

Iran's Position in U.S. Post-October 7 Strategy

Leila Rahmatipour

Faculty Member, Department of Political, Defense and Security Studies, Strategic Research Institute, Tehran, Iran.

leilarahmati33@yahoo.com

 0009-0001-4158-1839

Abstract

The events of October 7, 2023, constitute a major turning point in the geopolitical dynamics of West Asia. These developments not only altered the regional balance of power but also intensified pressure on Iran and the Axis of Resistance, leading to significant political and security transformations across the region and contributing to the emergence of a new regional order. Consequently, examining the United States' approach and grand strategy in West Asia in the post-October 7 environment has become increasingly important.

This study seeks to address the following central research question: what are the principal components of the United States' grand strategy in West Asia after October 7, 2023, and how is Iran positioned within this strategic framework? The study argues that the United States' post-October 7 grand strategy is characterized by a temporary yet purposeful re-engagement with the region. This strategy combines several interrelated objectives: providing strong and sustained support for Zionist Regime; containing and weakening Iran and the Axis of Resistance; preventing the escalation of the conflict into a wider regional war; promoting regional economic and security integration through the expansion of the Abraham Accords; and limiting the growing influence of rival powers, particularly China.

Within this framework, the United States seeks to promote a regional order based on Arab-Zionist cooperation under American sponsorship. Such an order aims to reduce Iran's regional influence, prioritize economic connectivity and trade, strengthen security cooperation among U.S. partners, and ultimately enable Washington to devote greater strategic attention and resources to competition with China in the Indo-Pacific region. Theoretically, this strategy reflects a synthesis of realist and liberal approaches. On the one hand, it emphasizes balance-of-power considerations, deterrence, and the containment of adversaries; on the other hand, it relies on economic integration, institutional cooperation, and regional partnerships as instruments for maintaining stability and advancing U.S. interests. Furthermore, this strategy is consistent with the broader American objective of burden-sharing, whereby regional allies assume greater responsibility for maintaining security while the United States retains a supporting, coordinating, and deterrent role.

Employing a descriptive-analytical methodology, this research examines the key dimensions, objectives, and implications of the United States' grand strategy in West Asia after October 7, 2023, with particular attention to the position of Iran within the evolving regional order.

Keywords: Grand strategy, West Asia, Hamas, Zionist Regime, Axis of Resistance, Iran.

Introduction

Operation Al-Aqsa Flood, launched on October 7, 2023, represented a large-scale and sophisticated combined military operation. Conducted with the capacity of several battalions, the operation surprised Zionist Regime and its supporters from the very beginning, much as Hezbollah's initiatives during the 2006 Lebanon War had done. In strategic terms, the operation enabled the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) to seize the initiative and take another significant step toward altering the regional deterrence balance. It exposed major intelligence failures, revealed the limitations of Zionist Regime's security and defense systems, including the perceived vulnerabilities of the Iron Dome, and highlighted weaknesses in political and military decision-making processes. More importantly, the operation marked a significant shift in Hamas's strategic behavior, moving from a predominantly defensive posture to an offensive one for the first time (Ferdowsipour, 2023).

Prior to October 2023, Hamas's strategies and operational approaches had largely focused on resisting and responding to Zionist military actions within a defensive framework. However, through Operation Al-Aqsa Flood, Hamas adopted an offensive strategy and launched a large-scale assault on Zionist positions, significantly affecting the political and security dynamics of the occupied territories and reshaping regional calculations (Assarzadeh Nushabadi, 2023, pp. 36–37).

The October 7 attack has widely been regarded as a watershed event in the contemporary history of West Asia. Its consequences extended far beyond the immediate battlefield, triggering substantial political and strategic changes throughout the region. The operation prompted both the United States and Zionist Regime to reassess their regional approaches and strategic priorities. Before the Hamas attack, the administration of President Joe Biden had emphasized reducing direct American involvement in West Asia, maintaining pressure on Iran, and prioritizing strategic competition with China. The outbreak of war disrupted these priorities and compelled Washington to rapidly re-engage with the region in order to protect its interests, reassure its allies, and prevent further escalation.

