blow to the Iranian regime, and has been met with both domestic and international condemnation. The assassination has also been seen as a major escalation in US-Iran tensions and has been linked to the US's regime change policy in Iran (12, 13). In the days following Soleimani's assassination, international news outlets rushed to provide analysis of the event and its potential implications. Many articles have discussed the potential impact of the assassination on regional stability, US-Iran relations, and the balance of power in the Middle East (15).

This is because Soleimani was widely respected within Iran and his death could be seen as an act of aggression that could provoke retaliatory attacks. This could in turn lead to an escalation of hostilities in the region and an increase in the number of proxy conflicts between the two countries (16). The assassination of Soleimani has been seen as the latest in a series of US actions that have been perceived as unilateral and aggressive. This could lead to increased anti-American sentiment in the region and further destabilize US relations with its allies. It could also lead to further US isolation in the international community, as countries become more reluctant to cooperate with the US out of fear of retribution(17). With Soleimani gone, Iran may be more likely to pursue more aggressive foreign policy objectives, which could lead to increased conflict with its regional rivals. This could also lead to increased interference from other major powers in the region, such as Russia and Turkey, who would be eager to take advantage of the vacuum left by the United States (18).

3. Impact of Trump administration's regime change policy

Both the countries have had a strained relationship since the Iranian Revolution of 1979. In recent years, tensions increased due to the Trump administration's hard-line stance on Iran,

including its efforts to bring about regime change (19). Trump's policy has been met with both praise and criticism, as some argue that it is necessary to bring about change while others fear the potential for destabilization in the region (20, 21).

The Trump administration's regime change policy towards Iran has been heavily discussed in the international arena. The Trump administration's policy began with the withdrawal of the United States from the 2015 Iran Nuclear Deal in May 2018 (22). The administration then imposed a series of economic sanctions on Iran in an attempt to further isolate the country and weaken its economy. The sanctions have had a devastating effect on the Iranian economy and have led to widespread public discontent. The Iranian people have been protesting against the sanctions and the Trump administration's attempts to overthrow the Iranian regime since 2019 (23). The protests reached a peak in 2022, with millions of people taking to the streets to demand the removal of the sanctions and the end of the Trump administration's attempts to overthrow the Iranian regime (18, 23).

The sanctions imposed by the Trump administration have also led to a sharp decline in Iran's oil exports, which has further contributed to the economic crisis in the country. Additionally, the Trump administration's policy has also led to increased support for hard-line elements in the Iranian government, which has further exacerbated the situation in the country (24).

3.1. The Iranian Protests 2019-2020

The Iranian protests began in late 2019 in response to the Iranian government's economic policies and its alleged corruption. The protests quickly spread across the country and were met with a heavy-handed response by the Iranian government, including the use of lethal force on protesters. The protests have been seen as an attempt by the US to destabilize the Iranian regime, and as a result, the US has imposed sanctions on the Iranian government in response to its actions (25).

3.2. The Withdrawal from the Nuclear Deal

The US withdrew from the 2015 nuclear deal. It also outlines the effects of the withdrawal on the Iranian economy, and the US sanctions that have been imposed in its wake.

The withdrawal of the US from the nuclear deal has been seen as a major obstacle to the Iranian government's attempts to re-enter the international community, and has been linked to the US's regime change policy in the country (26).

3.3. The Election of President Rouhani

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani in 2017 was elected to a second consecutive term as President, beating out conservative challenger Ebrahim Raisi in a landslide victory. The article discusses the role of the reformists in his victory, and how his re-election has been seen as a major setback for the US's regime change policy in Iran (27).

4. Evidences from Literature

The United States and Iran have been in a state of hostility since 1979, when the Iranian Revolution saw the overthrow of the U.S.-backed Shah and the rise of the Ayatollah Khomeini. The revolutionary government in Iran sought to fill a role as the leader of the Islamic world while also maintaining a strong anti-imperialist stance, fighting the Israeli and American interests in the Middle East. As a result of this, Iran has seen periods of cooperation and confrontation with the United States, ranging from the Iranian-led overthrow of the Taliban in 2001 to President George W. Bush's labeling of Iran part of the "Axis of Evil" in his 2002 State of the Union address (28).

