

America Can't Turn Back the Clock on Iran

by [Haisam Hassanein \(/experts/haisam-hassanein\)](/experts/haisam-hassanein), [Wesam Hassanein \(/experts/wesam-hassanein\)](/experts/wesam-hassanein)

Dec 13, 2017

Also available in

[العربية \(/ar/policy-analysis/la-ymkn-lamryka-aadt-qarb-alsat-fy-alshan-alayrany\)](/ar/policy-analysis/la-ymkn-lamryka-aadt-qarb-alsat-fy-alshan-alayrany)

ABOUT THE AUTHORS



[Haisam Hassanein \(/experts/haisam-hassanein\)](/experts/haisam-hassanein)

Haisam Hassanein is an Associate Fellow at The Washington Institute.

[Wesam Hassanein \(/experts/wesam-hassanein\)](/experts/wesam-hassanein)

Wesam Hassanein is a master's candidate at American University's School of International Service.



Articles & Testimony

When it comes to U.S. policy on the Gulf and Iran, Washington should abandon any wrong-headed notions about resurrecting the pre-1979 security architecture.

The Obama administration pursued a regional policy that sought to reintegrate Iran into the regional and international systems in the hope of stabilizing the Middle East. This unrealistic desire to set the clock back was the primary intention behind the 2015 nuclear deal. Proponents of this theory erroneously claim that before Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution, the United States equally supported the Shah's regime and the Gulf States and acted as a stabilizer in the Gulf. Therefore, the Gulf countries must now reach an accommodation and share the spoils of the region with Iran for stability to take root and reduce the security burden on the United States. The primary reasons behind this flawed understanding of the Iranian regime is the tendency to overlook its theocratic and revolutionary nature while underestimating how significantly the Gulf States have changed since the 1970s...

[Read the full article on the National Interest website. \(http://nationalinterest.org/feature/america-cant-turn-back-the-clock-iran-23641\)](http://nationalinterest.org/feature/america-cant-turn-back-the-clock-iran-23641) ❖

National Interest

RECOMMENDED



ARTICLES & TESTIMONY

[How to Make Russia Pay in Ukraine: Study Syria](#)

Feb 15, 2022

◆
Anna Borshchevskaya

[\(/policy-analysis/how-make-russia-pay-ukraine-study-syria\)](#)



BRIEF ANALYSIS

[Bennett's Bahrain Visit Further Invigorates Israel-Gulf Diplomacy](#)

Feb 14, 2022

◆
Simon Henderson

[\(/policy-analysis/bennetts-bahrain-visit-further-invigorates-israel-gulf-diplomacy\)](#)



BRIEF ANALYSIS

[Libya's Renewed Legitimacy Crisis](#)

Feb 14, 2022

◆
Ben Fishman

[\(/policy-analysis/libyas-renewed-legitimacy-crisis\)](#)

TOPICS

[Gulf & Energy Policy \(/policy-analysis/gulf-energy-policy\)](#)

[U.S. Policy \(/policy-analysis/us-policy\)](#)

REGIONS & COUNTRIES

[Iran \(/policy-analysis/iran\)](#)

[Gulf States \(/policy-analysis/gulf-states\)](#)