Following October 7, the United States pursued a series of interconnected strategic objectives in West Asia. These included providing stronger political, military, and diplomatic support for Zionist Regime; countering Iran's regional influence and addressing concerns regarding its nuclear program; promoting the expansion of

the Abraham Accords and broader normalization efforts between Zionist Regime and Arab states; combining military pressure with diplomatic initiatives; and reducing the need for prolonged direct military involvement while maintaining deterrence and managing strategic competition with rival powers.

Against this backdrop, understanding the evolution of U.S. grand strategy in West Asia and Iran's position within that strategy has become increasingly important. Accordingly, this study employs a descriptive-analytical methodology and draws upon library and online sources to examine the principal components of U.S. grand strategy in West Asia after October 7, 2023. The first section analyzes the major strategic objectives and priorities of the United States in the region, while the second section examines Iran's position within these strategic calculations. The study concludes with a synthesis of the findings and an assessment of their implications for the future regional order in West Asia.

1. The Grand Strategies of the United States in West Asia

West Asia has long been a region in which energy and security considerations constitute the core drivers of political and strategic developments. Historically, the region held strategic importance for the United States for three principal reasons: access to oil and energy resources, containment of communist influence, and the protection of regional allies, particularly Zionist Regime. However, these priorities have evolved significantly over time. In the energy sector, the United States has substantially reduced its dependence on Middle Eastern oil and has emerged as a major energy producer and exporter. Similarly, the collapse of the bipolar international system and the decline of pan-Arab nationalist regimes have diminished the significance of ideological competition as a primary concern for U.S. policymakers. With regard to regional peace and stability, the Abraham Accords represented an important step toward the normalization of relations between Zionist Regime and several Arab states. Nevertheless, a number of unresolved issues continue to bind the United States to the region and prevent a complete strategic disengagement. Foremost among these issues are concerns regarding Iran's nuclear and missile programs, as well as its regional influence. Another major priority remains the protection of regional allies, particularly Zionist Regime. In this regard, ensuring the security of Zionist Regime and other U.S. partners continues to constitute one of Washington's most important objectives and challenges in West Asia (Jamshidi et al., 2023). In addition,

managing strategic competition and maintaining regional deterrence remain central components of U.S. policy.

Over the past decades, the principal objectives of U.S. grand strategy in West Asia have included preventing nuclear proliferation in the region, managing regional crises and conflicts in accordance with U.S. national interests, preserving a favorable regional balance of power for U.S. allies and partners, ensuring the security of Zionist Regime, supporting efforts toward a negotiated resolution of the Palestinian issue including the two-state solution, and managing strategic competition while maintaining regional deterrence. The events of October 7, 2023, introduced significant adjustments to these strategic priorities. The attack launched by Hamas against Zionist Regime and the subsequent regional developments generated far-reaching political and security consequences across West Asia. The conflict triggered a reassessment of U.S. regional strategy and highlighted the continued importance of the region in American foreign and security policy. The aftermath of October 7 witnessed a series of interconnected crises and transformations throughout the region, including developments in Gaza, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Yemen, and Iran. These events intensified pressure on Iran and the broader Axis of Resistance while simultaneously imposing substantial military, political, and diplomatic costs on Zionist Regime. The conflict also generated widespread humanitarian consequences, including large-scale casualties, displacement, and economic disruption across several states.

