

## American Aggression/Foreign Regime Interventions

*“Does it really matter any longer what leader is in charge of the United States? Has there even been a president dedicated to living in peace with the world since that country was founded? Not one. It is long past time to ask why this or that American regime wants war here, there and everywhere. The problem lies much deeper in the American psychology; for we can say that nations have a psychology, a manner of general behaviour and thinking, arising from their history and culture. I will leave that for political philosophers, sociologists and psychologists to examine but the existential fact is the world is faced with a threat to its survival and that threat is the United States of America.” ~ **Christopher Black**, an international criminal lawyer based in Toronto. This quote appeared in his article “America Aggression: A Threat To The World” at <https://www.globalresearch.ca/america-aggression-a-threat-to-the-world/5585507>*

## Foreign Regime Interventions

Source:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United\\_States\\_involvement\\_in\\_regime\\_change](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_involvement_in_regime_change), therefore the links and notes are on that page

## 19th century interventions



- [1846 US–Mexico War](#). The Mexican–American War was an armed conflict between the United States of America and Mexico from 1846 to 1848 in the wake of the 1845 U.S. [annexation of Texas](#), which Mexico considered part of its territory despite the 1836 [Texas Revolution](#).

American forces occupied [New Mexico](#) and [California](#), then invaded parts of Northeastern Mexico and Northwestern Mexico; Another American army captured Mexico City, and the war ended with a victory for the United States.

The [Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo](#) specified the major consequence of the war: the forced [Mexican Cession](#) of the territories of [Alta California](#) and [New Mexico](#) to the U.S. in exchange for \$18 million. In addition, the United States forgave debt owed by the Mexican government to U.S. citizens. Mexico accepted the loss of Texas and thereafter cited the [Rio Grande](#) as its national border. The war did not result in a regime change in Mexico.



**1887 Samoa.** The [Samoa crisis](#) was a confrontation between the United States, Germany and Great Britain from 1887–1889 over control of the [Samoa Islands](#) during the [Samoa Civil War](#).<sup>[7]</sup> The [Samoa Civil War continued](#), involving Germany and the Americans, eventually resulting, via the [Tripartite Convention](#) of 1899, in the partition of the Samoan Islands into [American Samoa](#) and [German Samoa](#).<sup>[8][9]</sup>



## 1893–1917 US empire and expansionism

**1893 Hawaii.** The overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawaii refers to an event of January 17, 1893, in which anti-monarchial elements within the [Kingdom of Hawaii](#), composed largely of American citizens, engineered the overthrow of its native monarch, Queen

[Lili'uokalani](#). Hawaii was initially reconstituted as an independent [republic](#), but the ultimate goal of the revolutionaries was the annexation of the islands to the United States, which was finally accomplished in 1898.

See also: [Banana Wars](#)



Spanish–American War, U.S. invaded and occupied [Cuba](#), [Puerto Rico](#) and the [Philippines](#) in

1898. [Cuba](#) was occupied by the U.S. from 1898–1902 under military governor [Leonard Wood](#), and again from 1906–1909, 1912 and 1917–1922; governed by the terms of the [Platt Amendment](#) through 1934.



The [Puerto Rican Campaign](#) was an American military sea and land operation on the island of [Puerto Rico](#) during the [Spanish–American War](#). The [United States Navy](#) attacked the

[archipelago](#)'s capital, [San Juan](#). Though the damage inflicted on the city was minimal, the Americans were able to establish a [blockade](#) in the city's harbor, [San Juan Bay](#). The land offensive began on July 25 with 1,300 infantry soldiers.

All military actions in Puerto Rico were suspended on August 13, after U.S. President [William McKinley](#) and French Ambassador [Jules Cambon](#), acting on behalf of the Spanish government,

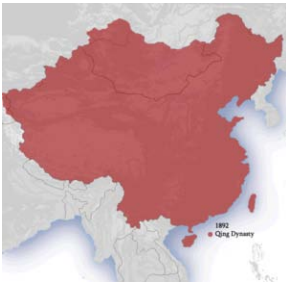
signed an [armistice](#) whereby Spain relinquished its sovereignty over the territories of Puerto Rico, Cuba, the Philippines and Guam.



