The War with Iran

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- Ken’s email
- Please use it.

Phone Issue

Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at 20 or 80. Anyone who keeps learning stays young. – Henry Ford

Keep Learning new things



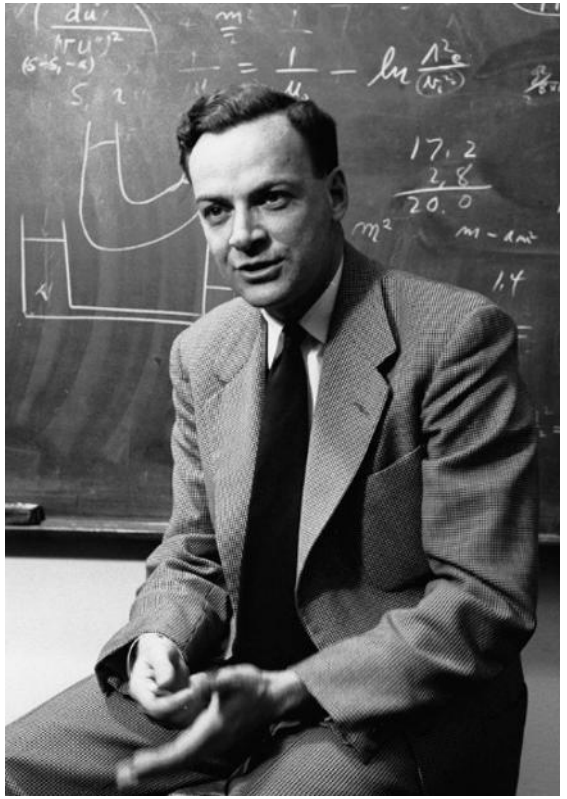
Influence on Me

Two people had major influence on my approach to many things:

- Richard Feynman
- Mack Moore

Richard Feynman

- Manhattan Project
- Nobel Prize in Physics in 1965
- Challenger Investigation



You don’t really understand a Physics principle, or anything else, unless you can teach it to a sixth-grader.

- Richard Feynman

Almost all children are born geniuses, but if you constantly criticize a fish because it can't climb a tree, eventually it believes it is a failure.

All of us tend to complicate things as we grow older.

Therefore, we should SIMPLIFY.

What about Mack Moore?

- Master negotiator and mediator
- Taught me the secret to all negotiation
- More about that later

Full Disclosure

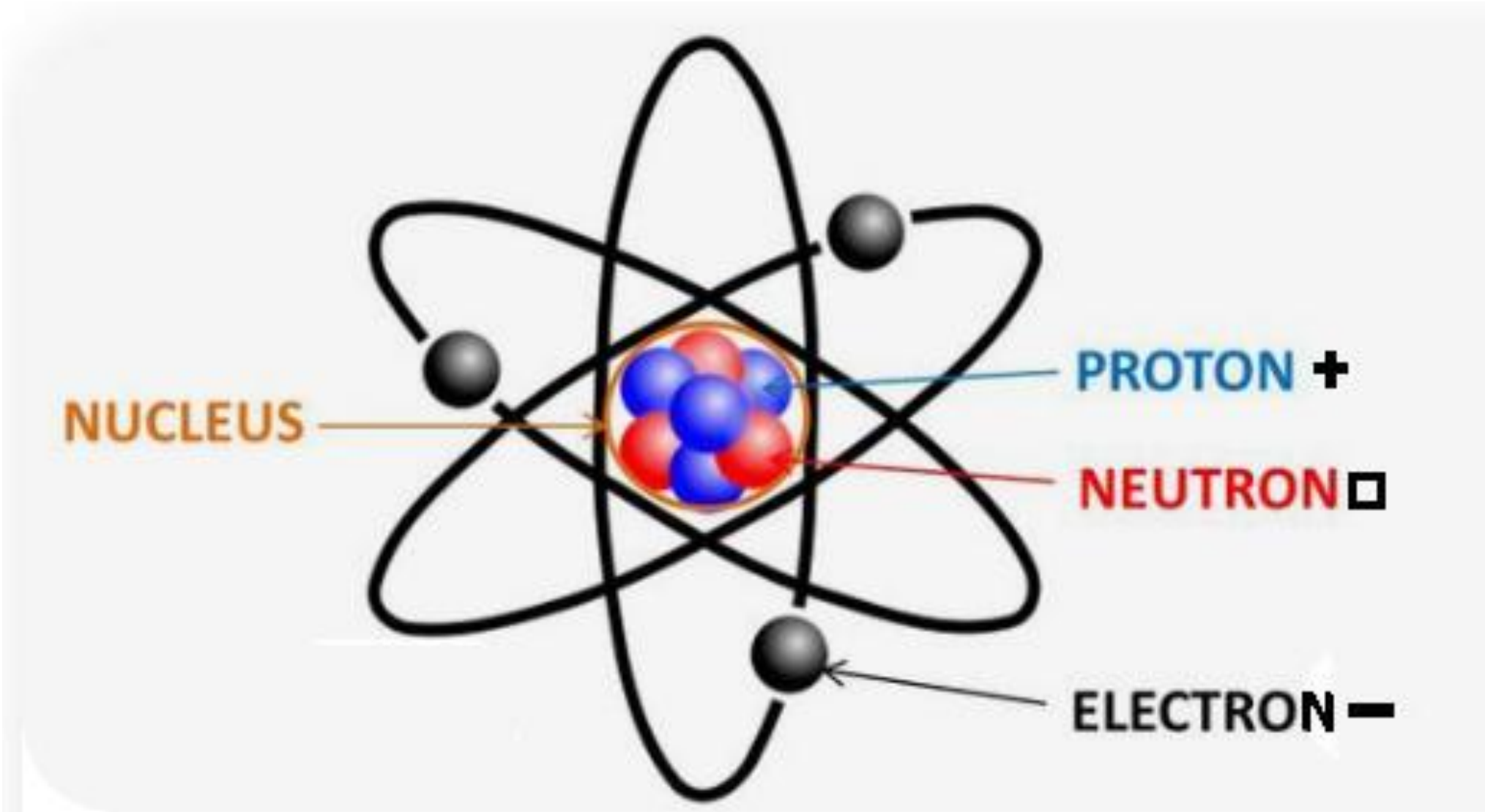
- Consultant for U.S. government regarding Iran war
- Divisions among U.S. population
- Ken has been in U.S. government during nine presidential administrations (both sides of the aisle). Ken is considered “apolitical.”
- Nothing classified will be released in this course.

