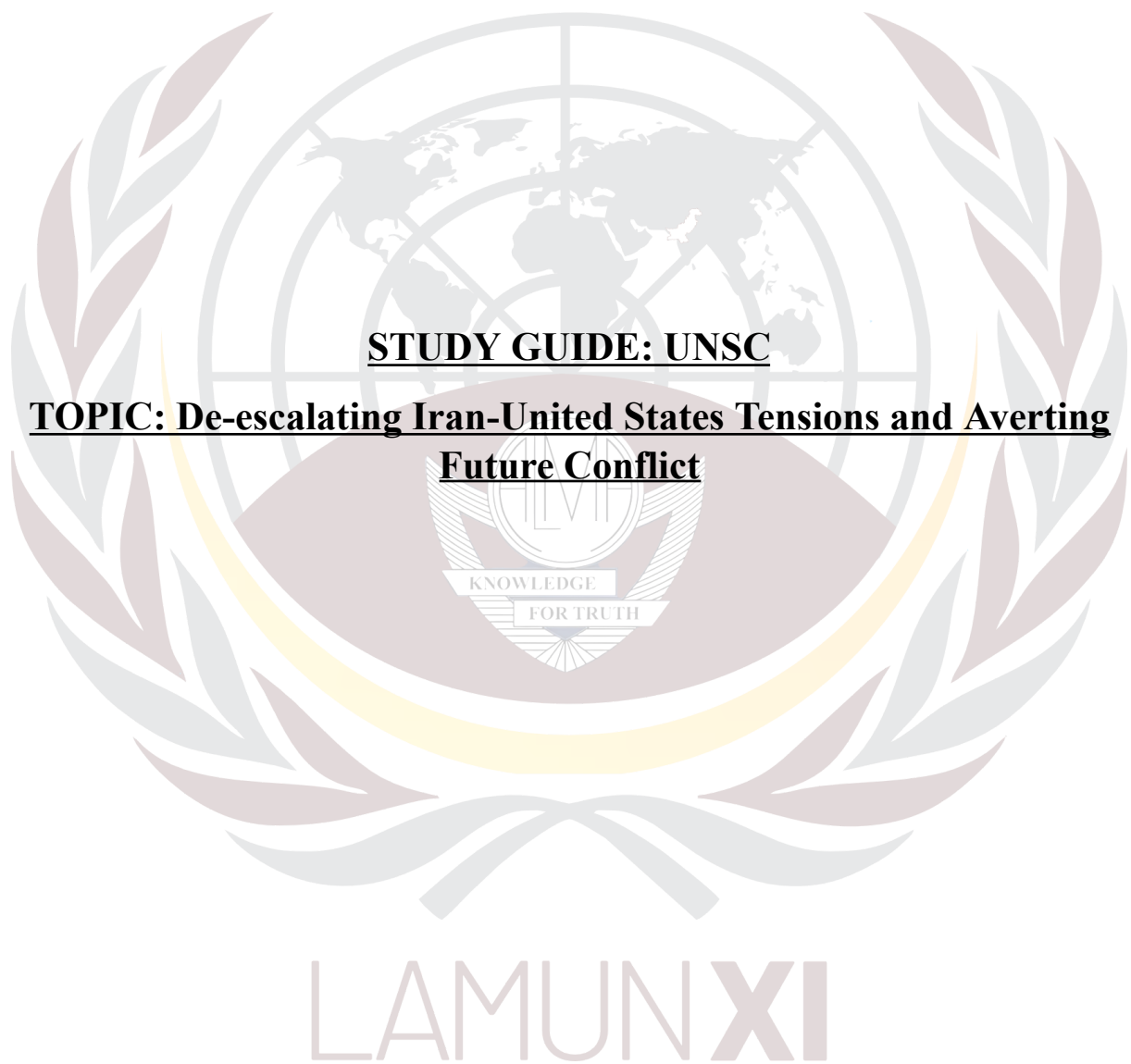




STUDY GUIDE: UNSC

**TOPIC: De-escalating Iran-United States Tensions and Averting
Future Conflict**

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INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMITTEE:

The United Nations Security Council(UNSC) is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations. It includes 15 members, with 5 permanent members(P5) – United Kingdom, United States of America, China, France and Russia while the other 10 members are on a regional basis for a two-year tenure. The permanent members of the UNSC have the veto power to cancel any resolution. The headquarters of the UNSC is based in New York, USA.

The UNSC is principally responsible for cementing international peace and security, along with accepting new member states to the United Nations and sustaining any amendments made in the Charter of the United Nations. After assessing any breach in the global peace, the UNSC is responsible for calling on the parties to solve any dispute through peaceful mediation, and will often send its own envoys for this purpose. If more strict action is essential, it can also enforce cooperation through the deployment of international sanctions on the differing countries. As a last resort, the UNSC can also authorise the use of military force in peacekeeping efforts to uphold the stability and consensus it works hard to maintain. The UNSC is responsible to address the threats to peace. Under Chapter VII, the council can determine a threat to peace, breach of peace and act of aggression. To ensure this peace the UN can impose sanctions, establish peacekeeping operations and facilitate peaceful settlement of disputes.

