

## Middle East in turmoil after attacks on Iran

2nd March 2026



The Middle East is in turmoil after coordinated attacks by Israel and the USA on Iran on Saturday. Several Iranian cities, including the capital Tehran, were bombarded with precision-guided missiles as Washington and Jerusalem attempted once and for all

to obliterate Iran's nuclear capabilities. US President Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform: "We're going to destroy their missiles and raze their missile industry to the ground." Trump called for the Iranian people to rise up and for government forces to surrender. He wrote: "This is the single greatest chance for the Iranian people to take back their country." The strikes on Tehran killed Iran's leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and key figures in Iran's military.

Iran immediately retaliated by launching missiles and drones on its neighbours, including the UAE, Bahrain, Kuwait, and Qatar. Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps claimed it had struck Israeli and US military targets in the Middle East. It warned: "This operation will continue relentlessly until the enemy is decisively defeated." There are fears this escalation will create turmoil across the globe. A quarter of the world's oil and a third of its liquefied natural gas travel through the strategic Strait of Hormuz waterway, which Iran could close. This would cause sky-high oil prices and inflation worldwide. Experts warn there could be a major refugee crisis if the conflict spirals out of control.

Sources:  
[theconversation.com](https://theconversation.com) / [aljazeera.com](https://aljazeera.com) / [independent.co.uk](https://independent.co.uk)

### Writing

A long and lasting peace will come to the Middle East. Discuss.

### Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

The Middle East / turmoil / missiles / nuclear capabilities / industry / rise up / military / retaliate / neighbours / military targets / enemy / oil prices / inflation / refugee crisis

### True / False

- 1) The article says American forces hit seven Iranian cities. T / F
- 2) The article says America has obliterated Iran's nuclear capabilities. T / F
- 3) President Trump called for the Iranian people to surrender. T / F
- 4) Mr Trump suggested this was a unique change for Iranians to be free. T / F
- 5) Iran took its time in responding to the attacks on its cities. T / F
- 6) Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard said it had defeated the enemy. T / F
- 7) Around 25% of the world's oil goes through the Strait of Hormuz. T / F
- 8) The conflict could lead to a major refugee crisis. T / F

### Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                        |                    |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. <b>turmoil</b>      | a. fought back     |
| 2. <b>precision</b>    | b. give up         |
| 3. <b>obliterate</b>   | c. deteriorates    |
| 4. <b>surrender</b>    | d. accuracy        |
| 5. <b>key</b>          | e. specialists     |
| 6. <b>retaliated</b>   | f. wipe out        |
| 7. <b>relentlessly</b> | g. leading         |
| 8. <b>escalation</b>   | h. upheaval        |
| 9. <b>experts</b>      | i. intensification |
| 10. <b>spirals</b>     | j. non-stop        |

### Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you know about Iran?
- b) What do you think of the recent attacks on Iran?
- c) How might the world change because of the attacks on Iran?
- d) What needs to happen to resolve this crisis?
- e) What do you think the Iranian people will do now?
- f) What would happen if the US put boots on the ground?
- g) How could this escalate over the next week or two?
- h) What advice do you have for the Iranian people?

## Phrase Match

- |  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. The Middle East is in turmoil after | a. by launching missiles  |
| 2. bombarded with precision-           | b. Iran's military        |
| 3. raze their missile industry         | c. refugee crisis         |
| 4. the single greatest chance          | d. coordinated attacks    |
| 5. key figures in                      | e. spirals out of control |
| 6. Iran immediately retaliated         | f. guided missiles        |
| 7. This operation will continue        | g. high oil prices        |
| 8. This would cause sky-               | h. for the Iranian people |
| 9. Experts warn there could be a major | i. relentlessly           |
| 10. if the conflict                    | j. to the ground          |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- Why is Iran attacking its neighbours?
- How will this war affect public opinion in the USA?
- How do you feel about higher prices because of this war?
- What problems would a refugee crisis bring?
- What will the Middle East be like in 10 years from now?
- What is needed to bring peace across the Middle East?
- What questions would you like to ask Iran's leaders?

## Spelling

- ndeicooadrt attacks
- cities, including the capital Tehran, were aebbrdmod
- sernpcioi-guided missiles
- erebaotilt Iran's nuclear capabilities
- zera their missile industry to the ground
- government forces to drunseer
- Iran immediately leaitredat
- This operation will continue reetesy|sl|n
- until the enemy is idesyeclvi defeated
- this acnlstoaei will create turmoil
- a third of its udefleiiq natural gas
- if the conflict rpsila out of control

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. h	2. d	3. f	4. b	5. g
6. a	7. j	8. i	9. e	10. c

## Comprehension Questions

Listen to / read the news article. Answer these questions. (Answers are on p. 27 of the 27-page PDF.)

1.	How Iranian many cities does the article say have been bombed?
2.	What kind of missiles struck Iranian cities?
3.	What did President Trump say the US would do to Iran's missile industry?
4.	What did President Trump call for the Iranian people to do?
5.	What did President Trump say the Iranian people could take back?
6.	What did Iran do immediately after being attacked?
7.	When did Iran's Revolutionary Guard say its action would stop?
8.	How much of the world's oil goes through the Strait of Hormuz?
9.	What could happen to oil prices?
10.	What kind of major crisis could come from the conflict?

## Speaking – Iran

Rank these with your partner. Put the biggest challenges facing the Iranian people at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |                         |                      |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| • Ongoing war           | • Political freedom  |
| • A refugee crisis      | • Economic sanctions |
| • Water shortages       | • Corruption         |
| • Internet restrictions | • A brain drain      |

### Answers – True False

1	F	2	F	3	F	4	T	5	F	6	F	7	T	8	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.