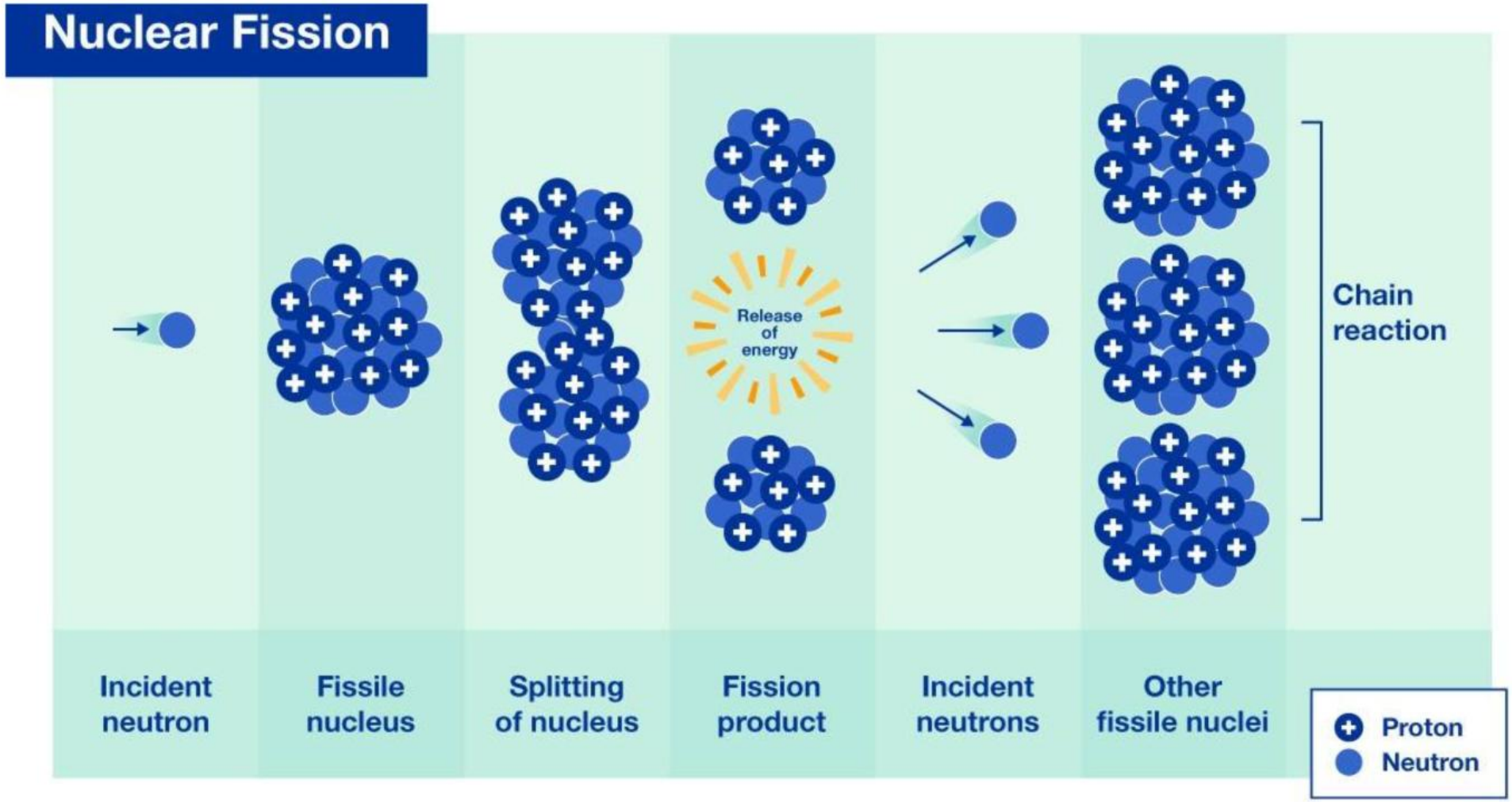
High School Debate Team

- Tactic: Debate coach would not tell team which side they would argue on an issue.
- Therefore, they had to prepare BOTH sides.
- Promotes objectivity and reduces bias
- This strategy was used for Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, Chemical Weapons Treaty, and mediation of squabbling government agencies.

Subject of Nuclear Weapons in Iran is Key

- 2024 Lifelong Learning course on Internal Nuclear Applications (Ken and Admiral Munns)
- Two major kinds of nuclear weapons—fission (as in World War II) and thermonuclear.
- Iran is pursuing only fission weapons.
- Uranium enrichment by Iran is a major point
- What is enrichment?


