

NO WAR ON IRAN

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Iran has 81 million people. They are people like us; workers in manufacturing, service, retail, and the public sector, farmers, students, the young, (over 60 percent of all Iranians are under 30 years of age), the elderly, the disabled. Iran has not attacked the United States. But US aggression toward Iran has a long and bitter history.

In 1953, the CIA and Britain's MI6 engineered a coup against Mohammed Mossadegh, the first democratically elected prime minister of Iran. This was the first United States covert action to overthrow a foreign government during peacetime. Mossadegh's sin was to nationalize Iran's oil industry.

Iran has the fourth largest proven oil reserves in the world.

After the coup against Mossadegh the Shah was strengthened in Iran. He ruled with an iron fist for 26 years, propped up all that time by US military aid. The Shah's feared secret police, the SAVAK, used terror and torture to keep Iranian citizens in line. The Iranian revolution overthrew the Shah in 1979.

Nothing in this statement is meant to condone Iran's 444 day holding of the American hostages. But we should also be aware that the United States armed the Shah and his SAVAK from 1950-1979. It is also worth mentioning that after President Carter's failed military rescue mission, his negotiators worked until the end of his presidency to have the hostages released. And they actually succeeded.

But "it was not until January 19, 1981 that the US and Iran signed the Algiers Accords. This agreement, brokered by the Algerian government, secured the hostages' release in exchange for concessions by the US, including sanctions relief, the release of frozen Iranian assets, and the creation of the Iran–United States Claims Tribunal that would remove cases against Iran from US courts. The hostages were released the following day, January 20, 1981 — the day Reagan was inaugurated. (Source: Wikipedia)." Apparently, and because of his support for the Shah, post-1979 Iranian leaders were no fans of President Carter; so they waited until Reagan was inaugurated to let the hostages go. "Like his predecessors, Carter considered Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi an ally and friend. In December 1977, he visited Tehran and toasted the shah for

making Iran “an island of stability” and for “the admiration and love which your people give you (Source: Washington Post).”

Since the 2016 presidential election, Trump has kept up his verbal attacks on Iran, and has scorned the nuclear deal put together by the Obama administration. Militarist John Bolton was appointed Trump’s National security Advisor in 2018. Bolton advocated for regime change in Iran by 2018; now, by 2019. In 2018, Trump imposed sanctions on Iran and withdrew from the Iran nuclear deal, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, which was agreed to in 2015 by the US, UK, France, Russia, and China. Iran made no response to Trump’s actions for one year. But recently, the Iranian government has decided to pull back from some elements of the Deal.

Trump has threatened to attack Iran if the Iranians attack any US forces in the Mideast, or if they or their “proxies” attack any US allies—namely Israel and Saudi Arabia. (We may reasonably ask why there are still US forces in the Mideast? We may also reasonably ask why the United States even has such an ally as despotic, murderous, and undemocratic Saudi Arabia?)

It may be said that the Trump regime is hard at work drumming up ‘intelligence’ to lie us into another war of choice in the Mideast; just as George W. Bush did in Iraq. (Please recall that the 9/11 attackers were not Iraqis. Fifteen out of the nineteen of those terrorists were Saudis, and none were Iranian.)

Iraq has the fifth largest proven oil reserves in the world.

Now we have heard that two Saudi oil tankers were sabotaged in the Persian Gulf. The Saudis claim that these attacks pose a threat to the security of global oil supplies. This sabotage might also be part of the pretext for war against Iran.

It’s incumbent on the American working class to oppose war as a way of settling differences and international questions. It’s incumbent on the American working class to oppose war, which is a violation of human solidarity and solidarity among all working people, worldwide. The US has a Department of Defense, not a Department of War. But Trump’s war mongering has nothing to do with defending the United States, and everything to do with corporate profit. It is also a distraction from his trampling the Constitution, his failing economic strategy, and the losses already mounting from his tariffs.