INTRODUCTION TO TOPIC:

The Iran US conflict had started after the attacks of the United States and Israel on Iran. This conflict has not only affected the particular countries but has also led to destruction in the surrounding countries in the Middle East. This conflict between the United States and Iran had first started mainly in 1979 when the Iranian students held the American embassy members hostage. This war after that in 2025 has escalated to a whole level when the United States attacked Iran causing Iran to attack the US bases present within the Middle East. The United States justifies their attacks as self defence as Iran possesses missiles that pose threat to the United States. This led to the death of thousands and the displacement of even more.

This war is not only about missiles anymore; it has also turned into the war of economies. Both the countries are targeting each other's areas of infrastructure or bases with large amounts of weaponry. This has led to a fall in both their economies. The taxes on the straits, most importantly the Strait of Hormuz, are increasing. This warfare has significantly impacted the trade between multiple lands.

KEY TERMS AND TECHNOLOGIES

Proxy warfare:

A conflict in which a state or more powerful actor supports and uses another state, armed group, militia or non-state actor to pursue its strategic objectives against an adversary indirectly rather than engaging in direct military confrontation itself.

Axis of Resistance:

A network between the Iran backed states and the non state actors such as Hezbollah.

Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC):

An elite branch of Iran's armed forces responsible for the protection of Iran.

Hezbollah:

A Lebanese political party as well as an armed organization backed by Iran and has engaged in multiple battles with Israel.

Deterrence:

A strategy aimed at preventing an adversary from taking hostile action by maintaining the capability to inflict significant costs in response.

Pre-emptive strike:

A military strike launched to prevent an anticipated military attack by an adversary.

Ballistic Missile:

A long range target that follows a high trajectory before hitting the target

Cruise Missile:

A guided missile that flies at a significantly low altitude but with way higher precision.

Shahed drone:

An unmanned aerial vehicle made by Iran, for loitering munition for a long range attack.

Iron Dome:

Israel's short range air defense system made to intercept drones and missiles.

Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty:

An international agreement aimed to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons.

Uranium Enrichment:

The process of increasing the concentration of Uranium 235 for civilian nuclear fuel.

Nuclear Breakout time:

The estimated time required for a country to create a nuclear weapon if it decides to do so.

Targeted assassination:

The targeted murder of a certain individual.

Sanctions:

Economic or political restrictions placed by other states or international organizations to influence a country's behaviour.

De-Escalation:

Measures intended to reduce military tensions and prevent further conflicts.

Strait of Hormuz:

A strategically significant waterway through which a large portion of the world's oil supply passes.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT AND CURRENT STATUS OF THE CONFLICT

Historical Context:

This conflict has its roots going back to 1953 when Iran's Prime Minister Mohammad Mossadegh took control of the British owned oil industry. This led to the United States and the United Kingdom to start a coup that removed Mossadegh and restored Shah Mohammad Reza to power. A lot of people viewed this as the start to the US intervention in Iran. After this, Shah became a close ally of the United States. His government modernized Iran but his rule was criticized for authoritarian rule. Then in 1979 the Iranian revolution took place which overthrew Shah's government and Ayatollah Ruhollah Khamenei then came into power, establishing the Islamic Republic of Iran. This new government then adopted a strongly anti American foreign policy. This policy was adopted to stop the intervention by the United States in Iran. In the same year the Iranian students took the members of the United States embassy as hostages for 444 days. Then in 1980 during the Iraq-Iran war, the United States supported Iraq leading to further disagreements between Iran and the US. Then in the 1990s, the western countries feared that Iran would develop a nuclear weapon so they imposed extreme sanctions on the country. These sanctions could be considered correct in some way as the main reason for these sanctions were to prevent another nuclear state coming into power and also restrict the spread of nuclear weapons. Lastly in 2018, the US withdrew from the JCPOA and Iran reduced its compliance with the nuclear agreement.

Israel Palestine war as another reason of the conflict:

This conflict started after the first World War when the Ottoman empire was defeated and its mandate was given to the United Kingdom. After this the Balfour declaration was written to the Rothschild Family by Lord Balfour to establish a Jewish settlement in Palestine. The Jewish settlement was justified as the legal mandate of Palestine was given to the United Kingdom after the Ottoman Empire collapsed in World War 1. Soon after when the Palestinians welcomed the Jewish with open arms the Jewish started to capture more parts of the land. This expansion was justified by the UN after the provision of the legal map of Israel and Palestine which gave Israel more control of the Palestinian land. This was also violated and then further battles between Israel and the neighbouring countries began. This Israel Palestine conflict, with the US supporting Israel and Iran supporting Palestine, led to the Israel Iran conflict when Iran intervened into the battle in 2023. This then led to increased tensions and consequently war between Iran and US.