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- [1899 Philippines](#), the Philippine–American War was part of a series of conflicts in the [Philippine struggle for independence](#) against United States occupation. Fighting erupted between U.S. and Filipino revolutionary forces on February 4, 1899, and quickly escalated into the 1899 [Battle of Manila](#). On June 2, 1899, the First Philippine Republic officially declared war against the United States.<sup>[10]</sup>

The war officially ended on July 4, 1902.<sup>[11]</sup> This US intervention was intended to prevent regime change, and retain US control over the Philippines.



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- [1900 China](#). The [Boxer Rebellion](#) was a proto-[nationalist](#) movement in China between 1898 and 1901. The US was part of an [Eight-Nation Alliance](#) that brought 20,000 armed troops to China, defeated the Imperial Chinese Army, and captured Beijing. The [Boxer Protocol](#) of 7 September 1901 ended the uprising.<sup>[12]</sup> This intervention did not result in regime change in China.



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- [1903 Panama](#). In 1903, [Panama seceded from the Republic of Colombia](#), backed by the U.S. government,<sup>[13]</sup> amidst the [Thousand Days' War](#). The [Panama Canal](#) was under construction by then, and the [Panama Canal Zone](#), under United States sovereignty, was then created. The zone was transferred to Panama in 2000.

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- **[1903 Honduras](#)**, where the [United Fruit Company](#) and [Standard Fruit Company](#) dominated the country's key banana export sector and associated land holdings and railways, saw insertion of American troops in 1903, 1907, 1911, 1912, 1919, 1924 and 1925.<sup>[14]</sup> Writer [O. Henry](#) coined the term "[Banana republic](#)" in 1904 to describe Honduras.
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- **[1912 Nicaragua](#)**, which, after intermittent landings and naval bombardments in the previous decades, was occupied by the U.S. almost continuously from 1912 through 1933.
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- **[1914 Mexico](#)**, US troops occupied Veracruz.

See also: [United States involvement in the Mexican Revolution](#)

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- **1915 Haiti.** Haiti was occupied by the U.S. from 1915–1934, which led to the creation of a new Haitian constitution in 1917 that instituted changes that included an end to the prior ban on land ownership by non-Haitians. Including the First and Second [Caco Wars](#).<sup>[15]</sup>



- **1916 Dominican Republic,** actions in 1903, 1904, and 1914; occupied by the U.S. from 1916–1924.

## WWI and interwar period



- **1918 Russia.** The [Allies intervened in the Russian Civil War](#). About 250,000 foreign troops entered [Russia](#) during the [Russian civil war](#) fought by the [White Army](#) against the new Soviet government. Western and imperial Japan government forces included 13,000 American troops invading through [Arkhangelsk](#) and [Vladivostok](#), whose mission after the end of World War I was to topple the new Soviet government and restore the previous Tsarist regime.



**1941 Panama** The United States government used its contacts in the Panama National Guard, which the U.S. had earlier trained, to have the government of Panama overthrown in a bloodless coup. The U.S. had requested that the government of Panama allow it to build over 130 new military installations inside and outside of the [Panama Canal Zone](#), and the government of Panama refused this request at the price

