

The Iran Hostage Crisis

[#Iran Hostage Crisis](#) [#US Embassy Tehran](#) [#1979 American Hostages](#) [#Jimmy Carter Presidency](#) [#Iranian Revolution Impact](#)

The Iran Hostage Crisis was a profound diplomatic standoff that began on November 4, 1979, when Iranian students seized the U.S. Embassy in Tehran, holding 52 American citizens captive for 444 days. This event, deeply intertwined with the Iranian Revolution and the presidency of Jimmy Carter, significantly reshaped U.S.-Iran relations and became a defining moment in American foreign policy until their release on January 20, 1981.

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The Iran Hostage Crisis

*Includes pictures *Includes accounts of the crisis by hostages, politicians, and Iranian students
*Includes online resources and a bibliography for further reading *Includes a table of contents "Carter's predecessor, whom he says he emulates -- Harry Truman -- would have landed the Marines and offered to cripple Iran's economic base. These Iranians have committed an act of war against the United States and all Carter wants to do at the moment is talk. It is time to speak with the power and the might of a first rate country instead of the wishy-washy language of diplomatic compromise." Daniel A. Darlington's Letter to the Editor, Denver Post On February 1, 1979, amid great fanfare, exiled cleric Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini landed in Tehran. The return of the leader of the revolution to his home country was one of the final markers of the Iranian Revolution, a national phenomenon that had global implications. The Iranian Revolution of 1979 has been described as an epochal event, called the peak of 20th century Islamic revivalism and revitalization, and analyzed as the one key incident that continues to impact politics across Iran, the Middle East, and the even the world as a whole. As a phenomenon that led to the creation of the first modern Islamic Republic in the world, the revolution marked the victory of Islam over secular politics, and Iran quickly became the aspiring model for Islamic fundamentalists and revivalists across the globe, regardless of nationality, culture, or religious sect. When Ayatollah Khomeini was declared ruler in December 1979 and the judicial system originally modeled on that of the West was swiftly replaced by one purely based on Islamic law, much of the world was in shock that such a religiously driven revolution could succeed so quickly, especially when it had such sweeping consequences beyond the realm of religion. Furthermore, while the focus of the revolution was primarily about Islam, the revolution was also colored by disdain for the West, distaste for autocracy, and a yearning for religious and cultural identity. This point was driven home on November 4, 1979 when Iranians stormed the U.S. embassy and took dozens of Americans hostage, sparking a crisis that would last for the rest of President Jimmy Carter's term. A few Americans escaped the

embassy and hid in Tehran before being extracted (a mission that was recently adapted into the movie *Argo*), but for nearly 450 days, the crisis remained at the forefront of America's daily life, and aside from an embarrassing failed rescue mission, the administration seemed uncertain over how to approach the crisis and protect the American hostages. Eventually, all of the hostages were freed on the day Ronald Reagan was inaugurated as president in 1981, but the Iran hostage crisis had far reaching ramifications that have lasted to this day. Most notably, formal diplomatic contact between the United States and Iran ended, and no American embassy is open in that country nearly 35 years later. For anyone born during the 1960s, the Iran Hostage Crisis marked a change in American identity both as people and a nation. Those born in earlier decades had little to no understanding of radical Islam, and those born later could not conceive of a world without it. Some would say that the crisis was ultimately a good thing, in that it ushered Ronald Reagan into the White House and thus led to the fall of Communism, while others would say that it was a harbinger of doom, a demonstration that even as one geopolitical foe declined, another was on the rise. Some say America was singled out because it was seen as too strong, others because it was seen as too weak. The bottom line is that, while no one knows what might have been done to prevent it, everyone has an idea about how it might have been ended sooner.

US Foreign Policy and the Iran Hostage Crisis

An analysis of one of the greatest foreign policy disasters.

The Iran Hostage Crisis

Describes the 1979-1981 Iran hostage crisis.

