



IRAN



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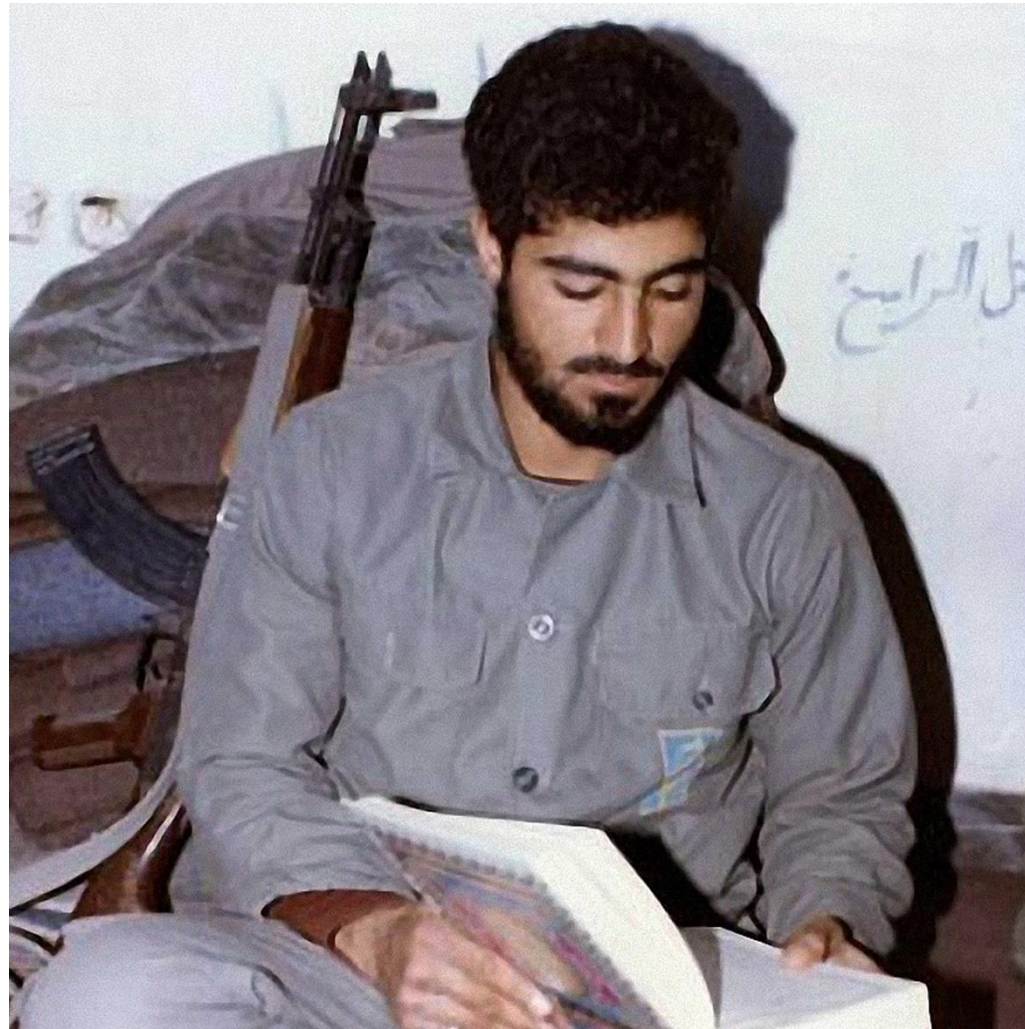


Qasem
Soleimani





Men and women in the streets in Tehran shout anti-Shah slogans during the second day of demonstrations against the Iranian monarch, Dec. 19, 1978.



Following the Iranian revolution, Soleimani joined the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC).





Khomeini sends 1,500 Republican Guards to Lebanon to organize and train a Shi'a militia.



Soleimani speaks to troops during the Iran-Iraq War.



1989, Taliban takes over Afghanistan





Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei was said to regard Qasem Soleimani as a son.



