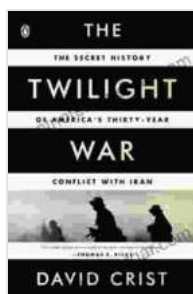


The Secret History: America's 30-Year Conflict with Iran



The Twilight War: The Secret History of America's Thirty-Year Conflict with Iran by David Crist

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 7215 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
X-Ray : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 655 pages



For over three decades, the United States and Iran have been locked in a covert and often perilous conflict, a clandestine struggle that has shaped the geopolitical landscape of the Middle East. This gripping narrative delves into the untold story of this enigmatic relationship, uncovering the covert operations, diplomatic failures, and perilous confrontations that have marked this tumultuous period.

The Early Years:

The seeds of the conflict were sown in the aftermath of the Iranian Revolution of 1979. The overthrow of the pro-Western Shah and the establishment of an Islamic Republic sent shockwaves through the region, and the US perceived the new regime as a threat to its interests.

Covert operations were launched to destabilize the Iranian government, including attempts to overthrow the new regime through military coups. These actions only deepened the mistrust between the two nations, leading to the infamous hostage crisis of 1979-1981.

The Hostage Crisis:



In November 1979, Iranian students stormed the American embassy in Tehran, taking 52 hostages. This act of defiance shocked the world and plunged the two countries into a diplomatic crisis that would last for over a year.

Negotiations proved difficult, with the Iranian government demanding the extradition of the deposed Shah in exchange for the release of the

hostages. Despite intense pressure from the international community, the crisis ended only after 444 days of captivity.

The Iran-Contra Affair:

In the mid-1980s, the Reagan administration became embroiled in a scandal that would further strain relations with Iran. The Iran-Contra Affair involved the secret sale of weapons to Iran, ostensibly to gain the release of American hostages held by Hezbollah, a Lebanese militant group.

The proceeds from the arms sales were then illegally diverted to fund the Contras, a rebel group fighting against the socialist government of Nicaragua. The scandal led to the resignation of several high-ranking officials, including National Security Advisor John Poindexter, and further damaged the credibility of the US in the eyes of its allies.

The Persian Gulf War:



In 1990, Iraq invaded Kuwait, sparking the Persian Gulf War. The US led a coalition of international forces to expel Iraqi forces from Kuwait and restore the small emirate's independence.

The conflict exacerbated tensions between the US and Iran. Iran saw the American intervention as a threat to its regional interests, and relations between the two countries remained strained throughout the 1990s.

The Nuclear Deal and Beyond:

In 2015, the US and Iran reached a landmark agreement known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). The deal imposed strict limits on Iran's nuclear program in exchange for sanctions relief.

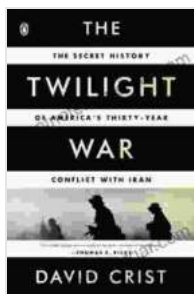
The JCPOA was hailed as a major diplomatic breakthrough, but it faced opposition from some in the US, including then-candidate Donald Trump. In 2018, Trump unilaterally withdrew the US from the deal, re-imposing sanctions on Iran.

The collapse of the JCPOA has led to renewed tensions between the two countries. In recent years, there have been a series of incidents involving attacks on oil tankers and American military personnel in the Persian Gulf.

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The secret history of America's 30-year conflict with Iran is a tale of covert operations, diplomatic failures, and perilous confrontations. From the hostage crisis to the Iran-Contra Affair to the Persian Gulf War and the nuclear deal, this complex and often contradictory relationship has had a profound impact on the region and the world.

As tensions continue to rise, it is crucial for both the US and Iran to find ways to bridge the divide and resolve their differences through dialogue and diplomacy.



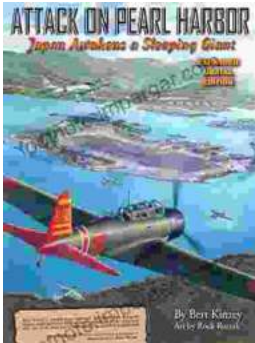
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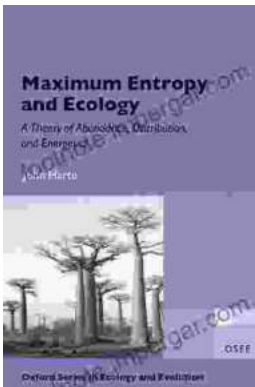
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