Invading the Embassy

On November 4, 1979, Iranian militants stormed the United States Embassy in Tehran and took sixty-six Americans captive. Thus began the Iran Hostage Crisis, an affair that captivated the American public for 444 days and marked America's first confrontation with the forces of radical Islam. Using hundreds of recently declassified government documents, historian David Farber takes the first in-depth look at the hostage crisis, examining its lessons for America's contemporary War on Terrorism. Unlike other histories of the subject, Farber's vivid and fast-paced narrative looks beyond the day-to-day circumstances of the crisis, using the events leading up to the ordeal as a means for understanding it. The book paints a portrait of the 1970s in the United States as an era of failed expectations in a nation plagued by uncertainty and anxiety. It reveals an American government ill prepared for the fall of the Shah of Iran and unable to reckon with the Ayatollah Khomeini and his militant Islamic followers. Farber's account is filled with fresh insights regarding the central players in the crisis: Khomeini emerges as an astute strategist, single-mindedly dedicated to creating an Islamic state. The Americans' student-captors appear as less-than-organized youths, having prepared for only a symbolic sit-in with just a three-day supply of food. ABC news chief Roone Arledge, newly installed and eager for ratings, is cited as a critical catalyst in elevating the hostages to cause célèbre status. Throughout the book there emerge eerie parallels to the current terrorism crisis. Then as now, Farber demonstrates, politicians failed to grasp the depth of anger that Islamic fundamentalists harbored toward the United States, and Americans dismissed threats from terrorist groups as the crusades of ineffectual madmen. *Taken Hostage* is a timely and revealing history of America's first engagement with terrorism and Islamic fundamentalism, one that provides a chilling reminder that the past is only prologue.

Invading the Embassy

The explosive book that sparked a congressional investigation is now in paperback and updated with new testimony from key participants. Naval veteran Gary Sick was the principal White House aide for Iran during the hostage crisis of 1979-81 and is the author of *All Fall Down: America's Tragic Encounter with Iran*. Photographs.

Taken Hostage

Exploring the recent increase in anti-American terrorism, this updated study argues that terrorist groups are now exploiting the link between the media and public opinion polls (particularly regarding the popularity of American presidents) in order to publ

October Surprise

Operation Eagle Claw was tactically feasible, operationally vacant, and strategically risky. This paper examines the failed hostage rescue mission conducted by the U.S. in Iran during April of 1980. The following text will recreate the rescue mission in its historical context while identifying factors across the three levels of war which contributed to its outcome. The three levels of war referred to in this discussion are the tactical, operational and strategic levels. This study concludes that (1) The fall of the Shah unearthed a gap in U.S. military influence in the Middle East which could not rapidly be overcome; (2) the hostage rescue mission, although tied directly to the strategic objective of returning the 53 American hostages, provided little influence in terms of salvaging U.S. honor and interests in the Middle East. In reality, it is probable that mission failure protracted eventual diplomatic resolution of the crisis; (3) the hostage rescue mission, a limited objective and high risk raid, should only have been executed in the event that hostages lives were directly threatened; and (4) since 1961, sixty-six separate hostage, kidnapping, or hijacking incidents have occurred involving U.S. diplomats, servicemen, and private citizens. The frequency of these actions equate to 1.6 per year over the past 41 years. This data demonstrates the relevancy of the subject and the frequency of its occurrence.

The Iran Hostage Crisis, a Chronology of Daily Developments

On November 4, 1979, Iranian militants stormed the United States Embassy in Tehran and took sixty-six Americans captive. Thus began the Iran Hostage Crisis, an affair that captivated the American public for 444 days and marked America's first confrontatio.

Terrorism and the Media

The only known diary to have been smuggled out of Iran by a released hostage is presented.

The Iranian Hostage Rescue Attempt: A Case Study

"Farber has produced a succinct and authoritative book on the [Iran] hostage crisis that is well researched, engagingly written, and persuasive in its conclusions. What's more, it's a real page turner."--Fredrik Logevall, University of California, Santa Barbara.

