

Opinion / Editorial

THE IRGC IS FOR THE REVOLUTION AND NOT IRAN

By Bill Connor

After the destruction wrought by Operation Epic Fury, the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) has come to the fore of Iranian leadership. From the BBC a week ago: "Never. That's when a senior Iranian lawmaker says they'll be ready to give up their control of the Strait of Hormuz. 'It's our inalienable right,' Ebrahim Azizi, a former commander in Iran's IRGC tells the BBC in Tehran.... Azizi reflects the thinking among some of the senior decision-makers emerging.... dominated by hardliners, most of all the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)." <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cvg4jnn131qo> President Trump has made clear

the devastating US Blockade will not end until Iran opens the Strait of Hormuz. Within less than two weeks, Iran will not be able to store any more oil and will have to cut off its oil wells, causing irreparable damage. The problem is that the IRGC has the mission to protect the "Revolution" and not Iran. It must be stopped.

To understand the IRGC one must first understand the 1979 Iranian revolution. This revolution began within the nation of Iran, but, similar to the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution, with the goal spreading the Revolution worldwide. Most Westerners know of the Shia fundamentalist aspect of the Revolution but many miss the Marxist underpinnings. Iranian Communists had joined



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with Shia fundamentalists to overthrow the Shah (Communists were later executed). The Marxist "oppressor/oppressed" ideology fell directly within the Shia Islamist framework in this revolution. According to Iranian Revolution expert, Cameron Keyani "Since 1979, Iran has regarded itself as a 'Revolutionary State' with a global responsibility to end the oppression of the Earth's marginalized people as well as Zionism and the perceived American hegemony underpinning it." <https://alexanderhamiltonsociety.org/security-strategy/issue-one/irgc-history-and-role-in-iranian-statecraft/> The first word of IRGC is "Islamic" and not "Iranian", and that's important to note.

The foundation of the IRGC was tied to the Revolution as protector of the Revolution before all else. The IRGC was established by Ayatollah Khomeini in 1979 to protect his Theocratic Shia rule from overthrow. Khomeini was clear about the importance of the Revolution over the nation of Iran with the IRGC. As Keyani put it "Iran's clerical leadership relies on the IRGC to maintain its grip on the country and grants only nominal concessions of power to the civil government and institutions like the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.... Article 150 of the Iranian Constitution defined the IRGC's purpose to 'guard the Revolution and its achievements.' This investiture of power has led to the IRGC's centrality both in fighting foreign wars and pacifying domestic dissent. A mix of fundamentalist Shiism and revolutionary Marxism defined the IRGC then and continues to inform its actions today. The IRGC has further put tentacles into the Velayat-e-faqih (Guardianship of the Jurisprudent) and envisioned as the military arm of divine will."

Over the years, and particularly after the 1989 IRGC Coup (installing the new Ayatollah Ali Khamenei over others after Khomeini's death), the IRGC has further put tentacles into Iranian institutions of power. This includes within the legislature with men like Azizi. Though the IRGC answers to the Supreme Leader, the current wounded Supreme Leader appears to be a puppet of the IRGC. With respects to IRGC command structure, the IRGC has developed a decentralized command called the "Mosaic Defense". It has caused issues for Iran. From the Soufan Center: "The 'mosaic defense' approach was apparent from the first retaliatory attacks by Tehran in the aftermath of Operation Epic Fury. In a statement by (Foreign Minister Araghchi, strikes against Oman were attributed to a mistake by autonomous units who could not be directly reached, hinting at the continued structure of semi-autonomous units operating with limited communication from the top down. Araghchi stated, 'Our military units are now, in fact, independent and somewhat isolated, and they are acting based on general instructions given to them in advance.'" <https://thesoufancenter.org/intelbrief-2026-march-9a/> Basij forces commanded by the IRGC murdered an estimated 40,000 Iranians to put down protests in January. The IRGC has brought in foreign Shia fundamentalist

Family & Marriage

Mother's Day

"I love you not only for what you are, but for what I am when I am with you." – Roy Croft

"So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself;...." – Bible (Ephesians 5:28)

Joe and his wife Jane both work outside the home and drive separately to work. Jane doesn't pay much attention to the condition of her car. She expects it to get her to work safely and comfortably. She may fill the gas tank if she remembers, but it's not on her important list. She never checks the oil. Joe loves his wife and does his best to care for her. That includes making sure the car is in safe running condition, with gas in the tank.

We are all equal in God's eyes, but He has definitely made us different. As a general rule, men tend to be more task oriented, whereas women are more interested in relationships. Men want to get from point A to point B, whether it's on a trip or in a conversation. Women want to enjoy the trip as well as reaching the destination. Although both may get from point A to point B, men may do it a little quicker; women may have several diversions along the way.

