



## The US and Iran Face-Off - II

01 July - 12 July 2019

News/Op-ed	Key Takeaway
<p>Iran warns western powers to 'leave region' amid Gulf crisis <b>The Guardian</b></p>	<p>Iran has called on Britain to release its seized oil tanker and warned foreign powers to “leave the region because Iran and other regional countries are capable of securing the regional security. This is a <a href="#">dangerous game and has consequences</a> ... The legal pretexts for the capture are not valid ... The release of the tanker is in all countries’ interests.”</p>
<p>India should use diplomatic tools at its disposal to help de-escalate US-Iran tensions <i>Vikram S Mehta</i> <b>The Indian Express</b></p>	<p>India would be severely impacted in such an event. Indian leaders face a <a href="#">policy dilemma</a>. Should they use their “soft” power to try and snuff out the sparks but risk an embarrassing rebuff? Or should they stay on the sidelines in the hope that disaster will not prevail?</p>
<p>Iran makes new threats that would reverse steps in n-deal <b>The Hindu</b></p>	<p>Iran threatened to restart deactivated centrifuges and ramp up its <a href="#">enrichment of uranium</a> to 20% purity as its next potential big moves away from a 2015 nuclear agreement that Washington abandoned last year.</p>
<p>Is the US nudging Britain into dangerous waters with Iran? <b>The Guardian</b></p>	<p>Nathalie Tocci, the special adviser to the EU foreign policy chief, Federica Mogherini, put the UK decision in a wider political context. “The UK is feeling its own fragility and a <a href="#">fear of isolation</a> as it tries to cut off its membership from the EU. There’s a line connecting the Iran story and the UK ambassador to the US.”</p>
<p>France tries to calm US-Iran nuclear tensions <b>Politico</b></p>	<p>President Emmanuel Macron's top diplomatic adviser, Emmanuel Bonne, has been in Tehran for two days of high-level talks, as European officials discuss ways to <a href="#">keep the nuclear pact alive</a>.</p>
<p>China says U.S. responsible for Iran’s decision to expand uranium enrichment <b>The Hindu</b></p>	<p>Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Geng Shuang made it plain that Washington’s policy of imposing “maximum pressure” on Iran was the “<a href="#">root cause of the current crisis</a>”. He compared the U.S.’s international conduct to a “worsening tumour” that needed to be removed.</p>
<p>Iran Faces New U.S. Sanctions Threat <b>Foreign Policy</b></p>	<p>U.S. President Donald Trump threatened to “substantially” increase U.S. sanctions on Iran as the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) held an <a href="#">emergency meeting</a> on Wednesday. Iran has continued enriching uranium beyond the limits set by the 2015 nuclear deal, which the United States backed out of last year.</p>

<p>US won't waver from Iran pressure as nuclear deal unravels <b>Yahoo News</b></p>	<p>"Iran must choose between caring for its people and continuing to fund its proxies who spread <a href="#">violence and terrorism</a> throughout the region and breathe out murderous hatred against Israel," Vice President Mike Pence.</p>
<p>U.S. Calls for Special Meeting of U.N. Atomic Agency Over Iran <b>The Wall Street Journal</b></p>	<p>The U.S. called for a <a href="#">special session</a> (PayWall) of the United Nations atomic agency board, increasing the pressure on Europe and others to take a stand against Iran after Tehran said it breached the 2015 nuclear treaty.</p>
<p>Trump is leading us toward danger with Iran <i>Harry C. Blaney III</i> <b>The Washington Post</b></p>	<p>He has at every stage acted irresponsibly, starting with withdrawal from the Iranian nuclear pact and extending to his latest <a href="#">silly sanctions and provocations</a>, not least his dangerous and idiotic threat of "obliteration" of Iran without any U.S. troops on the ground. This means massive bombing, which means possibly millions of deaths of innocent civilians and can only indicate that Mr. Trump is, as some presidential candidates have said, the most dangerous man on the planet.</p>
<p>Iran accuses US of using oil sanctions to gain market clout <b>Yahoo News</b></p>	<p>I think one of the reasons for sanctions against Iran and Venezuela is opening up the market for American oil sales. This much oil production needs a market and could not be compensated for with regular OPEC cuts, therefore America needed to <a href="#">shock the market</a> to find a place for itself. Some sanctions are (imposed) so that Americans can keep producing and developing shale oil Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh said in an interview.</p>