September 11, 2001, al Qaeda attack on the World Trade Center and Pentagon.



1/29/2002. George W. Bush declares that North Korea, Iraq and Iran constitute an “Axis of Evil.”



3/20/2003. Operation Iraqi Freedom—U.S. invades Iraq.



2/26/03. George Bush predicts that the invasion of Iraq will be the first step in the democratization of the Middle East.



3/21/03. Neocons William Kristol, Richard Perle and Michael Ledeen say that Syria and Iran are next.



Soleimani in Baghdad with Popular Mobilization Unit chiefs
Abu Mahdi al Muhandis (Kata'ib Hezbollah) and Shebl al Zaydi (Imam Ali Brigade)



Major General Qassem Soleimani, Iran.



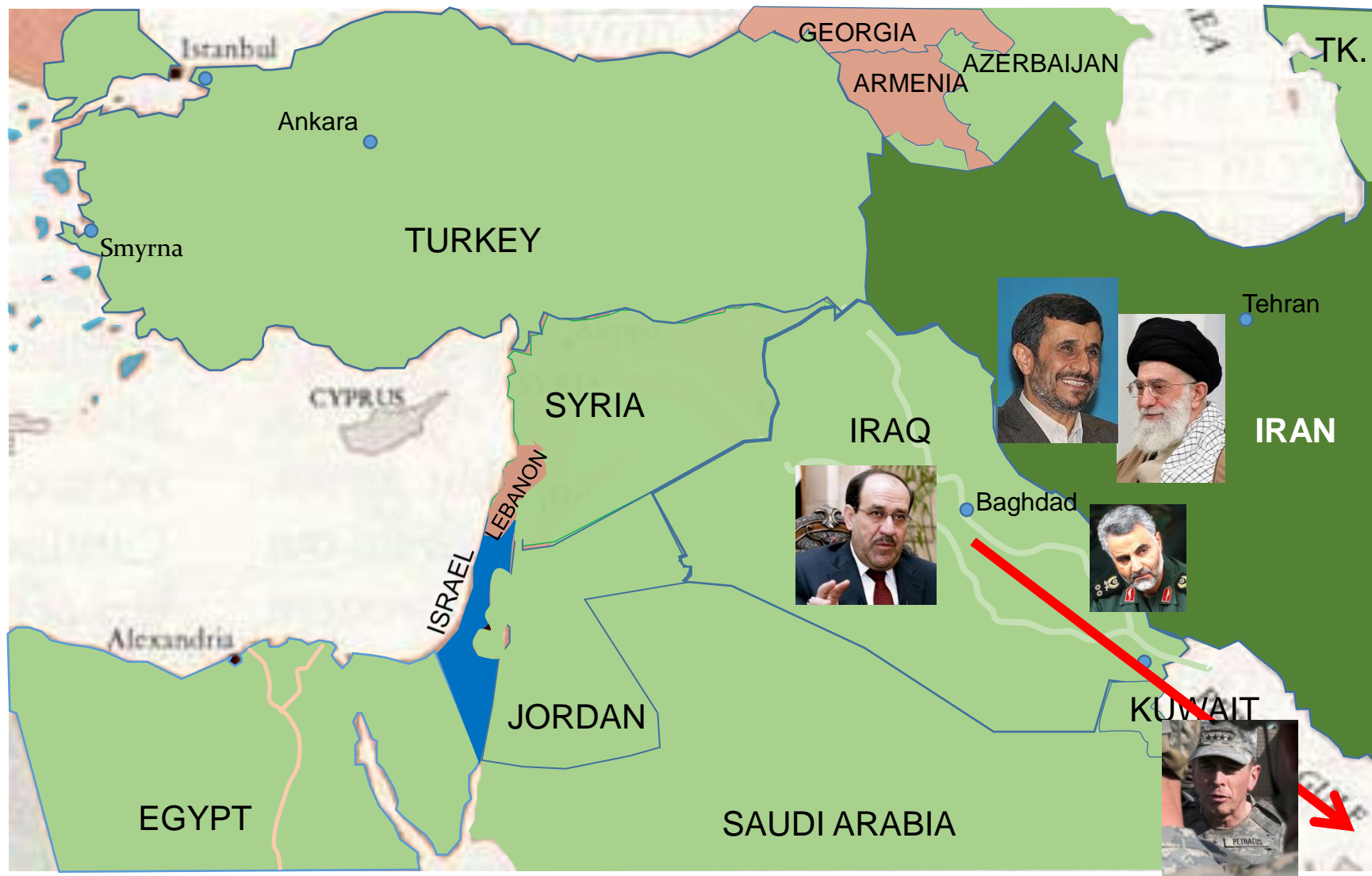
General David Petraeus, United States.

