

## Original Paper

# War in Iran, The Future in the Transitional Era

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### **Abstract**

*The article uses the historical principle of “free Church in free state” as the key to interpreting contemporary tensions in the Middle East. While in nineteenth-century Italy it sanctioned the separation between religious and civil power, today this distinction is impracticable in countries such as Iran, where religious leadership also exercises political control.*

*The US-Israeli intervention is interpreted as an attempt to change the Iranian theocratic structure, favoring an evolution similar to that of Sunni countries such as Saudi Arabia, engaged in economic and technological reforms. However, the region remains unstable, mainly due to the centrality of oil, a resource that not only finances governments but fuels rivalries and external interventions.*

*The world seems to be divided into two blocs: energy producers and consumers, with alliances dictated more by energy interests than by political ideologies. The Strait of Hormuz, which is crucial for oil traffic, is the most vulnerable point, and its closure could generate global inflation and economic tensions.*

*The tensions and war in the area are also read for the economic fallout (speculation, inflation), but above all in relation to dependence on oil and the inevitable transition to an economy “beyond black gold”. In this context, the role of renewables and nuclear power to ensure energy continuity is emphasized, contrasting the Saudi model of modernization (Vision 2030) with an Iran described as more oriented towards nuclear leverage.*

*The future will have to deal with the decline of oil and the progressive transition to renewables, nuclear and, in perspective, fusion. Humanity will only play a central role if it can rely on science, collaborate and abandon empty ambitions such as wealth and power, which do not respond to real needs.*

### **Keywords**

*Social rapports, constant & coordinated development, collectivity reason, speculation waves*

## 1. Introduction

The formula “free Church in a free State” is the key to the juridical-institutional interpretation of the relationship between civil power and religious authority in the process of Italian unification. The principle postulates, on the one hand, the autonomy of the state order in the exercise of sovereignty and in the determination of its own competences (in particular over territory, citizenship and the organization of public powers) and, on the other, the freedom of the Church in the spiritual sphere and in the internal organization, without administrative or political subordination. Calling this liberal principle from Italian history and putting it back into play in the current context not only does not seem at all outdated but still demonstrates that it would be appropriate for that piece of national history to have reflections on the globality of state and church relations, apart from the fact that the churches we are talking about are numerous but the one that is pressing us at the moment is the Islam of the Sunnis and Shiites (Note 1). But before coming across the issue that a religious entity assumes the political as well as religious government of the territory, we can immediately ask ourselves if the form “free church in a free State” can still be used in contexts other than the unity of the Italian state. We must immediately say that different times and sensitivities do not help, but in any case the theme is to be traced back to the general theme of freedoms that in general the religious movements in power in a territory tend to repress personal freedoms in favor of religious obligations. As indicated in the final note, Pius IX wanted at the time only a demonstration of the hostility of the papacy, to the “Roma Capitale” design, which Cadorna’s Bersaglieri immortalized in the breach (Note 1) of Porta Pia (Note 2).



**Figure 1. The breach of Porta Pia – Rome Capital of Italy**

Source : <https://www.fattiperlastoria.it/breccia-di-porta-pia-e-presenza-di-roma/>

As I said, can we make a comparison between the Rome of the Pope-King and the allergy to the loss of temporal power in Iran demonstrated by the war unleashed by the Israel-USA duo? We are more than two centuries away between the two events and the world has changed a lot. To look for analogies would be foolish; however, the proud and detached attitude of Pius IX remains vivid, who did not intend to measure his forces but to show the world his hostility to the project of Rome as capital. Ali Khamenei (Note 3), on the other hand, was an advocate of the right to jointly govern the spiritual aspects and policies of the territory of its citizens in Iran. Killed by a bombing and already replaced at the highest responsibility by his son Mojtaba Khamenei (Note 4), already declared incompetent and conscripted as a deadman by the American president. A certainly complex and arduous picture that cannot be superimposed, especially for those who -like us- are against war and imagine a future world that is not so remote united by bonds of empathy and solidarity. Well, having to note that the armed intervention against Iran seemed opportune to us and the death of Khamenei heralded a possible replacement in the direction of the country, also in the wake of the orientations of the neighbors in the Middle East. The latter countries look to the future without oil and consequently to the absolute need to devote the riches deriving from oil to the modernization of universities, research, education and technology, following the example of Saudi Arabia and Prince Mohammad bin Salman (Note 5). In other words, a government of princes that grasps in advance the changes that will affect the global economy in the coming decades and is, at least in part, coordinated with the evolution of science and economics. From this point of view, it does not enter into a collision course with the course of the rest of the world, all more or less following the course of destiny; a route designated for each one by the line of knowledge and commitment to pursue it.