For Zionist Regime, the October 7 attack represented one of the most serious security crises in its history. While Zionist officials described the attack as a major intelligence failure, they also framed the subsequent military response as a strategic effort to reshape regional security dynamics. At the same time, domestic political divisions, public protests, debates over the Palestinian question, and growing international criticism concerning humanitarian conditions in Gaza contributed to increasing diplomatic challenges for Zionist Regime. The humanitarian consequences of the Gaza conflict have been particularly severe, with extensive destruction of infrastructure, mass displacement, and ongoing negotiations regarding the future governance and security arrangements of the territory. Similar transformations have occurred elsewhere in the region. In Lebanon, Zionist military operations and the weakening of Hezbollah altered the country's security landscape. In Syria, political developments and changes in regional alignments have affected the balance of influence among external actors. Yemen

continues to experience instability linked to the broader regional confrontation, while Iraq remains a key arena of competition among domestic, regional, and international actors.

Against this backdrop, the United States undertook a reassessment of its regional strategy. The evolving security environment following October 7 prompted Washington to revise certain strategic priorities and policy instruments. U.S. national security and defense strategies, which are periodically updated, provide important insights into these adjustments. Although public versions of such documents do not contain classified information, they reveal the general orientation of American security and military policy. The strategic direction associated with the Trump administration has emphasized the principle of "America First," the reduction of long-term military commitments abroad, the application of maximum pressure on Iran, support for regional peace initiatives based on Arab-Zionist normalization, and a renewed focus on military strength and deterrence. Within this framework, the United States seeks to maintain its influence in West Asia while reducing the costs of direct intervention, relying increasingly on regional partners to assume greater responsibility for maintaining security and stability.

More broadly, the principal objectives articulated in recent U.S. strategic documents include preserving the United States as the world's strongest and most prosperous nation, securing national borders and reducing large-scale irregular migration, rebuilding domestic industrial capacity and reducing dependence on rival economies particularly China and Russia, strengthening military and nuclear deterrence capabilities, reinforcing national identity and public confidence in American institutions and values, and expanding affordable energy production including oil, natural gas, and nuclear energy while opposing policies aimed at achieving net-zero carbon emissions. The strategic principles underpinning contemporary U.S. policy include promoting "peace through strength" while avoiding prolonged and costly military engagements, pursuing a pragmatic foreign policy that prioritizes interests over ideological nation-building, supporting national sovereignty and state independence within a framework of strategic competition, and maintaining regional and global balances of power while preventing the emergence of rival hegemonic powers.

Current U.S. priorities include border security and migration control as primary national security concerns, redefining relationships with allies and encouraging greater burden-sharing

among partners, rebalancing global trade and addressing persistent trade deficits, revitalizing the defense industrial base, and restoring and maintaining American energy dominance. Within West Asia, these priorities have translated into several major policy objectives: reducing long-term direct military involvement in regional conflicts, protecting energy flows and critical maritime routes particularly the Strait of Hormuz, countering terrorism and transnational security threats, expanding and consolidating the Abraham Accords and broader Arab-Zionist normalization initiatives, and limiting Iran's regional influence through diplomatic, economic, and security measures.

Based on these priorities, the United States appears to have developed a military approach characterized by several interrelated principles. Rather than relying on large-scale troop deployments, the United States increasingly emphasizes the use of highly trained special operations forces capable of conducting rapid, precise, and mission-focused operations. Such forces are intended to achieve clearly defined objectives with minimal personnel commitments and reduced operational costs. Airpower, space-based assets, and unmanned systems play a central role in intelligence gathering, surveillance, target acquisition, and operational support. Under this approach, large-scale military campaigns are increasingly supplemented or replaced by highly targeted and precision-based operations. The United States seeks to maintain the capability to project power quickly across multiple regions, consolidating military assets into strategically located and technologically advanced bases rather than maintaining extensive permanent deployments to enhance operational flexibility while reducing financial and human costs.

