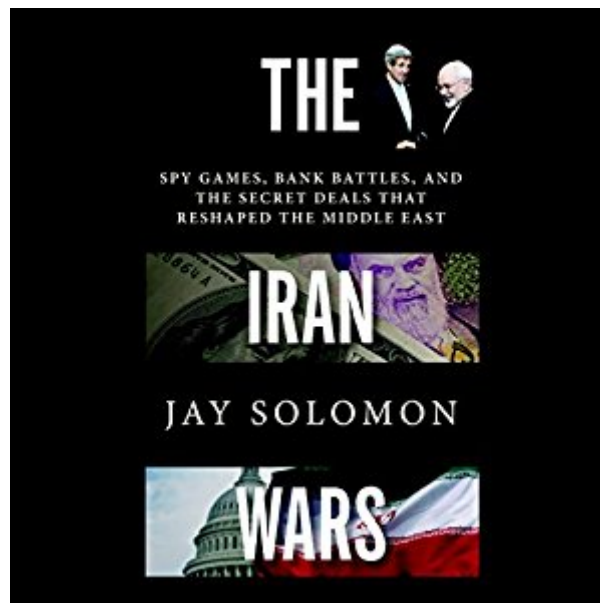




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# **The Iran Wars: Spy Games, Bank Battles, And The Secret Deals That Reshaped The Middle East**



## Synopsis

From the Wall Street Journal reporter who's been breaking news on the historic and potentially disastrous Iran nuclear deal comes a deeply reported exploration of the country's decades-long power struggle with the United States - for listeners of Steve Coll's *Ghost Wars* and Lawrence Wright's *The Looming Tower*. For more than a decade, the United States has been engaged in a war with Iran as momentous as any other in the Middle East - a war all the more significant as it has largely been hidden from public view. Through a combination of economic sanctions, global diplomacy, and intelligence work, successive US administrations have struggled to contain Iran's aspirations to become a nuclear power and dominate the region - what many view as the most serious threat to peace in the Middle East. Meanwhile, Iran has used regional instability to its advantage to undermine America's interests. *The Iran Wars* is an absorbing account of a battle waged on many levels - military, financial, and covert. Jay Solomon's book is the product of extensive in-depth reporting and interviews with all the key players in the conflict, from high-ranking Iranian officials to Secretary of State John Kerry and his negotiating team. With a reporter's masterly investigative eye and the narrative dexterity of a great historian, Solomon shows how Iran's nuclear development went unnoticed for years by the international community only to become its top security concern. He catalogs the blunders of both the Bush and Obama administrations as they grappled with how to engage Iran, producing a series of both carrots and sticks. And he takes us inside the hotel suites where the 2015 nuclear agreement was negotiated, offering a frank assessment of the uncertain future of the US-Iran relationship. This is a book rife with revelations, from the secret communications between the Obama administration and the Iranian government to dispatches from the front lines of the new field of financial warfare. *The Iran Wars* exposes the hidden history of a conflict most Americans don't even realize is being fought but whose outcome could have far-reaching geopolitical implications.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The book traces Mideast history from Lawrence of Arabia to current instability facilitated by Iran. Iran incites instability in Jordan and Lebanon by funding Hezbollah and Hamas, political wing of the Muslim Brotherhood and by flow of arms to militias. Iran is funding the Taliban, largely by buying opium. The book evolves to more recent history, culminating in the background of the recent agreement attempting to slow Iranian nuclear development. The 2010 Arab Spring changed the political landscape although the Obama administration gave only soft support to the Green Movement towards a possible democratically induced regime change in Iran. Solomon cites administration waffling on Iran policy along with desperate desire for a nuclear deal. Promoting a deal at any cost resulted in a raw deal. Noting that the current repressive regime is not popular with the populace along with the leader's age, the Obama administration made a short term deal betting heavily on the Khomeini regime being replaced in the near future. It's likely to be a losing wager betting on short term, giving Iran time to enhance capabilities. Including a drop in oil production, sanctions and banking restrictions were severely impacting Iranian economy before rescinding as part of the deal. The book goes into some detail on success of financial restrictions. All was sacrificed in the interests of a temporary deal. We will see the denouement when time comes for renewal in about 5 years. Solomon makes a significant miscalculation when he says that Obama is not following Bush in the goal of nation building. In fact, Secy of State Clinton's total function was lecturing Arabs on American democracy. Their promotion of Arab Spring as an expression of democracy is directly responsible for the goal of removing Assad in Syria, the cause of so many deaths and children in Aleppo hospitals as well as ill advised regime changes in Egypt and Libya. After promising exit plans in 2008, Obama follows exactly Bush's schedule and objective of democracy spreading in Iraq and Afghanistan. Minimizing that peculiar misinterpretation, the book is a very prescient and informative analysis. The conclusion has Iran moving quickly in concert with Russia to consolidate gains from the bad nuclear deal.

The author had access to seemingly all or most of the key players in the ongoing saga of our

attempts to contain Iran's radical clerics. The most recent example of us wanting a deal so bad we (Kerry and Obama) could taste it (along with the claims of making a deal with one of the most dangerous states in our time) are detailed here. A very good description of our recent history with Iran is also described by the author along with so many of the players in and out of government who affected our decision-making in forming policy towards Iran. A must read for those who are interested in the threats posed by Iran and how we have attempted to address them.

Extremely factual, engaging and instructive. gives you the fact without finger pointing, and let you form your opinion. I am an Iranian American who has been in the States for 55 years. My allegiance is clearly to America. I read this book with that bias. I was appalled by the sheer stupidity of our government approach over multiple decades and multiple presidents. The only approach that had any smarts was that of Bill Clinton. I am sure you will enjoy his book regardless of your politics.

This is about the sanctions and machinations that led the U.S. to the controversial, 2016 Vienna nuclear-peace negotiation with Iran. As complicated as the whole thing was it still is only the end residue of a long bloody shooting war with Iran that started in the 1980s. This book needs to be read with others about the real war.

The background to the JCPOA is excellent as is his well-sourced discussion of the negotiations. My only negative comment about this well written book is that it failed to detail in lay terms the rights given to Iran to substantially advance its nuclear ambitions. The question is: what is the breakout time in 10, now 9 years.

This was a good summary of our recent history with Iran and also a primer on Iran's interests in the Middle East. Good info on the mechanics of effective economic sanctions, the importance of the US dollar. No good explanation for why we did not use that leverage to negotiate a better deal.

Bring about the long forgotten serial events together and exposes the unspoken biases of the Obama Administration and shows how it contributed to a major failure of human rights as well as politics for US. The sources seem well researched and the excuses de jour of the Obama/Kerry are refuted by strong observations.

This book gave me a great understanding of the events leading to the Iranian nuclear agreement.

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