suggested by the U.S.<sup>[16]</sup>

# Cold War era

1940s



- **South Korea 1945–1950** As the Empire of Japan surrendered in August 1945, under the leadership of [Lyuh Woon-Hyung](#) committees throughout Korea formed to coordinate transition to Korean independence. On August 28, 1945 these committees formed the temporary national government of Korea, naming it the [People's Republic of Korea](#) (PRK) a couple of weeks later.<sup>[17][18]</sup> On September 8, 1945, the United States government landed forces in Korea and thereafter established the [United States Army Military Government in Korea](#) (USAMGK) to govern Korea south of the 38th Parallel. The USAMGK staffed the governing administration with Japanese governors and many other Japanese officials who had been part of the brutal Japanese imperial colonial government and with Koreans who had collaborated with it, which made the government unpopular and engendered popular resistance.<sup>[19]</sup> USAMGK refused to recognize the PRK government, which had been formed to self-govern the country, and the [Provisional Government of the Republic of Korea](#), which had been based in China during WWII and had fought against the Japanese, and then the USAMGK by military decree outlawed the PRK government.<sup>[20][21]</sup> In October 1948, USAMGK sent units to attack Koreans who were seeking Korean independence, and carried out several mass atrocities, including the killing hundreds of Korean civilians on [Jeju Island](#) who were suspected of supporting those in favor of independence.<sup>[22][23][24]</sup>

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  - **Chinese Civil War 1946-1949.** The US provided military, logistical and other aid to the right-wing [Chinese Nationalist Party](#) (KMT) army led by [Chiang Kai-shek](#) in the civil war against Chinese communist party forces. The US airlifted many KMT troops from central China to [Manchuria](#). President [Harry Truman](#) explained that: "It was perfectly clear to us that if we told the Japanese to lay down their arms immediately and march to the seaboard, the entire country would be taken over by the Communists. We therefore had to take the unusual step of using the enemy as a garrison until we could airlift Chinese National troops to South China and send [Marines](#) to guard the seaports."<sup>[25]</sup> Approximately 50,000 US troops were sent to guard strategic sites in [Hupeh](#) and [Shandong](#). The US trained and equipped KMT troops, and transported Korean troops and even enemy imperial Japanese troops back to help KMT forces to occupy Chinese zones and to contain Communist-controlled areas.<sup>[26] [27]</sup> Within less than two years after the Sino-Japanese War, the KMT had received \$4.43 billion from the US—most of which was military aid.<sup>[26]</sup>
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- **Italy 1948-1970s.** The CIA acknowledged giving \$1 million to Italian [centrist](#) parties for the 1948 election. The CIA also publishing forged letters in order to discredit the leaders of the [Italian Communist Party](#) (PCI). U.S. agencies undertook a campaign of writing ten million letters, made numerous [short-wave radio](#) broadcasts and funded the publishing of books and articles, all of which warned the Italians of what was believed to be the consequences of a communist victory. [Time](#) magazine backed the campaign for US domestic audiences, featuring the [Christian Democracy](#) leader and Prime Minister [Alcide De Gasperi](#) on its cover and in its lead story on 19 April 1948.<sup>[28][29] [30] [31]</sup> CIA ultimately spent at least \$65 million helping elect Italian politicians, including "every Christian Democrat who ever won a national election in Italy."<sup>[32]</sup>



- **March 1949 Syrian coup d'état:** The democratically elected government of [Shukri al-Quwatli](#) was overthrown by a junta led by the Syrian Army chief of staff at the time, [Husni al-Za'im](#), who became President of Syria on 11 April 1949. The exact nature of US involvement in that coup is still highly controversial. However, it is well documented that the construction of the [Trans-Arabian Pipeline](#), which had been held up in the Syrian parliament, was approved by Za'im just over a month after the coup.

