May 2018: Trump tears up Iran nuclear deal – despite all evidence by international experts of Iranian compliance.

October 2023: Gaza genocide begins after Hamas attack on Israel.

January 2025: Trump elected President for second time and begins campaign of 'maximum pressure' on Iran.

June 2025: Israel launches unilateral strike on Iran in the middle of US-Iranian talks; Iran retaliates and US backs Israel by bombing Iran.

December 2025: Trump threatens regime change (then changes his mind) during major anti-government protests in Iran.

January 2026: Largest US military build-up in Middle East since Iraq war while 'peace' talks continue.

February 2026: US attacks Iran and Iran retaliates, igniting the current war. Western hostility towards Iran goes back much further, of course – to the 1953 MI6 and CIA coup against Iranian social reformer Mohammad Mosaddegh, and before.

The Iran war was not inevitable. After 9/11, Iran's leaders expressed condolences towards the US and backed the anti-Taliban Northern Alliance in Afghanistan, presenting itself as an ally in negotiations over the future of the country.

But any hopes of a peaceful resolution were shattered when George Bush and Tony Blair branded Iran part of the 'Axis of Evil' – an alleged 'sectarian' clique of states supposedly opposed to all Western civilisation and world peace.

Iran is coveted for its vast oil reserves and resented for its political influence across the region. It has been in the crosshairs ever since. These issues must be brought into the light and made the subject of honest democratic discussion.

IRAN: A WAR OF CHOICE

Again and again, the US and Israel have betrayed any chance of peace with Iran.

Photo: Steve Eason

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THE COST OF WAR

The human cost of the war on Iran is huge. The US has targeted bridges, hospitals, railways and other civilian infrastructure. These are war crimes, but you wouldn't know it from the mainstream media, or from the European heads of state who continue to appease Trump.

168 IRANIAN SCHOOL CHILDREN
Killed on day 1 of the 2026 war.

3,500 IRANIAN CIVILIANS
Estimated fatalities 28 Feb-9 June 2026, WHO Middle East Conflict Situation Report #9.

4,328 LEBANESE CIVILIANS
Total killed, reported by Lebanese Ministry of Health.

The true social and economic costs of the conflict are so great that they're difficult to measure. Pharmacists in the UK, for example, reported price increases of 20-30% for everyday drugs like paracetamol. The war is affecting everything from food, set to increase by 50%, to MRI scans.

Direct military costs are astronomical. The New York Times reported that the US spent $11.3 billion in the first six days of the war alone.

In the UK, the war on Iran is one of the major drivers of increases in military spending. Defence Minister Wes Streeting has announced the UK plans to spend a total £298 billion on the military over the next four years.

+18% = £35.5 BILLION

additional planned military spending under the UK's new Defence Investment Plan, bringing annual expenditure from £62 billion in 2025/6 to £73.3 billion (adjusted for inflation) by 2029/30. That's enough to fund the salaries of over 52,000 NHS nurses for ten years. In other words, enough to fill all current NHS nursing vacancies more than twice over.

According to a study by the Transition Security Project, the UK's Defence Investment Plan will cost around 20,000 jobs due to cancelled investment in more productive fields, and will create only half as many new jobs by 2029-30. There is no public consensus on defence spending. Around half of people in the UK oppose an increase in defence spending if it means a decrease in spending on public services (45%), or an increase in personal taxes (50%).

CUT WAR NOT WELFARE

Trump's war on Iran remains one of the most dangerous conflicts in the world – and the UK is providing direct strategic support. The British government has allowed the US to launch attacks from UK bases like RAF Fairford and Diego Garcia, supplying Trump with diplomatic cover and bolstering the war through massive increases in military spending.

This puts us all at risk. Thousands of Iranian civilians have been killed, and thousands more in neighbouring Lebanon. People in the UK are paying the price through rising energy bills caused by rocketing oil prices. Peace talks remain fragile, and Trump's plans for crippling sanctions only pave the way for further military conflict.

The war has already spread to neighbouring countries, and risks becoming a truly global conflict. Time is limited but we have a chance to say enough is enough.

THE NEW GLOBAL DRIVE TO WAR

Despite the deal put forward by Iran and Oman on re-opening the Strait of Hormuz – a key shipping route for 20% of the world's oil and liquefied natural gas – direct diplomatic channels with the US remain blocked and hostilities continue. Trump, meanwhile, is desperate for a victory, no matter the cost in lives and livelihoods.

To believe that the US and Israel can bomb Iran into submission is a fantasy. Iranian retaliation against targets in UAE, Bahrain, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia has proved difficult to counter. Remarkably, Trump appears to have failed to anticipate Iran's closure of the Strait of Hormuz.

Instead of crushing Iran, the war has revealed the vulnerabilities of the US and its allies. The US, Britain and other NATO members have lost any shred of moral authority since the unfolding Gaza genocide. Now the war on Iran is tipping the world further into chaos and conflict.