



# Action for Democracy in Iran (NGO, Not-for-profit)

Democracy for Iran & Advocacy for Human Rights  
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## Proposal

### The Need for Reform in the Foreign Policy of The United States of America To Address the Current International Political and Economic Crisis

A great majority of the populations of Asia, Africa, and Latin America live in poverty and deal with problems stemming from rising tribal and religious wars. The corrupt dictatorships threaten the very social fabric of these countries.

Extremist and ideological movements, such as communism, fascism, and fundamentalist Islam have traditionally taken advantage of the poor conditions of these regions to present themselves as the alternative model to the endemic wretchedness of the poor, with the aim of reaping the benefits of the false hope that they generate as a result.

In the aftermath of the dissolution of the Soviet Union, and especially having witnessed the 1979 Iranian revolution, extremist Islamic movements have been able to present themselves as the alternative to the world's most downtrodden people in the Islamic world.

Taking a page from the Communist International, these social currents have pursued the dream of creating a World Islamic State. They have introduced manifestos and put in place terrorist networks against the interests of the United States, Europe and Israel all with the professed goal of exporting Islamic fundamentalism.

A study of the foundation and power structure of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and such groups as the Taliban in Afghanistan and Pakistan, Hamas in the Palestinian territories, and Hezbollah in Lebanon reveal a Machiavellian abuse of religion in the service of a ruthless pursuit of power. Since these movements espouse a generally outdated mode of existence, and a culture incompatible with the modern world, their ideology creates the illusion that their terrorism is akin to a desirable "struggle." But in reality they foster blind rebellion everywhere and are the cause of insecurity for the rest of the world.

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Social reformation and a genuine focus on reducing tension has been lacking in the most troubled areas of the planet due to the Cold War's Soviet containment efforts. Our observation has been that most western politicians in advanced industrial countries, especially in the United States, have mainly opted for solutions that emphasize the need for security at all costs - which translated into supporting corrupt and dictatorial governments - as tactical tools, in lieu of choosing a world-wide democratization program, social development, and economical restructuring of the landscape, based on solid pragmatic analysis of the causes of such instability.

Experience provides ample evidence that when a troubled area displays signs of social tension, western politicians side with the reactionary forces in order to achieve ephemeral stability. Or they have voted for militaristic solutions to show off their warring prowess. For the most extreme and jarring examples of this assertion one need not go further than the initial American support for the Taliban, American acquiescence in the rise of fundamentalism in Iran during the Iranian revolution, and the recent rise of the Shiite militancy in Iraq.

The experience of recent decades in the three continents shows that American foreign policy has not been effective in containing the rise of extremism and fundamentalism. A clear lack of a viable outlook for resolving international crises have driven the majority of American politicians to opt for military intervention, a path that has resulted in the destruction of life and the obliteration of financial capital.

The recent failures in foreign policy on the part of the United States and its military interventions in other countries not only have not resulted in positive geopolitical gains for the United States by reducing international crises, but have added to the malcontent and hatred of the people of these regions, the single most mentioned factor in the spread of terrorism in the world.

A cursory look at American foreign policy after the Second World War reminds us that the Marshall Plan was effective in achieving its goals in Europe and Asia precisely because it improved the economic lives of the people and especially brought about better work conditions for the working class and successfully expanded the middle classes. This policy especially resulted in net gain for social democratic parties and helped weakening and isolating communist parties in Europe.

Many countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America enjoy vast financial and human resources, and only need assistance from democratic nations to deploy and establish democratic institutions, to help modernize the economic and social infrastructures so that their populations may begin to learn to live in peace and stability.

The institutionalization of democracy and economic reforms in these countries on the one hand will benefit investors and western corporations, and on the other hand it will benefit the population of these countries. The net result will be the isolation of extremist and terrorist movements as peaceful coexistence will have a chance to gain momentum.



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To address such grand objectives, it is vital that two conditions are met:

- 1- The core basis of the foreign policy of industrial nations of the West, headed by the United States, should be fundamentally reformed; reshaped to revisit the post World War II economic reform idea and support of democratic institutions.
- 2- A serious commitment to discarding the idea of tactical, utilitarian usage of Jihadist circles and fundamentalist movements - which always ends in military involvement anyway - and replacing that with frameworks of cooperation with democratic, secular forces, and to initiate working groups with them in order to resolve the world's most pressing political and economic crises.

