



A teacher from Abu Musa's Art and Culture Center brings a new homework assignment for the students of a primary school in the island of the Greater Tumb, southern Iran.  
● [kanoonnews.ir](http://kanoonnews.ir)



An Iranian health worker scans newcomers into Iran's southern Abu Musa Island for signs of COVID-19 infection during the coronavirus pandemic.  
● [IRNA](http://IRNA)



The photo shows three Iranian children living in the country's southern Island of Abu Musa in the Persian Gulf.  
● [MOHAMMAD BABAEI/IRNA](http://MOHAMMAD BABAEI/IRNA)

### Solution to problem

The goal is for Iranian culture and people to influence the surrounding regions rather than focusing solely on the politics and government of Iran. To achieve this goal, engagement with neighbors and even countries that have differences with Iran is essential — though this should follow initiatives such as developing housing on the Persian Gulf islands. Expanding Iranian culture and strengthening ownership is only possible through interaction, not the use of force (except in exceptional circumstances). If a small country, despite obstacles, is ready to engage with Iran, it doesn't matter if it boasts more economic benefits in some areas. In Iranian culture, there are values greater than money and material benefit — such as the idea that the "selfness" of us is more important than our interests.

The ideal situation is for all of Iran's foreign policies to become symbols of cooperation and public diplomacy. Accord-

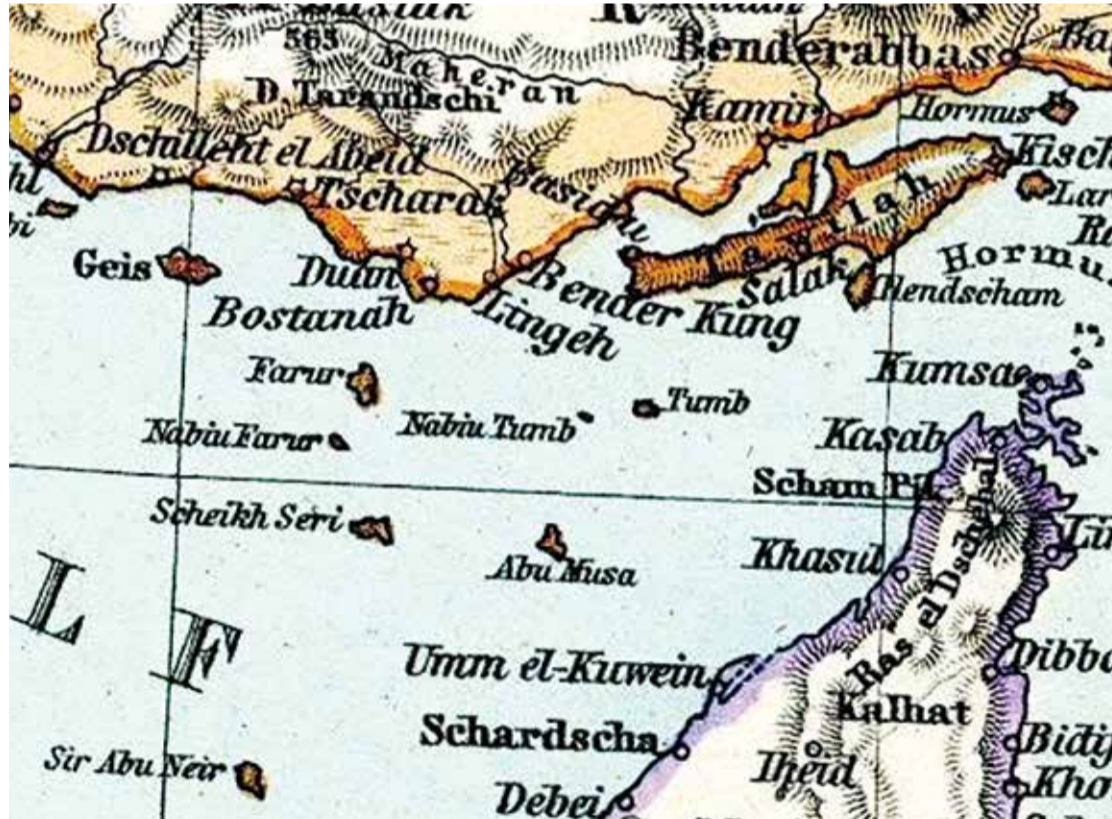
ingly, Iran's foreign policy in dealing with misunderstandings could be based on the idea that "The selfness of us is more important than the issue of disagreement." Therefore, ownership can be exercised jointly through cooperation with others. This is the same idea Aristotle expressed: It is better "for property to be private and its use communal". Thus, the aim of Iran's foreign policy should be to let the ancient popular and regional flow of life prevail over everything. In such a scenario, no group would benefit more than the Iranians. As the flow of everyday life expands, misunderstandings may not completely disappear, but they will gradually weaken. Instead of focusing on solving the problem, we should drain its energy and weaken its relevance. We often tend to solve problems by using power, thus eliminating them. However, the reality is that a problem rarely has only one solution.