NUCLEUS
PROTON +
NEUTRON
ELECTRON −


Nuclear Fission
Release of energy
Chain reaction
Incident neutron
Fissile nucleus
Splitting of nucleus
Fission product
Incident neutrons
Other fissile nuclei
Proton
Neutron

- Most uranium atoms have 238 total protons and neutrons.
- Only the few with 235 will fission.
- To have weapons-grade uranium, 90-93 percent must be uranium-235.
- Increasing the percentage of uranium-235 is called enrichment.

How Much Enrichment is Needed for Nuclear Power Plants?

- Only 3-5 percent
- Easily obtainable from companies such as Westinghouse

Disturbing Facts

- Iran is believed to have already achieved 60 percent enrichment.
- The majority of the effort is in getting the first 20 percent.

How big is Iran?



Map Courtesy of Reddit

When did the problem in Iran start?

- It wasn’t February of 2026?
- How about the eighth century AD?
- Prior to then, Persians did not control Iran.
- Previously held by Zoroastrians
- Persians took over.
- Mohammed was born around 630 AD

Current Nuclear Situation in the Middle East

- Many nuclear power plants
- Nobody with nuclear weapons (except Israel)
- Saudi Arabia once had nuclear weapons, but gave them up.
- Saudi Statement: “Nobody in the middle east should have nuclear weapons. The region would be unstable.”

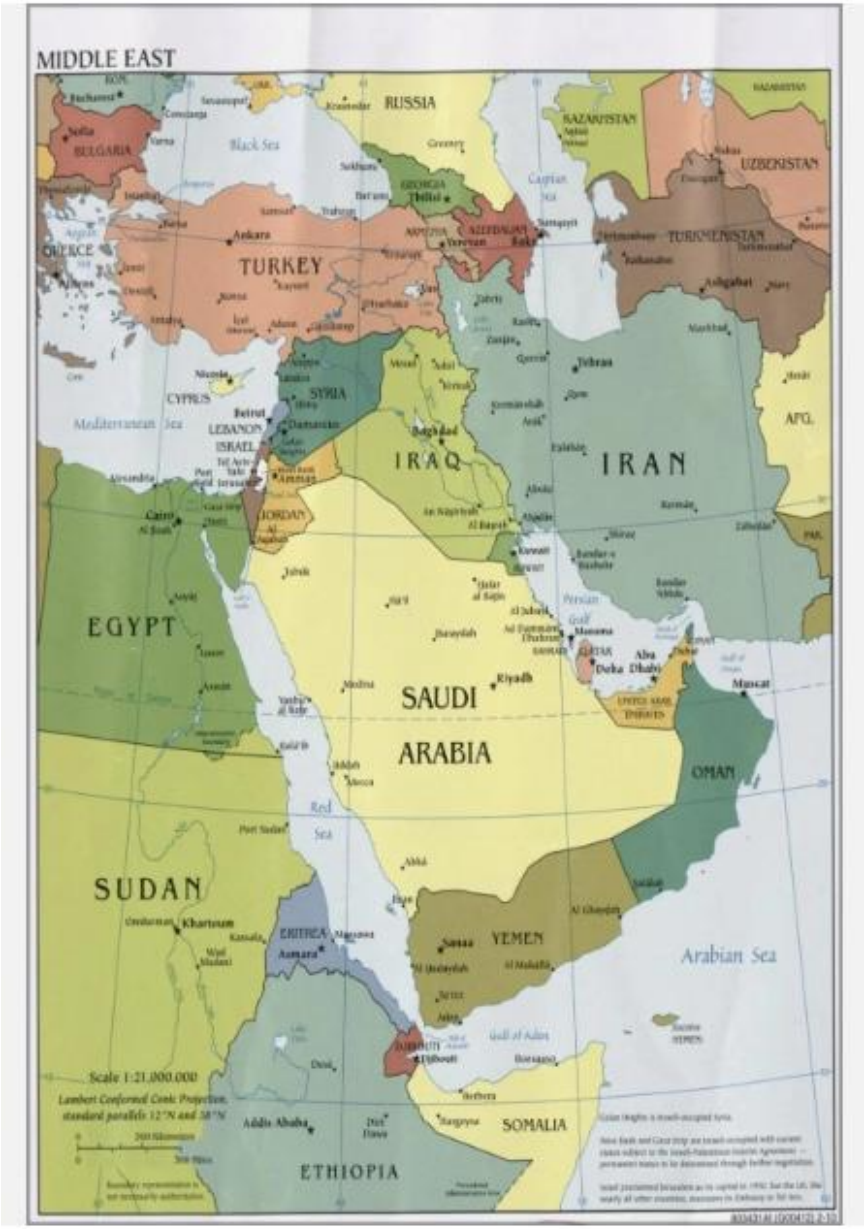
Recent Statement by Saudi Arabia

"We do not have nuclear weapons, but if Iran gets them, we will also."

How long has Iran hated Israel?

- Only since the Ayatollahs came to power in 1979
- Prior to that relations between Iran and Israel were good.
- There are perhaps 40,000 Iranian Jews now in Iran.

