

Trump vows to ‘Make Iran Great Again’

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Anger: Iranians are protesting against Israeli and American bombing, which has killed more than 400 people in less than two weeks.

Should the West stay out of Middle Eastern wars? The US joined Israel's bombing of Iran at the weekend and then, this morning, it declared a ceasefire.

What's happening?

On Saturday night, **Donald Trump** ordered bombing raids on **Iran**. He joined Israel's campaign of bombing, which began earlier this month.

Trump said that this was needed to stop **Iran** from developing **nuclear weapons**.

And then this morning he announced that Israel and Iran had negotiated a **ceasefire**, halting the two-week-long war.

Find out more

For supporters of the war, the case is simple. Iran is an **enemy** of the West and a threat to **Israel**, which works closely with the USA. It would be foolish to let it make powerful weapons.

But not everyone agrees. Some say it is wrong to start bombing another country that does not pose a **definite** risk and that this makes a bigger war more likely.

Many critics have been looking back to the **Iraq War**.

In 2003, the American leader **George W Bush** said that **Iraq** had weapons of mass destruction (WMDs), and was a danger to the West. He persuaded British leader **Tony Blair** to join his war with Iraq.

In the end, the war lasted eight years and caused as many as half a million **civilian** deaths. The WMDs were never found.

Now many fear the same is being repeated in Iran: a needless war that will have terrible **consequences**.

Should the West stay out of Middle Eastern wars?

Some say

Yes! Nobody wants to see thousands of people die and Western countries drawn into war. The West should learn the lessons of the past and not get involved.

Others think

No! Whether people like it or not, Western countries are involved in conflicts in the Middle East. The bombings could actually make the world safer in the end.

Six steps to discovery

Some people say

1. Connect

"You can no more win a war than you can win an earthquake."

Jeannette Rankin (1880 – 1973), US politician

What do you think?

How do you feel about this story? - Are you worried about the war? How can you cope with any fears you have?

2. Wonder

What questions do you have? - For example: Does bombing solve anything?

3. Investigate

What are the facts? - Pick out one thing we know for certain about this story and one thing we cannot say for sure.

4. Construct

What is your point of view? - Would you support your own country getting involved in this war? Why/why not?

5. Express

What do others believe? - Get in a small group and work together to write a short speech calling for more peace around the world.

6. Reflect

What might happen next? - Make a factfile about one of the leaders involved in this conflict.

Glossary

Donald Trump - An American politician, media personality, and businessman serving as the 47th president of the United States since January 2025. A member of the Republican Party, he previously served as the 45th president from 2017 to 2021.

Iran - A country in Western Asia, officially called the Islamic Republic of Iran. It has a population of 84 million.

Nuclear weapons - A bomb or other weapon that uses nuclear energy to cause a big explosion.

Ceasefire - An end to fighting — often temporary.

Enemy - A person who hates and tries to harm another.

Israel - A country in the Middle East, and the only Jewish nation in the modern period. It is seen by Jews, Christians and Muslims as the Holy Land.

Definite - Clear, certain, and not likely to change.

Iraq War - A long conflict that ran in Iraq from 2003 to 2011. It began with a US invasion to topple ruler Saddam Hussein.

George W Bush - The president of the USA between 2001 and 2009. His victory in 2000 was controversial: he lost the popular vote and many believe he only won the election because the Supreme Court halted a recount of ballots in Florida.

Iraq - A country in the Middle East with a population of 43.5m.

Tony Blair - Tony Blair was the leader of the Labour party. He was British prime minister from 1997 to 2007.

Civilian - A person who is not in the armed services or the police force.

Consequences - The result of an action.