Taken Hostage

The New York Times–bestselling author of *Black Hawk Down* delivers a “suspenseful and inspiring” account of the Iranian hostage crisis of 1979 (*The Wall Street Journal*). On November 4, 1979, a group of radical Islamist students, inspired by the revolutionary Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeini, stormed the U.S. embassy in Tehran. They took fifty-two Americans captive, and kept nearly all of them hostage for 444 days. In *Guests of the Ayatollah*, Mark Bowden tells this sweeping story through the eyes of the hostages, the soldiers in a new special forces unit sent to free them, their radical, naïve captors, and the diplomats working to end the crisis. Bowden takes us inside the hostages’ cells and inside the Oval Office for meetings with President Carter and his exhausted team. We travel to international capitals where shadowy figures held clandestine negotiations, and to the deserts of Iran, where a courageous, desperate attempt to rescue the hostages exploded into tragic failure. Bowden dedicated five years to this research, including numerous trips to Iran and countless interviews with those involved on both sides. *Guests of the Ayatollah* is a detailed, brilliantly recreated, and suspenseful account of a crisis that gripped and ultimately changed the world. “The passions of the moment still reverberate . . . you can feel them on every page.” —*Time* “A complex story full of cruelty, heroism, foolishness and tragic misunderstandings.” —*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* “Essential reading . . . A.” —*Entertainment Weekly*

Iranian Hostage

For the true story behind *Argo*, read *Our Man in Tehran* The world watched with fear in November 1979, when Iranian students infiltrated and occupied the American embassy in Tehran. The Americans were caught entirely by surprise, and what began as a swift and seemingly short-lived takeover evolved into a crisis that would see fifty four embassy personnel held hostage, most for 444 days. As Tehran exploded in a fury of revolution, six American diplomats secretly escaped. For three months, Ken Taylor, the Canadian ambassador to Iran—along with his wife and embassy staffers—concealed the Americans in their homes, always with the prospect that the revolutionary government of Ayatollah Khomeini would exact deadly consequences. The United States found itself handcuffed by a fractured, fundamentalist government it could not understand and had completely underestimated. With limited intelligence resources available on the ground and anti-American sentiment growing, President Carter

turned to Taylor to work with the CIA in developing their exfiltration plans. Until now, the true story behind Taylor's involvement in the escape of the six diplomats and the Eagle Claw commando raid has remained classified. In *Our Man in Tehran*, Robert Wright takes us back to a major historical flashpoint and unfolds a story of cloak-and-dagger intrigue that brings a new understanding of the strained relationship between the United States and Iran. With the world once again focused on these two countries, this book is the stuff of John le Carré and Daniel Silva made real.

Siege Mentality

Colonel Charles W. Scott was one of the hostages captured and imprisoned in the American embassy in Tehran, Iran in November 1979. In this first-person account, he takes the reader through the entire crisis, including the preamble, the takeover, the internment, and the build-up to the release. One of the most fascinating aspects of the book is his description of his relationship with his captors. The Colonel's resolve both frustrates and impresses those imprisoning him. He spends his time analyzing and evaluating the Iranians, eventually forging something like a friendship with Akbar, an educated and reasonable Iranian who slowly grows frustrated with the hostage situation and engages with the Colonel in both personal and political discussions. A very readable supplement to the studies of the high politics surrounding the hostage crisis.

Taken Hostage

Contains primary source material.

Guests of the Ayatollah

Many books have been written about the Iran Hostage Crisis, some by the hostages themselves others by journalists who got involved in the daily announcements of current events. This book is written from a different perspective - that of a wife of a hostage who was not a diplomat and was just a wife, and mother of three children. On the morning of November 4th 1979, militants stormed the embassy and took all personnel hostage, including my husband. It is my story that describes the daily tensions, worries and stamina needed to survive. I had no idea that a world event could affect me personally. I learned soon enough that the crisis involved the whole world. This is my experience of the crisis and how it affected my children and me in our daily lives and still does so many years later.

Our Man in Tehran

The world watched with fear in November 1979, when Iranian students infiltrated and occupied the American embassy in Tehran. As the city exploded in a fury of revolution, few knew about the six American embassy staff who escaped into hiding. For three months, Ken Taylor, the Canadian ambassador to Iran—along with his wife and embassy staffers—concealed the Americans in their homes, terrified that Ayatollah Khomeini would find out and exact deadly consequences. January 28, 2010, marks the 30th anniversary of an event that stunned the world, when Ken Taylor masterminded the exfiltration of the six diplomats from Tehran. Americans were held in thrall as Ted Koppel updated the nation on the fate of its hostages and the Canadians orchestrated an intrepid escape. Americans celebrated in the streets across the nation, raising banners that read "Thank you, Canada!" In *Our Man in Tehran*, Robert Wright, author of the award-winning national bestseller *Three Nights in Havana*, tells the story behind a major historical flashpoint, a story of cloak-and-dagger intrigue, the stuff of John le Carré and Frederick Forsyth made real.