## 1950s

- **1950–1953 Korean War**



- [1953 Iranian coup d'état](#) (known in [Iran](#) as the **28 Mordad coup**<sup>[33]</sup>) was the [overthrow](#) of the [democratically elected](#) government of Iranian Prime Minister [Mohammad Mosaddegh](#) on 19 August 1953, orchestrated by the intelligence agencies of the United Kingdom (under the name 'Operation Boot') and the United States (under the name **TPAJAX Project**).<sup>[34][35][36]</sup> The coup saw the transition of [Mohammad-Rezā Shāh Pahlavi](#) from a [constitutional monarch](#) to an [authoritarian](#) one who relied heavily on United States government support to hold on to power until [his own overthrow in February 1979](#).<sup>[37]</sup>
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- [1954 Guatemala](#) In a CIA operation code named [Operation PBSUCCESS](#), the U.S. government executed a [coup d'état](#) that was successful in overthrowing the democratically-elected government of President [Jacobo Árbenz](#) and installed the first of a line of brutal right-wing dictators in its place.<sup>[38][39]</sup> The perceived success of the operation made it a model for future CIA operations because the CIA lied to the president of the United States when briefing him regarding the number of casualties.<sup>[40]</sup>
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- **Failed [Indonesia](#) coup attempt of 1957-1959.** As a founding member of the [Non-Aligned Movement](#) and host of the April 1955 [Bandung Conference](#), Indonesia was charting a course toward an independent foreign policy that was not militarily committed to either side in the Cold War.<sup>[41] [42]</sup> Starting in 1957, the CIA supported a coup plan by rebel Indonesian military officers. CIA pilots, such as [Allen Lawrence Pope](#), piloted planes operated by CIA [front organization Civil Air Transport](#) (CAT) to bomb civilian and military targets in Indonesia. The CIA instructed CAT pilots to target commercial shipping in order to frighten foreign merchant ships away from Indonesian waters, thereby to weaken the Indonesian economy and thus to destabilize the democratically elected government of Indonesia. The CIA aerial bombardment resulted in the sinking of several commercial ships<sup>[43]</sup> and the bombing of a marketplace that killed many civilians.<sup>[44]</sup> The coup attempt failed at that time<sup>[45]</sup> and US [President Eisenhower](#) denied any US involvement.<sup>[46]</sup>
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- **1958 Lebanon crisis.** The President of the United States, [Eisenhower](#) authorized *Operation Blue Bat* on July 15, 1958. This was the first application of the [Eisenhower Doctrine](#) under which the U.S. announced that it would intervene to protect regimes it considered threatened by international [communism](#). The goal of the operation was to bolster the pro-Western Lebanese government of President Camille Chamoun against internal opposition and threats from Syria and Egypt.