Current Status:

After the US combined attacks with Israel on Iran, the official full scale war between Iran and US started. Iran then responded with drone and missile attacks on the United States bases in the middle east. The war then continued followed by the closure of the Strait of Hormuz. This caused the petrol prices to skyrocket and the stock market to crash. The airports throughout the middle east were on high alert leading to some of their closures. There was a ceasefire between Iran and the US mediated by Pakistan but still the war has started again. This war has led to the death of thousands of people, and the death toll is still increasing day by day as the war progresses. This war has once again placed the entire middle east on an extreme high alert since the ceasefire has ended. The airports throughout the middle east are still at a high risk of closure. This war is still ongoing and currently the homes of many people have been destroyed. There have been attacks on the bases of the United States and many of the buildings of Iran have been destroyed by the United States. The United States and Iran both pose their attacks as self defence. The United States first attacked Iran and called it self defence as it states that Iran possesses missiles that pose threat to the United States. This war then reached an agreement at first but the ceasefire ended once Iran attacked three commercial vessels in the Strait of Hormuz. After this attack, the US again began its attacks on Iran.

INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS AND TREATIES AFFECTING THE US-IRAN CONFLICT

1. Treaty of Amity (1955):

This treaty was signed between Iran and the US on 15 August 1955 in Tehran and it entered into force on 16 June 1957. The main purpose of this treaty was to establish peaceful relationships between the two countries. The clauses of this treaty focused mainly on friendship, encouraging trade, investment and economic relationships between the two. This

treaty is no longer in force as it ended after the United States withdrew from the treaty in 2018. After this, there were no major treaties to build a peaceful relation between the two.

2. Algiers Accords (1981):

The Algiers Accords were a set of agreements between Iran and the United States with Algeria as the mediator to end the Iran hostage crisis. They were agreed on 19 January 1981 and the 52 American hostages were released on 20 January 1981. The main purpose of this treaty was to resolve the hostage crisis. The hostages were returned by Iran and in return the United States committed to not intervening within the internal affairs of Iran. There were also arrangements made concerning the release or transfer of Iran's financial assets. This treaty is relevant to the current crisis as it shows how both parties could diplomatically solve the issue similar to the way it was done in 1981.

3. Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty (NPT) (1968):

The NPT is the main International treaty designed to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons, promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy and advance towards nuclear disarmament. The treaty was opened for signature in 1968 and it came into force in 1970. This treaty has been signed by 191 states making it one of the most widely supported arms control treaties. The NPT was created for three main reasons: nuclear non-proliferation, pursuing negotiations towards nuclear disarmament and ensuring the peaceful use of nuclear energy. This treaty is highly relevant to this conflict because as a non nuclear state Iran agrees to not create Nuclear weapons while having the right to peaceful use of nuclear energy. Nuclear Power is one of the main issues of the current conflict.

4. Biological Weapons convention(1972):

The Biological Weapons Convention is an international treaty that prohibits the use, production, transfer and stockpiling of biological and toxin weapons. This treaty opened for signature in 1972 and entered into force in 1975. This treaty is signed by 189 states as of 2026 and both the US and Iran are members of this treaty. This treaty was mainly created to protect people against the use of biological weapons. This treaty is relevant to the conflict as Iran is a BWC party state which obligates it to not create biological weapons. There have been accusations by the US that Iran possesses biological Weapons that pose a threat to international security.

5. Chemical Weapon Convention(1993):

The Chemical Weapons Convention is an international agreement that prohibits countries from stockpiling, producing, transferring or using chemical weapons. It was opened for signature in 1993 and entered into force in 1997. This was signed by 193 member states with both the US and Iran as members. The main reason for the CWC was to eliminate the chemical weapons. The CWC is important to this conflict as there have been accusations regarding the fact that Iran possesses chemical weapons.

6. Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) (2015):

The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action was the 2015 nuclear agreement concerning Iran's nuclear program. It was concluded on 14 July 2015 between Iran and the P5+1 together with

the European Union. The JCPOA was created to limit Iran's uranium activities, reduce their uranium stockpile, restrict certain nuclear facilities and activities and also increase the IAEA monitoring. This is a relevant treaty as the nuclear dispute is still unresolved as the US withdrew from the treaty in 2018.

7. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966):

The ICCPR is a major international human rights treaty that protects the civil and political rights of individuals. It was adopted by the UNGA on 16 December 1966 and came into force on 23 March 1976. The ICCPR has 117 states as members with both Iran and the US. It was created daily to protect the fundamental rights of Muslims. The ICCPR is particularly important because human rights don't just disappear during times of war but should be respected by both sides.

8. Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (1954):

The 1954 Hague Convention is an international treaty designed to protect cultural property during armed conflicts. This treaty was adopted on 14 May 1954 following the widespread destruction of Cultural heritage in World War 2. The main purpose of this treaty is to protect all the cultural buildings or sites during times of war, and ensure that none of them are destroyed. This treaty is signed by 130 states with the US and Iran both as members. This is essential for the conflict in hand as there are many cultural buildings at risk during this time.

