

US-Israeli War on Iran:

5 Contradictions



On February 28th, the US and Israel launched a war of aggression on the Islamic Republic of Iran. The war has sharpened domestic, regional, and global contradictions, with seismic implications for the trajectory of the world system.

Here are five important contradictions to help us make sense of the current situation and how it might evolve →



CONTRADICTION 1

Neoconservative Zionists vs. America First

Donald Trump has accelerated the US's long-term strategic commitment to Israel through an ultra-Zionist foreign policy. His presidential election was funded by Zionist billionaire Miriam Adelson and his administration is influenced by Christian Zionists like Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth and US Ambassador to Israel Mike Huckabee.

This stands in contradiction with the anti-Israel America First faction of the MAGA coalition, represented by commentators like Tucker Carlson. The war on Iran could inflame a 'civil war' within Trump's base.



CONTRADICTION 2

Iranian Economic Grievances vs. Anti-Imperialist Patriotism

In January, popular discontent over the economic impact of US sanctions turned into **violent urban warfare against Iranian security forces, with likely US and Israeli involvement.**

Dissatisfaction with the Iranian government has been muted in the face of US-Israeli bombardment. On Friday, Iranian officials, including President Masoud Pezeshkian and Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, joined massive people's marches to celebrate al-Quds Day.



CONTRADICTION 3

US-Israeli Military Power vs. Iranian Asymmetric Warfare

The US has 902 foreign military bases, including at least 122 bases in West Asia, and controls 74.3% of global military spending through the NATO+ bloc. It's leveraging this massive military power to shore up fading US hegemony.

Iran is using asymmetric warfare to combat conventional US-Israeli military power. Iranian Shahed drones, which cost on average \$27,500 to produce, are depleting \$3.7 million US "Patriot" interceptor missiles across the region. Iran has also used its military power to close the Strait of Hormuz, disrupting international oil flows and inflicting global economic pain.



CONTRADICTION 4

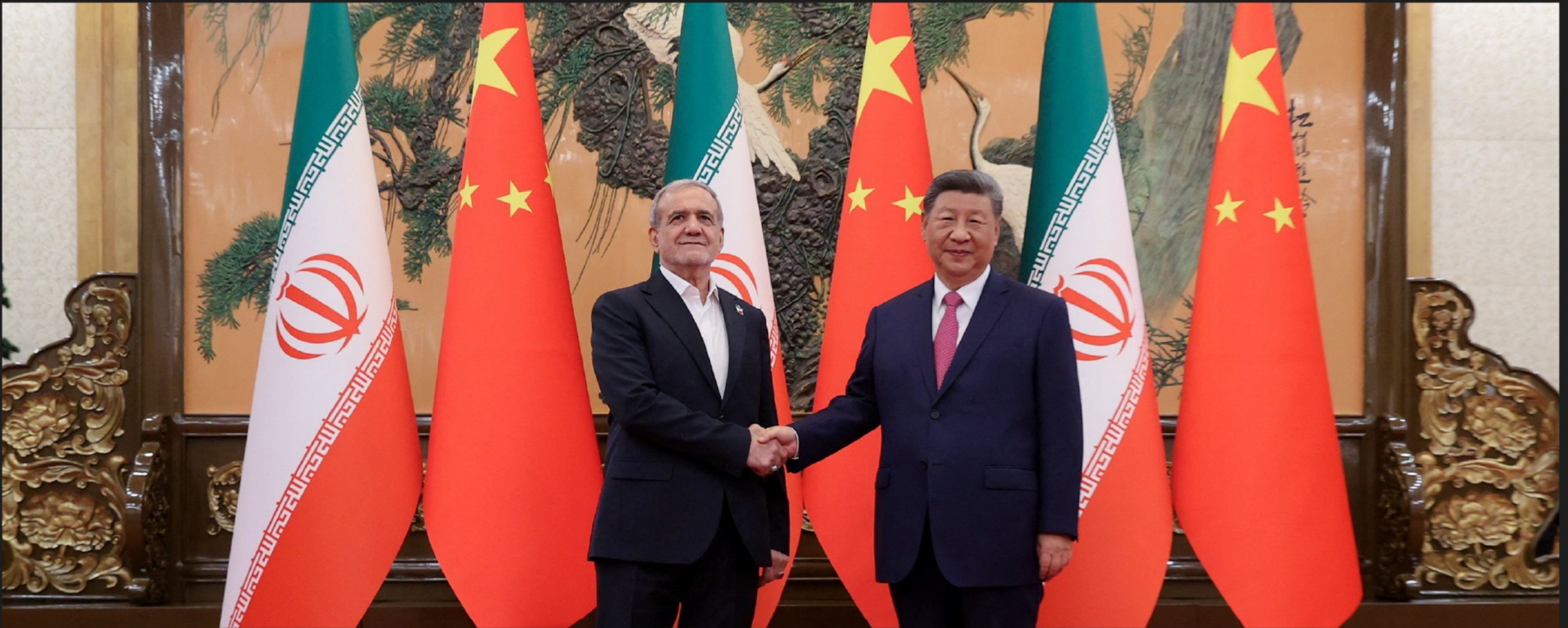
Gulf Neo-Colonialism vs. West Asian Sovereignty

Gulf states like Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and Qatar are clients of US imperialism. They recycle their vast oil profits into US bonds and arms and are embedded in the regional US military architecture. This relationship has greatly benefited the Gulf ruling classes.

In retaliation to US-Israeli strikes, Iran launched ballistic missiles and drones against US military bases in Gulf countries. Iran also hit economic targets, like Amazon Web Service data hubs in the UAE and Bahrain. Gulf alliances with the US are transforming from a strength to a vulnerability.

Sources: Tricontinental, Hyper-Imperialism (2024); Chan; Independent (2026).

Image: Donald Trump with Prince Mohammed bin Salman of Saudi Arabia. Win McNamee/Getty Images



CONTRADICTION 5

Western Imperial Axis vs. Counter-Hegemonic Coalition

Western states have primarily supported the US-Israeli war on Iran. This includes Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney, who just a few months ago made the case for pivoting away from the US-led 'rules-based order.'

Iran is receiving strategic support from China and Russia. China has reportedly given Iran access to its BeiDou navigation system, enabling greater strike accuracy, while Russia is a long-term military supplier. Iran is now considering letting vessels through the Strait of Hormuz if cargo is traded in Chinese renminbi, threatening US dollar supremacy.

Sources: Montagu-Smith, Al Jazeera (2026); Smagin Carnegie (2026); CNN (2026).

Image: Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian at a meeting with Xi Jinping, 2025. IMAGO / APAimages.



**“There are decades where
nothing happens; and
there are weeks where
decades happens”**

- Vladimir Lenin