

Iran, Revolution, and the Logic of Proxy Warfare

Description

Episode 150 of the *Irregular Warfare Podcast* examines the historical and strategic forces that shaped modern Iran and explores how the Islamic Republic uses irregular warfare to advance its interests in the Middle East.

Our guests begin by examining the political foundations of modern Iranian politics, tracing the country's trajectory from the rule of the Shah and the 1953 coup against Prime Minister Mohammad Mossadegh to the revolutionary upheaval of 1979. They then explore why the Islamic Republic turned to irregular warfare—particularly the use of proxy groups and militant networks—as a core component of its foreign policy and regional strategy. Finally, our guests assess how Iran's proxy network evolved over time, why it proved effective for decades, and what recent conflicts may reveal about the future of Iran's regional influence and internal political stability.

[Dr. Arman Mahmoudian](#) is a research fellow at the Global and National Security Institute and an adjunct faculty member whose work focuses on Middle Eastern and Russian affairs. His research and commentary have appeared in outlets including *Foreign Policy*, *The National Interest*, and the Atlantic Council, and he frequently provides expert analysis for international media.

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[Ben Jebb](#) and [Alex Chinchilla](#) are the hosts for this episode. Please reach out to Ben and Alex with any questions about this episode or the [Irregular Warfare Podcast](#).

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Date Created

2026/03/12