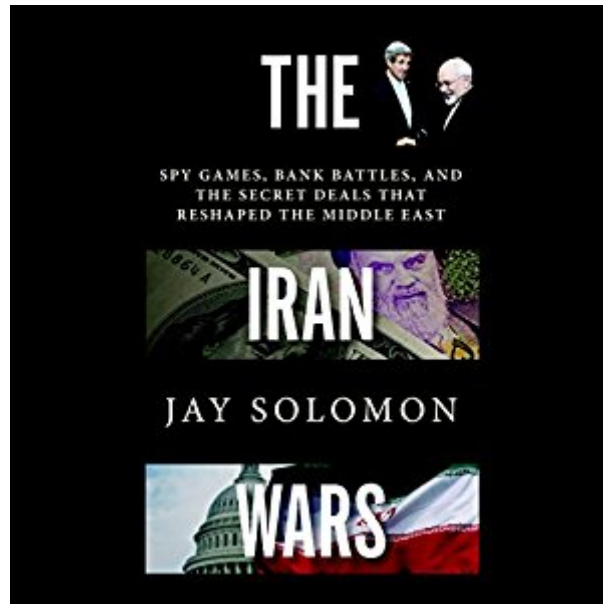


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# The Iran Wars: Spy Games, Bank Battles, And The Secret Deals That Reshaped The Middle East



## Synopsis

From the Wall Street Journal reporter who's been breaking news on the historic and potentially disastrous Iran nuclear deal comes a deeply reported exploration of the country's decades-long power struggle with the United States - for listeners of Steve Coll's *Ghost Wars* and Lawrence Wright's *The Looming Tower*. For more than a decade, the United States has been engaged in a war with Iran as momentous as any other in the Middle East - a war all the more significant as it has largely been hidden from public view. Through a combination of economic sanctions, global diplomacy, and intelligence work, successive US administrations have struggled to contain Iran's aspirations to become a nuclear power and dominate the region - what many view as the most serious threat to peace in the Middle East. Meanwhile, Iran has used regional instability to its advantage to undermine America's interests. *The Iran Wars* is an absorbing account of a battle waged on many levels - military, financial, and covert. Jay Solomon's book is the product of extensive in-depth reporting and interviews with all the key players in the conflict, from high-ranking Iranian officials to Secretary of State John Kerry and his negotiating team. With a reporter's masterly investigative eye and the narrative dexterity of a great historian, Solomon shows how Iran's nuclear development went unnoticed for years by the international community only to become its top security concern. He catalogs the blunders of both the Bush and Obama administrations as they grappled with how to engage Iran, producing a series of both carrots and sticks. And he takes us inside the hotel suites where the 2015 nuclear agreement was negotiated, offering a frank assessment of the uncertain future of the US-Iran relationship. This is a book rife with revelations, from the secret communications between the Obama administration and the Iranian government to dispatches from the front lines of the new field of financial warfare. *The Iran Wars* exposes the hidden history of a conflict most Americans don't even realize is being fought but whose outcome could have far-reaching geopolitical implications.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Jay Solomon has written a tale of obsession, intrigue, deception, violence and betrayal. This is the story of President Barak Obama's obsession to obtain a nuclear deal with Iran and restore American-Iranian relations; intrigue in the course of denied negotiations through secret channels; deception in the lying to the American people of the true course of events and the nature of the agreement; violence in the undeclared war that America and Iran have waged against each at times openly, but usually through proxies; and above all it is the story of America's betrayal of not only the demonstrators in the 2009 Iranian Spring but also of our Saudi and Israeli allies. It is also the story of the financial sanctions that almost brought Iran to its knees. In reality America had given Iran a *carte blanche*. Less than two weeks after the conclusion of the Vienna Accord the Iranians sent General Soleimani to Moscow to strengthen their economic and military ties with Russia and to bolster their position in Syria. This was the exact opposite of what Kerry and Obama thought would happen when they optimistically told reporters that Iran would be a partner in stabilizing the Middle East and helping to bring about a *transition* in Syria that would remove Assad. In the words of the author: "But the White House and State Department at times appeared tone-deaf to the messages coming out of Tehran. Supreme Leader Khamenei repeatedly told his followers that the nuclear deal would bring no change in Tehran's regional policies." The author describes how the Obama administration was able to hold enough Democrats in Congress together to frustrate opposition to the Accord.

"History will be kind to me for I intend to write it," said Churchill. The same principle could apply to Jay Solomon's *The Iran Wars*, as the first book published on the recent nuclear agreement between the United States, its allies, and Iran; future books must contend with its scope, its time line and the depiction of the process and its participants. Daily journalism does not deal with the history of the troubled relationship between the United States and Iran, nor does it authoritatively describe how Iran is the dominant, anti-American, terror sponsoring country in the Middle East, if not, the world. By bringing together that history, Solomon's book succeeds not by polemics, but

by the accumulation of facts. Since 1979, Iran has supported, with money and manpower, Hamas in Gaza, Hezbollah in Lebanon, Houthies in Yemen, the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt, Shiite Syria against that country's rebels, Shiite Iraq at war with Sunni Iraq, and at war with America. Against this tarnished 35 year historical backdrop, in a short focused book, filled with cameos of the players and anecdotes of death and deceit, and the undeniable success of the decade long sanctions regime, Solomon presents the backdrop for the second half of his book, the Obama/Kerry negotiations with the Iranians from 2012 through Spring of 2016. There is a modicum of drama to the negotiations in such spots as Oman, Vienna, Geneva and the Beau Rivage Hotel in Lausanne, but the impression is that this is masterful Iranian choreographed stagecraft, and the Obama/Kerry team were duped by their eagerness for a deal.

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