Iran and Neighbors

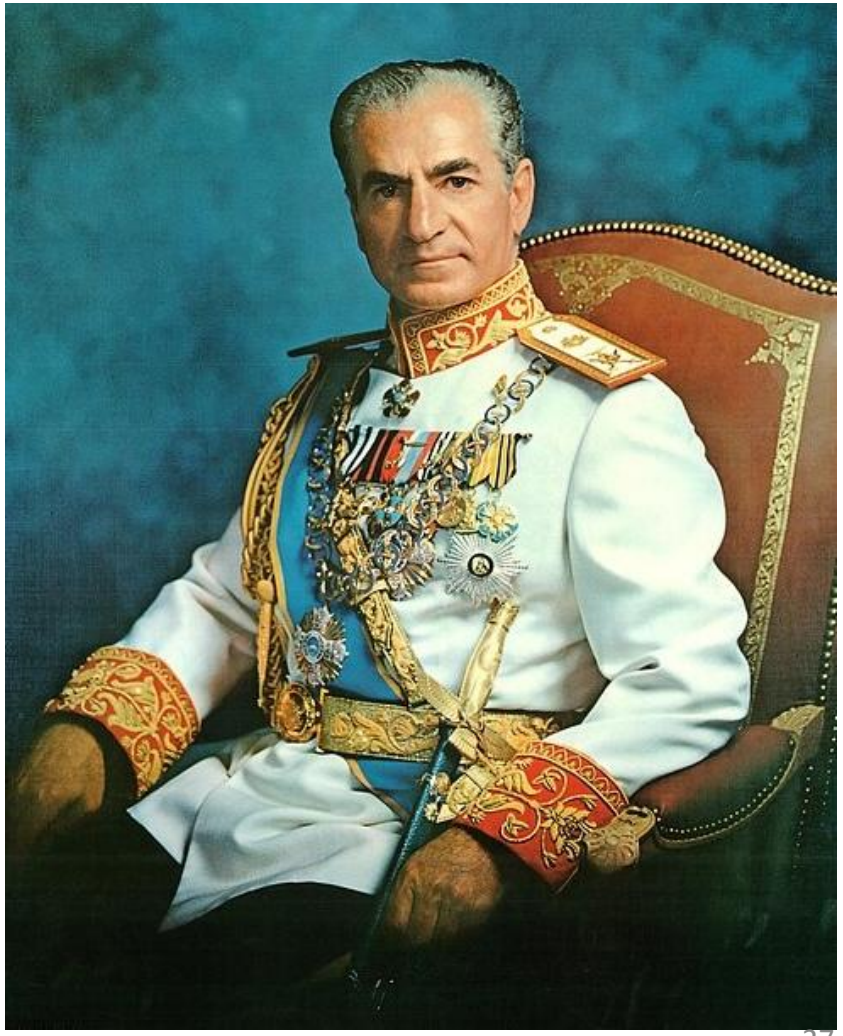


What Happened in the 20th Century?

- After World War II, Pahlavi regime took over Iran.
- Reza Pahlavi came to power as the Shah in 1921, and his son, took over in 1941.
- His son, Mohammed Reza Pahlavi ruled from 1941 until the Islamic Revolution in 1979. His regime had been supported by the Western countries. There had been relative stability in the Middle East.

Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi

Ruled Iran from 1941 to 1979



How did Iran fare under the Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi?

- 1925-1976, its economy grew 700 times.
- 1965-1976, average annual industrial growth rate over 20%--not just from oil (unlike Saudi Arabia and Libya).
- Average Iranian income neared that of Europeans.
- Nuclear power developed with Western help.
- After the Islamic revolution of 1979, economic growth and rapid industrialization plummeted, never to return.

What happened when the Islamic militants took over in 1979?

- American Embassy in Iran taken over by “student militants”, and embassy staff held hostage for over 400 days
- Ill-fated rescue attempt during the Carter administration (April 1980)
- Ronald Reagan elected President in 1980 election
- Hostages released quickly after Inauguration (January 1981)

The son of Mohammed Reza Pahlavi took over as the exiled Shah in 1980.

Status of Iran's Nuclear Power Plants

- Before the revolution Iran's nuclear work was all for peaceful purposes.
- Random inspections by International Atomic Energy Agency were done.
- After the revolution, Iran agreed to random inspection, but secretly initiated nuclear weapon development.

Incorrect Assumptions by Multiple American Administrations

- That Iran would sign onto the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (1970 onward)
- That Iran would abide by its public agreements
- That in negotiations, the Iranian regime was honorable, and would negotiate in good faith.
- ALL WERE FALSE ASSUMPTIONS AND ARE RELEVANT RIGHT NOW.

Obama Administration Negotiated 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)

- Iran agreed to reduce its enriched uranium stockpile, limit its centrifuges, and convert the Arak nuclear reactor to prevent weapons-grade uranium production.
- US unfroze $50 billion of Iranian foreign assets.
- Iran agreed to strict, random international inspections of their nuclear program (but secretly lied).

Obama Administration Plane Load of Money

- January 2016 $400 million in cash to Iran on an unmarked cargo plane (for military purchases Shah had made, but never received)
- Additional $1.3 billion to Iran for interest over 35 years
- US got release of people imprisoned in Iran, plus agreements, never fulfilled.
- Why a plane load of cash? To circumvent international sanctions on money transfers to Iran.

Complaints by Obama Critics

- Paying a ransom for hostages
- Intentionally circumventing international sanctions
- Difficulty in accounting for the $400 million cash (Did it all get there, or was some siphoned off?)
- Subsequent Iranian violation of agreements they made

Biden Administration

- Campaign promise to have Iran deliver on their agreements for money received during the Obama administration
- All attempts were unsuccessful, and Iranian nuclear weapon program accelerated. Iran did not follow their agreements.

Ronald Reagan Was Right Once Again

TRUST BUT VERIFY

Why is the Iranian regime so difficult to deal with?