The world's top two experts on insurgency/counter-insurgency military operations.





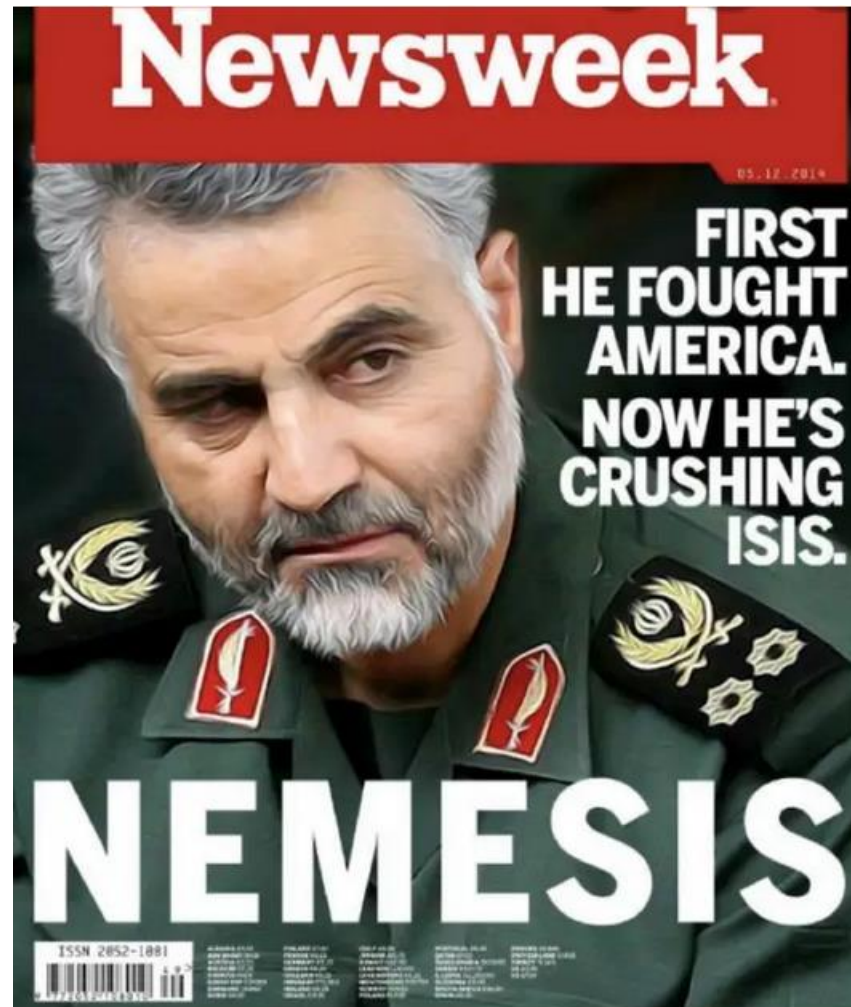




Dec. 2011 US withdrawal leaves Nouri al Maliki to deal with Iran



2011, Soleimani next to an armored vehicle at the frontline during operations against the Islamic State in the town of Tal Ksaiba, Syria.



