

## DO WE WANT ANOTHER WAR IN THE MIDDLE EAST?



War brings extensive suffering for people on all sides of the conflict.

Recently [Israel](#) has been pushing the U.S. to back military strikes against Iran, which most Americans believe would bring the United States into another Mideastern War. The issue has been the accusation that Iran is developing nuclear weapons. But did you know that Iranian religious leader Ayatollah Khamenei has issued a religious [edict](#) against Iran having or using atomic weapons? and that the IAEA and U.S. intelligence agencies conclude that there is [no evidence](#) Iran is developing atomic weapons?

### Why might Iranian authorities be suspicious of U.S. intentions?



The U.S. has invaded and conducted wars on each side of Iran.

To seek peaceful resolutions with Iran, we must first understand why they might be suspicious of U.S. intentions. The U.S. helped overthrow of a democratically elected government in 1953 and supported the oppressive dictatorship of the Shah for 20 years, to the benefit of Big Oil. The U.S. has overtly supported Israel, which has nuclear weapons and has taken a hard line against predominantly Muslim Arabs in the region. The U.S. also backed Saddam Hussein in his eight-year war with Iran, which included use of chemical weapons against Iranians. The U.S. has also conducted unilateral wars on each side of Iran, and Middle Easterners remember that the U.S. is the only nation to have actually used atomic weapons in war. Did you know that most [Iranians are against a war](#) with Israel and the U.S., that there has been a popular movement opposing political leaders, and that President Ahmadinejad has no authority in foreign policy or with the Iranian military?

### If a war is started, how do we stop it?



In a recent [U.S.- Iran war game](#), the scariest aspect was the way each side miscalculated the other's responses, and moved toward war even as the players thought they were choosing restrained options... and there was no solution for how stop the conflict once it started.

## Who benefits from war? Who pays?



Private corporations have earned billions from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Millions of innocent people who have no ideological investment in war have died in U.S. wars on each side of Iran, and millions more have been maimed and mentally scarred for life. American troops in these wars are returning with high rates of PTSD, TBI, suicide, substance abuse, divorce, unemployment, and homelessness. Also, the U.S. has spent over \$1.3 trillion on our Middle Eastern wars, a major factor in our economic crisis. Who benefits? War industries have earned billions! Can we afford to be drawn into another Middle Eastern war that will promote international conflict and terrorism for many years to come?

## What is the solution?

It has been proposed that a [Nuclear Weapon Free Zone](#) be established in the Middle East. This would go a long way in building peaceful relations between Israel and its neighbors. But it would mean that Israel, which has not signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, give up its nuclear weapons, but Israel could submit to IAEA supervision, much as it and the U.S. are calling for with Iran. A majority of Israeli Jews [support](#) a Middle East Nuclear Weapon Free Zone and international monitoring.

Instead of trying to force the rest of the world to do things our way through military force, how can we develop a dialog and confidence in exploring **mutual benefits** in U.S.-Iranian relations? Did not ping pong start a new era of relations with China?

### **ACTION: Call on your elected officials to support a Middle East Nuclear Weapon Free Zone!**

Our elected officials need to know that a significant part of their constituencies want peaceful relations in the Middle East and oppose military options with Iran.

Take five minutes to make a difference for a more peaceful and just America:

- Contact **President Obama** at 202-456-1111 or the [White House](#).
- Contact your **U.S. Senators** at 888-732-9404 or <http://www.senate.gov/>.
- Contact your **U.S. Representative** at 888-355-3588 or <http://www.house.gov/>.

Ask them:

- \* To make a public stand in support of a Middle East Nuclear Weapon Free Zone.
- \* To publically oppose any military actions against Iran.

**Thank you** for your support for peace and justice! Please **pass the word** to your networks, and let's make this a popular action!