- Extreme interpretation of the Quran
- Belief they have an Allah-given right to lie, cheat, kill, or renege on agreements
- This explains Iranian behavior during the current war.
- They can NEVER be trusted to follow their commitments.

How did I come to these conclusions?

- My learning Arabic and Farsi
- My reading the Quran and use of credible translations
- The current Iranian interpretation of the Koran as justifying their behavior, e.g., lies and failure to follow agreements, as well as aggressive military action, terrorism, sponsoring rogue states, etc.

Not all Muslims agree with the Iranian radical interpretation.

The Religious Dimension

- Iran is a “religious” state, and they claim to have Allah on their side.
- The regime believes they are justified in lying, cheating, killing non-believers, etc., because Muhammed said it was justified.
- They have “executed” over 50,000 of their citizens.

What have I done:

- Learned Arabic and Farsi
- Read (laboriously) the Quran in native languages
- Observed Iran's attacks on other Middle Eastern states, most of who are Muslim
- Researched Muhammed from his birth in the seventh century

Page from Quran



My Conclusions

- Muhammed was an illiterate *bedouin*.
- Was looked down on, as *Ummi* (illiterate)
- There is no way he could have had the linguistic elegance of the Quran.
- There are many theories as to why he is revered.
- The link with the Silk Road

Quran Citations Counter to Iran's Interpretation

- Killing of innocent people 5:32, 8:61, 25:68
- Protection of "unbelievers" 9:6
- Those who leave Islam 2:256, 16:12
- These are only a few examples. There are many more.

So, what does all this mean right now, with the war, negotiations, etc.?

Mack Moore and the Secret to All Negotiation

- Georgia Tech professor and highly-regarded labor negotiator
- Desired by both management and labor unions, for mediation
- Taught me the secret to ALL negotiation, which I have used many times: Nuclear Non-Profileration Treaty, Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT), settling squabbles among government agencies, etc.

The Secret to ALL Negotiation

Find what the other side REALLY wants—not what they SAY they want.

Once you find what they REALLY want…

- Negotiate if you can give them what they REALLY want.
- Be prepared to walk away (if you can tolerate that)

or

- Take firm action.
- Otherwise, things could get worse.

The Principle of Nemowashi

- Old city of Kyoto
- Large tree, gigantic trunk
- Harvesting tree was laborious.
- Discovered that the spindly roots were shallow
- Cut the roots
- After a few weeks, came back and pulled tree over with an ox

Business Lessons from Nemowashi

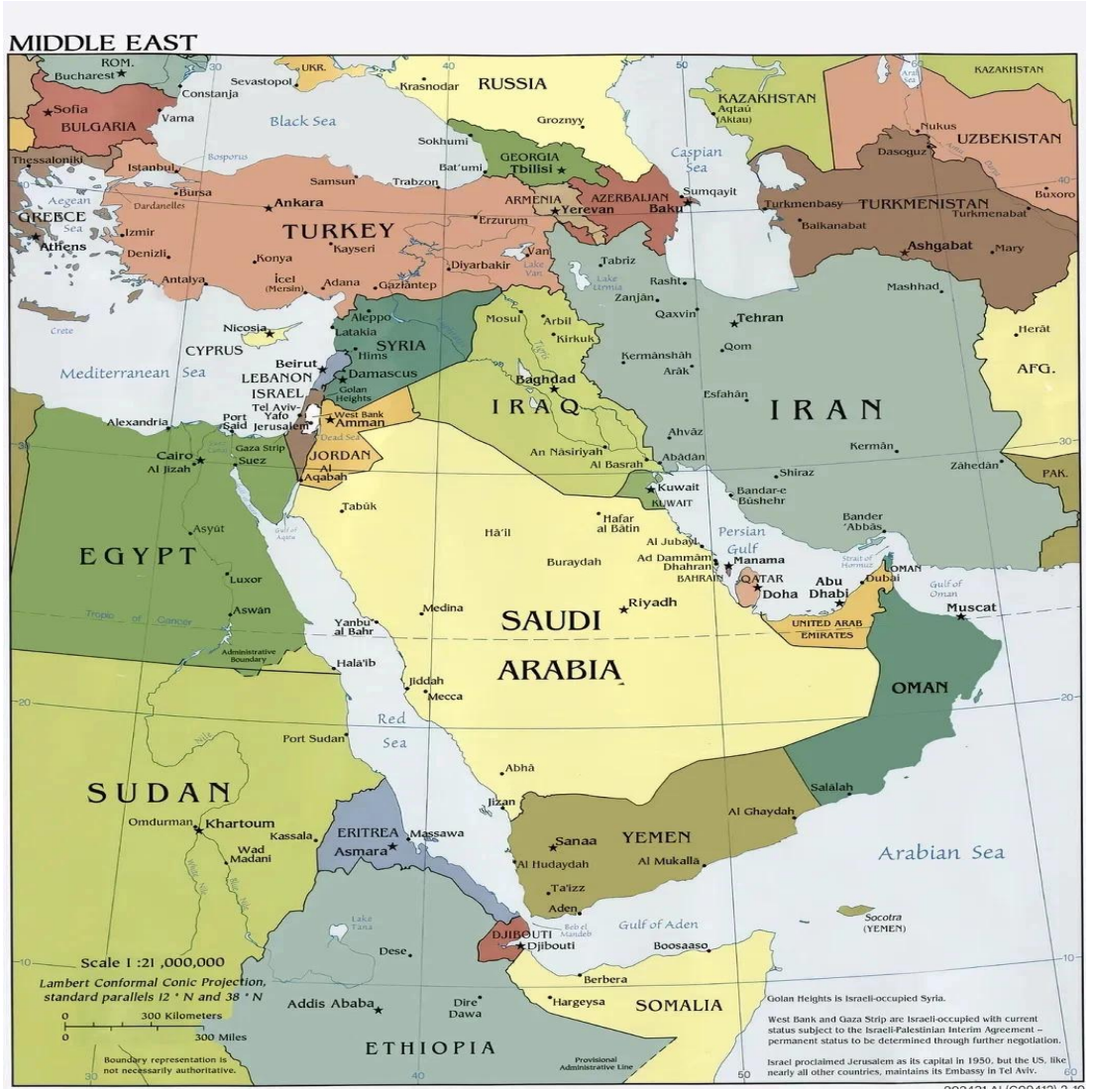
- If negotiation involves many people, negotiate with them separately, before going public.
- What does this have to do with Iran?
- Using the tree analogy, can negotiations with Iran ever work?

