



Policy Analysis /
Articles & Op-Eds

Fears of 'What's Next?' Will Influence Iran's—and the World's—Reactions

by [Dennis Ross](#)

Jan 6, 2020

Also available in

[Arabic](#)

ABOUT THE AUTHORS



[Dennis Ross](#)

Dennis Ross, a former special assistant to President Barack Obama, is the counselor and William Davidson Distinguished Fellow at The Washington Institute.



Articles & Testimony

If the United States signals its readiness to do more militarily while also considering compromise, it could spur other governments to apply more effective collective pressure on Tehran.

As the Iranians decide how to respond, Supreme Leader Khamenei understands the real danger of a direct shooting war with America, and he will seek to avoid it. His challenge will be doing enough to show that Iran is exacting a serious price for Soleimani's killing without triggering a more direct war with the U.S. military on Iran itself. We should expect a wide spectrum of actions that could be spaced over the coming months, including: renewed pressure for all U.S. forces to leave Iraq; terror attacks on soft American targets, symbols or officials in the Middle East and internationally; and proxy use of drones, cruise missiles or rockets to hit oil facilities in Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait. There will also be a desire to wreak revenge on President Trump...

[Read the full article on the Hill website.](#) ❖

The Hill



[View/Print Page as PDF](#)

SHARE



EMAIL ALERTS



[Sign Up](#)



TO TOP

RECOMMENDED



BRIEF ANALYSIS

Syrian Women Navigate the Patriarchy of War and Women's Rights

Oct 20, 2021

Ishtar Al Shami



BRIEF ANALYSIS

Amid Beirut Clashes, Lebanese Investigators Need Protection

Oct 20, 2021

Hanin Ghaddar

BRIEF ANALYSIS

The Muqawama's post elections threats against UNAMI and the UAE

Oct 19, 2021

Hamdi Malik

TOPICS

[Gulf & Energy Policy](#)

[Military & Security](#)

[Terrorism](#)

REGIONS & COUNTRIES

[Iran](#)

[Gulf States](#)

STAY UP TO DATE



[SIGN UP FOR EMAIL ALERTS](#)



THE
WASHINGTON INSTITUTE
for Near East Policy

1111 19th Street NW - Suite 500
Washington D.C. 20036
Tel: 202-452-0650
Fax: 202-223-5364

[Contact](#)

[Press Room](#)

[Subscribe](#)

The Washington Institute seeks to advance a balanced and realistic understanding of American interests in the Middle East and to promote the policies that secure them.

The Institute is a 501(c)3 organization; all donations are tax-deductible.

[About TWI](#) /

[Support the Institute](#)



© 2021 All rights reserved.

[Employment](#) /

