PREFACE

The relation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United States over various confrontational issues during the recent years has become the subject of discussion and concern for the region of West Asia and the international community at large. Many of the debates have been passionate and extremely partisan, due in some part to the high likelihood of war and great bloodshed. However, it is an obvious fact that these issues have become most emblematic of the gulf between the two countries. The present-study is a brief effort in the process of identification and analysis of salient trends in US-Iran relations since 1979. In this study attempt is made to understand the relations between the two states which were close allies of each other before the Iranian revolution of 1979 and became adversaries after the revolution to the point that the possibility of war cannot be ruled out. Hopefully this may add to our knowledge of contemporary political relations of both the countries under study.

The First Chapter is an attempt to introduce the West Asia along with its nomenclature, geo strategic importance and brief history in order to make the research conducive to understand. Because, Iran’s geo-strategic and historical importance are the major determinants of its foreign policy and without having a proper picture of its neighboring states it will be difficult to determine it. Similarly the United States approach towards West Asian and its interest in the region is analyzed as they have either positive or negative impact on the relations between the US and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Second Chapter is intended to expose historically the obvious and intriguing relations between the two countries prior to the Islamic Revolution of 1979 in Iran and its effect upon the political fate of both the nations and the region as such. This chapter also traces the history of nuclear development in Iran during the pre-Islamic Revolution period to properly understand and comprehend the present nuclear crisis.
The Third Chapter investigates the roots and dimensions of their bitter relations by analyzing the records of different crises in Islamic Republic of Iran and its neighborhoods. The study analyses the fact that the past 40 years of US harsh policy toward Iran has proved to be counterproductive and ineffective. Special attention has been given to different war-time relationship between the two countries such as- the Iran-Iraq War of 1980, Iran Contra Affairs of 1980s, the Gulf War of 1991, the Afghanistan Crisis of 2001, and the Iraq War of 2003. The study also explains the ever-ending Peace Process in the West Asian states and its surrounding politics played by the United States and Iran.

The Fourth Chapter endeavors to understand Iran’s nuclear calculus. It focuses on Iranian position on the question of WMD vis-à-vis the positions of the West especially the US. It also makes attempt to analyze how the contentious issue of nuclear program can be dealt with to avoid violence and bloodshed in Iran and the region.

After analyzing the above chapters on US-Iran relations since 1979, the study concludes in the fifth chapter with suggesting that the confrontational issues can only be solved through amicable ways and not by threat and warnings. In order to resolve the nuclear issue the US must stop its various illogical supports to Israel which enjoys adversarial relations with to Iran and the West-Asian states. Similarly, Iran must stop furious public speeches which make their rivals suspicious. Therefore, they should sit together for discussion and consider each-other’s problems with seriousness in order to normalize the relations between the two countries.

In preparing this work I have consulted the available literature on the subject. Generally books and periodicals are consulted. To opinions and mistakes in the study I take the sole responsibility.