ROLE OF NON STATE ACTORS

Terrorist Organizations:

There have been many terrorist organizations that have worsened the state and course of the battle. These organizations include:

1. Quds Force:

This force conducts the overseas operations of the IRGC. It is different from Iran's regular army and it is primarily responsible for building relations with, supporting and coordinating with the armed and political groups stationed outside Iran. This force is important in this war as Iran's regional network can create multiple pressure points around the Middle East. The Quds force is supported directly by Iran and the IRGC, rather than being a foreign militia supported by another country.

2. Hezbollah:

Hezbollah is Iran's closest and most capable ally. It is a Lebanese Shia political and armed organization that emerged in 1982, during Lebanon's civil war and following the Israel invasion of Southern Lebanon. Iran has also played a major role in its early development. The group has two different dimensions. Firstly political, the group participates in the Lebanese

elections and has held seats in the parliament. Secondly military, this group maintains an armed organization that is separate from the Lebanese regular armed forces. Iran is an external supporter of Hezbollah. Iran has provided funding, training and arms to Hezbollah. In the current Iran US battle, Hezbollah has opened another front against Israel to support its ally Iran.

3. Houthis:

The Houthi movement, formally called Ansar Alla, is a Yemeni political and armed movement rooted from the Zayi Shia community of northern Yemen. They emerged as an organization insurgent movement in the 2000s and captured Yemen's capital, Sana'a, in 2014. They are a Yemeni movement with their own leadership and political objectives. Iran is one of the external supporters of this group. The Houthis have claimed responsibility for the missile attacks on Israel in late March.

4. Kata'ib Hezbollah:

This group was founded around 2007 in Iraq. This is a Shia Islamist group that has strongly opposed US military presence in Iraq. This group has longstanding ties with Iran's IRGC Quds force and has received Iranian support as well. This group was designated as a foreign Terrorist organization in 2009. This group has played its role in the battle as a Iran aligned Iraq Iraqi armed actor that can increase pressure on the US interests.

5. Islamic Resistance in Iraq:

This group is best understood as an umbrella label for several Iran aligned Iraqi armed factions rather than a single army. The IRI has also played a vital role in the battle as they are one of the reasons that the war spread towards Iraq. The IRI factions have carried out attacks against US positions in Iraq and Syria. This group is closely aligned with Iran and has also received support from the country.

6. Hamas:

Hamas is a Palestinian Islamist political and armed movement founded in 1987 during the First Intifada. It became the de facto governing authority in Gaza after defeating Fatah in the 2006 Palestinian elections. The US and several other governments designate this group as a terrorist group. Hamas has Iran as its external supporter. Iran has provided training, funding and military assistance to the group. This group has a vital role in the battle. Israel claims that its attacks are meant to end Hamas from Palestine. It's one of the main reasons for the war. Hamas has also allegedly attacked some areas of Israel.

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

There have also been multiple international organizations that have been affiliated with the US-Iran war to stop it. These include:

1. United Nations Security Council:

The UNSC is the main body of the United Nations. It is primarily responsible for maintaining international peace and security. This organization has 15 member states, out of which 5 are permanent and the rest change every 2 years. The UNSC has the ability to pass resolutions, discuss and investigate the situation, establish the peacekeeping missions, impose sanctions and also call for a ceasefire.

2. International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA):

The IAEA is an international organization that is responsible for the peaceful use of nuclear energy and also to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons. The major role of this organization is to conduct inspections, check if nuclear energy is being diverted from peaceful use to weapons, and help countries improve the safety and security of nuclear facilities. The IAEA was also mentioned in the previous agreement between Iran and the US as nuclear energy is one of the core reasons for the battle.

3. International court of Justice:

The ICJ is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations. It settles legal disputes between states and also gives advisory opinions on legal questions. The role of the ICJ is to interpret international law and issue provisional measures. The ICJ could be needed to resolve this conflict and determine the accountability of the actions done by the states.

4. International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC):

The ICRC is a humanitarian organization whose main purpose is to protect the civilians and assist the people affected by armed conflicts. It works under the principle of the international humanitarian law. The ICRC visits the detained people where they are granted access, helps reunite families and also provides humanitarian assistance. This organization is important to help the people affected by this conflict.

5. Organisation of the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW):

The OPCW is the international organization responsible for implementing the Chemical Weapons Convention. It was established in 1997, when the CWC entered into force and is headquartered in The Hague, Netherlands. Its main purpose is to prevent the development and use of chemical weapons. Another main purpose of this organization is to inspect the chemical weapons production and verify the destruction of the already declared chemical weapons. This is a relevant organization to the current conflict in hand as the alleged production of chemical weapons by Iran is also one of the major reasons for the war.

6. North Atlantic Treaty Organization:

NATO is a political and military alliance created through the North Atlantic Treaty in 1949. This organization consists of 32 member states and the main purpose of this organization is collective defence meaning that an armed attack against one member can be considered as an armed attack against all members. This organization also works for crisis management, discouraging attacks and security cooperation. This is a relevant organization as the US is a member state meaning that the country has multiple powerful allies ready for help.

7. Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC):

The Gulf Cooperation Council is a regional political, economic and security organization consisting of six Arab Gulf states. This organization was established on 25 May 1981. The creation of this organization was strongly influenced by the regional security environment following the 1979 Iranian Revolution. The main purpose of the GCC is to promote regional security, political cooperation, economic integration and defence cooperation. The GCC is highly relevant because its members are located directly across or near the Persian Gulf and are deeply affected by the tensions involving Iran.

INTERNATIONAL NGOs

There are many international NGOs that help people across borders during warfare. These include:

1. Medecins Sans Frontieres:

The Medecins Sans Frontieres, commonly known as Doctors without Borders, is an independent international medical humanitarian organization founded in 1971. It's a non governmental, non profit and independent organization with the main purpose to provide medical assistance to people affected by conflicts or disasters. The MSF works identifying humanitarian needs and then sending medical teams to the affected areas to provide treatment to the people and also helps the people displaced by the war. This is a relevant organization as there are many people who have been affected by this conflict and are in need of help.

2. Amnesty International:

Amnesty International is an independent non governmental human rights organization that works to protect and promote human rights Worldwide. It was founded in 1961 with its headquarters in London, United Kingdom. This is an independent, non profit organization with the main purpose of researching human rights violations and campaigning for governments as well as other actors to respect human rights. This NGO works by conducting research, then verifying the information provided, publishing the finding and lastly using international pressure to solve the issue. It is a relevant organization to the current crisis as this organization can use international pressure to solve the human rights violations that took place during the battle.

3. Human Rights Watch:

The Human Rights Watch is an independent international non governmental human rights organization that was originally founded in 1978. It is an independent, non profit NGO with the main purpose of investigating and reporting human rights abuses and advocating for governments and other actors to respect the rights of people. The HRW works by carrying out an investigation in which researchers collect information. Then this information is verified and then the detailed reports are published. After that the HRW approaches the governments and the UN to solve the problem. This is a relevant organization as it investigates the human rights violations, treatment of detainees and the freedom of expression.

4. Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC):

The Norwegian Refugee Council is an independent humanitarian organization that helps the people affected by the war, displacement and humanitarian crisis. It was founded in 1946 for the main purpose of protecting the rights and meeting the needs of refugees and IDPs. The NRC works by first assessing humanitarian needs, then providing assistance and protecting the displaced people and then lastly communicates humanitarian concerns to governments and the UN. This organization is important in this crisis to protect the refugees and the displaced people.

5. Save the Children:

Save the Children is an international humanitarian and development NGO focused on children's rights and well being. This NGO was founded in 1919 with the main purpose of protecting children and improving their health, education, safety and living conditions mainly during conflicts or crises. This organization works by first assessing children's needs and then providing emergency assistance according to their needs. They protect the children, provide them with education and communicate their needs to governments and the UN. This is an important organization in this conflict as children are amongst the most vulnerable part of the battle. Many of these children face multiple injuries and some also get displaced or separated from their families. This organization also provides education to the children where needed.

6. Mercy Corps:

The Mercy Corps is another international humanitarian and development NGO that works with communities affected by conflict, disasters, poverty and economic instability. It was founded in 1979 with the main purpose of helping communities survive or recover from a crisis or conflict. They also provide communities with water, food and emergency humanitarian needs. They work by first assessing the needs and then providing emergency assistance according to their needs such as food and water. They also help communities recover from a crisis. This is a relevant organization in this conflict as it helps communities survive or recover from the crisis.

8. International Rescue Committee (IRC):

The IRC is an international humanitarian NGO that helps the people affected by the conflict, persecution and displacement. It was founded in 1933 with the main purpose of helping the people survive crises and also recover and rebuild their lives. They provide the people with emergency assistance and healthcare as well as education. The IRC works by assessing the needs of the people and then providing an emergency response according to their needs. They also help the displaced people recover from the damages of the war. The IRC is highly relevant to the crisis in hand as the US Iran conflict could produce a lot of civilian displacement and humanitarian emergencies across Iran and the wider Middle East.

RELIGION BASED NSAs

There have also been some religion based non state actors involved in this war. Some of them are:

1. Palestinian Islamic Jihad:

The Palestinian Islamic Jihad is a Palestinian armed and political group based primarily in the Gaza Strip and West Bank. It was founded in the 1980s with Al Quds brigade being the main armed wing. They are a non-state armed group with the ideology of a Palestinian Islamic movement and is designated as a terrorist organization by the US. The main purpose of this group is to end Israeli control of Palestinian territories and establish a Palestinian state. The PIJ primarily operates through its armed wing. Its activities have included rocket and armed attacks against Israeli targets. They are relevant in this situation as PIJ fighters have participated in multiple attacks against Israel and also have launched attacks from Gaza towards Israel during periods of conflict. The PIJ has also been reported to have held some Israeli hostages during the October 2023 attack.