## 1960s

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- **1961 Cuba Bay of Pigs Invasion** The [CIA](#) orchestrated a force composed of CIA-trained [Cuban exiles](#) to invade Cuba with support and encouragement from the US government, in an attempt to overthrow the [Cuban government](#) of [Fidel Castro](#). The invasion was launched in April 1961, three months after [John F. Kennedy](#) assumed the presidency in the United States. The [Cuban armed forces](#), trained and equipped by [Eastern Bloc](#) nations, defeated the invading combatants within three days.
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- 1960s. **Operation MONGOOSE** was a US government effort to overthrow the government of [Cuba](#).<sup>[47]</sup> The operation included economic warfare, including an embargo against Cuba, “to induce failure of the Communist regime to supply Cuba's economic needs,” a diplomatic initiative to isolate Cuba, and [psychological operations](#) “to turn the peoples' resentment increasingly against the regime.”<sup>[48]</sup> The economic warfare prong of the operation also included the infiltration by the CIA of operatives to carry out many acts of sabotage against civilian targets, such as a railway bridge, a molasses storage facilities, an electric power plant, and the [sugar](#) harvest, notwithstanding Cuba’s repeated requests to the United States government to cease its armed operations.<sup>[49][48]</sup> In addition, the CIA orchestrated a number of [assassination attempts against Fidel Castro](#), head of government of Cuba, including attempts that entailed CIA collaboration with the [American mafia](#).<sup>[50][51][52]</sup>
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- **[Brazil 1961-64](#)** When the president of Brazil resigned in August 1961, he was lawfully succeeded by [João Belchior Marques Goulart](#), the democratically elected vice president of the country.<sup>[53]</sup> João Goulart was a proponent of democratic rights, the legalization of the Communist Party, and economic and land reforms but the US government insisted that he impose a program of economic [austerity](#). The United States government implemented a plan with the code name [Operation Brother Sam](#) for the destabilization of Brazil, by cutting off aid to the Brazilian government, providing aid to state governors who opposed the new president, and encouraging senior Brazilian military officers to seize power and to back army [chief of staff](#) General [Humberto de Alencar Castelo Branco](#) as coup leader.<sup>[54] [55]</sup> General Branco led the overthrow in April 1964 of the constitutional government of President João Goulart and was installed as first president of the military regime, immediately declaring a state of siege and arresting more than 50,000 political opponents within the first month of seizing power, while the US government expressed approval and re-instituted aid and investment in the country.<sup>[56]</sup>
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- **[1965 Dominican Republic](#)**. U.S. President [Lyndon B. Johnson](#), convinced of the defeat of the Loyalist forces and fearing the creation of "a second Cuba"<sup>[57]</sup> on America's doorstep, ordered U.S. forces to restore order. The decision to intervene militarily in the Dominican Republic was Lyndon Johnson's personal decision. All civilian advisers had recommended against immediate intervention hoping that the Loyalist side could bring an end to the civil war. President Johnson took the advice of his Ambassador in Santo Domingo, W. Tapley Bennett, who suggested that the US interpose its forces between the rebels and those of the junta, thereby effecting a cease-fire. Chief of Staff General Wheeler told a subordinate: "Your unannounced mission is to prevent the Dominican Republic from going Communist."<sup>[58]</sup> A fleet of 41 vessels was sent to blockade the island, and an invasion was launched. Ultimately, 42,000 soldiers and marines were ordered to the Dominican Republic.
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- **[Indonesia 1965-1967](#)**. Junior army officers and the commander of the palace guard of President [Sukarno](#) accused senior Indonesian military brass of planning a CIA-backed coup against President Sukarno and killed six senior generals on October 1, 1965. General [Suharto](#) and other senior military officers attacked the junior officers on the same day and accused the [Communist Party of Indonesia](#) (PKI) of orchestrating the killing of the six generals.<sup>[59]</sup> The army launched a propaganda campaign based on lies and riled up civilian mobs to attack those believed to be PKI supporters and other political opponents in "one of the most savage mass slaughters in modern political history." US Ambassador Green encouraged the military leaders to act forcefully, and US diplomats later admitted providing the Indonesian army with thousands of names of alleged PKI supporters and other alleged leftists.<sup>[60]</sup> The CIA acknowledged that: "in terms of the number of people killed, the [anti-PKI massacres](#) in Indonesia rank as one of the worst mass murders of the 20th Century."<sup>[61]</sup> Estimates of the number of civilians killed range from a half million to a million<sup>[62] [63]</sup> but more recent estimates put the figure at two to three million.<sup>[64] [65]</sup> President Sukarno's base of support was thus trampled and terrified, and he was forced out of power in 1967, replaced by General Suharto.<sup>[66]</sup>

## 1970s

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- **[1973 Chilean coup d'état](#)** was the overthrow of [democratically elected](#) President [Salvador Allende](#) by the Chilean armed forces and national police. This followed an extended period of social and political unrest between the right dominated Congress of Chile and Allende, as well as economic warfare ordered by US President [Richard Nixon](#).<sup>[67]</sup> The [regime of Augusto Pinochet](#) that followed is notable for having, by conservative estimates, disappeared some 3200 political dissidents, imprisoned 30,000 (many of whom were tortured), and forced some 200,000 Chileans into exile.<sup>[68][69][70]</sup> The CIA, through [Project FUBELT](#) (also known as [Track II](#)), worked to secretly engineer the conditions for the coup. The US initially denied any involvement, and though many relevant documents have been declassified in the decades since, a US president has yet to issue any apology for the incident.<sup>[71]</sup>

As a prelude, see the 1970 assassination of the Commander-in-Chief of the Chilean Army, [Rene Schneider](#).



