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Donald Trump Was Installed in Office to Do One Thing

From his 2011 book to Operation Epic Fury, Trump has a consistent track record of being an Iran super hawk.

JOSE ALBERTO NINO • MARCH 5, 2026 • 1,800 WORDS • 19 COMMENTS



Long before Donald Trump descended the golden escalator, long before he learned to tell campaign crowds what they wanted to hear about ending endless wars and bringing the troops home, he told the world exactly what he intended to do about Iran. He wrote it down. He published it. And almost nobody bothered to read it.

In his 2011 book *Time to Get Tough*, Trump laid out his position on Iran’s nuclear program with the subtlety of a sledgehammer. “America’s primary goal with Iran must be to destroy its nuclear ambitions,” **Trump wrote**. “Let me put them as plainly as I know how. Iran’s nuclear program must be stopped by any and all means necessary. Period. We cannot allow this radical regime to acquire a nuclear weapon that they will either use or hand off to terrorists.”

By any and all means necessary. Those six words should have settled every subsequent debate about Trump’s foreign policy instincts toward Iran. They were not the words of a non-interventionist. They were not the words of a man who believed in restraint, in diplomacy, or in the sovereign right of nations to manage their own affairs without American interference. They were the words of a man who had already decided, more than a decade before he ordered B-2 bombers over Fordow, that Iran’s nuclear program would be destroyed on his watch. Everything that followed was execution.

Tearing Up the Deal

Trump repeatedly **condemned** the Iran nuclear deal throughout his 2016 campaign, calling it “the worst deal ever” that would lead to “a nuclear holocaust.” Though he occasionally struck a peaceful tone with select audiences, his actual policy toward Iran was one of consistent escalation from the moment he took office. The International Atomic Energy Agency had **certified** Iran’s compliance with the agreement on at least ten occasions. Trump’s own administration **certified** Iranian compliance in April and July 2017. None of it mattered at the end of the day.

On May 8, 2018, Trump **withdrew** the United States from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action and launched what his administration called the “maximum pressure” sanctions campaign. A White House statement **announced** that the administration would “immediately begin the process of re-imposing sanctions” targeting “critical sectors of Iran’s economy, such as its energy, petrochemical, and financial sectors.” Trump also warned of “severe consequences” for any country that continued doing business with Tehran.

Maximum Pressure, Minimum Restraint

The sanctions that followed ranked among the most severe in modern American history. The White House **stated** explicitly that the campaign was “intended to bring Iran’s oil exports to zero, denying the regime its principal source of revenue.” The Trump administration steadily widened the scope of the economic siege, targeting Iran’s central bank, space agency, and shipping industry. In June 2019, Trump **signed** an executive order imposing sanctions on Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei personally, his office, and those closely affiliated with his access to key financial resources. In July 2019, the Treasury **sanctioned** Iran’s Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif. By November 2019, the administration had targeted Khamenei’s inner circle of advisers, including his son Mojtaba and the head of Iran’s judiciary.

Between 2018 and 2021, the Trump administration **imposed** more than 1,500 sanctions designations on Iran and on foreign companies or individuals who did business with Tehran. According to the International Crisis Group, the campaign **targeted** more than 80 percent of Iran’s economy.

Branding Another Country’s Military a Terrorist Organization

In April 2019, Trump took a step that no previous American president had ever contemplated. He **designated** Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps as a Foreign Terrorist Organization, the first time in American history that any branch of a foreign government’s military had received that label.

At the time, Trump **bragged** about the move in a White House statement that read like a victory lap. “If you are doing business with the IRGC, you will be bankrolling terrorism,” Trump declared. “This designation will be the first time that the United States has ever named a part of another government as an FTO.” He called it an “unprecedented step” and boasted that it would “significantly expand the scope and scale of our maximum pressure on the Iranian regime.”

The timing was notable. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu faced national elections the following day. The Soufan Center **assessed** that the designation appeared designed in part to bolster Netanyahu's electoral chances. Iran's Foreign Minister Zarif **called** it "another misguided election-eve gift to Netanyahu." The move had little **practical effect** beyond the sanctions already in place, but it sent an unmistakable signal about whose interests Trump's Iran policy was designed to serve—world Jewry.

Assassination in Baghdad

The most dramatic escalation of Trump's first term came on January 3, 2020, when he **authorized** a drone strike near the Baghdad International Airport that killed Iranian Major General Qasem Soleimani, the commander of the IRGC's Quds Force, along with Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, deputy commander of Iran-backed militias in Iraq, and several others.

Trump **addressed** the nation from Mar-a-Lago the following day. "Soleimani was plotting imminent and sinister attacks on American diplomats and military personnel, but we caught him in the act and terminated him," Trump **declared**. The claim of an imminent threat became the administration's central justification. However, reporting from Pepe Escobar **found** that Soleimani was on a diplomatic mission with Iraqi paramilitary leader Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis.

