



### The Iranian Navy after the Islamic Revolution

After the revolution, the situation underwent a significant transformation, particularly in terms of the overall command, which now falls under the purview of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution. His Eminence, the Leader, brings several essential components to the command and management of the Armed Forces. One of these key managerial facets is unwavering determination. It means that he never rests within the horizon he defines for the military's activities. If the armed forces manage to achieve the objectives he sets, he does not merely declare success and remain stagnant; instead, he contemplates the next goal and subsequent objectives.

His visionary leadership has proven to be remarkably forward-thinking for

the military, contributing significantly to Iran's advancements. Another crucial element is the belief in the principle of 'We Can.' The Leader firmly believes that the domestic forces 'can,' and this belief is not merely a slogan; it is a call to action. These components have precipitated a profound transformation within the Iranian Navy. In the post-revolutionary era, the naval power can be analyzed from two perspectives: self-sufficiency and missions.

During the 57 years of Pahlavi rule, they had the ease of acquiring equipment without facing any sanctions. Americans would come and provide them with training. In fact, the Iranian Navy used to rely on foreign training as there were no native institutions within the

country dedicated to naval education. However, over the past 40 years, Iran has made significant advancements without any assistance from other nations, despite not only receiving no help but also facing sanctions.

It's remarkable to contemplate how the Iranian Navy has evolved from a coastal force to its current status. They have harnessed their indigenous talent for training and strengthened their educational infrastructure. The military capabilities of their personnel have allowed the Iranian Navy to confidently navigate the open seas and become a formidable presence, even turning into a concern for the Americans.

Rear Admiral Shahram Irani, the commander of the Islamic Republic of Iran Navy, made these obser-

ations during a meeting with the personnel and families of Iran 86th Naval Fleet, which took place in the summer of this year. He reported on the achievements of Iran 86th Naval Fleet's mission:

"In the naval operations of Iran 86th Naval Fleet, young individuals, with an average age of 30 and an average of 15 years of service, have proven themselves with unprecedented maritime daring in the history of Iran. Their unwavering belief in their capabilities, coupled with a reliance on domestic potential, has resulted in breaking numerous barriers. These achievements include covering a maritime distance of approximately 35,000 nautical miles, setting records in Iran's maritime history in terms of distance and time in operational

areas, transiting the Strait of Magellan, active and coordinated international diplomacy, executing world-class oceanic missions, and actively engaging with effective diplomacy. This has expanded and secured the strategic naval missions of the Iranian Army, broken the taboos of deep-sea navigation in the world's oceans by testing the resilience and capability of Iranian-built ships in confronting high and tumultuous waves in the Pacific, Indian, and Atlantic Oceans. In addition to obtaining precise information and operational data from Asian, African, and American continents, the deepening of Iran's strategic presence in the maritime domain, as well as introducing itself as an inexhaustible, non-sanctionable power, have been

among the other achievements of this complex maritime operation. We have demonstrated that the Islamic Republic of Iran and its people are indomitable and impervious to isolation and sanctions."

It's worth noting that Iran 86th Naval Fleet, comprised the combat ship Dena and the logistics ship Makran. During their recent mission, they circumnavigated the Earth, passing through the Strait of Magellan, which is the closest point to the Antarctica, and they tested the steel hull of the Iranian ship Dena in the cold waters, which is one of the main candidates for participating in the Antarctica expedition. The Antarctica is one of the world's most strategically important regions, attracting the attention of many nations.

### The future strategy of the Army's Navy entails a presence in the Antarctica

Rear Admiral Amir Irani, the Commander of the Iranian Army's Navy, in the "Good Morning, Iran" program, commemorated the Sacred Defense Week. He highlighted that Ayatollah Khamenei referred to the Army's Navy as a strategic force, signifying its potential within the military. The Commander of the Army's Navy pointed out that foreign nations had always attempted to obstruct Iran's maritime

presence, but they had overcome these barriers. In the face of foreign conspiracies, the successful mission of Naval Group 86 in international waters stands as a significant achievement, challenging the hegemony of global powers.

Amir Iranian elucidated the future plan of the Army's Navy, which includes a presence in the Antarctica. He emphasized that they have command over

the coasts of Makran, asserting their ownership and aspiring to raise the Iranian flag high. He envisions not only military activities but also scientific endeavors taking place in this region, with Iranian scientists prepared to contribute. While 52 countries are signatories to the Antarctic Treaty, around 30 nations, including the United States, Russia, Chile, France, Argentina, India, Pakistan,

and Brazil, currently maintain research stations in the area. Russia leads with ten research stations. According to Abolfazl Saleh, the head of the Marine Sciences Research Institute at the National Institute of Oceanography, "The presence in the Antarctica is of paramount importance from scientific, legal, political, geostrategic, economic, capacity-building, and access to cutting-edge tech-

nologies perspectives. In the future, this region will become a major international issue, considering its abundant resources. Its strategic significance lies in asserting sovereignty over the Southern Hemisphere and addressing unparalleled scientific issues. A review of the Antarctic Treaty is highly likely."

The establishment of a permanent base in the the Antarctica by the Islamic

Republic of Iran, aimed at enhancing nation's strategic depth, has garnered attention in recent years. Plans have been announced to realize this vision.

Iran's direct access to the the Antarctica from the coasts of Makran, without the presence of any landmass in its path, allows it, under international laws, to make territorial claims in a portion of the the Antarctica.