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Avoid another costly war

President Donald Trump's decision to step back from military action toward Iran — for now — is a wise one, although the latest reports show he hasn't ruled it out. A U.S.–Iran war would impose tremendous costs on Americans while strengthening the most hard-line elements in Tehran. A better path exists — one that requires clarity, not conflict.

The core problem is not the Iranian people. It is the constitutional doctrine of “exporting the revolution,” written into the Islamic Republic's governing charter. Those clauses have fueled proxy conflicts for decades and contributed to regional instability. Speaking honestly about this constitutional issue would do more to support peaceful change inside Iran than any airstrike.

Millions of Iranians have already signaled their desire for reform through protests, civic manifestos and constitutional demands. They do not need U.S. soldiers — they need the U.S. to state the truth. A five-minute presidential statement acknowledging this constitutional doctrine would empower ordinary Iranians more than any war ever could.

Avoiding another Middle East war is wise. Supporting peaceful constitutional change is wiser.

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