If a man wants to show his wife the love and respect she deserves, a conscious effort is necessary to do so. Jim George, in his book "A Man After God's Own Heart," has some worthwhile suggestions.

* Spend time learning how to be a good husband. Reading material that teaches us how to love

our wives is a good beginning. There are many good reference books to help. One good source is the Focus on the Family website. The best place to start is reading the Bible regularly. It will change the man and help him be more effective as a husband. God's ways work. The world's ways can soon lead astray.

* Connect with other men whom you respect and who are leading the kind of family life you want to emulate. This may be a men's group at church or simply a group of men who have similar interests and goals. Ideally there is a man in your life whom you respect, with a lot of wisdom and experience, who can disciple you.

* Avoid people who can drag you down spiritually. This can be a challenge because you may have men you enjoy being with, but who don't have the same goals that you have. Choose your friends wisely.

* Avoid tempting situations. It may be necessary for men to attend various functions where the activities and behaviors of others might pull them in the wrong direction. If attendance is required, be aware and use discretion.

In the home there are many opportunities to love and encourage our wives. Here are a few.

* If your wife is willing and interested, spend time with her looking at her schedule. Are there ways you can help her, either taking on some of her tasks, or evaluating your mutual priorities and making changes that might be beneficial?

* Take more responsibility for household duties. You may not



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be very good at cooking, but you can help clean up and do the dishes and take out the trash. You also can do the yard work while your wife is busy with other things inside.

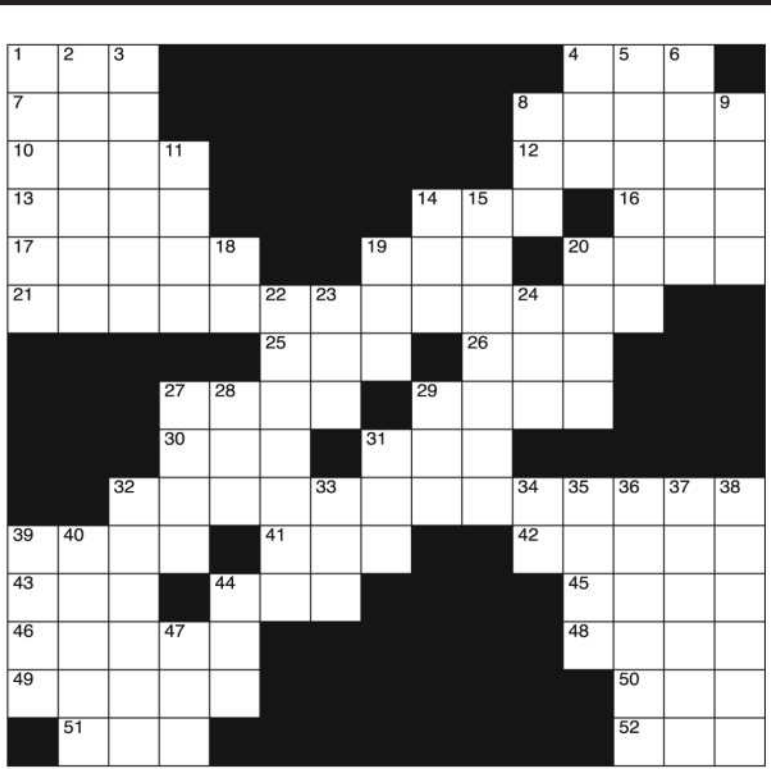
* Handle the plumbers, car mechanics, and other situations where the primary interface is with a man.

* Agree on who is best at handling the finances but share in the financial decisions. Joint bank accounts are best, even though husband and wife may have their own discretionary spending account.

* Take an active role in your children's lives. Take them to church with you. Visit their schools. If they are young, read them Bible stories.

* Above all honor your wife. This means above friends and children. Only God should have the higher place in your life.

Family and Marriage Coalition of Aiken (FAMCO) was created to provide resources for you to succeed in your marriage and families. Roger Rollins, Executive Director, FAMCO, 803-640-4689. Let us know how we can help.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Purchase
- 4. British news organization
- 7. Midway between northeast and east
- 8. Language specialist group
- 10. Fancy automobile
- 12. Small loop or series of loops
- 13. Exploiter
- 14. Don't know when yet
- 16. Group of languages
- 17. One who's finished
- 19. After B
- 20. Angled
- 21. A place to adopt pets
- 25. Swiss river
- 26. Young boy
- 27. Unexciting
- 29. American comedian Vidale
- 30. Peyton's little brother
- 31. Corporate higher-up
- 32. "All in the Family" star
- 39. Strike something forcefully
- 41. Up in the air (abbr.)
- 42. Clay earth pigments
- 43. Means to record brain activity
- 44. Small constellation
- 45. Embraces
- 46. Brief description
- 48. Exclude
- 49. White (French)
- 50. Insect
- 51. A major division of geological time
- 52. Soviet Socialist Republic