Pieces of the Game

Describes how extremist groups and governments have resorted to hostage taking in recent years, and shows how both the Carter and Reagan administrations have dealt with such crises.

No Hiding Place

Was the Iranian hostage crisis the most humiliating episode in American history or was the eventual release of the hostages unharmed a triumph of patient, skilled diplomacy? In this book, the story of the negotiations is told by key Americans, inside & outside the government, who were intimately involved in the day-to-day search for an honorable settlement that would free the hostages. Drawing on their personal notes, journals, & files, the negotiators offer a rare insider's view of how the agonizing political, economic, military, & human choices were made.

The Iran Hostage Crisis

In May 1980, the Joint Chiefs of Staff commissioned a Special Operations Review Group to conduct a broad examination of the planning, organization, coordination, direction, and control of the Iranian hostage rescue mission, as a basis for recommending improvement in these areas for the future. The Review Group consisted of six senior military officers three who had retired after distinguished careers, and three still on active duty. The broad military experience of the group gave it an appropriate perspective from which to conduct an appraisal. Details on the participants, the Terms of Reference they operated under, and their approach to the subject are contained in this document. The Review Group has made its final report to the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Copies have been forwarded to the Secretary of Defense, as have the related, early recommendations of the Joint Chiefs. A highly classified report also has been transmitted to appropriate committees in the Congress. Because it is important that as much detail as possible be made available to the American public, the Organization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff has conducted a declassification review to produce this version. The issues and findings have been retained in as close a form as possible to the original, classified version. In particular, the Executive Summary, Conclusions, and Recommendations remain virtually the same as in the original.

444 Days

Presents an account of the experiences of the first American hostage to be freed from Iran due to his development of the disease multiple sclerosis.

Our Man In Tehran

A fully illustrated history of the disastrous 1980 attempt to rescue the 53 US Embassy hostages in Tehran, which involved the new Delta Force and a complex series of airlifts, hides and refueling stops in the Iranian desert. Following months of negotiations after the seizure of the US Embassy in Tehran on November 4 1979, President Jimmy Carter ordered the newly formed Delta Force to conduct a raid into Iran to free the hostages. The raid, Operation Eagle Claw, was risky to say the least. US forces would have to fly into the deserts of Iran on C-130s; marry up with carrier-based RH-53D helicopters; fly to hide sites near Tehran; approach the Embassy via trucks; seize the Embassy and rescue the hostages; board the helicopters descending on Tehran; fly to an airbase captured by more US forces; and then fly out on C-141s and to freedom. Unfortunately, and unsurprisingly given the complexity of the mission, things went wrong from the start and when the mission was called off at the refueling site at Desert One, the resulting collision between aircraft killed eight US personnel. This title tells the full story of this tragic operation, supported by maps, photographs, and specially-commissioned bird's-eye-views and battlescenes, which reveal the complexity and scale of the proposed rescue and the disaster which followed.

All Fall Down

A behind-the-scenes account of the negotiations to free the 52 hostages held by revolutionary students in Iran.

America Held Hostage

This collection of articles examines mediation in a range of situations including international relations, informal mediation by private individuals and by scholars and practitioners, as well as the superpowers as mediators.

Political Relations Between Iran and the USA: the Iran Hostage Crisis (Folder 1)

Presented in paperback in two volumes because of its massive content, with a total of over a thousand pages of text and images, this unique and comprehensive book provides encyclopedic coverage of the Iranian hostage crisis during the Carter administration and the 1980 failed military rescue mission with declassified Department of Defense documents, intelligence reports, histories and reports. These reports provide important new information on this controversy. There is extensive coverage of military activities, including the planning and execution of the hostage rescue mission called Operation Eagle Claw, which resulted in the Desert One tragedy on April 25, 1980. There is also new information on planning for Operation Snowbird later in 1980.