But the story began to unravel almost immediately. The Trump administration **shifted** its justifications repeatedly over the following weeks. First Trump said Soleimani was plotting to attack the Baghdad embassy. Then he **told** Fox News it "would have been four embassies." Then he tweeted that it "doesn't really matter" whether the threat was imminent. A UN human rights investigator later **concluded** that the killing was "unlawful" under international law.

Iran **retaliated** with missile strikes on American bases in Iraq, leaving more than 100 U.S. soldiers with traumatic brain injuries. The world braced for open war. The killing of Soleimani **represented** the first known instance of a nation invoking self-defense to justify an attack against a state actor on the territory of a third country. It was a line that no previous administration had dared to cross.

The Generals Who Tried to Stop Him

Even after the Soleimani episode, Trump continued to explore military options for striking Iran's nuclear infrastructure. According to **The New Yorker**, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Mark Milley spent the final months of Trump's first term in an alarmed effort to prevent the president from launching a strike on Iranian interests that could ignite a full-scale war.

Trump had a circle of Iran hawks around him and **remained close** with Netanyahu, who continued to push for military action against Iran even after it became clear that Trump had lost the election. "If you do this, you're gonna have a f***ing war," Milley would **warn**. He began holding daily morning briefings with White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, meetings he **referred** to as the "land the plane" calls. "Both engines are out, the landing gear are stuck, we're in an emergency situation," Milley told his

staff. “Our job is to land this plane safely and to do a peaceful transfer of power the 20th of January.”

On January 3, 2021, Trump **convened** one final Oval Office meeting on Iran, asking his advisers about reports from the International Atomic Energy Agency on Iran’s nuclear activities. It was the last time Milley spoke with Trump as president. The generals had managed to prevent the strike, but only barely, and only because the clock ran out.

Finishing What He Started

When Trump returned to office, there were no generals left to stop him. In February 2025, he **signed** a presidential memorandum reimposing “maximum pressure” and directing his Treasury and State Departments to implement a campaign **aimed** at “driving Iran’s oil exports to zero.” He sat beside Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as he **signed** it. He told reporters, “With me, it’s very simple. Iran cannot have a nuclear weapon.”

According to **The Wall Street Journal**, Trump informed senior aides that he had “approved of attack plans for Iran” but was “holding off on giving the final order to see if Tehran will abandon its nuclear program.” The offer was never serious. American military assets, including carrier strike groups, bombers, and fighter jets, were moved into strategic positions across the region.

In June 2025, Trump ordered **Operation Midnight Hammer**, the first direct American military strike on Iranian soil. B-2 stealth bombers **dropped** bunker-buster bombs on the Fordow and Natanz nuclear facilities, while a submarine **launched** Tomahawk cruise missiles at Isfahan. Trump **declared** on Truth Social that the strikes had “completely and totally obliterated” Iran’s nuclear sites, including the deeply buried Fordow facility. “Nobody thought we’d go after that site, because everybody said, ‘that site is impenetrable,’” Trump **boasted** to Fox News.

But the intelligence agencies told a different story. A preliminary report from the Defense Intelligence Agency **suggested** that the strikes inflicted only limited damage, potentially setting back Iran’s nuclear program by months rather than years. IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi **told** CBS News that Iran could resume uranium enrichment “in a matter of months.” “Frankly speaking, one cannot claim that everything has disappeared and there is nothing there,” Grossi warned. Iran remained, in his assessment, “a very sophisticated country in terms of nuclear technology.”

Then came February 28, 2026. **Operation Epic Fury**. The joint American and Israeli assault that killed Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, decimated the IRGC, and spread the conflict across the entire Persian Gulf. The culmination of everything Trump had promised over the course of 15 years.

Trump’s relentless hostility toward Iran is the predictable culmination of a **career built** upon deep integration with the most influential elements of American Jewry. These associations provided the capital and connectivity required for his ascent, inevitably shaping his worldview to prioritize their geopolitical ambitions. Consequently, Trump has functioned as the ideal

vessel for those who seek to turn Old Testament fantasies into reality through American military might.

This pattern reveals that contemporary populism—and its Zio-populist [offshoots](#) across the pond—acts merely as a Trojan horse for Zionist interests. By exploiting rhetoric concerning immigration, race relations, and economic nationalism, these movements successfully capture the loyalty of the disaffected, only to redirect their political energy toward the preservation of Jewish supremacy rather than the survival of the European peoples of the West.

Nationalists must recognize these figures as false prophets and instead prioritize the demographic and civilizational continuity of our own nations through a policy of strict realism abroad and nationalism at home.

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