2. Harakat Hezbollah al Nujaba:

Harakat Hezbollah Al Nujaba is an Iraqi Shia armed group that emerged during the Syrian Civil War. It is a Non State armed group that came into being in 2013 with its main force known as the Al Nujaba brigade and has been designated as a terrorist organization by the United States. The main purpose of this group is to fight groups it considers enemies of Iraq's Shia community. This group resists the US military presence in Iraq and Syria and has opposed the influence of Israel and US in the region. It has also fought alongside the Syrian government and has also fought against ISIS. This is one of the relevant groups within the current conflict in hand as this group has been associated with attacks against the US forces and interests. This group is also closely aligned with the IRGC and Iran itself making it further more important.

3. Asa'ib Ahl al Haq:

Asa'ib Ahl al Haq, meaning "League of the Righteous" is an Iraqi Shia political and armed group. It was founded in 2006 and is led by Qais al Khazali. It is a political movement with an armed wing and has also been designated as a terrorist organization by the US. The main purpose of this group is to oppose the US military presence in Iraq and also promote the interest of Iraq's political constituency. It has maintained an armed capability and is also participating in Iraq's political system. This group operates through its armed wing and the political capabilities in Iraq. It has also conducted armed operations against the US. This group is relevant because of its attacks on the US forces and its close alignment with Iran.

4. ISIS:

ISIS, also known as Daesh or ISIL, is a sunni Jihadist terrorist organization. It has its origins from Al Qaeda in Iraq, which was established after the 2003 Iraqi war. It is designated as a terrorist group by the UN and many governments. The group aims to create its own self proclaimed caliphate and also control territory in Iraq and Syria. It also wants to impose its extreme interpretation of Islamic law and also eliminate or dominate groups it considers its enemy. ISIS operates by capturing territory and also collecting tax and revenue. It also maintains an armed force and recruits fighters through which they could conduct terrorist attacks. This group is also relevant because of the fact that it has been a common enemy for both the states involved.

5. Al Qaeda:

Al Qaeda is a transnational Salafi jihadist terrorist organization that was founded in the late 1980s by Osama bin Laden and other associates. This group had its major historical bases in Afghanistan and Pakistan region. It has also been listed as a terrorist organization by the UNSC as well as many governments worldwide. The group has historically sought to conduct Jihad against groups and governments it considers as its enemies and also expel foreign influence from Muslim majority countries. Al Qaeda operates through the affiliated organizations, small militant cells and terrorist attacks. Al Qaeda is relevant to the current conflict as Al Qaeda is the group affiliated with the attack on the US Twin Towers on 11 September 2001 which led to the US led War on Terror and many other counter terrorism operations. This group is not affiliated with Iran but some members are alleged for being present in or transiting through Iran.

ALL THE UN ARTICLES, RESOLUTIONS, INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAWS AND GENEVA CONVENTIONS VIOLATED OR RELEVANT

● UN Articles:

There have been multiple UN articles that are relevant to the conflict or have been violated during the course of the battle. These include:

1. UN Article 1(1):

This UN article provides the United Nation with three responsibilities. Firstly to prevent conflicts, Secondly to respond to aggression and threats to peace and lastly to promote peaceful settlement. This article is important in this conflict as it obligates the UN to work towards a peaceful ceasefire, prevent escalation and help reach a peaceful settlement.

2. UN Article 2(3):

This UN article obligates UN members to settle their international disputes by peaceful means rather than military escalations. This presents three main ideas, firstly that the disputes should be resolved peacefully, secondly that states should avoid escalating disputes and lastly that the military disputes should not be the first option to resolve a problem. This is important in this conflict as it states that both the countries should resolve their issues in a diplomatic behaviour rather than military operations.

3. UN Article 2(4):

This UN charter prohibits the threat or use of force against another state's territorial integrity. The main role of this article is to prevent any threat or action against the sovereignty of another state. This article plays an important role in this battle as it stops both countries from getting involved in a military conflict. This article was violated by both the countries.

4. UN Article 33:

This article requires states in a dispute that could threaten international peace to seek a solution first rather than getting involved in a military conflict. It specifically mentions methods such as negotiation, mediation, arbitration and judicial settlement. In this conflict, this article encourages direct or indirect negotiations, mediation by a third country, IAEA involvement and regional diplomacy.

5. UN Article 39:

This article gives the security council the authority to determine whether a situation constitutes a threat to peace, a breach of sovereignty and an act of aggression. Once the council makes a decision, it can recommend what measures shall be taken to maintain or restore peace to the area.

6. UN Article 41:

This article gives the Security Council the power to impose measures that do not involve the use of armed forces when dealing with a threat to peace. The UNSC can require measures such as economic sanctions, trade restrictions, asset and arms embargoes. In this conflict, it could be used to resolve the situation by arms restrictions, economic pressures, targeted sanctions and enforcement of a peace agreement.