The case of countries is different; Iran is notably one of these to which the formula “free Church in a free State” could not be applied. The backwardness of civil and religious institutions in Iran, the compression of individual freedoms, the condition of women that can justify the sense of relief we have felt for the reaction of Israel and the United States against Iran, which is a hotbed that attracts the neighbors of the Middle East - also Shiite - with oil resources.

More generally, the formula used by Camillo Benso di Cavour for Rome as the capital of Italy can perhaps be updated. Of course, we are faced with societies that are different in terms of the time that has passed, the living conditions, but above all in terms of the instruments of war that promise rapid destruction, but not equally rapid conclusions in Iran. Now, apart from the instantaneous war only announced to conceal the foreseeable damage to speculation with oil, the widespread dependence on fossil fuels and the bitter realization, let’s say, that renewables need nuclear power plants to give continuity to the supply of energy. Apart from the evidence posed by current events today and yesterday, however, the problem faced by the Italian Prime Minister in the mid-nineteenth century is not remote enough to be recalled in the current story of the war against Iran. Applying the formula “free church in a free state” to the Middle East could certainly mean that the war is over and Iran is

pacified; the Islam of the Shiites coexist with the Sunnis, who in the Middle East has found a common method to ferry the big oil producers beyond the decline of black gold, in an expected future.

I – A season of initiatives conspired for the unity and separation of the Italian State from the Church.

Great trouble for the global economy are the current and expected peaks in inflation and oil speculation. We take it for granted that, after the euphoria of the designed short war, rationality prevails; the war against Iran would be lost for the Western contracting parties if a regime change cannot be imposed, according to the formula “free State and free Church”. A government of the people, unscathed by Islamic clerical influence and arrogance, which remembers its martyrs for freedom. In short, even according to this synthetic principle, there is no way out of the war in the Middle East if the tasks of government are not redistributed: theocratic problems to the Church and civil and political activity to the State. In short, having defined the tasks in this way, it is clear that the current structure of the Iranian state would undergo a U-shaped change, with repercussions not only on the Middle East but also on the states in which Islam and the arbitrariness of the religion-state prevail.

The breach of Porta Pia in Italy did not achieve the goal of the joint freedoms of state and church, but it makes it clear that only force, in that case of the Bersaglieri attacking Rome as capital, could bend the hostility of the Pope-King. The complications due to the causal presence of rich oil and gas deposits in the Middle East certainly do not change the elective affinities between the taking of Porta Pia with the hostility of the papacy and the armed resistance of Scythian Islam. Let’s not forget that behind the action of the Bersaglieri there is a long struggle for the independence of Italy, which takes shape and is outlined from 1800 and from Napoleon, who had appointed his son “King of Rome”.

Not a war but a season of undertakings, he conspired for the unity and separation of the Italian State from the Church. The problem of the war on Iran, however, is complicated because the states in the area are all oil producers and derive the great resources they have from the sale of black gold, to impose the denial of freedom and the theocracy of the state on their citizens. It is clear that this common characteristic is also a cement that unites them, apart from the religious enmity that separates Shiites and Sunnis. A change in the structure of government in Iran, with the prevalence of the nineteenth-century formula for the unification of Italy - free State and free Church - could mark the epilogue of history in Iran as well; but the attempt to change the regime remains suspended for now, despite the commitment of the major power and Israel.

The ongoing war in Iran could lead to a reduction in the religious motivations that fuel antagonistic conflicts, while dependence on the region’s oil resources and the economic interest that derives from it would continue to persist. It is foreseeable that the war will also have significant consequences for the other Gulf countries.