What assumptions is Iran making?

- That anti-war people in US (factions in both Democrats and Republicans) will win out and stop the war? If war is stopped, Iran will get nuclear weapons.
- That their delaying tactics will outlast Donald Trump.
- That Iran will control Straight of Hormuz permanently.

Will any rich states in the Middle East step up and help control Iran?

Does the UN have any role, or should it?



Negotiation

- Iran has consistently stalled and delayed, in order to wait out the U.S. on multiple occasions.
- They believe factions in the U.S. will force an end to the war and that they can have nuclear weapons AND control of the Straight of Hormuz.

What does Iran REALLY want?

- Nuclear weapons
- Straight of Hormuz
- Control the Middle East?
- Other things?
- Can we give then what they REALLY want, and meet U.S. objectives?

Hard, Cold Facts

- Iran is, without question, seeking to have nuclear weapons, if they do not already have them.
- They consider the Strait of Hormuz to be THEIRS, not international waters. They will never willingly give up control.
- They want to fund terrorist proxies.
- They want the current regime to survive.

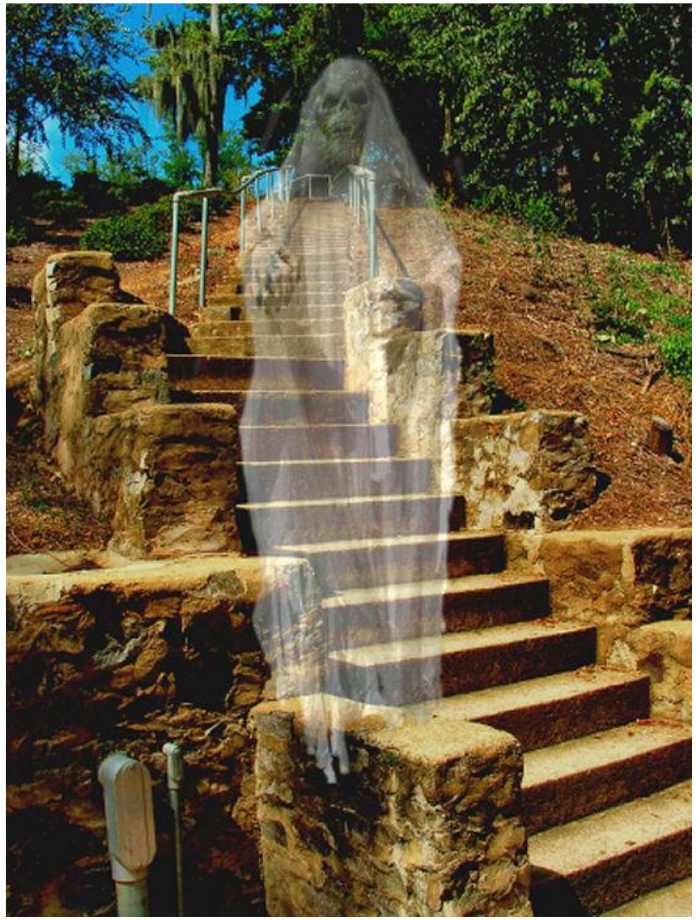
If you were President, or a Member of the Senate or the House, what would YOU do?

