In the eyes of many Iranians the United States and its European allies have for decades justified their policies towards Iran based upon a mythological construction, whereby the Islamic Republic of Iran is an “irrational” and “illegitimate” force that threatens world peace. In fact, since the 1979 Revolution in Iran and the Islamic Republic’s move towards political independence from the United States, the American political establishment in particular has used this myth to justify its policy on Iran which has been based largely on antagonism and aggression. The U.S. has attempted to force other states to minimize their relations with Iran, they have attempted to cause suffering among ordinary Iranians through a comprehensive economic embargo, they have even threatened third countries and their companies (such as the Republic of Korea) who trade with Iran, they have actively supported terrorist organizations and “regime change” in Iran, and they
supported Saddam Hussein in his aggressive war against the country.

Of course, the Iran-Iraq war caused enormous suffering to the people of Iran and Iranians and in the decades ahead they will not forget the key role which Western countries played. It is not possible for them to forget that their suffering was largely because of American and European support for Saddam Hussein, including Western support for his acquisition of Weapons of Mass Destruction, which he regularly used against Iranian and Iraqi civilians. There was not even verbal condemnation from western governments or even the mainstream Western media when these cruel and barbaric acts were taking place. Indeed, these countries’ governments actively attempted to prevent Iran from purchasing gas masks to protect its people from the chemical and even biological weapons that were being extensively used by Iraqi forces.

Nevertheless, this extraordinary hostility towards Iran has increased even further since the uprisings in the Middle East and North Africa. Western countries, which are simultaneously experiencing massive economic crisis, are deeply concerned that they are losing hold of this extraordinarily important and strategic part of the world. The U.S. and its European allies from the very beginning tried especially hard to preserve the dictatorships in Tunisia, Yemen, Bahrain, and Egypt. Indeed, Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton even attempted to justify and “legitimize” the effective occupation of Bahrain by Saudi forces that were there in order to crush the popular uprising in the country.1) Despite all this, many Western analysts and government officials after