

The Iran Primer: Power, Politics, and U.S. Policy

by [Mehdi Khalaji \(/experts/mehdi-khalaji\)](#), [Patrick Clawson \(/experts/patrick-clawson\)](#), [Michael Eisenstadt \(/experts/michael-eisenstadt\)](#), [Matthew Levitt \(/experts/matthew-levitt\)](#), [Michael Singh \(/experts/michael-singh\)](#)

Jun 3, 2013

ABOUT THE AUTHORS



[Mehdi Khalaji \(/experts/mehdi-khalaji\)](#)

Mehdi Khalaji, a Qom-trained Shiite theologian, is the Libitzky Family Fellow at The Washington Institute.



[Patrick Clawson \(/experts/patrick-clawson\)](#)

Patrick Clawson is Morningstar senior fellow and director of research at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.



[Michael Eisenstadt \(/experts/michael-eisenstadt\)](#)

Michael Eisenstadt is the Kahn Fellow and director of The Washington Institute's Military and Security Studies Program.



[Matthew Levitt \(/experts/matthew-levitt\)](#)

Matthew Levitt is the Fromer-Wexler Fellow and director of the Reinhard Program on Counterterrorism and Intelligence at The Washington Institute.



[Michael Singh \(/experts/michael-singh\)](#)

Michael Singh is the Lane-Swig Senior Fellow and managing director at The Washington Institute.



Articles & Testimony

Patrick Clawson, Mehdi Khalaji, Michael Eisenstadt, Matthew Levitt, and Michael Singh have contributed material to this important ongoing project on Iran.

In October 2010, the United States Institute of Peace, in conjunction with the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, commenced publication of *[The Iran Primer: Power, Politics, and U.S. Policy](http://iranprimer.usip.org/)* (<http://iranprimer.usip.org/>), an ongoing online compendium of essays by fifty of the world's top scholars on Iran. The authors represent some twenty foreign policy think tanks, eight universities, and senior foreign policy officials from six U.S. administrations. With no single political agenda, the publication presents a wide range of perspectives on diverse aspects of Iran's politics, economy, military, nuclear program, and society. It also probes Iran's foreign relations with a dozen nearby countries or regions, chronicles U.S.-Iran relations under six American presidents, and presents the West's options for dealing with Iran in the future.

Five Institute senior fellows have contributed material to *The Iran Primer* project. Click on any of the following links to download individual contributions.

[Iran-Syria Religious Ties](#)

http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/uploads/Documents/opeds/Khalaji_IranPrimer_20130603.pdf Mehdi Khalaji

[Iran Talks: Is New Momentum Enough?](#)

http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/uploads/Documents/opeds/Clawson_IranPrimer_20130227.pdf Patrick Clawson

[Will Obama Win Jumpstart Diplomacy?](#)

http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/uploads/Documents/opeds/Clawson_IranPrimer_20121108.pdf Patrick Clawson

[Tehran's Views on U.S. Politics, Nuclear Talks](#)

http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/uploads/Documents/opeds/Khalaji_IranPrimer_20120608.pdf, Mehdi Khalaji

[Assessing Iran's Parliamentary Election. \(/html/pdf/Khalaji_IranPrimer_20120315.pdf\)](#) Mehdi Khalaji

[Analyzing the Impact of European Sanctions. \(/html/pdf/Clawson_IranPrimer_20120124.pdf\)](#) Patrick Clawson

[Will Iran Dare Close the Strait of Hormuz? \(/html/pdf/Singh_IranPrimerInterview_20120105.pdf\)](#) Michael Singh

[U.S. Court Ruling Links Iran to Al-Qaeda. \(/html/pdf/IranPrimer_Levitt3.pdf\)](#) Matthew Levitt

[Treasury Tightens Squeeze on Iran Front Companies. \(/html/pdf/IranPrimer_Levitt2.pdf\)](#) Matthew Levitt

[Analysis of Iran-al-Qaeda 'Secret Deal.' \(/html/pdf/Clawson-IranPrimer-20110728.pdf\)](#) Patrick Clawson

[Financial Sanctions. \(http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/uploads/Documents/other/IranPrimer-Levitt-2015Update.pdf\)](#) Matthew Levitt

[Interview with Mehdi Khalaji on Iranian relations with Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood](#)

[\(/html/pdf/Khalaji_IranPrimerInterview_20110225.pdf\)](#)

[Politics and the Clergy. \(/html/pdf/IranPrimer-Khalaji.pdf\)](#) Mehdi Khalaji

[The Limits of Iran's Soft Power. \(/html/pdf/IranPrimer-Eisenstadt-2.pdf\)](#) Michael Eisenstadt

[Iran and Iraq. \(/html/pdf/IranPrimer-Eisenstadt.pdf\)](#) Michael Eisenstadt

[U.S. Sanctions. \(/html/pdf/IranPrimer-Clawson.pdf\)](#) Patrick Clawson

PDFs reproduced by permission of United States Institute of Peace. Copyright 2010 by the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and the United States Institute of Peace. ❖

RECOMMENDED

BRIEF ANALYSIS

[Saudi Arabia Adjusts Its History, Diminishing the Role of Wahhabism](#)

Feb 11, 2022

◆
Simon Henderson

[\(/policy-analysis/saudi-arabia-adjusts-its-history-diminishing-role-wahhabism\)](#)



BRIEF ANALYSIS

[Targeting the Islamic State: Jihadist Military Threats and the U.S. Response](#)

February 16, 2022, starting at 12:00 p.m. EST (1700 GMT)

◆
Ido Levy,
Craig Whiteside

[\(/policy-analysis/targeting-islamic-state-jihadist-military-threats-and-us-response\)](#)



BRIEF ANALYSIS

[Challenges to Taliban Rule and Potential Impacts for the Region](#)

Feb 9, 2022

◆
Mohamed Mokhtar Qandil

[\(/policy-analysis/challenges-taliban-rule-and-potential-impacts-region\)](#)

TOPICS

[Arab & Islamic Politics \(/policy-analysis/arab-islamic-politics\)](#)

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

[Military & Security \(/policy-analysis/military-security\)](#)

[Proliferation \(/policy-analysis/proliferation\)](#)

[Terrorism \(/policy-analysis/terrorism\)](#)

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

REGIONS & COUNTRIES

Iran (/policy-
analysis/iran)