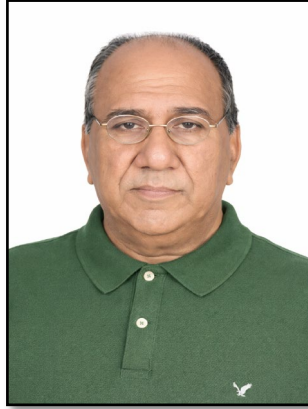


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U.S.–IRAN TENSIONS AND THE FRACTURED AMERICAN WAR MANDATE



By Munir Ahmed Dar, Publisher & Chief Editor

Toronto, Canada, July 23, 2026 (LPC). The political and military landscape surrounding U.S. Iran relations has entered a volatile and deeply consequential phase. Developments in Washington reveal a government divided over the limits of presidential war.

The political and military landscape surrounding U.S.–Iran relations has entered a markedly volatile phase, defined by legislative deadlock in Washington and escalating threats across the Middle East. Together, these developments paint a picture of a region and a superpower moving steadily toward a perilous crossroads.

In Washington, the United States Senate has rejected a War Powers Resolution intended to curtail American involvement in military operations against Iran. The measure, introduced by Senator Chris Van Hollen, sought to reaffirm Congress's constitutional authority by requiring President Donald Trump to withdraw U.S. forces unless Congress formally declared war or granted explicit authorization. The resolution failed by a narrow margin, **49–47**, reflecting deep partisan fractures and an increasingly divided legislature. Notably, Senator Susan Collins broke ranks with her Republican colleagues to support the measure, while Democrat John Fetterman opposed it. Four senators abstained, underscoring the political uncertainty surrounding America's role in the conflict.

The House of Representatives passed its own version of the War Powers Resolution earlier the same day, though with slightly weaker support than a similar measure last month. These parallel actions reveal a Congress struggling to assert its constitutional prerogatives at a moment when executive power is expanding in real time.

This legislative tension coincides with a dramatic escalation in rhetoric from President Trump, who has stated he is close to approving **the largest military strike ever carried out against Iran**. He described the potential operation as “far bigger than anything done before,” adding that all military options remain under consideration and preparations are complete. His assertion that Israel could join the operation “within two minutes” though unnecessary, in his view adds another layer of geopolitical complexity.

The President's warnings intensified after Iran-backed Houthi forces attacked two Saudi oil tankers in the Red Sea. He threatened severe retaliation against both Iran and the Houthis, declaring that any future Houthi attacks would be treated as Iranian actions. This linkage, whether strategic or rhetorical, signals a widening scope of potential U.S. military engagement.

The consequences of this rising instability are already visible. **Brent crude oil prices have surged past \$100 per barrel**, driven by fears over maritime security in the Red Sea and the Bab al-Mandab Strait critical arteries of global energy supply. Markets are responding not only to the threat of conflict but to the possibility of sustained disruption in one of the world's most vital shipping corridors.

International voices are sounding the alarm. United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres has warned that the situation is “slipping out of control,” with the Middle East being drawn into an expanding cycle of confrontation. “One crisis is triggering another,” he cautioned, “and each new escalation is feeding the next.”

Taken together, these developments reveal a dangerous convergence: a U.S. Congress divided over war powers, a President signaling readiness for unprecedented military action, and a region where localized conflicts are rapidly merging into a broader strategic crisis. The stakes for regional stability, global energy markets, and international security are rising by the hour.

The End