Precision operations require timely and accurate intelligence. Consequently, intelligence collection, surveillance capabilities, information-sharing arrangements, and cooperation with regional partners have become increasingly important components of U.S. strategy. These networks integrate both human and technological sources to improve situational awareness and operational effectiveness. Rather than pursuing extensive military campaigns, U.S. strategy increasingly favors limited-duration operations supported by intelligence networks, special operations forces, and advanced air and space capabilities. This approach seeks to achieve strategic objectives while minimizing the risks associated with large-scale military interventions. Another notable feature of contemporary U.S. strategy is the extensive use of allied states,

local partners, and various non-state actors to advance strategic objectives. This approach enables Washington to reduce direct military exposure while increasing its ability to shape regional developments through indirect means. Within this framework, security assistance, military cooperation, training programs, and arms transfers remain important instruments for advancing U.S. interests and strengthening regional partners (Karami, 2025).

Taken together, these principles reflect a broader transformation in American military strategy. Rather than relying primarily on large-scale deployments and long-term occupations, the United States increasingly emphasizes deterrence, technological superiority, intelligence dominance, rapid-response capabilities, and burden-sharing with regional allies and partners. In West Asia, this strategic adaptation has become particularly evident in the post-October 7, 2023 security environment.

2. The Evolution of U.S. Strategies in West Asia Post-October 7

Following the October 7, 2023 attack, the United States adopted a series of political, military, and diplomatic measures aimed at safeguarding its interests and maintaining regional stability. These measures included extensive military assistance to Zionist Regime, the deployment of aircraft carrier strike groups to deter regional escalation, direct military operations against Iran-aligned armed groups in Syria and Iraq, efforts to prevent a wider conflict involving Lebanon and Yemen, and attempts to preserve the prospect of Arab-Zionist normalization. With the return of Donald Trump and the revival of the "America First" doctrine, these policies increasingly reflected the principles of "peace through strength," maximum pressure on Iran, burden-sharing with regional allies, and the selective use of military force when necessary.

The principal dimensions of U.S. grand strategy in West Asia after October 7, 2023, reflect a significant evolution in American strategic thinking. Many observers argue that U.S. strategy in West Asia has entered a new phase. Traditionally, Washington relied on a combination of sanctions, diplomatic pressure, and regional coalition-building to contain Iran. However, the events following October 7 accelerated a shift toward a more assertive deterrence posture. In this context, the United States has sought to increase the costs associated with Iran's regional and strategic activities, while placing particular emphasis on limiting Iran's nuclear capabilities and preventing the emergence of a threshold nuclear power. Consequently, coercive measures, military signaling, and direct

pressure have become increasingly prominent components of American strategy. One of the most important objectives of U.S. policy after October 7 has been the preservation and strengthening of a regional security architecture in which Zionist Regime occupies a central position. Following the weakening of several Iran-aligned actors and the degradation of regional military networks, Washington has sought to reinforce Zionist Regime's role as a leading security partner while expanding security cooperation between Zionist Regime and Arab states. Military, intelligence, and diplomatic support for Zionist Regime has remained a cornerstone of U.S. policy. From Washington's perspective, maintaining Zionist Regime's deterrence capability against both state and non-state adversaries is essential to preserving regional stability. While the United States continues to endorse diplomatic solutions to the Palestinian question, practical policy priorities have largely focused on Zionist security, crisis management, and the prevention of broader regional escalation.

Another central pillar of U.S. strategy involves the creation of a regional security network linking the United States, Zionist Regime, and key Arab partners. This framework includes cooperation in missile defense, intelligence sharing, maritime security, and counter-drone capabilities. The objective is not necessarily to reduce U.S. influence in the region but rather to redistribute security responsibilities among regional partners. Under this approach, local allies are expected to assume a greater role in maintaining regional security, while the United States acts as an offshore balancer, strategic coordinator, and ultimate security guarantor. This emphasis on burden-sharing is consistent with broader American efforts to reduce the costs of direct military engagement while preserving strategic influence. Despite changes in global energy markets, West Asia remains vital to international energy security. Consequently, the United States continues to maintain a naval and military presence aimed at safeguarding critical maritime routes, particularly in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz. Ensuring the uninterrupted flow of energy resources and global trade remains a strategic priority. Washington seeks to prevent prolonged disruptions that could generate significant economic consequences for both regional and international markets.