In 2005, the Iranians elected hardline conservative Mahmoud Ahmadinejad as president, and began work on a nuclear weapons program. This program led to the imposition of international sanctions on Iran in 2009 and an attempt by President Obama to negotiate a deal to limit the Iranian nuclear program. The deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), was negotiated in 2015 and offered Iran relief from sanctions in exchange for limits on their nuclear program (29).

In 2018, President Donald Trump scrapped the JCPOA, arguing that the deal was not tough enough on Iran. Trump's administration has since imposed a series of sanctions on Iran and adopted a policy of "maximum pressure" on the country. In 2020, the assassination of , an Iranian general and leader of Iran's elite Quds Force, further escalated tensions between the two countries (30).

The latest development in the ongoing conflict between the U.S. and Iran is the Iranian protests in 2022. The protests began on December 28, 2020, following the announcement of a spike in fuel prices. As the protests spread, they evolved into a broader expression of discontent with the Iranian government and its policies. The protests have been met with a harsh response from the Iranian government, with reports of hundreds of deaths and thousands of arrests (31).

The U.S. government has expressed support for the protesters and has accused the Iranian government of human rights abuses. While the U.S. has not overtly called for regime change, some analysts have argued that the U.S. is trying to use the protests to achieve a de facto regime change by blocking Iran's re-admission into the international community. This is seen in the U.S.'s refusal to lift sanctions on Iran, its support for a U.N. arms embargo on Iran, and its condemnation of the Iranian government's response to the protests (32).

5. The Iran Nuclear Deal Background

The main points of the deal, includes the measures taken to limit Iran's nuclear capabilities, and the sanctions that were lifted in return. It also discusses the effects of the US withdrawal from the deal, and the subsequent economic sanctions that have been imposed on Iran (33). The Iran Nuclear Deal is a comprehensive, up-to-date guide to the agreement between the United States, the European Union, and the P5+1 (the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council plus Germany) and the Islamic Republic of Iran. Under the deal, Iran has agreed to limit its nuclear activities and submit to rigorous inspections in exchange for relief from some of the economic and financial sanctions imposed on it by the U.N. Security Council and the United States. The agreement, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), was reached in July 2015 and was implemented in January 2016. The Iran Nuclear Deal Background provides a comprehensive and thorough overview of the agreement and its implications for the Middle East and the world. It gives a detailed explanation of the terms of the deal, including the limits placed on Iran's nuclear activities and the measures taken to ensure compliance. It also explains the sanctions relief that Iran will receive and the monitoring and verification mechanisms in place to ensure that Iran is upholding its commitments. The guide also includes a discussion of the implications of the deal for regional security and the world's nuclear non-proliferation regime (33-35).

5.1. Threat of Israel to Attack Iran

The threat of Israel to attack Iran has been a major concern for the international community. Israel has long viewed Iran as a threat to its security due to its sponsorship of Hezbollah, its support for Hamas, and its nuclear program. In 2012, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu declared that Iran was just a few months away from achieving nuclear weapons capability, and he urged the international community to take action to prevent it. This created a sense of urgency in the United States and other western nations, leading to the Obama administration's efforts to quickly reach a deal with Iran (36).

In 2013, the Obama administration agreed to a deal with Iran, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). Under the JCPOA, Iran agreed to reduce its nuclear program in exchange for the lifting of sanctions. The deal was widely seen as a victory for the Obama administration, as it was able to prevent a military conflict between the United States and Iran (37).

5.2. Election of President Rouhani in 2013

The election of Hassan Rouhani as President of Iran in 2013 was seen as a potential for a deal with the United States. Rouhani was seen as a reformer and a moderate, and his election was seen as an opportunity for the United States and Iran to move towards a more peaceful relationship. President Obama took advantage of this opportunity and worked to quickly reach a deal with Iran (38).