Newsweek, May 12, 2014.



Iranian Quds Force
Gen. Qassem Soleimani



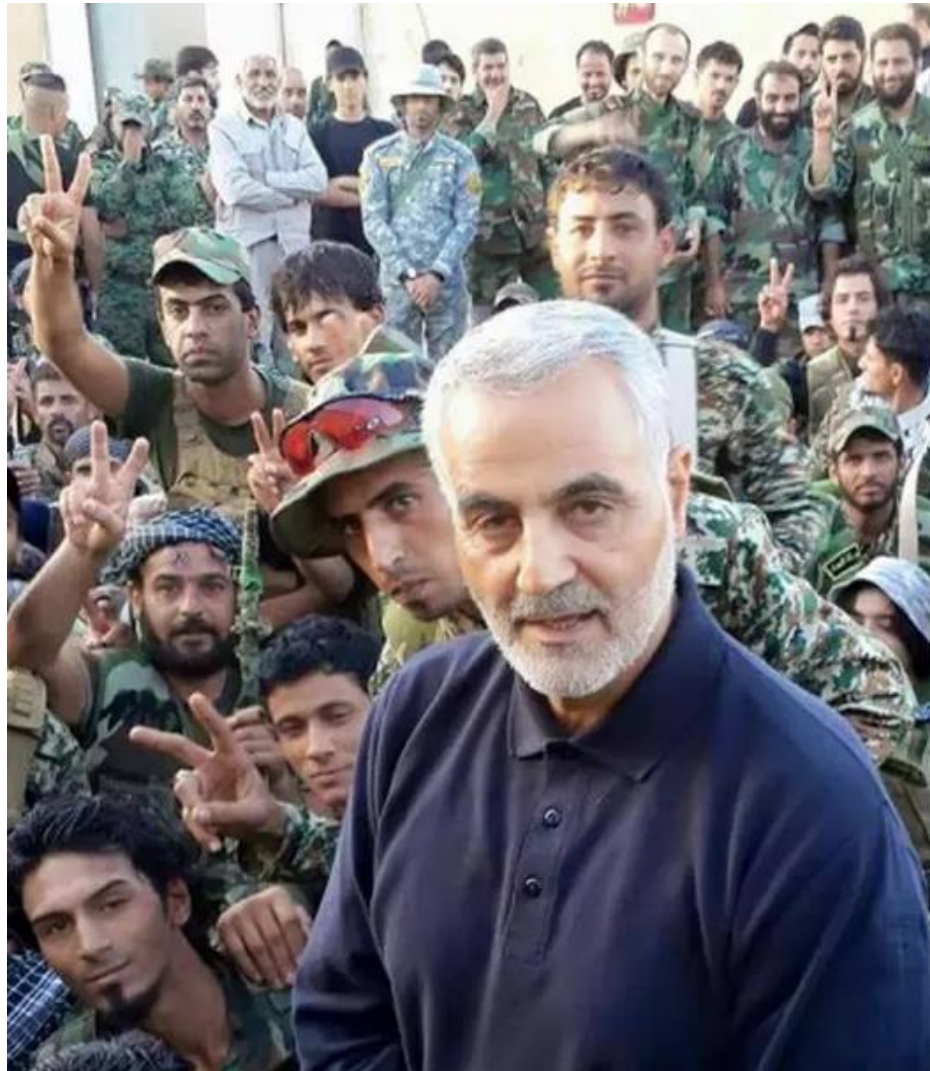
ISIS fighter captured
by Iraqi militiaman.



4/4/15. Shi'a militias (Popular Mobilization Units) liberate Tikrit.



General Qassem Soleimani, pictured in northern Iraq in May 2017.



CIA agent described him as “the most powerful operative in the Middle East today.”.



6/13/19, Kokuka Courageous ablaze in the Gulf of Oman.



9/15/19, drone and missile attack on Saudi Aramco facility.



