Diablo Valley College – International Relations (1293 and 8583)
Research Paper – Summer 2018

The Coming(?) War with Iran

Question: John Bolton (National Security Advisor) and Mike Pompeo (Secretary of State) are both on record as believing that a military strike on Iran is essentially the only option available to the US to insure US national security. The spectrum of opinion runs from those who see an actual nuclear exchange between the two countries as inevitable (Bolton and Pompeo), to those who see little or no danger in a nuclear-armed Iran. Behind all these discussions and debates however, lie the *theories* which attempt to explain why the conflict exists in the first place. Examine some of the available data from various sides of the debate to answer: *If (when?)* war with Iran comes, *why* will the US and Iran be fighting?

Sample Outline
(But feel free to design your outline any way you wish)

I. Introduction / Thesis Statement – a brief statement outlining your position or something relevant about this issue.

II. Body – the bulk of the paper is here, in data taken from the readings and other evidence you have found in support of your position.

1. Historical background to the conflict
a. The overthrow of Mossadegh (Operation Ajax) – 1953
b. American response or provocation? – supporting the Shah (1954 – 1979)
c. The Islamic Revolution – 1979
d. Rise of the Mullahs – (1980 – present)
e. Contemporary Iran under Ahmadinejad and beyond

2. September 11, 2001 and the American invasion of Afghanistan and Iraq

3. Theoretical construct
a. Levels of analysis
b. (A) useful theory(ies) to explain the possible conflict

4. Data from the film *Iran (Is Not the Problem)*

III. Conclusion – based on the evidence you have gathered, your opinion on whether war with Iran is inevitable, and if so, WHY?

Extras:
1. Again, make sure to include a citation *every time you use a statement or an idea from the readings that I have provided, or that you found in your own independent research.*

2. "A" papers will be:
a. *fully* documented and cited
b. a *minimum* of 13 pages (including title, abstract, and reference page)
c. research *beyond* authors provided
d. turned in *on time* (July 19, 2018).
e. 5% reduction in final grade for "drop-offs"