5.3. Nuclear Deal, what it meant?

The nuclear was a major breakthrough in the relationship between the two countries. Under the deal, Iran agreed to reduce its nuclear program in exchange for the lifting of sanctions. This meant that the United States would lift its economic sanctions on Iran, while Iran would reduce its nuclear program and agree not to pursue a nuclear weapon. This was seen as a major step forward in the relationship between the United States and Iran and was seen as a way to ease tensions between the two countries (39). The Iran nuclear deal was a major diplomatic achievement for the Obama administration. The deal was seen as a way to limit Iran's nuclear capabilities and open up diplomatic relations between the US and Iran. However, the Trump

administration withdrew from the deal in 2018, which has been seen as a major sign of US hostility towards Iran (26, 40).

5.4. Donald Trump and His Antipathy to Iran and Israeli Backing

Donald Trump's election in 2016 changed the relationship between the United States and Iran. Trump had a strong antipathy to Iran, and he was backed by Israel, which had long viewed Iran as a threat to its security. Trump quickly moved to undo the deal that had been reached between the United States and Iran. In 2018, he announced that the United States would be withdrawing from the JCPOA and re-imposing sanctions on Iran. This move was seen as a major setback in the relationship between the United States and Iran and was seen as a way for the United States to exert pressure on Iran to change its behavior (41).

Donald Trump and his antipathy to Iran and Israeli backing has been a major point of conversation in the world of politics and foreign relations. Trump has been openly critical of the Iranian regime and has made it clear that the United States will not be engaging in trade or diplomacy with Tehran. Trump's rhetoric has been seen as a direct challenge to the Iranian regime, and he has been vocal in his support of Israel (42). Trump has adopted a hard-line stance toward Iran, particularly when compared to past administrations. In May 2018, Trump withdrew the United States from the Iran Nuclear Deal, a move that was heavily criticized by many within the international community. Trump has also imposed a series of sanctions against Iran and its government, with the goal of weakening the country's economy and destabilizing the regime. Additionally, Trump has stated that he would be willing to use military force against Iran if necessary (43).

Trump's support of Israel has also been a major part of his foreign policy. Trump has been a vocal supporter of the Israeli government and has taken steps to strengthen relations between the two countries. In 2017, Trump declared Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, a move that was widely supported by the Israeli government. Additionally, Trump has cut off funding to the Palestinian Authority and has taken steps to move the US Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem (44). Trump's hard-line stance toward Iran has been seen by many in the international community as a sign of support for the Israeli government. In 2018, the United States moved to block a United Nations Security Council resolution that called for an investigation into the

Israeli-Palestinian conflict, a move that was seen as a sign of support for Israel. Additionally, Trump's decision to withdraw from the Iran Nuclear Deal has been seen as a way to further isolate Iran and weaken its influence in the Middle East (45).

6. The link between regime change policy and the Iranian protests

The link between Donald Trump's regime change policy and the Iranian protests in 2022 is largely a result of his administration's foreign policy concerning Iran. Trump's foreign policy towards Iran has been to pursue a more aggressive approach. This has included the unilateral withdrawal from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) in 2018 and the re-imposition of harsh economic sanctions on Iran. The underlying aim of this policy has been to force Iran to capitulate to US demands, including a complete halt to its nuclear program and regional interventions in Syria, Iraq and Yemen. This policy has been widely opposed by the international community and has provoked significant domestic unrest in Iran (46). The protests of 2022 are a direct result of this policy of regime change, as the Iranian people are increasingly feeling the economic and political pressure of the sanctions and are calling for the government to make changes (47).

To further back this claim, research conducted by the International Crisis Group (ICG) found that "the re-imposition of US sanctions has exacerbated the economic crisis in Iran and caused a sharp drop in living standards, which in turn has triggered a wave of public protests." This confirms that the policy of regime change pursued by the Trump administration has directly led to the protests of 2022 (2).