Problems can be delayed, neutralized, or transferred to other areas. The important thing is not to see the problem the way our enemies want us to. If, during engagement and cooperation, concerns about the other side escalate, action should be taken carefully and decisively — but in a way that allows cooperation to resume. Action should be brief, decisive, and without excessive destruction — merely to demonstrate Iran's strength, after which cooperation should be re-established. However, it is preferable that this stage never arises as the need to display power signifies failure in achieving foreign policy goals — goals that are more cultural than political or bureaucratic. Overall, Iran should emphasize its cultural and spiritual depth rather than displaying military and political power. Iran's history shows more cultural finesse and depth than physical power, and this characteristic comes with greater responsibility.

playing power. With increased cooperation and joint activities, misunderstandings will diminish, paving the way for better relationships. The solution to Iran's foreign policy issues lies mainly within the issues themselves and through direct engagement with neighbors. This engagement should be driven more by the Iranian people and culture than by power and politics. This approach helps us move from hard and formal ownership to cultural and human ownership, strengthening Iran's cultural influence in the region. Ultimately, belief in the cultural potential of Iran and its people makes direct engagement with neighboring countries possible without the need for displays of power or national symbols. Iranians carry their historical identity and culture with them wherever they go and need no additional displays. The main goal is for Iran to break free from the intellectual constraints of its modern era and return to its true place.



Iranians should move towards opening themselves up to neighbors and presenting a cultural image that predates the era of nationalism. Our neighbors should see Iran as a cultural reality, not as a hard power ready for military action. The Iranian government should strive for neighbors to see the Iranian people, rather than an image of Iran's nationalistic state. In foreign policy, we should showcase the historical Iran that was open to interaction and attraction, not the modern Iran that has been focused more on defining and separating itself from others.



The photo shows a slice of Adolf Stieler's Handatlas (1891) where the three islands of Abu Musa, the Greater Tumb, and the Lesser Tumb are colored orange to indicate they were part of the Iranian territory to the north, not the Emirati territory to the southeast.  
● [WIKIMEDIA](http://WIKIMEDIA)

### Summary

- 1 The more Iran exerts power in the region, the more it dries up the collective life of Iranians and makes it undesirable.
- 2 Our understanding of ownership is still immature. Legal and physical ownership is just possession, not complete ownership. True ownership is complete when it leads to interaction and connection and is actively used.
- 3 Under normal circumstances, we should keep Aristotle's idea in mind — that the best arrangement is for property to be private and its use communal. Specifically, for border territories like islands, it is better for ownership to be such that neighboring countries are also involved, creating closer bilateral relationships.
- 4 To achieve lasting and peaceful ownership, we must recognize that this path is two-way. Peace is

a collective product and cannot be achieved alone. Complete ownership is achieved through recognition by others, not merely through unilateral displays of power and emphasizing over and over. In general, using violent power for ownership leads to future conflict and hostility. Real security for Iran is not in its own hands but in the hands of its neighbors. In a hostile environment, ownership will never become a stable and accepted reality. Based on what has been discussed, the more Iran emphasizes displays of power, the more it ultimately harms itself as this approach keeps Iran's ownership of its territories incomplete and feeling vulnerable. Thus, we reach a surprising conclusion: while Iran may possess a territory, strengthening this ownership depends on cooperation with neighbors. Neighbors are the main foundation for improv-

ing and consolidating Iran's ownership of its assets. To achieve this, the more Iran's hard power and influence grow, the more it must move towards gentleness and cooperation, using more grassroots and non-governmental methods. This engagement should continue until the issues in foreign policy reach a favorable resolution. This perspective becomes practical when the Iranian government becomes stronger and Iranian society becomes more efficient. These conditions will only materialize when Iran's resistance to Western pressures in the Middle East yields favorable results, leading not to a reduction but an expansion of Iran's choices. The empowerment and strengthening of the Islamic Republic of Iran is a prerequisite for adopting policies of cooperation and friendship, which were also emphasized by Imam Khomeini.



IRGC Navy speedboats sail during a military drill in the waters around Abu Musa Island on August 2, 2023.  
● [IRNA](http://IRNA)