



**Ramadan Iftar Buffet**  
**CEDAR CAFE**  
 MEDITERRANEAN  
 Healthy & fresh  
 مريضان كريم  
**MIDDLE EASTERN CHEF WANTED**  
 send your resume to: mma@thecedargrill.com  
 1497 ALPHARETTA HWY. ALPHARETTA, GA 30009  
 (678) 404-7558  
 www.thecedargrill.com  
 WE CATER YOUR EVENT

\* صحيفة إسرائيلية: القادم قاتم لإيران والأسد..  
 \* من هو جون عاقوري سفير أميركا القادم في لبنان؟  
 \* خارطة سوريا ستتغير: هكذا ستقسم..  
 \* الأردن.. بين "غزوة" الدواعش و"خطة" الوطن البديل!

**RAMADAN MUBARAK FROM AN-NOUR NEWSPAPER**

لحم حلال  
 770-499-7399  
**Mediterranean Grill**  
 962 Roswell St. Marietta, GA 30060  
 www.shishkabobmarietta.com  
 بوفيه غذاء مفتوح  
 SHISH KABOB

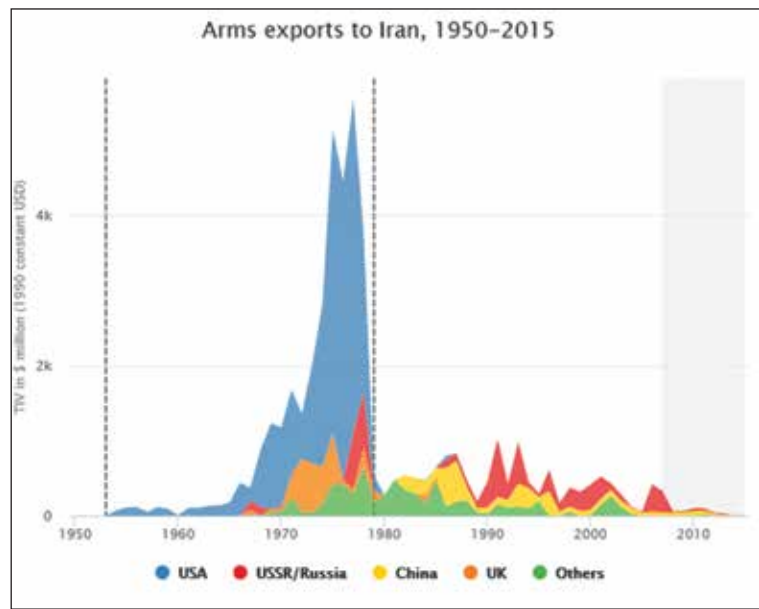
## Where Did Iran Get its Military Arms Over the last 70 Years?



An Iranian Air Force F-5F fighter plane takes off during manoeuvres in southern Iran.

Will Iran regain its military might after the removal of international sanctions? This question has become a point of international debate since the Iran nuclear deal was initiated several years ago. To answer the question, perhaps one of the basic steps is to look at the history of Iran's arms imports and factors surrounding them. According to the arms transfers database of the independent international think tank, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), which compiled all transfers of major conventional weapons in the world since 1950, the US was the largest arms exporter to Iran from the 1950s to 1970s.

trends.) The staff report stated that in 1972 President Richard Nixon and his then-national security adviser, Henry Kissinger, agreed for the first time to "sell Iran virtually any conventional weapons it wanted." With its oil revenue, Iran acquired some of the most sophisticated US military equipment and received training and technical assistance from American personnel. The report explained the rationale behind the sales. "Iran is and will remain an extremely important country to the US and its allies because of its geographical location and oil. Iran, on



The supply of arms from the US started to climb in 1953 after Iran's democratically elected prime minister Mohammad Mosaddegh was overthrown in a coup engineered by the British and American intelligence services. The Iranian shah, Mohammad Reza Shah Pahlavi, returned from exile to rule and become a close ally of the US. According to a Senate Committee on Foreign Relations staff report in 1976, Iran was the largest single purchaser of US military equipment then. Military sales had increased more than sevenfold from \$524 million in 1972 to \$3.91 billion in 1974. SIPRI data shows that the amount rose and peaked in 1977. (Note: The import values shown in the chart are not actual transaction price. They are measured using a common unit formulated by the SIPRI called trend-indicator value expressed in US dollars at constant 1990 prices to allow comparison and identification of general

the other hand, places great importance on its relationship with the US, in large part because of the Iranian belief that the US may come to Iran's defense if it is threatened." With that level of support from the US, Iran emerged as a dominant military power in the Middle East, paving the way for nuclear weapon development. The US-Iran alliance collapsed in 1979 when the shah's authoritarian rule led to riots, protests and eventually the Iranian Revolution. The shah was again forced into exile. An Islamic fundamentalist force, led by anti-American cleric Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, took power and turned Iran into an Islamic republic. US arms export to Iran was ceased abruptly and earlier orders canceled after Islamic militants took 52 Americans hostage inside the US embassy in Tehran in November 1979. China and the Soviet Union soon replaced the US becoming major supplier of arms to Iran from 1980s until now. If you click the zoom-in button on the chart above to focus on the period from 1980 to 2015, you'll notice the US still sold a small amount of weapons to Iran between 1984 to 1986. According to SIPRI database, those are arms were sold covertly and illegally by the US with the help of Israel despite an arms embargo against the Iran.