- **1979–1989 Afghanistan.** In what was known as "[Operation Cyclone](#)," the US government secretly provided weapons and funding for the [Mujahadin](#) Islamic guerillas of Afghanistan fighting to overthrow the Afghan government and the Soviet military forces that supported it. Supplies were channeled through the [Inter-Services Intelligence](#) (ISI) of [Pakistan](#).<sup>[72][73][74]</sup> Although Operation Cyclone officially ended in 1989 with the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan, U.S. government funding for the Mujahadin continued through 1992.<sup>[75]</sup>

## 1980s

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- **Destabilizing Nicaragua 1982–1989.** The U.S. government attempted to topple the government of Nicaragua by secretly arming, training and funding the [Contras](#), a militant group based in [Honduras](#) that was created to sabotage Nicaragua and to destabilize the Nicaraguan government.<sup>[76][77][78][79]</sup> As part of the training, the CIA distributed a detailed "terror manual" entitled "Psychological Operations in Guerrilla War," which instructed the Contras, among other things, on how to blow up public buildings, to assassinate judges, to create martyrs, and to blackmail ordinary citizens.<sup>[80]</sup> In addition to orchestrating the Contras, the U.S. government also blew up bridges and mined [Corinto](#) harbor, causing the sinking of several civilian Nicaraguan and foreign ships and many civilian deaths.<sup>[81][82][83][84]</sup> After the [Boland Amendment](#) made it illegal for the U.S. government to provide funding for Contra activities, the administration of [President Reagan](#) secretly sold arms to the Iranian government to fund a secret U.S. government apparatus that continued illegally to fund the Contras, in what became known as the [Iran-Contra](#) affair.<sup>[85]</sup> The U.S. continued to arm and train the Contras even after the [Sandanista](#) government of Nicaragua won the elections of 1984.<sup>[86][87]</sup>



- **1983 Grenada.** In what the U.S. government called [Operation Urgent Fury](#), the U.S. military invaded the tiny island nation of Grenada to remove the [Marxist](#) government of Grenada that the Reagan Administration found objectionable.<sup>[88][89]</sup> The [United Nations General Assembly](#)

called the U.S. invasion "a flagrant violation of international law"<sup>[90]</sup> but a similar resolution widely supported in the [United Nations Security Council](#) was vetoed by the U.S.<sup>[91][92]</sup>

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- **1989 Panama** In December 1989, in a military operation code-named **Operation Just Cause**, the U.S. invaded [Panama](#). President [George H. W. Bush](#) launched the war ten years after the [Torrijos–Carter Treaties](#) were ratified to transfer control of the [Panama Canal](#) from the United States to Panama by the year 2000. The U.S. deposed *de facto* Panamanian leader, general, and dictator [Manuel Noriega](#) and brought him to the United States, president-elect [Guillermo Endara](#) was sworn into office, and the [Panamanian Defense Force](#) was dissolved.

## After the dissolution of the USSR

1990s



- **1991 Kuwait**. The Persian Gulf War (2 August 1990 – 28 February 1991), codenamed **Operation Desert Storm** (17 January 1991 – 28 February 1991) commonly referred to as simply the **Gulf War**, was a war waged by a UN-authorized [coalition force](#) from 34 nations led by the United States, against [Iraq](#) in response to Iraq's [invasion and annexation of Kuwait](#). The U.S. led coalition repelled the Iraqi forces from Kuwait and returned the [emir](#) to power.<sup>[93]</sup>
  - **1991 Haiti**. Eight months after what was widely considered the first honest election held in Haiti,<sup>[citation needed]</sup> the newly elected President [Jean-Bertrand Aristide](#) was deposed by the Haitian army. It is alleged by some that the CIA "paid key members of the coup regime forces, identified as drug traffickers, for information from the mid-1980s at least until the coup."<sup>[94]</sup> Coup leaders Cédras and François had received military training in the United States.<sup>[95]</sup>
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## Iraq (orthographic projection)