Volume One Contents: Part 1: Overview * Part 2: Iran Hostage Rescue Mission Report (The Holloway Report) * Part 3: Robert Ode Hostage Diary * Part 4: Statements by Defense Secretary Brown and JSC Chairman Jones * Part 5: Crisis in Iran - Operation Eagle Claw * Part 6: The Iranian Hostage Rescue Mission - A Case Study * Part 7: Two White Houses - The Iran Hostage Crisis * Part 8: Choosing Peace: Jimmy Carter and the Iran Hostage Crisis * Part 9: A Classic Case of Deception - CIA Goes Hollywood, The Argo Cover Story * Part 10: Broken Stiletto - Command and Control of the Joint Task Force During Operation Eagle Claw at Desert One * Part 11: Desert One: The Hostage Rescue Mission * Part 12: Operation Eagle Claw - Lessons Learned * Part 13: Disaster at Desert One: Catalyst for Change * Part 14: The Iranian Hostage Rescue Attempt * Part 15: Iranian Hostage Rescue Attempt - A Case Study * Part 16: Skipping the Interagency Process Can Mean Courting Disaster: The Case of Desert One * Part 17: Explaining Iran's Foreign Policy, 1979-2009 * Part 18: USSOCOM Mission * Part 19: From Son Tay to Desert One: Lessons Unlearned * Part 20: Airborne Raids - A Potent Weapon in Countering Transnational Terrorism

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On November 4, 1979, more than 3,000 Iranian militant students stormed the American Embassy in Tehran, Iran. 66 Americans were seized and held hostage, precipitating a confrontation with the United States. The result of this crisis would change the course of a presidency, and affect the relations between the two nations. In military history one can stand out as a splendid example or a disastrous reminder. On April 24, 1980, highly-trained members of the four armed services made a valiant attempt to rescue the 44 diplomats and servicemembers held hostage in the Islamic republic of Iran. What the vast majority of Americans did not know was that planning for an armed rescue attempt began almost immediately after the embassy was overrun. The code name for the overall operation was Rice Bowl, while the operational portion was known as Eagle Claw. The operation was complex and faced several limiting factors, among which were the relative isolation of Tehran and the available courses of action which involved an increased risk of equipment failure. One critical piece of the operation was a refueling and overnight stay at a mid-desert site named Desert One. When the operation finally launched on the night of April 24, 1980, equipment failures and unpredictable dust storms caused the on-scene commanders to abort the mission. As the rescue force prepared to evacuate Desert One, an H-53 helicopter collided with a C-130.

American Hostages in Iran

Following months of negotiations after the seizure of the US Embassy in Tehran on 4 November 1979, President Jimmy Carter ordered the newly formed Delta Force to conduct a raid into Iran to free the hostages. The raid, Operation Eagle Claw, was risky to say the least. US forces would have to fly into the deserts of Iran on C-130s; marry up with carrier-based RH-53D helicopters; fly to hide sites near Tehran; approach the Embassy via trucks; seize the Embassy and rescue the hostages; board the helicopters descending on Tehran; fly to an airbase captured by more US forces; and then fly out on C-141s and to freedom. Unfortunately, and unsurprisingly given the complexity of the mission, things went wrong from the start and when the mission was called off at the refueling site at Desert One, the resulting collision between aircraft killed eight US personnel. This title tells the full story of this tragic operation, supported by maps, photographs, and specially-commissioned bird's-eye-views and battlescenes which reveal the complexity and scale of the proposed rescue and the disaster which followed.

American hostages in Iran : the conduct of a crisis

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Rescue Mission Report

Paul Wilcher devoted his career to preserving the civil rights of the unfortunate, so when a case concerning a wrongly imprisoned intelligence officer falls into his lap, he can't help but look into it. His investigation leads him deeper into a world rife with political intrigue and corruption, where those involved stay quiet or find their lives on the line. With his life in danger, Paul Wilcher must survive long enough to expose the truth not only to the American public, but to the entire world.

9/22 is a screenplay based on real events surrounding covert relations between America and Iran during and after the Iran Hostage Crisis and the Iran-Iraq War.

Inside and Out

American Hostages in Iran