Al Asad Air Base, has long been a hub for American military operations in western Iraq.



December 31, 2019 the US embassy in Baghdad is attacked by Kata'ib Hezbollah protesters who burn tires in front of the embassy.

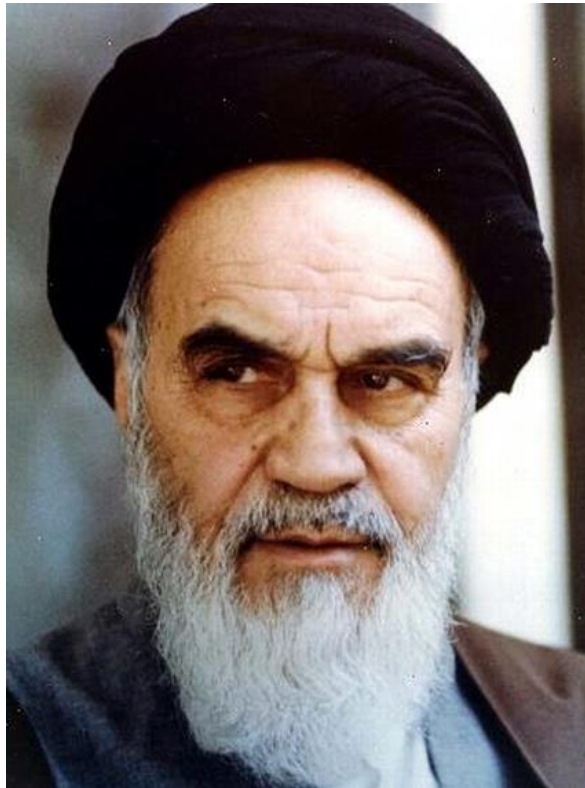








Remains of Ukraine Air flight 752 shot down by the IRGC. 179 killed.



Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini



Brig Gen Esmail Gha'ani
Replaces Qasem Suleimani as Quds Force commander.

Subversive Iran



Iran-Iraq-Syria-Hezbollah/Lebanon “Shi’a Corridor.”



Support for Houtis in war with Saudi Arabia.

Iran's goals:

- Security for Iran
- Security for Shi'a in general
- Removal of sanctions against their country
- Regional political leadership

Iran's bargaining chips:

- Nuclear program
- Peace

U.S./Iran areas of mutual interest:

- **Sunni extremists.** Iran wants to see a stable Afghanistan free of Taliban control. Sunni extremists like al Qaeda, the Taliban and ISIS are major threats to the lives of Shi'a throughout the region, particularly in Syria and Iraq. Iran, India, Russia and the U.S. all see extremism as a major problem.
- **Drug trafficking.** Afghanistan under the Taliban is the world's largest source of illegally produced opioids. Cooperative counter narcotics efforts would contribute to Iran's security and to world-wide drug control.
- **Water.** Water resources in the shared border area between Iran and Afghanistan are a major source of tension. Afghan agriculture is expanding and is upstream from Iran's eastern provinces. The U.S. could be a mediator and provider of technology.
- **Refugees.** Iran houses the second largest number of Afghan refugees after Pakistan. As economic conditions have worsened in Iran due to U.S. sanctions, Tehran has used the threat of mass deportation to put pressure on Kabul.



November 2019 protests,
Isfahan.



1/11/20, protestors on Hafez Street, Tehran









Status 2020



Donald Trump and Lindsay Graham,
opponents of the JCPOA.



Iranian missile program.



May 8, 2018 President Trump announces that the U.S. will withdraw from the JCPOA.



1/10/20. U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin at a White House press conference.

Where are we
now?



June 15, 2013 Hassan Rouhani is elected President of Iran.
May 2017, re-elected overwhelmingly after negotiating the JCPOA.



Conservatives (including “Hard-liners”) took over Parliament in February 2020.



Ebrahim Raisi
Chief Justice of Iran's Supreme Court



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