A notable feature of contemporary U.S. strategy is the simultaneous use of coercive and diplomatic instruments. While maintaining pressure through sanctions, military deployments, and deterrence measures, Washington has also sought to preserve

diplomatic channels for negotiations concerning regional security arrangements and nuclear issues. This dual-track approach reflects a broader strategy of combining pressure and engagement in order to maximize leverage while avoiding uncontrolled escalation. In this regard, diplomacy and deterrence are viewed not as competing alternatives but as complementary tools of statecraft. Although the United States seeks to constrain the military and strategic capabilities of its adversaries, it has shown little interest in large-scale military occupations or prolonged ground wars similar to the Iraq intervention of 2003. Policymakers generally view such interventions as financially costly, politically controversial, and strategically unsustainable. Accordingly, contemporary U.S. strategy favors limited military operations, precision strikes, intelligence-based actions, and regional partnerships over direct occupation. The objective is to shape the regional balance of power while minimizing the risks associated with long-term military commitments.

Another important component of U.S. grand strategy is the promotion of regional economic integration and normalization between Zionist Regime and Arab states. From Washington's perspective, deeper economic, technological, and security cooperation can generate mutual interdependence and contribute to a more stable regional order. Although the Gaza conflict complicated the normalization process, the United States continues to support initiatives aimed at expanding diplomatic relations, developing regional infrastructure projects, strengthening economic corridors such as the India–Middle East–Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC), and encouraging investment-driven cooperation. The contemporary international system is increasingly characterized by great-power competition. While the United States remains the most influential global power, the rise of China and the resurgence of Russia have transformed the strategic environment. Consequently, American policymakers increasingly view West Asia through the broader lens of global competition. Within this framework, the region is no longer viewed solely in terms of traditional security concerns. Rather, it has become an important arena in the broader contest over influence, connectivity, technology, energy, and geopolitical alignment. U.S. policymakers seek to prevent the expansion of Chinese and Russian influence while maintaining the confidence of regional partners in American security commitments.

The strategic logic behind many contemporary U.S. initiatives in West Asia is therefore closely connected to broader efforts to

preserve the existing international order, maintain American leadership, and manage competition with emerging powers. By encouraging regional integration, strengthening alliances, and maintaining a limited but effective military presence, Washington aims to preserve its influence while allocating greater resources to long-term competition in the Indo-Pacific. Taken together, these developments suggest that U.S. grand strategy in West Asia after October 7, 2023, is characterized by a combination of deterrence, alliance-building, burden-sharing, economic integration, and strategic competition. Although the instruments and priorities of American policy have evolved, the fundamental objectives of maintaining regional influence, supporting key allies, safeguarding critical economic interests, and preventing the emergence of hostile regional hegemony remain largely unchanged.

3. Iran in U.S. West Asia Strategy

Since the 1979 Islamic Revolution, relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United States have been characterized by persistent tensions and strategic rivalry. Over the decades, this confrontation has manifested itself in various forms, including military threats, economic sanctions, disputes over Iran's nuclear program, and periodic security crises. Particularly since the early 2010s, Washington has increasingly relied on a combination of economic pressure, diplomatic coercion, and security measures in an effort to shape Iran's behavior and constrain its regional influence. Several key developments have defined U.S. policy toward Iran during the past decade. These include the conclusion of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) in 2015, the U.S. withdrawal from the agreement in 2018, the implementation of the "maximum pressure" campaign, the Biden administration's limited progress toward reviving the nuclear agreement, and the subsequent period of fluctuating tensions, indirect negotiations, and regional confrontations. Despite these efforts, many analysts argue that the principal objectives of U.S. policy toward Iran have not been fully achieved and that Iran remains a significant strategic challenge for Washington.

