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Narrative of weakened Iran overlooks its resilience



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OPINION EXCLUSIVE

Recently, E3 and Iran were engaged in three rounds of discussions. It seems that the nuclear issue is still occupying a paramount place in any new negotiations. Iran has repeatedly said that it stands ready to engage in a fair and objective negotiation. This readiness emanates exclusively from the self-confidence in Tehran — a fact that the global community, especially European administrations, should recognize. Should political will be lacking in European capitals, there exists a risk that unconstructive and hostile narratives may emerge, falsely depicting Iran as a weakened state desperate for negotiations. Such misrepresentations not only distort Iran's stance but also overlook its resilience. Despite enduring decades of intense pressure and its accompanying costs, Iran has consistently demonstrated its refusal to capitulate under coercion. This resistance is not merely a strategic choice but a deep-seated principle, derived from the nation's recent history. Iran's resilience has led it to a pivotal juncture characterized by two competing narratives: The first, a misleading and detrimental narrative propagated by Israel, portrays Iran as economically and militarily weakened, with its regional alliances affected and political influence waning. This view suggests that Iran's alleged vulnerabilities and supposed escalation of nuclear ambitions necessitate military intervention due to diminished deterrence. Conversely, the second narrative acknowledges Iran's achievements over four decades of unwavering resistance and self-reliance in security measures, culminating in a position of stability, self-sufficiency, and confidence. The regional resistance movements often linked with Iran are not merely extensions of its influence. Many of these groups, having predated the Islamic Republic, are driven by their own distinct objectives, shaped by decades of foreign occupation and systemic injustice. Their persistence highlights a broader regional ethos of resistance to inequality. Analysts need to recognize that these movements are not conventional proxies but legitimate entities pursuing their own aims. While Iran has provided support, this assistance aligns with their similar values and goals rather than implying direct control. Iran's inherent capabilities, including its nuclear potential, vast natural resources, military strength, and, most importantly, its national unity, remain robust. Underestimating this unity fails to appreciate the resilience of a nation that has faced significant challenges over centuries. [Page 2 >](#)



South Africa open to nuclear project bids from Russia, Iran: **Minister**

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Iran's optimal strategy against Trump, regional dynamics

INTERVIEW

Iran's regional diplomacy is a delicate balancing act, especially with the return of the US maximum pressure campaign. Tehran aims to foster friendly ties with neighbors, ensuring they do not perceive Iran as a threat. The current focus is on diplomacy, even if negotiations are off the table now due to US pressure. [See page 4 >](#)

Cognizant of Iran's prowess, enemies resorting to soft war: **Leader**

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Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei addresses a group of people from East Azarbaijan Province in a meeting in Tehran on February 17, 2025. khamenei.ir

Perpetrators of Gaza massacres accuse Iran of rights abuse: **Pezeshkian**



Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian (L) walks toward a hall to attend a ceremony on science and research in Tehran on February 17, 2025. president.ir

International Desk

Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian said those who have massacred more than 28,000 women and children in Gaza, portray themselves as defenders of human rights and accuse Iran of rights abuse.

"It is utmost unfairness," Pezeshkian said on Monday while addressing an official ceremony on science and research in Tehran.

Pezeshkian said that they have wreaked havoc on the region and easily bomb and bury people under rubble but no one criticizes their actions. But, when a small incident happens in Iran, they cry out that human rights have been violated in Iran. Pezeshkian said that it is obvious that Iran, like other countries, have some problems. But, the fact that such people "claim that they respect human rights and are defenders of human rights and we are not, this is the utmost unfairness."

Referring to the images of horrific bombing of residential areas in Gaza and Lebanon by the Israeli regime, Pezeshkian said that "people's hearts shiver when they see those images, and they see with their own eyes how much the human rights advocates lie."

Since October 2023, the Israeli regime has killed more than 47,000 people, mostly women and children, in Gaza and more than 3,700 people in Lebanon.