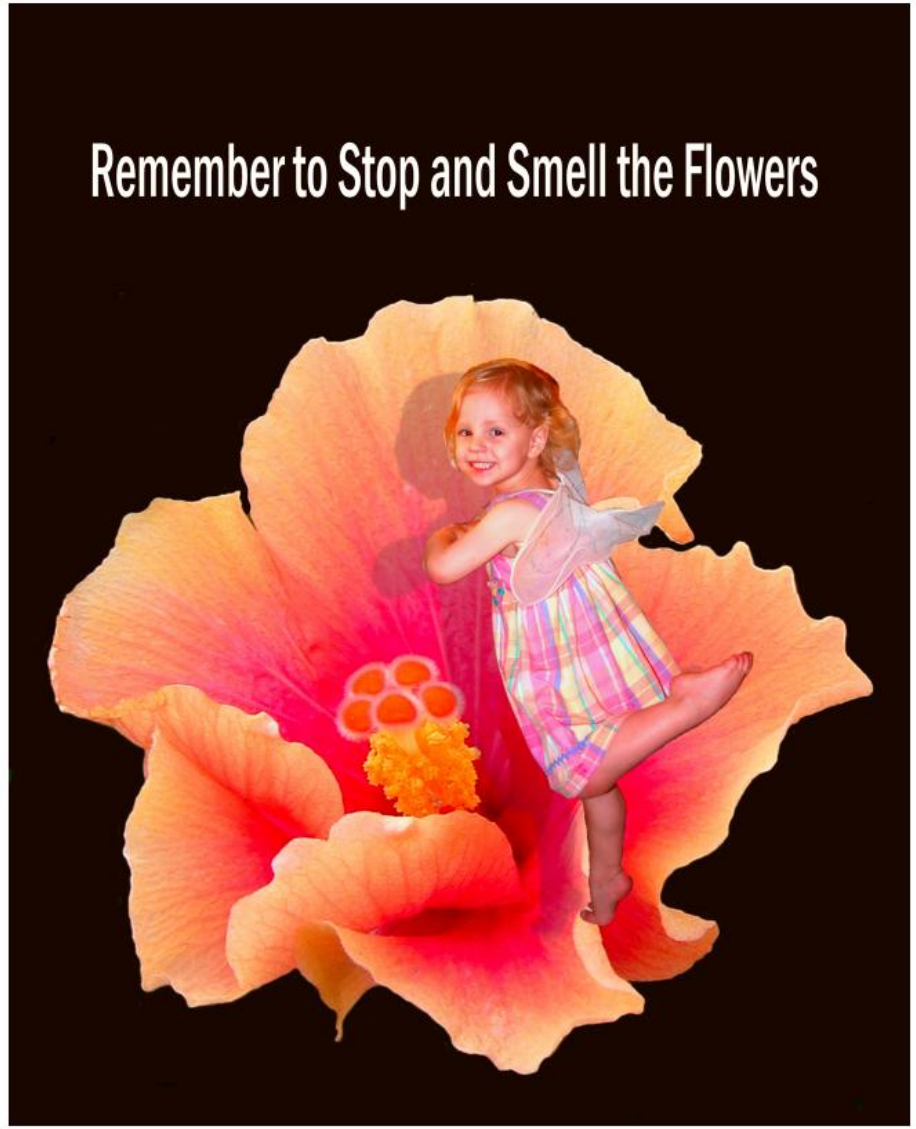
- Options
- Pros and Cons for each option
- What would happen if we simply walk away?
- What would happen if we take DECISIVE action?
- What should be the role of other countries?

Some Options

- Stop the war and walk away?
- Let other countries sort it out? (We are energy independent. Straight of Hormuz is not essential to us.)
- Assume that if Iran had nuclear weapons, they would not use them? What about Israel?
- Let the UN deal with it?

Happy Halloween





103

Wisdom from a 1960's Folk Group

No matter how high or grand the throne…

What they sit on, is just like your own.

--Chad Mitchell Trio

The Best Laid Plans of Mice and Men

- Robert Burns (1785) – a farmer plowing a field
- Turned up a nest of field mice
- Used in John Steinbeck's novel in 1937, *Of Mice and Men*
- What has happened since our last session
- Path forward

And now for the commercial:

Ken will teach a two-session course for Lifelong Learning: Spring semester, starting in January

"*More Snippets from a Life Thoroughly Enjoyed*."

Included are items such as:

Some of the Items in the Course

- Help Me Find the Missing Nerve Gases
- How Do You Hypnotize a Chicken?
- The Bond Blonde Bombshell and the Bookstore
- Lucille Ball's Dirty Little Secret
- Walter Cronkite's Boat
- Were There Weapons of Mass Destruction in Iraq?
- Tunguska and Chelyabinsk

Items from Last Week's Class

- 11 items were put on the board.
- We will cover most of them, quickly.
- We will end with some "earthshaking" information.
- Buckle up!

Rubio Issues

- Rubio recently in an international meeting not covered much by US media:
- It is clear what Iran wants.
- They cannot have what they want!
- We are always eager to talk when talk is productive.
- Not optimistic that anything other than force can be used.

Role of the Media

- Iran media are consistent and unyielding. No compromise regarding nuclear weapons.
- US media are divided.
- Democrat-leaning media want to end war, and walk away. They call it “Trump’s war.”
- Republican-leaning media say the war is necessary and that Iran’s having nuclear weapons is unacceptable.

Sleeper Cells in the United States

- For a number of years, Iran has tried to have sleeper cells in the US.
- Law enforcement has known about them and watched them for many years. Some sleeper cells were quietly broken up with no media coverage.
- The likelihood of unknown or hidden sleeper cells is very low. (Pro-US Iranians in US are very active.)
- Personal impact: gas prices, etc. takes precedence.

Generational Differences in the US

- Younger generations oppose the war. Less than 30 percent of Gen Z sees the war as necessary.
- They oppose US involvement in other countries' affairs. Younger generations are very isolationist.
- Colleges and universities have promoted this change.
- In the silent and "boomer" generations, support is about 60 percent.

Role of China and Russia in the Middle East

- Most experts believe China and Russia have primarily “transactional” rather than ideological interest in Iran, such as oil purchases.
- These countries are giving Iran satellite support, and even missile and technical advice.
- China and Russia do not want Iran to have nuclear weapons.

And now for the “earthshaking” information:

- My serendipity this week
- Unclassified, but very complete and valuable information
- Reliable source, and cross-verified by my personal knowledge
- Information compiled from multiple sources, whistle-blowers, and commercial satellite photographs

Israeli Capture of Iranian Nuclear Master Plan

- January 2018 Israeli capture of Iranian nuclear plans at a warehouse in Tehran.
- 100,000 documents on Project Amad—physical and digital information.
- Strategy, locations, blueprints, etc.
- Enabled interpretation of recent satellite photos, etc.
- Caused President Trump In May of 2018 to scrap earlier nuclear deal with Iran (JCPOA).