Broadly speaking, U.S. policy toward Iran has been guided by four principal objectives: preventing Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons capabilities, limiting the development of Iran's missile programs, constraining Iran's regional influence and network of partners, and encouraging changes in Iranian foreign policy behavior in ways compatible with broader U.S. regional objectives

(Radfar & Dehghani Firouzabadi, 2020, pp. 240–241). To pursue these objectives, the United States has generally relied upon two broad strategic approaches: Liberal Hegemony and Offshore Balancing. While Liberal Hegemony emphasizes the promotion of a liberal international order and the protection of liberal values on a global scale, Offshore Balancing prioritizes the protection of vital U.S. interests and seeks to prevent the emergence of regional hegemons in strategically important areas such as Europe, East Asia, and the Persian Gulf. According to this perspective, direct military intervention is justified only when a regional power threatens fundamental American interests (Layne, 1997; Miller & Sokolski, 2020).

The events of October 7, 2023, appear to have altered Washington's perception of what constitutes a threat to those vital interests. Following the attack and the subsequent regional escalation, U.S. policymakers increasingly viewed the security of key regional allies, particularly Zionist Regime, as directly linked to broader American strategic interests. As a result, Iran and Iran-aligned actors assumed a more central position within U.S. threat perceptions and strategic planning. Within the contemporary U.S. strategic framework, Iran occupies a unique position. Unlike many regional actors, Iran combines demographic weight, geographic depth, military capabilities, energy resources, and an extensive network of regional partnerships. Consequently, Washington increasingly views Iran not merely as a regional actor but as a potential challenger to the regional order that the United States seeks to maintain. In this context, concerns regarding Iran's nuclear activities have evolved beyond a purely technical dispute. Rather, the nuclear issue has become intertwined with broader questions of regional influence, deterrence, alliance structures, and the future balance of power in West Asia. From the perspective of U.S. policymakers, preventing the emergence of a nuclear-capable Iran remains one of the highest strategic priorities.

Economic sanctions have long been one of Washington's primary instruments for influencing Iranian behavior. Through financial restrictions, secondary sanctions, and limitations on energy exports, successive U.S. administrations have sought to increase the economic costs facing Iran and reduce its access to international markets and financial networks. Beyond their direct economic effects, these measures have also served broader geopolitical objectives. By increasing the perceived risks associated with economic engagement with Iran, the United States has attempted to

limit Tehran's regional and international partnerships and reduce its ability to translate economic resources into strategic influence. At the same time, Washington has supported diplomatic efforts aimed at building regional coalitions that can collectively balance Iranian influence. This strategy has included encouraging closer cooperation among Arab states, strengthening security partnerships, and promoting various frameworks for regional integration.

One of the most important developments shaping contemporary U.S. policy toward Iran is the growing strategic relationship between Iran, China, and Russia. American policymakers increasingly view these relationships through the broader lens of great-power competition. From Washington's perspective, cooperation among these states has implications that extend beyond regional security. Such partnerships encompass economic, technological, military, and financial dimensions that may contribute to the emergence of alternative networks capable of reducing dependence on Western institutions and the U.S.-led international order. Consequently, an important objective of U.S. strategy is to prevent the consolidation of long-term strategic partnerships among Iran, China, and Russia. This objective is closely connected to broader American efforts to preserve its global position and manage competition with emerging powers.

Although economic sanctions remain an important policy instrument, many analysts argue that their effectiveness has declined relative to previous decades. Iran has accumulated significant experience in adapting to sanctions, while shifts in the global geopolitical environment have created new opportunities for economic and strategic diversification. As a result, contemporary U.S. strategy increasingly relies on a broader combination of instruments, including economic pressure, diplomatic engagement, military deterrence, intelligence cooperation, alliance-building, and regional burden-sharing. This integrated approach reflects an effort to influence Iran's strategic calculations while avoiding the costs associated with large-scale military intervention. Following October 7, 2023, Iran emerged as one of the central reference points in U.S. strategic thinking regarding West Asia. The United States seeks simultaneously to constrain Iran's regional influence, limit its strategic capabilities, strengthen regional partners, and prevent the emergence of a geopolitical alignment linking Iran more closely with China and Russia.

