



Editor-in-Chief's Note

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The present issue of the *Journal of Iran and Regional Studies* brings together a diverse collection of studies that examine contemporary developments in politics, international relations, governance, regional studies, and culture from different analytical perspectives. Despite their thematic diversity, these contributions share a common concern with understanding emerging and increasingly complex phenomena that are reshaping the boundaries between domestic and international politics, security and society, technology and governance, and culture and political life.

The first article looks at how the European Parliament has helped shape the European Union's Artificial Intelligence Act. It focuses on the shift from participatory and rights-based ways of governing technology. The article shows that rules for technologies are no longer just technical or expert matters. They are now about legitimacy, stakeholder participation and institutional oversight.

Next the second article turns to conflict. It studies Iran's twelve-day war in June 2025. Rethinks the idea of resistance in the context of hybrid conflict. By combining capital, story building, worldwide reactions and information networks the study gives a wide view of modern conflict. It goes beyond the battlefield to include social, information and diplomatic areas.

The third article examines how the Islamic Republic of Iran talks with the Russian Federation in the Caucasus using realism. It highlights system structure, security, balance of power and geopolitical interests. The study clarifies the ties between these two regional powers in a very important area around Iran.

The fourth article looks at the Trump administration's maximum-pressure campaign against Iran from 2018 to 2021. It focuses on how coercion was used and how threats were seen. The study questions how well economic coercion worked. It says that judging success or failure cannot rely on how hard the pressure was. It must also consider the thinking and views of the targeted state.

The fifth article makes a comparison. It looks at the Kyrgyz epic of Manas and Ferdowsi's Shahnameh. Using Carl Jung's idea of the unconscious and the Hero archetype, the study explores similar stories and symbols in these two epics. It keeps away from thinking that these similarities mean historical influence.

The sixth article is about development and eco-cities in West Asia, focusing on Masdar City in the United Arab Emirates. It looks at the challenges of meeting an eco-city's goals. It stresses

that economic priorities, social infrastructure, and fair access to city services matter as much as technology and the environment.

Together, these contributions give a broad view of today's world. They show how new technologies, hybrid conflicts, geopolitical rivalry, coercive policies, cultural identities, and environmental problems all meet. We hope this collection will help scholars talk across international and regional studies and inspire more comparative and interdisciplinary research.

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