

How the Soleimani Assassination Could Pave the Way for a New Deal with Iran

by [Robert Satloff \(/experts/robert-satloff\)](/experts/robert-satloff)

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Robert Satloff is executive director of The Washington Institute, a post he assumed in January 1993.



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What if U.S. officials took advantage of the moment and asked a trusted third party like Oman or Switzerland to test whether Tehran is ready for a quiet diplomatic initiative?

Was the targeted assassination of Qasem Soleimani gutsy or reckless? That depends on how this chapter of America's 41-year contest of wills with the Islamic Republic of Iran ends. But it won't necessarily be the disaster some critics have heralded. It could, in the end, prove providential. Although various disastrous scenarios are frighteningly plausible, it would be out of character for the normally careful and calculating Iranian leadership to risk all-out war because one of its generals was killed, even one as iconic and powerful as Soleimani...

Read the full article on the Washington Post website. (https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/how-the-soleimani-assassination-could-pave-the-way-for-a-new-deal-with-iran/2020/01/03/3e82ca60-2e4a-11ea-bcb3-ac6482c4a92f_story.html) ❖

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