At the same time, Washington aims to avoid the costs of prolonged regional wars by encouraging greater responsibility-

sharing among regional allies. Within this framework, Zionist Regime, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and other regional partners are expected to assume a greater role in balancing Iran, while the United States provides strategic support, advanced military capabilities, intelligence cooperation, and deterrence guarantees. Accordingly, Iran occupies a dual position within contemporary U.S. grand strategy. On the one hand, it is viewed as a principal strategic challenge to the regional order favored by Washington; on the other hand, it serves as a key reference point around which American alliance structures, deterrence policies, and regional security initiatives are increasingly organized. Understanding this dual role is essential for analyzing both the future trajectory of U.S. strategy in West Asia and the evolving regional balance of power.

Conclusion

The events of October 7, 2023, marked a critical turning point in the contemporary politics and security dynamics of West Asia. Beyond their immediate military and humanitarian consequences, these developments prompted a significant reassessment of U.S. regional strategy and revealed the enduring importance of West Asia within broader American geopolitical calculations. Although successive U.S. administrations had sought to reduce direct involvement in the region and prioritize strategic competition with China, the post-October 7 security environment compelled Washington to re-engage more actively in regional affairs. This study has demonstrated that U.S. grand strategy in West Asia after October 7 is characterized by a combination of deterrence, alliance-building, burden-sharing, economic integration, and strategic competition. The United States has sought to strengthen cooperation with regional partners, particularly Zionist Regime and key Arab states, while encouraging them to assume a greater share of regional security responsibilities. This approach reflects a broader effort to preserve American influence while reducing the costs associated with direct and prolonged military engagement. At the regional level, Washington has pursued several interconnected objectives: supporting Zionist Regime's security, limiting Iran's strategic capabilities and regional influence, strengthening regional deterrence networks, safeguarding critical energy and trade routes, promoting Arab-Zionist normalization, and preventing the expansion of Chinese and Russian influence. These objectives are embedded within a broader strategic vision that seeks to maintain a favorable balance of power

while allowing the United States to devote greater attention and resources to long-term competition with China. Within this framework, Iran occupies a central position in American strategic thinking. The United States views Iran not only as a regional actor with significant military and political influence but also as a challenge to the regional order that Washington seeks to sustain. Consequently, U.S. policy has increasingly combined economic pressure, military deterrence, alliance-building, and diplomatic efforts aimed at constraining Iran's strategic capabilities and limiting its regional reach. At the same time, Washington has sought to prevent the consolidation of deeper strategic partnerships between Iran, China, and Russia, which are perceived as potential challenges to the existing international order. However, despite notable shifts in regional alignments and security dynamics, the implementation of U.S. strategy has faced significant challenges. Continued instability, humanitarian crises, unresolved political conflicts, and persistent tensions among regional actors demonstrate that military and deterrence-based approaches alone are insufficient to produce a sustainable regional order. Furthermore, the ongoing Palestinian issue remains a central source of instability and continues to affect the prospects for long-term peace, normalization, and regional integration. In conclusion, the post-October 7 U.S. grand strategy in West Asia reflects a balance between continued regional engagement and the desire to avoid costly military entanglements. While Washington seeks to maintain its strategic position through regional partnerships, deterrence mechanisms, and selective intervention, it simultaneously aims to preserve resources for broader global competition, particularly with China. As a result, West Asia is likely to remain an important—though no longer exclusive—arena of American strategic attention. The future effectiveness of this strategy will depend on its ability to reconcile regional security objectives with the underlying political conflicts that continue to shape the region's instability and transformation.

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