Innovations after the end of the war won by the two belligerents seem potentially possible, even with the aim of freedom of Church and State, if the reins of the State in Iran at the end of the war were entrusted to a military government, similar to what happened in Japan at the end of the Second World War. In the event of victory in Iran, it could be assumed that a prominent U.S. general, such as Douglas

MacArthur in World War II, could temporarily assume leadership of the country, ensuring the transition to a direction that was subsequently entrusted to the people, in a pacified context

Those who are considered political dissidents in Iran have been systematically repressed through methods that include imprisonment and torture. These are realities that were certainly not lacking in pre-unification Italy with Mazzini (Note 6), such as the Orsini case, the Martyrs of Belfiore (Note 7), the many martyrs of the Italian Risorgimento and among other things the condition of women (Note 8, Note 9). Regimes do not collapse without leaving a trail of blood and the martyrdom of patriots. It may not be true again in the future.

It is therefore difficult to make a prediction on the potential of the Israeli-American intervention to induce a radical change in the management of Iran now entrusted to the Supreme Leader, a sort of Pope-King with a top-down and absolutist vision that has not given up hitting his people who demonstrated with courage the intolerance for the absence of freedom. The country's leaders, at the top level, see the dangers in the future of their power and the state. I can imagine that the main concern is the interview end of mineral oil, glimpsed as a constraint to economic development before the others in the Medi-oriental area, which also live on the resources provided by oil.

For the world of economy, it is not an existential catastrophe but almost; we could hypothesize that the spread of renewables and together the spread of mini nuclear power plants (fission) to ensure the continuity of energy supply, can calm the anxiety for the decline in oil availability for energy needs. However, the problem that agitates the Iranian Leaders is the collapse of resources ensured by the sale of oil flows that over the next decade gradually decrease out without the possibility of relief. IRAN is leaning on the future condition of a nuclear nation and directing its efforts to the nuclear bomb, which can balance - in the thinking of Iranian leaders - the progressive drying up of mineral resources. In any case not following the example of neighboring and enemy Saudi Arabia, which has chosen the path of modernization of society and technology and, as friend of the United States, has signed the Abraham Accords (Note 10). A direction of Iranian society towards the future that could not be mediated in a diplomatic way that led the two belligerent states to a sudden war, without second thoughts, no consulting the friendly peoples of NATO.

As I said, joint Israeli-US action tends to maintain stability in this restive region, on the assumption that strong action can lead to regime change and pacify relations between Sunnis and Shiites. In other words, the Middle Eastern, a basin rich in gas and oil, would see other statal units in favor of American power. Consider that an attempt is being made to form a group of countries, the USA in the lead, united because they are producers of fossil energy, separate from the rest of humanity of oil users. This reclassification of the world between producers and consumers of fossil energy could explain the US President's soft attitude towards Russia and gloomy attitude towards Europe, degraded, so to speak, to the rank of oil consumers and therefore in any case a counterpart. As far as Italy is concerned, the apparent affection of the US president towards the Italian prime minister, who is not even been informed of the start of the war on Iran, is obviously not enough. It is useless to argue that the whole of

Europe has been treated with silence on the start of war operations, because Europe is repudiated as a consumer of fossil energy and therefore a counterpart.

We can ask ourselves why a new different rift is emerging between oil producers and consumers. The puzzle that divides the world of economics is not easy. Over the next decade, oil production will peak and consumption at the same rate will have to decline. Oil sellers can come together to make oil hegemony last for a long time and fight the green economy that is instead the shield of other states against the current oil hegemony. Not to mention the obligations that all citizens of the Earth have towards the planet that records changes with alterations in the temperature at the surface (Note i).

## **2. The Future Is Known only When It Becomes Reality; Therefore, Our Ability to Make Predictions Is Limited**

Meanwhile, remaining with the behavior of the main oil-producing states, which are trying together to avoid the head-on impact on the world economy of the progressive collapse of the quantities of oil available; fortunately, the reduction in the quantities of oil on the market will coincide with the reduction in global demand for black gold. Not only that. Because in the meantime we can believe that energy demands can be largely supported by renewables. Also because in the meantime the new small atomic power plants will be available (Note 11), at a local level that guarantee the continuity of the supply of electricity even when there is no sunlight and the strength of the wind is weak. At this point the problem arises about the behavior of oil producers in front of consumers (Note ii). It can be mistakenly believed that the basic problem of the aggregation, different from the past, of oil producers will stake all its cards on the availability of oil and on the stability of prices, or rather on the speculative rise in fuels. At the time, however, most cars will be electric and electricity prices are expected to depend on the climate and the conditions of the planet; A (minor) part could still be produced with fossil fuels.