See page 11

Publisher	AN-NOUR LLC
General Manager	HABIB OSTA
Chief Legal Counselor	HASSAN ELKHALIL
Public Relations	MOUNIR KHALIL

## Syria Has Effectively Ceased to Exist

**With Russians and Iranians in Control in Damascus, the U.S. Bolstering Rebels, and No One Powerful Enough to Press for Unification, the Breakup of Syria is a Fait Accompli.**

By Jonathan Spyer

DAMASCUS, Syria — On my last night in Damascus, some younger members of the Information Ministry-sponsored delegation in which I was taking part decided to have a drink. It was late April, and the bars and restaurants were doing good business in the cool and breezy evenings. An inebriated Russian journalist, accompanied by a uniformed Russian soldier, entered the bar opposite our hotel in the Old City where my colleagues were sitting. Words were exchanged. An altercation began.

At a certain point, the Russian journalist produced a pistol and aimed it at the forehead of one of the delegation's participants. He then entered our hotel and threatened one of the employees there, all with his uniformed colleague silently accompanying him. How the incident ended says much about who truly holds power in regime-controlled areas of Syria today. After the two Russians had departed, the delegation's participants sought to contact the authorities and report the incident. The representative of the Syrian security forces asked if the armed

Continued on page 9

## Trump's Plan for Middle East Peace Could Actually Work

By Hussein Ibish

During his visit to Israel, U.S. President Donald Trump made the strongest public link thus far between two important initiatives: reviving Israeli-Palestinian peace and creating an Israeli-Arab alliance to confront Iran. At his main event with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Trump ad-libbed about Saudi King Salman's potential role in brokering a peace agreement, saying

the monarch "would love to see peace with Israel and the Palestinians." At the heart of this agenda is the "outside-in" strategy for resuscitating Israeli-Palestinian negotiations. The talks would be linked to the development of a broader Middle Eastern coalition to oppose Iran's ongoing expansion of influence in the Middle East and prepare for the day of reckoning when the nuclear agreement expires.

Read article on p 7

## ISIS Terrorism & Counterterrorism Containing ISIS' Online Campaigns After Manchester

By Michael S. Smith II

The suicide attack at a Manchester teen pop concert which killed nearly two dozen people and injured many more, was the latest reminder that the Islamic State (also known as ISIS) is waging the most aggressive and effective worldwide recruitment and incitement campaign of any terrorist group in history. Although it remains unclear whether the bomber, Salman Abedi, a British-born 22-year-old of Libyan descent, was groomed by ISIS, many who have executed attacks in the West have been—often through the Internet. At the very least, Abedi was likely influenced by the contents of ISIS online propaganda, which has during the past year increasingly incorporated images of children killed or wounded in Turkish, Russian, and U.S. air strikes targeting the group in Iraq and Syria. Such images resurfaced only hours after ISIS claimed responsibility for this attack, in a photo packet produced by the media office of ISIS' Furat "province," and was distributed on Telegram Messenger channels managed by Nashir News, a group that has become the initial point of distribution for official ISIS propaganda. Since mid-2014, ISIS has promoted a narrative, particularly in the propaganda tailored for their audiences in the West, that the group's leader and self-declared caliph, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, considers allegiance to the group to be demonstrated not only in words but by action. This can take the form of either hijrah (emigration) to the "caliphate" in Iraq and Syria, to help defend and expand territorial holdings, or jihad, to be waged at home. **In late 2015, ISIS shifted its efforts from recruiting Western fighters to petitioning them to launch attacks in the West.**

Months later, the group's original spokesman, Abu Muhammad al-Adnani, who died in 2016, acknowledged during his Ramadan address just months before he was killed by a U.S. air strike that the barriers to making hijrah had grown too high for many in the West, insisting that targeting civilians in the United States and Europe was now "more beloved." A spate of attacks ensued. ISIS has now claimed responsibility for more than a dozen of them in the West, perpetrated by both the group's operatives and its supporters, many of whom were trained not formally in conflict zones but online. For nearly three years, most ISIS propaganda has been distributed through popular file-sharing sites such as YouTube and Google Drive and then rigorously promoted on social media by accounts affiliated with the group. The usual line of attack by the U.S. government and American tech companies is to shut down such accounts. But simply suspending them is not an effective deterrent. In my exchange with ISIS members on Twitter, some considered an account suspension as a badge of honor that demonstrated their allegiance to ISIS. In April 2017, Nashir posted a flow chart to its Telegram channels, highlighting how ISIS encourages its support base to spread official propaganda pieces on easier-to-access spaces of the Internet rather

See page 11

An-Nour  
 PO Box 7694  
 Atlanta, GA 30357

PRST STD  
 US Postage  
 PAID  
 Atlanta, GA