7. UN Article 42:

This UN article allows the Security Council to take military actions when it determines that non military actions are inadequate. This does not mean that the UNSC grants a country permission to pursue unlimited attacks on a country. All the actions need to operate within the UN charter and applicable humanitarian law.

8. UN Article 51:

This UN article states that once the article 2(4) is violated then the threatened or attacked country can defend itself by invoking this article. This attack would be called self defence. This is an important article in respect to this conflict as both countries justify their acts as self defence.

● Geneva Convention (1949) and Additional Protocol I (1977):

There have also been multiple Geneva Conventions that are relevant or have been violated. These include:

1. Geneva Convention I:

This law protects the wounded and sick members of armed forces on land. It requires states to protect and care for the wounded and sick soldiers, treat them humanely regardless of which side they belong to, respect and protect medical personnel and lastly respect the Red Cross. It is Important in this battle to protect the wounded soldiers.

2. Geneva Convention II:

This law protects the wounded, sick and shipwrecked members of armed forces at sea. It requires parties to protect the wounded and sick personnel at sea, shipwrecked military

personnel and the medical ships and personnel as well as those no longer participating in the conflict due to their condition. This is relevant to the topic as it obligated both sides to protect the wounded in the Persian Gulf and the other maritime areas in the war.

3. Geneva Convention III:

This Law concerns the treatment of prisoners of war. This obligates both sides to behave in a humane manner with them, protects them from violence, sets rules regarding interrogation and provides them with the rights to communicate with certain outside parties. This is relevant to this conflict as it obligates both parties to behave in a humane manner with the prisoners captured in the war.

4. Geneva Convention IV:

This law protects the civilians during the war and occupation. This is especially important in modern battles because civilians are often most affected. It provides protections concerning violence, treatment of civilians during the battle, medical and humanitarian assistance and protection against forced displacement. This is relevant to this conflict as it obligates both sides to target military bases rather than civilian areas.

5. Additional Protocol I (1977):

This law supplements the all four Geneva conventions and applies primarily to international armed conflicts. Its main purpose is to strengthen the protection of civilians and people who are not or no longer participating in the warfare. It provides protection for the civilians, places limits on the methods of warfare, protection of civilian objects as well as the protection of medical personnel.

● UN Resolutions:

There have also been a lot of UNSC resolutions regarding or relevant to the war. These include:

1. UNSC Resolution 1696:

This was the first UNSC resolution to formally demand Iran to suspend its uranium enrichment and reprocessing activities. This resolution also supported the IAEA and called on states to prevent certain transfers. This resolution set a reporting deadline as well on the IAEA Director General to report by 31 August 2006 on whether Iran had established a full and sustained suspension. It was important as it moved Iran's nuclear program from an IAEA matter into the UNSC's Chapter VII framework.

2. UNSC Resolution 1737;

This resolution imposed the first binding sanction against Iran because of its nuclear activities. It required that Iran must suspend its nuclear activities, restrict its nuclear related transfers, freeze the assets and encouraged IAEA cooperation.

3. UNSC Resolution 2231:

This resolution endorsed the JCPOA which was the 2015 nuclear agreement between Iran and the P5+1 and established a UN framework for implementing it. This resolution changed

the previous sanctions framework, created specific restrictions and gave the IAEA a major verification role. The snapback process was applied in 2025 and the provisions of earlier resolutions including 1696 and 1737 were re-applied, while at the same time some provisions of resolution 2231 were terminated.

4. UNSC Resolution 1373:

This resolution is a major Security Council resolution establishing broad international obligations to counter terrorism. It required states to stop funding terrorists, freeze terrorist assets, strengthen national counter terrorism laws and prevent their movement.

5. UNSC Resolution 1566:

This resolution focused on international cooperation to counter terrorism. This resolution strongly condemned terrorism, strengthened international cooperation to counter terrorism, strengthened the resolution 1373 and also created a working group to counter terrorism. This is a relevant resolution as multiple terrorist groups are involved in the escalation of the conflict.

6. UNSC Resolution 1265:

This resolution of the UNSC focuses on the protection of civilians during armed conflicts. This resolution condemned the attacks on civilians, demanded respect for international law, addressed impunity and protected humanitarian workers. This is a relevant resolution as civilians have been killed by both sides in this conflict.

7. UNSC Resolution 1674:

This resolution strengthened the previous humanitarian resolution 1265. It called for humanitarian access to civilians in need of assistance, addressed the rights of women and children, addressed refugees and displaced people. This is also extremely important in respect to this topic as many people have been displaced in multiple countries and some women and children have also been killed.

8. UNSC Resolution 2286:

This resolution focused on the protection of medical care during an armed conflict, especially wounded people, humanitarian workers, hospitals and medical facilities. This resolution required respect for international humanitarian law, protected hospitals and medical personnel, called for humanitarian access, addressed accountability and emphasized precautions. This is a very important resolution in respect to any conflict so that humanitarian aid could reach the wounded.