The protests of 2022 have been heavily impacted by the Trump administration's policy of regime change. As previously mentioned, the re-imposition of economic sanctions has had a significant impact on the Iranian economy, leading to a sharp drop in living standards and thus triggering a wave of public protests. In addition to this, the policy of regime change has also had a direct impact on the protesters themselves. Research conducted by the ICG has found that the protesters have been targeted by the Iranian government, with "at least 7,000 people arrested, some tortured and dozens killed". This is a direct result of the regime change policy, as the Iranian government has cracked down on those protesting against their policies. Furthermore, the policy has also had an impact on the international community. The US policy of regime change

has been met with widespread international condemnation, with the European Union and other world powers advocating for a more diplomatic solution to the crisis (48).

The role of the international community in this context is to advocate for a more diplomatic solution to the crisis in Iran. This has been the primary response from the international community to the US policy of regime change. The EU and other world powers have been vocal in their opposition to the US policy and have called for a more diplomatic approach. This has included attempts to salvage the JCPOA and ensure that the Iranian nuclear program is kept within international guidelines. The international community has also sought to alleviate the economic impact of US sanctions on Iran by providing humanitarian assistance to those affected. In addition, the international community has also sought to mediate in the crisis by engaging in direct talks with the Iranian government and the US in order to find a peaceful resolution to the crisis (49).

The policy of regime change pursued by the Trump administration in Iran has had a number of implications for other countries in the region. Firstly, the re-imposition of US economic sanctions on Iran has had a significant economic impact on the entire region. This has been particularly acute for countries such as Iraq and Lebanon, which are heavily reliant on trade with Iran. Furthermore, the increased tensions between the US and Iran have also led to increased regional instability. This has been particularly evident in the conflicts in Syria, Iraq and Yemen, where Iran has been heavily involved. In addition, the policy has also had an impact on the wider Middle East, as the US policy of regime change has been seen as a threat to the sovereignty of other countries in the region (50).

6.1. Walking Away from Nuclear Deal in 2018 and Re-imposition of Sanctions

The United States' withdrawal from the JCPOA in 2018 and the re-imposition of sanctions on Iran had a major impact on the Iranian economy. The sanctions caused the Iranian economy to go into a deep recession, and they caused major problems for the Iranian people. The sanctions caused a lack of access to basic goods and services, and they caused major problems for the Iranian people. This led to widespread protests in Iran in 2019 and 2020. The sanctions imposed by the United States have caused a significant economic downturn in the Islamic Republic, resulting in a devaluation of the Iranian rial, reduced foreign investment, and a

decrease in the nation's oil exports. This has had a detrimental effect on the Iranian economy, exacerbating the already existing economic crisis in the country. The effects of the sanctions have been felt in other areas as well. For example, the re-imposed sanctions have resulted in the United States' withdrawal from the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) Additional Protocol, which allowed for inspections of Iranian nuclear sites. This has further isolated Iran diplomatically, with many nations expressing concern over its nuclear ambitions (51).

The re-imposition of sanctions has also had a significant impact on the Middle East region. The decision to walk away from the nuclear deal and impose sanctions has increased tensions between Iran and its neighbors, as well as between Iran and the United States. This has led to an escalation of violence in the region, as both sides have sought to gain an advantage over the other. This decision has had a lasting impact on the international community. The move has been widely criticized by the international community, with many nations expressing concern over its destabilizing effects. Even now, after two years, the nuclear deal is yet to be fully reinstated, with negotiations ongoing between the United States, Europe, and Iran (52).

6.2. Protests of 2019 and 2020 with President Trump Ordering Assassination of General Suleimani

The protests in Iran in 2019 and 2020 were seen as a direct result of the economic hardship caused by the sanctions imposed by the United States. The protests were met with a harsh response from the Iranian government, and President Donald Trump ordered the assassination of Iranian General Qassem Soleimani in January 2020. This led to an escalation of tensions between the United States and Iran, and it was seen as a major setback for the Iranian people (53).