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Type of whale
- 2. In tune
- 3. A citizen of Yemen
- 4. Actress Ling
- 5. One who supports
- 6. Circus performer
- 8. Yearly tonnage (abbr.)
- 9. Quantitative fact
- 11. Utah city
- 14. Where a golfer begins
- 15. Attendant
- 18. The ancient Egyptian sun god
- 19. Book of Chronicles (abbr.)
- 20. Benedictine monk
- 22. Not turbulent
- 23. Car mechanics group
- 24. Buffer used in chemistry
- 27. Fall heavily
- 28. Pie ___ mode
- 29. The Brits love it
- 31. Children's TV channel (abbr.)
- 32. Jacksonville footballer
- 33. Helps little firms
- 34. ___ and behold
- 35. A way to resemble
- 36. Fingers
- 37. Excessive indulgences
- 38. You might be an "empty" one
- 39. "How the West Was Won" writer
- 40. European river
- 44. They begin the alphabet
- 47. The body's messenger



proxies to kill the people of Iran. <https://www.ajc.org/news/what-is-irans-islamic-revolutionary-guard-corps> IRGC killed estimated 40,000.

The IRGC now has de facto control over Iran and calls the shots on political decision making. The problem is that mission of the IRGC is not Iran or the Iranian people but the worldwide Shia fundamentalist revolution. The IRGC has committed heinous war crimes against its own people creating a fear accountability if it gives up control. The Mosaic Defense allows for self-destructive actions. Lastly, the IRGC is pushing for control of shipping through the Hormuz Strait against Iran's interest in ending the blockade.

Trump's blockade is the best strategy in handling the unique issue with the IRGC. The loss of money will squeeze the IRGC to death within weeks. Very soon (if not already) the IRGC will not be able to pay its troops, including the Basij. Importantly, the IRGC will not be able to fund its proxy forces throughout the region. The Iranian people and regular Iranian military are in the lurch. When unpaid IRGC troops start deserting in numbers, that will spell the end. We need to follow the Apostle Paul's admonition from II Timothy 4 of "finishing the race and keeping the faith". We must not falter.

SUDOKU

		8	5			1	9	
4					7		3	
				8				
1						6		
2		4	1					
				5				9
		5	7	6	8			
				4		9		6
					3	8		

Fun By The Numbers

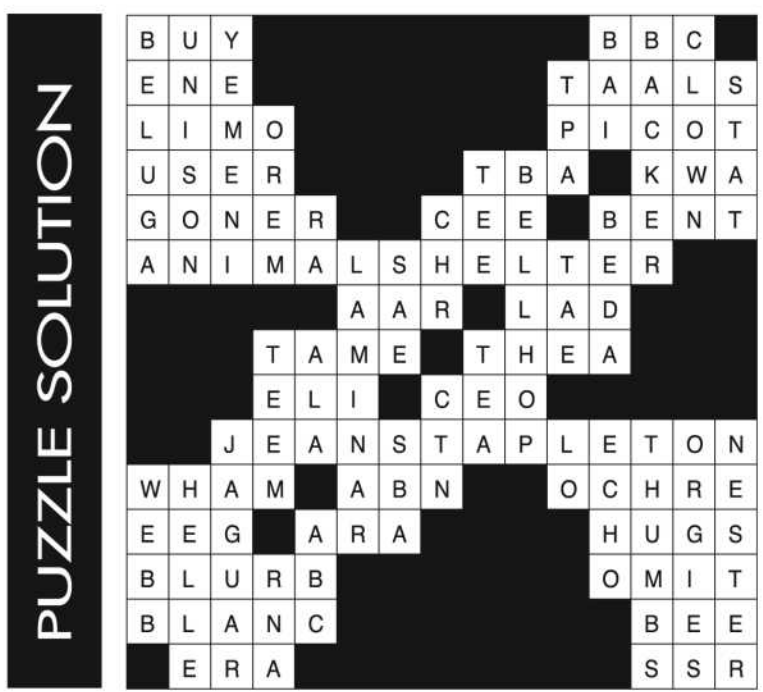
Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

7	2	6	9	1	3	8	5	4
3	8	1	2	4	5	7	6	9
9	4	5	7	6	8	3	2	1
8	7	6	3	4	5	2	1	9
2	6	4	1	3	9	7	8	5
1	5	9	8	7	2	6	4	3
5	9	7	3	8	1	4	6	2
4	1	2	6	9	7	5	3	8
6	3	8	5	2	4	1	9	7

ANSWER:



PUZZLE SOLUTION