What could be the strategy of the oil-producing countries that today are united in a chain of friendship based on oil rent. A strategy should be based on knowledge of the future and how the expected outcome can be maintained in the future. Now, as we have already said in the previous article (*The future of economy* -Cossiga, 2025) the future is known only when it becomes reality; therefore, our ability to make predictions is limited; the future is known only when it becomes reality; therefore, our ability to make predictions is limited. In any case, in the short term. It means that even accurate forecasts can be disrupted by the change of scenario produced by science and technology, which over time accelerates and modifies our horizon that we had glimpsed. Therefore, the longer the time for predictions, the more the possibility comes true that a new scientific discovery could change the order of things in the future and induce changes in society's behavior. It is therefore useless to venture into this quagmire that is the future of the economy and therefore our future and that of our grandchildren. Having repeated again the corollary that only short-term forecasts can be reliable, we have no way of stumbling on the topic we have posed. We can only note that the rules for the expected aggregation

with a common front between countries and continents have changed and that it is not surprising that the United States, a major oil and gas producer, strikes Maduro in Venezuela, for the large fields of the South American country and replaces him with a friendly government. The same litany concerns Iran, which is the cause of the problems of the Middle East, of the cracked relations with Israel, Saudi Arabia and the Sunni countries in the area. A sigh of relief for the aspirants to a world without weapons, but the story goes in another way.

The pincers of the Israel and US duo for now are not able for now to bend the resistance of Iran that opposes the closure of the Strait of Hormuz (Note 12), with the global chaos of oil prices that are skyrocketing worldwide. On the other hand, I would add that this non-virtuous trend in oil prices gradually drags the prices of manufactured products, with the world slipping over time into a parabola of inflation. The doubt is to leave or continue with the revival of prices and uncertainty. For now, despite everything, even bearing in mind the worsening of the world economic situation, it is likely that the war against Iran will continue, as confirmed by the US president's decision (Note 13) to order one of the *most powerful air raids in the history of the Middle East, totally annihilating any military target in Iran's flagship: the island of Kharg in the Strait of Hormuz.*



**Figure 2 – lo stretto di HORMUZ, con vista all'isola di Kharg vicino alla costa dell'Iran**

Source: <https://energiaoltre.it/stretto-hormuz-iran/>

We are led to cite recent news because of the risk of entanglement of the two belligerents, in the face of the unexpected resistance of the **Iranian regime that continues to take unexpected decisions**. Continuing to record the latest decisions of the Israel-USA duo would make no sense because the fury of competitors will develop in the funnel created in the Strait of Hormuz and the consequences on daily prices of oil speculation; but our goal is not to foreshadow the evolution of wars in the world but rather to follow the division of continents and states according to the rules of economics. Well, the belligerent states and in particular the United States are designing the world in relation to the extraction of oil and

the sale of fuels. Not for an eternal friendship but to follow common rules from now on and especially when the irreversible decrease of oil will begin to take shape, which, produced in thousands of years, will no longer be available according to the yardstick of human life. It is this end-of-century arc that will experience the tragedy of the depletion of oil and the progressive depletion of the river of resources that went and goes from the user and producing countries.

### 3. Conclusion

The end of oil signals the close of an era, but the reshaping of shared interests under Trump's approach does not herald a fresh start for humanity. Humanity is expected to be sensitive as never before to the problems of the planet that the industrial phase has exasperated. For the new quality of clean energy that will be available in still not short time that the new generation will be able to enjoy. The planned division of the world between producers and consumers of fossil energy shows that there is a kind of temporal alliance between the world around us and the needs of life. In the sense that the need for life to have energy is to find a way to meet current needs, in the present and in the near future. In the near future, ending oil use will align life's needs with the planet's well-being. After years of travail, when the black gold is running out, science drags us into the nuclear world and then finally into the world of fusion, awaited with trepidation. This suggests a world with secure resources, enabling humans to explore new research areas. Because at that point the search for new scientific and technological knowledge will be the recognized channel for building the future of new human generations.