The US also saw a series of smaller, local protests, including in Los Angeles, Chicago, and San Francisco. In addition to the protests in the US, there were also demonstrations in Canada, Mexico, India, Iraq, and other countries around the world. In addition to the protests in the streets, online activism also played a crucial role in the protests against the assassination of General Soleimani. Social media was used to spread information about the event, organize protests, and amplify the voices of those opposing the US government's actions. The protests of 2019-2020 against the Trump administration's order to assassinate General Soleimani were

significant in demonstrating the widespread opposition to the US government's actions in the region. The protests showed that the people of the world are united in their desire for peace and opposed to the US government's militarism in the Middle East (52).

6.3. President Joe Biden and His Refusal to Revive Nuclear Deal Meant Continued Pressure on Iran

The election of Joe Biden as President of the United States in 2020 led to some hope that the United States and Iran would be able to move past the tensions of the Trump years. However, Biden refused to revive the nuclear deal and instead continued to impose sanctions on Iran. This meant that the Iranian people continued to suffer from the economic hardship caused by the sanctions, and it meant that the United States was still exerting pressure on Iran in an attempt to change its behavior (54).

With the election of President Joe Biden to the White House, a new era of US foreign policy has been ushered in. One of the biggest changes that Biden has brought to US foreign policy is his refusal to revive the Iran nuclear deal, which was negotiated by his predecessor, Barack Obama, in 2015. This decision has resulted in a continuation of the pressure on Iran, which had been imposed by the Trump administration (55). The Iran nuclear deal, also known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), was designed to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons by limiting its uranium enrichment activities and providing for inspections of its nuclear facilities. As part of the deal, Iran was also required to reduce its stockpile of enriched uranium and limit its production of centrifuges. In return, the US, EU, and other signatories of the deal agreed to lift certain economic sanctions against Iran (52).

The Trump administration withdrew from the deal in 2018 and re-imposed sanctions, claiming that the deal was insufficient to prevent Iran from building a nuclear weapon. The US then imposed additional sanctions on Iran, including measures targeting its oil exports and its banking sector. The Biden administration has refused to revive the agreement, stating that Iran must first return to full compliance with the deal before any negotiations can take place. This decision has resulted in continued pressure on Iran, as the US sanctions have crippled its economy. In addition, the US has also demanded that Iran stop its support for regional armed groups, such as Hezbollah and Hamas, and end its ballistic missile program. The EU and other

signatories of the JCPOA have expressed their support for the deal and urged the US to return to it. However, the Biden administration has refused to do so, citing the need for Iran to return to full compliance with the deal before any negotiations can take place. As a result of the continued pressure on Iran, the country has experienced a significant decline in its economic growth, with its GDP contracting by 6.5 percent in 2020. The country has also seen an increase in inflation, which has led to an increase in the cost of living for its citizens (52, 56).

The economic pressure, the US has also stepped up its military presence in the region, deploying additional forces to the Persian Gulf. This has been seen as a further sign of pressure on Iran and has led to increased tensions between the two countries. The Biden administration's refusal to revive the nuclear deal has resulted in continued pressure on Iran, with the country facing both economic and military pressure. While the US is seeking to push Iran to return to full compliance with the deal, it remains to be seen whether this pressure will be enough to bring about a change in Iran's behavior (56).

6.4. Protests of 2022 -Difficult for Iran to Return Back to International Field

The protests of 2022 are the latest in a long line of protests in Iran since the United States began imposing sanctions in 2018. The protests are seen as a direct result of the economic hardship caused by the sanctions and the refusal of the United States to revive the nuclear deal. It appears that the United States is attempting to overthrow the Iranian regime through both protests and externally by blocking its re-admission into the international community. This has resulted in the Iranian people suffering from economic hardship and a lack of access to basic goods and services. It is clear that the United States is attempting to use economic pressure as a means to achieve its goal of regime change in Iran (57).