CAUSES OF WAR

1. Political causes:

There have been multiple political causes of this conflict. The relation between the two has been hostile since the 1979 Iranian Revolution in which Ayatollah Ruhollah Khamenei took

over and established the Islamic Republic of Iran. There was another political crisis in Iran when the members of the US embassy were held as hostages by the Iranian for 444 days. Iran supports and maintains relationships with armed and political groups such as Hezbollah, Hamas and the Houthis while the United States alongside its allies consider it as the destabilizing of the region. Another major political cause of the war is Iran's nuclear program which is not supported by the United States and its allies. There have also been disputes regarding the 2015 nuclear agreement between Iran and the P5+1. The sanctions placed on Iran by the US is another reason for the war between the two parties.

2. Military and Security cause:

There have been multiple military and security causes of the war. The war started as a whole because the United States wanted to restrict the missile capabilities of Iran which the US believed posed a threat to their sovereignty. Iran has also supported multiple armed groups across the region which the US considers as destabilizing the region. Iran has also stated multiple times that another reason for the war is the presence of US military in the region and has asked for their removal from the region. Another reason for the war to start again after the ceasefire were the problems within the Strait of Hormuz. Iran had placed multiple mines with the Strait and also shot down three commercial weapons within the strait which provoked the United States.

3. Nuclear Cause:

Iran's Nuclear program is one of the most contentious reasons for the conflict. The uranium enriched country Iran is feared by the United States because of the belief that Iran would use this enrichment for military purposes rather than peaceful ones. The US has made multiple attempts to reduce this enrichment through resolutions and IAEA interventions. The US still fears that Iran would build a nuclear weapon making it one of the major reasons for the conflict. There was a nuclear agreement in 2015 between Iran and the P5+1 called the JCPOA which was given legal status in the UNSC resolution 2231 but the United States withdrew itself from the agreement in 2018.

4. Non State Actors:

The US claims that the support of Iran to Non State Actors is destabilizing the region as these actors have conducted certain operations against the US facilities. These groups are also responsible for escalating the situation in certain areas such as Syria and Iraq. These actors have also escalated the situation between Israel and Palestine as Israel claims that Hamas has attacked certain areas of their land.

IMPACTS OF THE WAR

1. Humanitarian Impact:

This war has multiple humanitarian impacts such as civilian deaths and injuries. There have been multiple deaths across Iran and many have been injured but the exact death toll remains disputed. There have also been multiple people who lost their homes forcing them to live in shelters with a limited amount of food and water. This conflict has also damaged certain hospitals and medical supply chains, making it difficult for people to get help. This war has also destroyed multiple crops and fields as well as water pipelines making it difficult for the people to get these resources. Many people become traumatized after the sightings of a war similar to this. This war has also destroyed multiple schools so whenever this war ends, the schools will need to be rebuilt to provide the children with education.

2. Economic Impact:

The US Iran conflict has economic consequences that extend beyond both countries. Iran's location near the Strait of Hormuz makes any serious escalation a concern for global energy markets as disruption to shipping could increase oil prices and affect countries dependent on imported energy. US sanctions have also restricted Iran's international trade and financial activity while companies and countries dealing with Iran can face economic and political pressure. Regionally, continued tensions have contributed to instability in countries such as Iraq, Syria, Lebanon and Yemen, particularly through Iran's relationships with regional armed and political groups. From an international security perspective, escalation could threaten shipping routes, energy infrastructure and military facilities, creating risks for global trade and wider regional stability.

3. Regional and international Security impact:

Diplomatically the conflict has made cooperation between the US and Iran increasingly difficult due to decades of mistrust, sanctions and disagreements over Iran's nuclear program. Other countries have also been placed in a difficult position as they try to maintain relations with both sides while preventing further escalation. Legally the conflict raises important questions regarding the UN Charter, particularly Article 2(4), which prohibits the use of force against another state and Article 51 which recognises the right to self-defence. Issues such as sovereignty, proportionality and civilian protection therefore remain important concerns for the UNSC. Disagreements between major powers can also make it difficult for the Security Council to reach a unified response.

4. Diplomatic and Legal Impact:

The US–Iran conflict has created serious security concerns across the Middle East and beyond. Continued tensions can increase instability in countries such as Iraq, Syria, Lebanon and Yemen where Iran has significant political and military connections. Any direct confrontation could also lead to attacks on military bases, energy infrastructure or shipping routes, particularly around the Strait of Hormuz, an important route for global energy supplies. This raises the risk of the conflict spreading beyond the US and Iran and involving other regional actors. At the international level, major powers such as Russia, China and European states may also become involved diplomatically or strategically, making the situation more difficult to control. For the UNSC the main concern is preventing escalation

while protecting regional stability, freedom of navigation and international peace and security.

QARMA (Questions a Resolution Must Answer)

- How will you stop the conflict?
- How will you prevent another ceasefire from being violated?
- What will the accountability measures be that you will be using?
- How will you make sure that a war like this does not take place again?
- How will you help the people affected by the war?
- How will you help the affected countries recover from the damages done by the war?