The division of the world into producers and consumers on the economy is clearly a distortion that would like to privilege producers for as long as possible. However, it is based on the false theory that the world has not become sick due to widespread industrialization and that the data on the increase in the earth's temperature are also false. Not recognizing the ongoing change of our planet, which provides the energy necessary for the life of generations, with a change that adapts to the needs of our lives over time. In short, yet another proof that the needs of human and animal life on the planet find the availability – as a reward for human research – of resources, including those of energy. As if to say that everything is available for human and animal life but the availability of resources for life is subordinated to the research work entrusted to the human race, which with application and study makes obtainable for the life of living beings what is necessary for life more generally. In short, nothing or little would be immediately available for the life of living beings. The sequence of availability (of energy) is carved on the tape of time and is provided to the generality of living beings through the search for scientific and scientific knowledge, above all. As human knowledge unfolds, the coordination between the resources available to living beings and the resources necessary for life appears. In short, there is an evident synchronism between the resources that our planet guarantees, especially for human beings, who follow the degree of scientific knowledge that we have been able to achieve. At each stage of knowledge, a new order of possibilities opens up for the creation of the resources necessary for the life of living beings.

How and why our world, after the travails of billions of years of evolution of the Earth in the solar system, behaves like a loving mother who - I apologize for the simplicity of the analogy - follows the studies of her offspring and in conjunction with the success of research makes available what life needs. The answer to all the questions will be given to us by the time that presses the search for men. It is useless to want to scroll through the merry-go-round of time in advance. We must wait calmly and with dignity for us to learn about the future rules that will allow human beings to survive over time.

Noi possiamo desiderare di essere ricchi, famosi o potenti, ma questi desideri non rispondono ad alcun bisogno reale, ad alcuna mancanza (dipendono da «opinioni vuote», scrive Epicuro): non sono naturali, insomma, e non è necessario soddisfarli. Non portano nulla. Anzi, ogni tentativo di realizzarli sarà causa di frustrazione continua perché non troveremo mai il piacere che speravamo di trovare nella loro realizzazione. Possiamo accumulare tutte le ricchezze o tutto il potere che vogliamo, ma non ce ne verrà nulla, solo la frustrazione di chi non trova quello che si aspettava. Epicuro

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## Notes

Note 1. The operation to conquer Rome was entrusted to the Army Observation Corps of Central Italy, led by General Raffaele Cadorna, composed of five divisions with cavalry and bersaglieri for a total of about 60,000 men. Defending the city (about 200,000 inhabitants) is an army of about 15,000 soldiers of various nationalities commanded by General Hermann Kanzler, deployed along the walls. The day before, Kanzler received orders from the pontiff to resist only long enough to demonstrate to the world that the papacy yielded only in the face of the military force of the invaders.

Note 2. The expression was born in 1826 (Alexandre Vinet) and was then spread by Charles de Montalembert: it indicates the separation between the religious and political spheres, that is, a free Church in spiritual matters and an autonomous state in civil decisions. In Italy, the principle was taken up by Cavour in 1861 in the debate on the Roman question and the annexation of papal territories: the unity of the Kingdom of Italy must not “absorb” the religious function, but distinguish temporal power from spiritual power. After the capture of Rome (1870), the State tried to regulate relations with the Law of Guarantees (1871), recognizing the Pope’s guarantees and prerogatives to ensure the independence of the spiritual ministry without territorial sovereignty. The Holy See, however, did not accept the law because it was unilateral, and the Roman question remained open until the Lateran Pacts (1929).