- **1991–2003 Iraq.** Following the [Persian Gulf War](#) in 1991, the U.S. government successfully advocated that the pre-war sanctions<sup>[96]</sup> be made more comprehensive, which the UN Security Council did in April 1991 by adopting [Resolution 687](#).<sup>[97][98]</sup> After the UN imposed the tougher sanctions, select U.S. officials stated in May 1991—when it was widely expected that the Iraqi government of [Saddam Hussein](#) faced imminent collapse<sup>[99][100]</sup>—that the sanctions would not be lifted until after Saddam's ouster.<sup>[101][102][103]</sup> However, numerous U.S. officials subsequently clarified that the sanctions could be lifted if Iraq complied with *all* of the UN resolutions it was violating, but not just with UN weapons inspections.<sup>[104]</sup> The effects of the sanctions on the civilian population of Iraq have been disputed.<sup>[105][106]</sup> Whereas it was widely believed that the sanctions caused a major rise in child mortality, recent research has shown that commonly cited data were fabricated by the Iraqi government and that "there was no major rise in child mortality in Iraq after 1990 and during the period of the sanctions."<sup>[107][108][109]</sup> An [oil for food program](#) was established in 1996 to ease the effects of sanctions.

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- **1994–2003 Iraq.** The CIA launched DBACHILLES, a coup d'état operation against the Iraqi government, recruiting [Ayad Allawi](#), who headed the [Iraqi National Accord](#), a network of Iraqis who opposed the Saddam Hussein government, as part of the operation. The network included Iraqi military and intelligence officers but was penetrated by people loyal to the Iraqi government.<sup>[110][111][112]</sup> Also using Ayad Allawi and his network, the CIA directed a government sabotage and bombing campaign in [Baghdad](#) between 1992 and 1995, against targets that—according to the Iraqi government at the time—killed many civilians including people in a crowded movie theater.<sup>[113]</sup> The CIA bombing campaign may have been merely a test of the operational capacity of the CIA's network of assets on the ground and not intended to be the launch of the coup strike itself.<sup>[113]</sup> The coup was unsuccessful, but Ayad Allawi was later installed as prime minister of Iraq by the [Iraq Interim Governing Council](#), which had been created by the U.S.-led coalition following the [invasion and occupation of Iraq](#). In 1998 the U.S. enacted the "[Iraq Liberation Act](#)," which states, in part, that "It should be the policy of the United States to support efforts to remove the regime headed by Saddam Hussein from power in Iraq," and appropriated funds for U.S. aid "to the Iraqi democratic opposition organizations."<sup>[114]</sup>

## 2000s

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- **[2003 Iraq](#)**



## Iran (orthographic projection)

- **Iran** The U.S. government spent hundreds of millions of dollars to support militant Shia Iranian opposition groups and sent US special forces into Iran in an effort to destabilize the Iranian government. [\[115\]](#)[\[116\]](#)[\[117\]](#)[\[118\]](#)[\[119\]](#)

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- **2005 Iran.** According to U.S. and Pakistani intelligence sources, beginning in 2005 the U.S. government secretly encouraged and advised a Pakistani [Balochi](#) militant group named [Jundullah](#) that is responsible for a series of deadly guerrilla raids inside Iran. [\[115\]](#) Jundullah, led by Abd el Malik Regi, sometimes known as "Regi," was suspected of being associated with al Qaida, a charge that the group has denied. ABC News learned from tribal sources that money for Jundullah was routed to the group through Iranian exiles. "They are suspected of having links to Al Qaeda and they are also thought to be tied to the drug culture," according to Professor Vali Nasr. [\[117\]](#) U.S. intelligence sources later claimed that the orchestration of Jundallah operations was, in actuality, an Israeli [Mossad false flag](#) operation that Israeli agents disguised to make it appear to be the work of American intelligence. [\[120\]](#)



