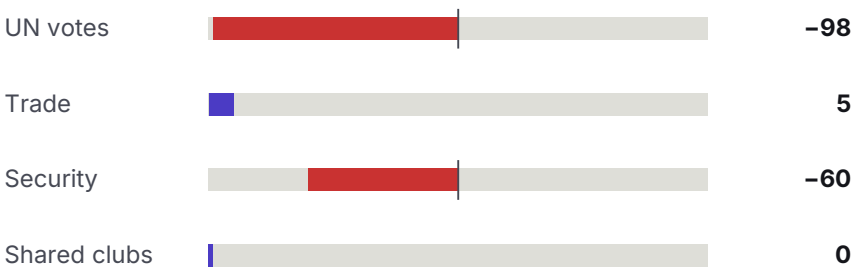
United States & Iran

Close allies under the Shah; mostly hostile since the 1979 revolution, with spells of talks.

−51

Opposed

Relationship index, −100 to +100. Votes and security run from −100 to +100; trade and shared clubs from 0 to 100.

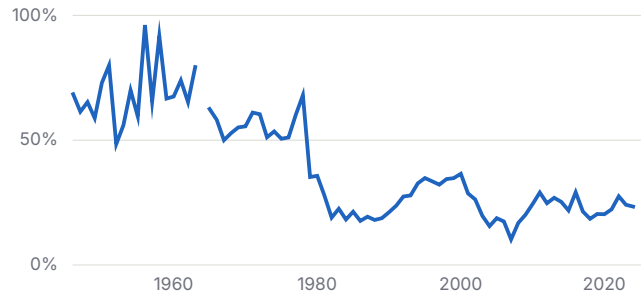


IN SHORT

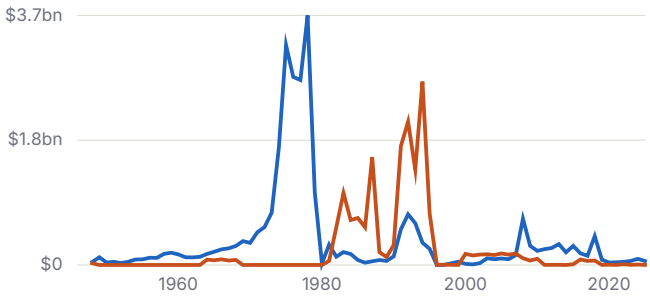
- Armed conflict: UCDP records them on opposite sides of the conflict in Iran, Israel, with the United States supporting another party, most recently in 2025.
- At the UN their vote agreement is 25% (2022–2024), among the lowest either of them has with any country.
- Trade in goods ($73 million a year) is a very small part of either country's trade, under 0.5%.
- In its UN General Debate speeches, Iran names the United States more often than the reverse (360 sentences against 161).
- 431,000 people born in Iran live in the United States (UN DESA counts place of birth, however long ago they moved).

OVER TIME

Share of recorded UN votes cast the same way



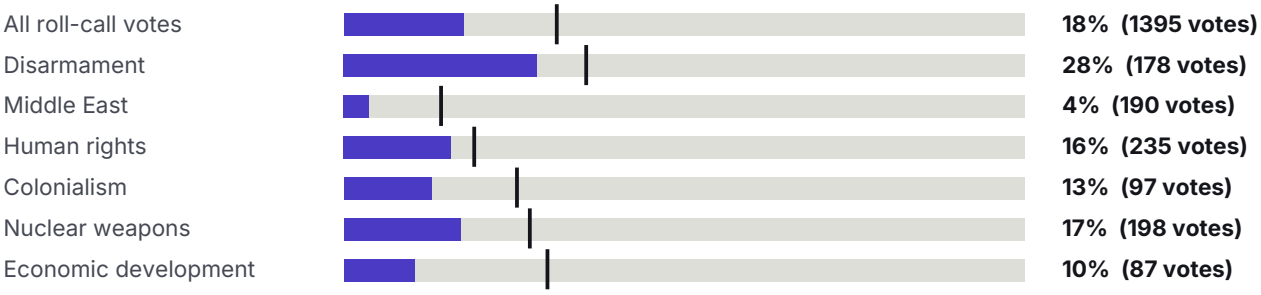
Goods exports each way (US dollars)



United States sells to Iran Iran sells to United States

VOTES TOPIC BY TOPIC (SINCE 2010)

Most alike on disarmament (28% of votes the same), furthest apart on Middle East (4%), against 18% on all votes since 2010.



Bar: since 2010. Mark: all years. Share of roll-call votes on whole texts cast the same way, counted vote by vote; an abstention against a yes counts as a difference. Disarmament, colonialism and economic development count votes up to 2018.

THE FACTS

UN votes	At the UN, the vote agreement of the United States and Iran was 25% in 2022–2024. For the United States, Iran is the 5th most distant voting partner out of 191; for Iran, the United States is the most distant partner.
Trade	Trade in goods between them averaged $73 million a year in 2023–2025: less than 0.1% of all the United States' trade and 0.1% of Iran's.
Words	Since 1946, the United States has named Iran in 161 sentences of its General Debate speeches; Iran has named the United States in 360.
Security	The Uppsala Conflict Data Program records them on opposite sides of armed conflict, one of them supporting another party (Iran, Israel, 2020–2025).
People	431,000 born in Iran live in the United States (2024, UN DESA).
People	Their national football teams have met 3 times.

HOW SURE WE ARE

UN votes	**High**	258 shared votes on whole texts in 2022–2024, the years the headline share covers. With that many, a share is good to about ±6 points.
Trade	**High**	Goods trade is reported in 3 of the 3 years 2023–2025. Goods only, from customs data (IMF); services and energy pipelines are not in it.
Security	**High**	The Uppsala Conflict Data Program covers every state up to 2025. It counts only conflicts with at least 25 battle deaths a year.
Shared clubs	**High**	The list of tracked groups is fixed; membership is checked by hand.
Index	**High**	As sure as the weaker of its two required parts, votes and trade. Security and shared clubs add to it but never make it surer.

MOMENTS (EDITORIAL CONTEXT, NEVER PART OF A SCORE)

1953	Coup removes Prime Minister Mosaddegh, backed by the US and UK
1979	Islamic Revolution; students seize the US embassy in Tehran and hold 52 Americans for 444 days
1980	The US breaks off diplomatic relations
1988	USS Vincennes shoots down Iran Air Flight 655; 290 people killed
2015	Nuclear agreement (JCPOA) signed
2018	The US withdraws from the nuclear agreement
2025	US strikes on Iranian nuclear sites during the Iran–Israel war

SOURCES AND HOW TO CITE

UN votes, speeches, mentions and trade: Nations on Record (UN General Assembly voting data, UN General Debate Corpus, IMF International Trade in Goods). Armed conflict: Uppsala Conflict Data Program, version 26.1. Migration: UN DESA International Migrant Stock 2024. Refugees: UNHCR. Football: international results archive (CC0). Every score follows fixed rules written out on /method; AI never sets a score. Independent and non-commercial; not affiliated with the United Nations.

Cite as

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