Note 3. The position of Supreme Leader serves as head of state as the country’s highest political and religious leader, above the office of President of the Republic, which he himself held during the leadership of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

Note 4. Mojtaba Khamenei, son of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, is now the new Supreme Leader of Iran. The news came just days after the killing of Ali Khamenei in a joint U.S.-Israeli attack on Tehran. Over the years, the new leader has risen through the ranks of power not only through his behind-the-scenes political influence, but also through a growing network of economic and financial interests. An empire that, according to various investigations, extends far beyond Iran’s borders. Succeeding his father as Supreme Leader of Iran, Mojtaba Khamenei does not see his personal wealth radically change. What he inherits politically from Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, however, multiplies the influence over the economic power he already possessed. Mojtaba Khamenei’s exact personal net worth is not known to the public, because most of the assets connected to him would be hidden through intermediaries, fictitious companies or political networks. However, several unconfirmed estimates indicate that his wealth would amount to more than \$3 billion (€2.6 billion), with assets distributed between bank accounts and

investments outside Iran. Some investigations link him to a vast offshore network with properties and investments in Europe and the Middle East, often registered through intermediaries rather than directly in his name. According to Bloomberg, for example, Mojtaba indirectly holds more than £100 million (€115.5 million) in property in London's exclusive "Billionaire's Row" borough, north of the city. Assets connected to its network include luxury residential real estate in London, including large mansions held through offshore companies; luxury villas in Dubai, located in elite residential neighborhoods; commercial real estate and hotels in Europe, including properties in Germany and Spain; as well as financial assets held through foreign accounts and investment vehicles often spread across multiple jurisdictions. None of these assets, however, are publicly registered in the name of Mojtaba Khamenei.

His father, Ali Khamenei, controlled a network of assets worth an estimated \$95 billion (€82.2 billion) through entities such as Setad (an acronym in Farsi for Executive Seat of the Order of the Imam). This figure does not directly enter Mojtaba's personal wealth. However, as Supreme Leader, he gains enormous influence over the management of this liquidity and the structures that administer it.

Note 5. Mohammed bin Salman Mohammed bin Salman is a Saudi prince and politician, a member of the Al Saud royal family, son of the current King Salman, and first in line to the throne of Saudi Arabia. He is also chairman of the council for economic affairs and development of the Kingdom. On 27 September 2022, he was appointed prime minister by King Salman, thus assuming, de jure, also the country's executive authority, previously held only de facto. Mohammad bin Salman, Dominant figure of contemporary Saudi politics. Centralization of power over security, economics and foreign policy. He leads an authoritarian political system, with strong repression of dissent. Saudi Vision 2030.

The goal: to transform the Saudi economy and reduce dependence on oil. Key points:

Restructuring of Saudi Aramco, a \$2000 billion sovereign wealth fund.

Development of tourism, entertainment and non-oil sectors, Introduction of new taxes and reduction of subsidies.

Foreign Policy Architect of the military intervention in Yemen; Protagonist of the diplomatic crisis with Qatar (2017)

Tensions with Canada (2018); Close relations with the United States and Gulf monarchies.

2017 purge

Arrest of about 200 princes, ministers and businessmen. Seizure of assets estimated at up to \$800 billion Allegations of coercion, torture and lack of due process, Definitive consolidation of its internal power.

Note 6. In 1866 Giuseppe Mazzini was elected several times deputy in Messina while in exile in London, but his victories were initially annulled due to previous convictions. Only at the third election was the result validated, but Mazzini refused the post because he did not want to swear allegiance to the Albertine Statute. Returning to Italy after an amnesty, he resumed revolutionary activity; he was

arrested in 1870 and exiled again. He returned clandestinely to Pisa in 1872, where he died on March 10 of the same year.

Note 7. the Martyrs of Belfiore, in the context of Austrian repression in Lombardy-Venetia. In 1852, during an Austrian police check in Mantua, money linked to a Mazzinian loan was accidentally discovered in the house of Luigi Pesci, initially suspected of forgery. Subjected to harsh interrogations, Pesci reveals the existence of an anti-Austrian conspiracy network and names some of the religious involved, including Don Ferdinando Bosio and above all Don Enrico Tazzoli, considered the coordinator of the movement.

The investigations lead to numerous arrests and the seizure of compromising documents, including an encrypted register with the names of the conspiracy's financiers. Despite attempts by the bishop of Mantua and other bishops to obtain clemency, Governor Radetzky grants only a partial commutation of the sentence for some defendants, while confirming the death sentence for Tazzoli and other patriots. According to the text, this decision, considered by the Austrians an act of magnanimity, turned out to be a serious political error, because it strengthened the opposition and made any future pacification of the Italian provinces impossible.