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- **2011 Libya.** The US was part of a multi-state coalition that began a military intervention in Libya to implement [United Nations Security Council Resolution 1973](#), which was taken in response to events during the [Libyan Civil War](#), [\[121\]](#) and military operations began, with US and British naval forces firing over 110 [Tomahawk cruise missiles](#), [\[122\]](#) the French and British Air Forces [\[123\]](#) undertaking [sorties](#) across Libya and a naval [blockade](#) by Coalition forces. [\[124\]](#) Air strikes against Libyan Army tanks and vehicles by French jets were since confirmed. [\[125\]](#)[\[126\]](#)
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#### Occupied Palestinian Territories

- **2006–2007 Palestinian territories.** In the [Fatah-Hamas conflict](#), the U.S. government pressured the [Fatah](#) faction of the Palestinian leadership to topple the [Hamas](#) government of Prime Minister [Ismail Haniyeh](#).<sup>[127][128][129]</sup> The Bush Administration was displeased with the government that the majority of the Palestinian people elected in the January [Palestinian legislative election of 2006](#).<sup>[127][128][130][131]</sup> The U.S. government set up a secret training and armaments program that received tens of millions of dollars in Congressional funding, but also, like in the [Iran-contra scandal](#), a more secret Congress-circumventing source of funding for Fatah to launch a bloody war against the Haniyeh government.<sup>[127][132][133]</sup> The war was brutal, with many casualties and with Fatah kidnapping and torturing civilian leaders of Hamas, sometimes in front of their own families, and setting fire to a university in Gaza. When the government of Saudi Arabia attempted to negotiate a truce between the sides so as to avoid a wide-scale Palestinian civil war, the U.S. government pressured Fatah to reject the Saudi plan and to continue the effort to topple the Faniyeh government.<sup>[127]</sup> Ultimately, the Faniyeh government was prevented from ruling over all of the Palestinian territories, with Hamas retreating to the [Gaza strip](#) and Fatah retreating to the [West Bank](#).



- **2005–present Syria.** According to some journalists, in 2005, the US government launched a policy of regime change against the Syrian government by funding Syrian opposition groups



working to topple the Syrian government, attempting to block [foreign direct investment](#) in Syria, attempting to frustrate Syrian government efforts at economic reform and prosperity and thus legitimacy for the regime, and getting other governments diplomatically to isolate Syria. <sup>[134]</sup>[\[better source needed\]](#) The [Barack Obama](#) administration inaugurated in 2009 continued such policies while taking steps toward diplomatic engagement with the Syrian government and denying that it was engaging in regime change. After the outbreak of the [Syrian civil war](#), the U.S. government called on Syrian President [Bashar Al Assad](#) to “step aside” and imposed an oil [embargo](#) against the Syrian government to bring it to its knees. <sup>[135]</sup><sup>[136]</sup><sup>[137]</sup> Starting in 2013, the U.S. also provided training, weapons and cash to Syrian Islamic and secular insurgents fighting to topple the Syrian government. <sup>[138]</sup><sup>[139]</sup>

On the 30th March 2017, Ambassador [Nikki Haley](#) told a group of reporters that the US's priority in Syria was no longer on "getting Assad out." <sup>[140]</sup> Earlier that day at a news conference in [Ankara](#), Secretary of State [Rex Tillerson](#) also said that the "longer term status of President Assad will be decided by the Syrian people." <sup>[141]</sup><sup>[142]</sup>

While the Defense Department's program to aid predominantly [Kurdish](#) rebels fighting the [Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant](#) (ISIL) will continue, it was revealed in July 2017 that President Trump had ordered a "phasing out" of the CIA's support for anti-Assad rebels. <sup>[143]</sup>

## Covert involvements

During the modern era, [Americans were involved in numerous covert](#) regime change efforts. **During the Cold War in particular, the U.S. government secretly supported military coups that overthrew democratically elected governments** in [Syria in 1949](#), [Iran in 1953](#), [Guatemala in 1954](#), the [Congo Crisis](#) of 1960, [Brazil in 1964](#) and [Chile in 1973](#).