How did Pickaxe Mountain get its name?

- The Iranian name of the mountain is: Kuh-e-Kolang.
- Kolang is the Farsi name for the tool: pickaxe.
- The key part of the mountain is granite, historically broken up with a pickaxe.

What is Pickaxe Mountain used for?

- To replace an above-ground centrifuge plant at Natanz damaged in 2020.
- Believed to contain stored enriched uranium, etc.
- IAEA inspectors were prohibited from examining it.
- Facilities are perhaps 100 meters deep in the mountain.

June 30, 2026
Satellite image ©2026 Vantor Technologies
Annotations by Institute for Science and International Security

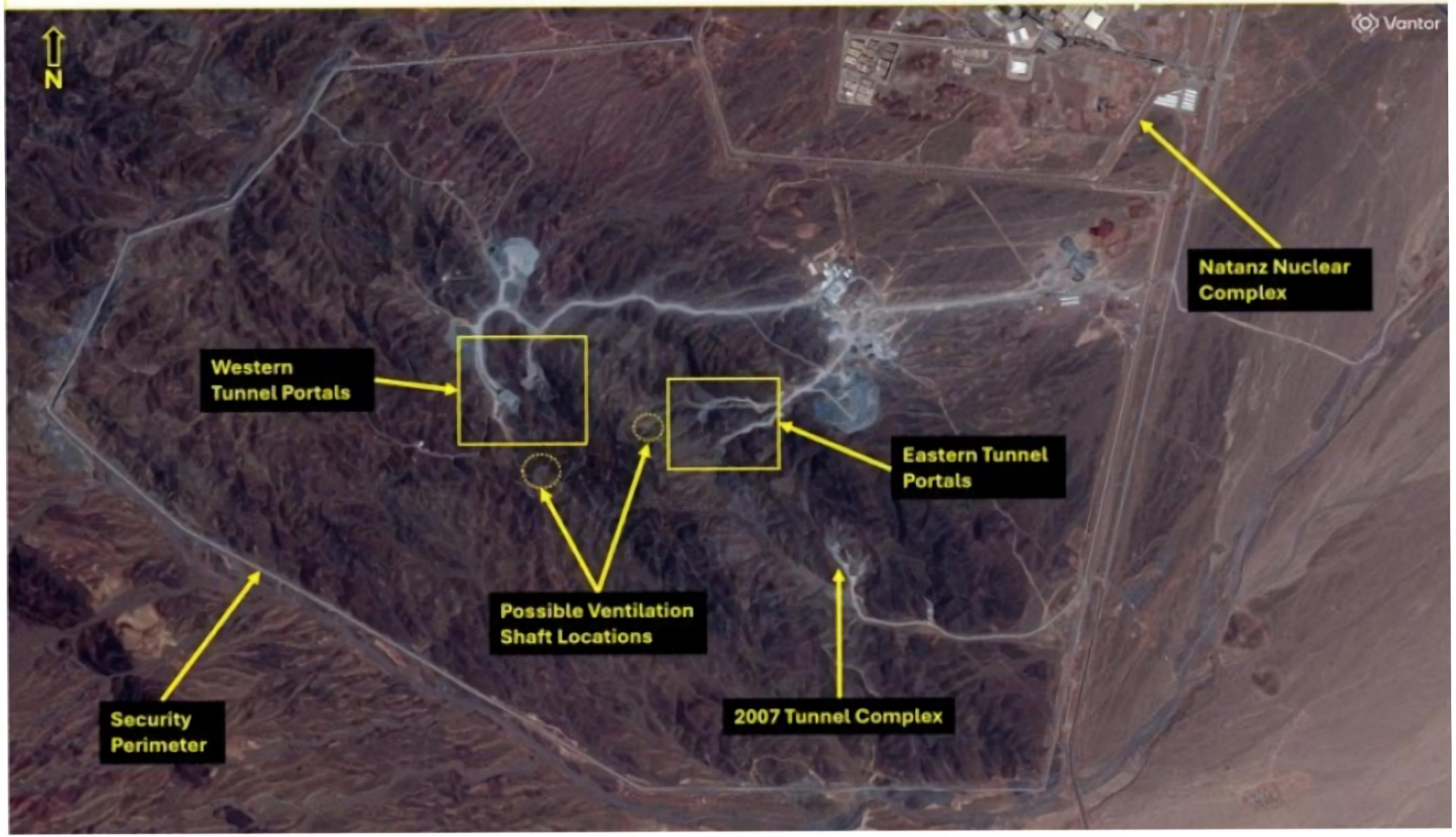


Figure 1. A June 30, 2026, Vantor Technologies image overview of Pickaxe Mountain.

Why is Pickaxe Mountain difficult to hit?

- The “Bunker Busters” may be insufficient to destroy facilities there.
- The MOAB (Maximum Ordinance Air Blast) aka Mother of all Bombs, operates differently, by using a shock wave rather than traditional bombs.
- Therefore, the MOAB may be used on Pickaxe Mountain, perhaps in conjunction with “Bunker Busters.”

“The Book”

- *The Constructive Uses of Nuclear Explosives* (1968), Edward Teller, et al.
- Ken’s direct involvement
- Few copies exist today. Ken has one.
- Equations regarding the damage done by explosives, nuclear or conventional (same equations).
- Relevance for Pickaxe Mountain and the MOAB.

This concludes the course.

Thank you for your active participation!

Feel free to contact me at:

nukephys@protonmail.com