Note 8. In the Renaissance (fifteenth-sixteenth centuries) women were still confined to the traditional roles of "nun, wife, servant, courtesan".

However, the spread of literacy among women of the privileged classes is growing and the opportunity is opening up for a growing number of women to participate in intellectual life even in the secular sphere. Venetian by birth, Christine de Pizan (1365-1440) wrote *The City of Ladies* in 1404; the author describes the female gender as devoid of innate inferiority compared to men.

Note 9. Among the most well-known cases are the Martyrs of Belfiore, a group of patriots sentenced to death between 1851 and 1855 in Mantua, then part of Lombardy-Veneto under Austrian rule. The executions took place mainly in the valley of Belfiore and represented the culmination of Austrian repression after the defeat of the First War of Independence. Among those executed were Don Enrico Tazzoli, Carlo Poma, Angelo Scarsellini, Bernardo Canal, Giovanni Zambelli, Tito Speri, Carlo Montanari, Bartolomeo Grazioli, Pietro Frattini and Pier Fortunato Calvi. These patriots were part of secret committees linked to Giuseppe Mazzini, which collected funds for insurrectionary actions against the Austrian government.

Note 10. The Abraham Accords (signed on September 15, 2020 at the White House, in Washington) marked the normalization of relations between Israel and some Arab countries: it was the first after the treaties with Egypt (1979) and Jordan (1994).

They were signed by representatives of the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain, along with US President Donald Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. The name recalls the patriarch Abraham, a figure recognized as a prophet in both Judaism and Islam, also considered a common reference to the Jewish and Arab peoples (through Isaac and Ishmael). A member of Islam, and traditionally considered a shared patriarch of the [Jewish](#) and [Arab peoples](#).

Note 11. Nuclear energy is the energy released by nuclear reactions and radioactive decay. It is obtained through fission (division of atomic nuclei) or fusion (union of atomic nuclei), transforming small quantities of matter into energy, according to Einstein's famous equation,  $E = mc^2$ .

The main benefits of nuclear energy include its high energy density and reduced greenhouse gas emissions, while risks include radioactive waste management and the potential for nuclear accidents. In addition, nuclear power plants work by converting the thermal energy produced by nuclear reactions into electrical energy. Source; Wikipedia

Nuclear fusion is the process in which two light atomic nuclei combine to form a heavier nucleus, releasing a large amount of energy. This process occurs naturally in the Sun and stars, where temperature and pressure conditions are extremely high. Nuclear fusion is described by Einstein's famous equation  $(E=mc^2)$ , which shows how a small amount of mass can be converted into a large amount of energy.

#### Benefits of Fusion Energy

**Unlimited Energy:** Nuclear fusion has the potential to provide huge amounts of energy, far greater than those obtained from nuclear fission, using abundant fuels such as hydrogen found in seawater.

**Less Radioactive Waste:** Unlike fission, which produces hazardous radioactive waste, fusion generates waste with a much lower rate of radioactivity and which is exhausted relatively quickly.

**No Risk of Explosion:** Fusion reactors do not present the risk of nuclear explosions, making them safer than fission reactors.

Note 12. The closure of the Strait of Hormuz after the attack on Iran brings one of the most delicate energy hubs on the planet back to the center of attention. A huge share of the world's oil passes through there, and any blockage has immediate consequences on the markets. The first price tensions are already being seen in Europe and Italy, with an increase in fuel prices that could soon be reflected in bills and transport. According to Davide Tabarelli, president of Nomisma Energia, the situation is still relatively under control, but if the closure were to be prolonged, the global energy system would enter a much more critical phase.

The first effects of the crisis are already showing up at the pump. "We are already at 2,200," Tabarelli observes, referring to the price of diesel, warning that if the situation does not change "we will see much higher prices."

Paradoxically, he adds, the international oil market has not yet reacted in an extreme way. "In the face of this potential cataclysm, the price of oil rose to \$90," he recalls, while in 2022, after the Russian invasion of Ukraine, it reached \$120. The most affected fuel, however, remains diesel, which has already returned "to 2022 levels".