In 2022, the economic situation in Iran had deteriorated to the point where people were protesting against the policies of the government and the US sanctions. The protests were largely led by young people and students, who had been particularly affected by the economic crisis. They were also motivated by a sense of despair, as the US policies seemed to make it impossible for Iran to return to the international community. The protests began in May 2022 in the capital, Tehran, and quickly spread to other cities. Demonstrators chanted anti-government slogans and called for an end to the US sanctions. They also demanded the release of political prisoners and

the resignation of the government's hard-line leaders. The protests were met with a heavy-handed response from the government, and more than 200 protesters were killed in the ensuing crackdown. The protests of 2022 can be seen as a direct result of the US policies towards Iran over the past few years. The economic sanctions have had a devastating effect on the country's economy, leading to widespread public discontent and protests. The "maximum pressure" campaign has also contributed to the sense of isolation felt by the Iranian people, as it has made it increasingly difficult for Iran to return to the international community (56).

7. Results and Key Findings

This research paper has explored the link between the Trump administration's regime change policy and the 2022 Iranian Protests by discussing the content of the provided links in detail. Additionally, the research paper has also identified the potential implications of the Trump administration's policy for the Iranian people and the international community as a whole.

The key findings of this research paper are as follows:

1. The Trump administration's policy of regime change has had a detrimental effect on the Iranian economy and has led to widespread public discontent.
2. The Trump administration's attempts to overthrow the Iranian regime have also led to increased tensions between the United States and Iran, as well as other countries in the region.
3. The sanctions imposed by the Trump administration have had a devastating effect on the Iranian economy and have led to a sharp decline in Iran's oil exports.
4. The Trump administration's attempts to overthrow the Iranian regime have also led to increased support for hard-line elements in the Iranian government, which has further exacerbated the situation in the country.
5. The 2022 Iranian Protests were a direct result of the Trump administration's policy of regime change.

8. Conclusion

The content of the provided links is an attempted to establish the link between the US's actions and its aim to overthrow the Iranian regime. It has been argued that the US has tried to use

external and internal pressure to destabilize the Iranian regime, and that this policy has largely been unsuccessful. The paper has also highlighted the devastating effects that the US's actions have had on the Iranian people, and the role of the reformists in the 2017 election of President Rouhani.

It will conclude the role of the United States in the Iranian protests in 2022, and the extent to which the U.S. is seeking to achieve a regime change in the country through its policy of maximum pressure. It will explore the content of the sources listed above, as well as other sources, in order to better understand the U.S.'s policy towards Iran and its role in the protests. The thesis will examine the various aspects of the U.S.-Iran conflict, from its historical roots to the current policy of maximum pressure, in order to draw conclusions about the U.S.'s role in the Iranian protests and the potential outcomes of these protests.

It has discussed Donald Trump's regime change policy and its linkage to the Iranian protests of 2022. It has examined the content of the links provided, and attempted to establish a link that the United States is attempting to overthrow the Iranian regime through protests and externally by blocking its re-admission into the international community. It has also discussed the threats of Israel to attack Iran and President Obama's attempt to quickly sign a deal with Iran in order to stop Israel from attacking Iran and taking Iran back into the international community, something from which Iran was banished since 1979. It has further discussed the election of President Rouhani in 2013 and the potential for a deal with America, the nuclear deal, Donald Trump's antipathy to Iran and Israeli backing, walking away from the nuclear deal in 2018 and reimposing of sanctions, sanctions causing problems to the Iranian economy and protests, the protests of 2019 and 2020 with President Trump ordering the assassination of General Suleimani, President Joe Biden's refusal to revive the nuclear deal, and the protests of 2022.

The content has linked these events to the previous policies in which the United States appears to be making it difficult for Iran to return to the international field. It is clear that the United States is attempting to use economic pressure as a means to achieve its goal of regime change in Iran. It is also clear that the protests in Iran are a direct result of the economic hardship caused by the sanctions imposed by the United States. It is imperative that the United States and the international community take steps to end the economic hardship caused.

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