

## Surrounding Iran, On the Road Through Syria

By Margaret Sarfehjooy



Iran is now surrounded by U.S. bases.

The war on Iraq was looked on as a Bush effort. Those in power today are continuing Bush's war plans stronger than ever. Where is the outcry?

Iran is threatened, and the U.S. continues to push the screws even tighter. U.S. policy toward Iran for the last three decades has primarily taken the form of economic sanctions, threats and isolationism. The U.S. is involved in a covert and proxy war.

The covert dimensions of the war are being fought by intelligence assets, cyber attacks, computer viruses, secretive military units, spies, assassins, agent provocateurs, and saboteurs. The kidnapping and assassination of Iranian scientists and military commanders, which started several years ago, is a part of this covert war. The U.S. has been at war with Iran through its proxies for years.

Iran is now surrounded by the U.S.: The U.S. has more than 30 military bases and facilities including its naval base in Bahrain, U.S. Central command (CENTCOM) headquarters in Qatar, not to mention its military installations in Pakistan, Turkey

and Afghanistan. A third aircraft carrier, the USS Abraham Lincoln, has sailed through the Strait of Hormuz, near the coast of Iran. Israel has become a de facto U.S. military outpost. U.S. and Israeli command structures are being integrated, with close consultation between the Pentagon and Israel's Ministry of Defense. The Pentagon has dispatched some 15,000 U.S. troops into Kuwait.

As for Arab cooperation in threatening Iran? As part of the NATO-Gulf Cooperation Council (NATO-GCC), Qatar and the United Arab Emirates played key roles in the destruction of Libya. GCC stands for Gulf Cooperation Council, the organization of six wealthy Persian Gulf monarchies (Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman, Kuwait, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates-UAE). It was part of the prime strategic backyard for the U.S. invasions of Afghanistan in 2001 and Iraq in 2003, and is currently at work "containing" Iran.

The combined strategy of NATO-GCC is regime change in Syria to weaken Iran. The road to Iran is through Damascus.

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