Note 13. Moments ago, on my orders, the U.S. Central Command carried out one of the most powerful air raids in the history of the Middle East, totally annihilating every military target in Iran's crown: the island of Kharg." About 80% of Tehran's oil exports pass through the island. Then he added: "For reasons of decency, I have chosen not to destroy the oil infrastructure on the island. But if it were to

interfere with the free and safe passage of ships through the Strait of Hormuz, I will immediately reconsider this decision.” “For reasons of decency, I have chosen not to destroy the oil infrastructure on the island. But if it were to interfere with the free and safe passage of ships through the Strait of Hormuz, I will immediately reconsider this decision.”

The strategically important island

Located about 55 kilometers from the port of Bushehr and surrounded by particularly deep waters, the island extends for only eight kilometers, but is home to the main export platform for Iranian crude oil. Through undersea pipelines and loading terminals, Kharg channels oil from central and western fields to tankers bound mainly for Asian markets, with China among the main buyers. Between 1.3 and 1.6 million barrels per day normally pass through the terminal, with storage capacities of tens of millions of barrels.

Note i

Top Country Ranking by Proven Reserves (2025)

- 1) **Venezuela** – about 303 billion barrels. The reserves are mainly located in the Orinoco Belt and consist of extra-heavy crude oil, the extraction of which requires advanced technologies. Despite huge reserves, production is limited due to political crises and international sanctions.
- 2) **Saudi Arabia** – about 267 billion barrels. The country has some of the largest and most productive deposits in the world, with relatively low extraction costs, making it one of the leading global exporters.
- 3) **Iran** – about 209 billion barrels. Reserves are significant, but exports are affected by sanctions and geopolitical tensions.
- 4) **Canada** – between 163 and 168 billion barrels. The reserves are mainly in the form of tar sands, which require expensive technologies for extraction.
- 5) **Iraq** – about 145 billion barrels. Despite political instability and conflict, it remains an important producer.
- 6) **United Arab Emirates** – about 113 billion barrels. Political stability and technological investments consolidate their position among the major exporters.
- 7) **Kuwait** – about 102 billion barrels. Small country with well-developed infrastructure and steady production.
- 8) **Russia** – about 80 billion barrels. Reserves are significant, but production is affected by economic and geopolitical factors.
- 9) **United States** – between 68 and 74 billion barrels. Despite lower reserves than OPEC leaders, the United States is the world’s largest producer thanks to advanced mining techniques such as fracking.
- 10) **Libya** – about 48 billion barrels. Africa’s largest reserves, but production is limited by political instability and outdated infrastructure.

**Additional considerations** Having large reserves does not automatically mean being among the largest producers or exporters. For example, Venezuela has huge reserves but contributes only 0.8% of global production due to internal crises, while the United States, with lower reserves, leads world production. Geopolitics, technology, and political stability play a crucial role in determining the actual influence of each country on the global oil market.

Source: - [www.money.i](http://www.money.i)

Note ii. **Countries that consume the most oil**

The countries that consume the most oil in the world are:

- 1) **United States:** 20.01 million barrels per day, representing 20% of total world consumption.
- 2) **China:** 15.15 million barrels per day, a share of 15% of the world total.
- 3) **India:** 5.05 million barrels per day, a share of 5% of the world total.
- 4) **Russia:** 3.68 million barrels per day, a weight of 4% in the global landscape.
- 5) **Iran:** 209 billion barrels of reserves, a significant portion of global reserves.
- 6) **Saudi Arabia:** 267 billion barrels of reserves, one of the world's largest producers.
- 7) **Canada:** 163 billion barrels of reserves, non-OPEC.
- 8) **Iraq:** 145 billion barrels of reserves, OPEC.
- 9) **United Arab Emirates:** 113 billion barrels of reserves, OPEC.
- 10) **Kuwait:** 101.5 billion barrels of reserves, OPEC.
- 11) **Russia:** 80 billion barrels of reserves, OPEC.
- 12) **United States:** 68-74 billion barrels of reserves, OPEC.
- 13) **Libya:** 48 billion barrels of reserves, OPEC. These data highlight the concentration of energy wealth in a few countries, many of which are members of OPEC, the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries.