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### **Reconstructing Life after Economic Warfare**

Economic warfare is the use of economic means to weaken another country's economy (Shambaugh). A way to exhibit economic warfare is by placing sanctions on a country (Shambaugh). Which is exactly what the United States has done to Iran (Gladstone). By placing sanctions on Iran, the economy has weakened to the point where food inflation and economic deficits have become a serious problem (Ng). To reduce these inflations the European Nations can enact the INSTEX. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation can volunteer in helping the SHTA. Thus encouraging more organizations to join. To appease the United States and Iran the UN can adjust the JCPOA deal

Iran is a country of 84.98 million people (O'Neill). Where 75.87% of the population is urban and 24.13% is rural (O'Neill). The overall climate of Iran is considered dry and hot because of its cool short winters and prolonged hot summers ("Climate of the World:"). In a unitary government ruled by the theocracy of Islam, the terms of a presidency are unlimited (Afary and Mostofi,). Their average farm size is 25 acres of land, which is about 19 football fields (Geoff). Due to the poor soil and water deficiency, only one-third of Iranian soil can be cultivated (Afary and Mostofi,). Within the one-third area of cultivation, wheat, barley, and alfalfa are their major crops ("Iran - Global Yield Gap Atlas"). With this one-third cultivation rate plus the decrease in food trade, the Iranain people are going through a food shortage (Nasiri).

Since a small number of goods are growing in Iran, the country must look to importation to feed their on-growing civilization. The Iranian typical family size contains 3 people ("Iran's Urban Household"). Mealtimes are an important part of Iran culture, this is a way to connect with society ("A Walk through Persian Food, Culture"). Family dinners usually consist of rice, yogurt, vegetables, and bread ("A Walk through Persian Food, Culture"). Bazaars are local markets where people can buy their foods from the stands (Harris). Food is cooked on a stove or over a fire. These mealtimes lack red meat because only 4.3% of households eat meat daily ("Drastic Changes in Diets"). With the clashes between adapting to modern times and staying traditional, there are many different types of houses ("Traditional Houses in Iran;"). Tourists may find skyscrapers or a traditional small compact room ("Traditional Houses in Iran;").

To pay for these new modern houses the Iranian people have a variety of career choices. Some careers are doctors, software engineers, and teachers ("Jobs and Salaries"). The average income of any worker in Iran is 393.6 million rials ("Iran's Urban Household"). Earning a living in Iran is difficult because the citizens are either unemployed or underpaid resulting in 50% of Iran's population being below the poverty line ("For Women in Absolute Poverty"). For a person to make over the minimum income of 393.6 million rials, they would need an education, which is hard for the children of Iran. Education must be paid for, which makes it neither accessible nor affordable ("At Least 4 Million"). In 2016, 13 out of 15 million students went to school ("At Least 4 Million"). Now that the pandemic requires students to use electronic

devices, 7.5 million students have dropped out (“At Least 4 Million”). Some of the students cannot afford to have any electronics (“At Least 4 Million”). While education may require payment, healthcare is a constitutional right paid by the government (“8 Facts”). Iran is currently going through a water crisis, so families are not able to get access to clean water (Motevalli). Due to Iran’s water crisis farmers are unable to continue growing crops (Motevalli).

To make up for their insufficient numbers relating to food, Iran has turned to natural gasses and oils as their major export (“Iran - Global Yield Gap Atlas”). Due to the United States sanctions placed on Iran, Iran’s inability to export natural oils and gasses has caused their international trade to be extremely severe (Ng). Iran is going through an economic crisis, large amounts of unemployment, and fiscal deficits (Ng). As of 2020, Iran’s trade deficit was \$3.45 billion (Ng). The United States placed sanctions on Iran after the U.S. backed out of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) deal (Gladstone). The main goal in placing these sanctions was to decrease Iran’s petroleum exports to zero (Gladstone). 69% of Iran’s exports are oils, mineral fuels, and distillation products (“Iran Exports”). Realizing Iran plays a major part in the oil industry, the United States government gave exceptions to a few countries allowing them to import oil from Iran (Gladstone). If the countries showed their decrease in the amount bought, they would not be subjected to sanction penalties (Gladstone). These consequences have made countries and businesses cautious about doing trade with any part of Iran (Saul).

Furthermore, countries have not been transferring Iranian money because of the sanction penalties they can face (Saul). The funds in Iran’s Central Bank (CBI) have been frozen, due to the sanctions targeting this bank (Saul). These frozen funds have weakened the worth of Iranian currency (Ng). Before the renouncement of the JCPOA deal, 32,000 rials were equivalent to the U.S dollar \$1, but now 270,000 rials are equal to the U.S dollar (Nasiri). Food prices in Iran have inflated, for example, the price of milk and eggs has risen by 80% (Nasiri). Due to the country being in a large amount of debt, they have raised the pricing for practically all foods in hopes of having the citizens pay these large amounts. The inflation has become so hard on the citizens that some have removed certain food items from their grocery list (Nasiri).

Another trend that is worsening is the trading between the United States and Iran. From prior years to 2016 trading between the United States and Iran was steady (Foreign Trade Data). Once the sanctions were placed back in Iran, tensions started arising. The previous trade of about 172.5 million dollars in exports from the United States to Iran has diminished to 36.1 million dollars (Foreign Trade Data). These challenges are affecting the community in drastic ways. With the water crisis, food inflation, and job unavailability, divorce rates have increased, and fertility rates have decreased (Yee). People are marrying early in hopes of being able to flee the country and if they cannot, some might divorce (Yee). Each woman has 1.8 children which has been a result of a 30% drop in fertility rates (Yee). The challenges presented to women and men differ because women are being looked over, whether they have a higher education or not (Khodabandeh).

One solution to giving nutrients to Iran is to use the Instrument for Supporting Trade Exchange (INSTEX) plan (“UK, France and Germany”). The goal of this was to create a legitimate payment plan

between the EU and Iran (“UK, France and Germany”). It would be based in Paris with a German banker. The payment channel encourages businesses to continue their work with Iran worry-free (“UK, France and Germany”). Even though the plan has yet to be in full action, it can work without these countries being penalized (“UK, France and Germany”). Under the sanctions rules provided by the Department of Treasury, any non-U.S. person that transports crude oil to Iran would be subjected to secondary sanctions (Washington 2). Since this channel is only about trading medical supplies, food, and humanitarian aid to Iran, which are non-sanctionable goods, no sanction rules are being broken (Welle). In the beginning, the plan will be able to save between 20%-30% of Iranian trade (Erlanger). Even though the United States has allowed exemptions for humanitarian supplies to be imported, they have made it nearly impossible to fund such imports (“Maximum Pressure”). If the channel continues to work and other businesses see nothing is happening to the countries, then they might agree to help (“UK, France and Germany”). The fear of retaliation from the United States would diminish, motivating countries to develop their versions of trade. A recommendation for the founders of INSTEX is not to worry about the sanctions. If they wait any longer, the countries would be prolonging the humanitarian problems caused by the United States sanctions.

The Swiss Humanitarian Trade Agreement (SHTA) is a pharmaceutical company that agrees with the United States and Switzerland that states Switzerland can bring food and medicine to Iran without being penalized (Shields). The SHTA is a voluntary program that not only allows U.S. and Switzerland citizens to be involved but foreign governments and organizations (“United States and Switzerland”). With the approval of United States organizations being allowed to volunteer in the program, the Bill & Melinda Gates Program can act. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is about a nonprofit group that fights against poverty (“Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation”). With the foundation, the role the community members, the government, and other organizations can play in implementing this plan is by accepting the help and by volunteering for the SHTA and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, who will need the help of the community to get faster and better results. For the project to be able to work the members of The SHTA and Gates Foundation must recognize the behaviors that Iranian people have. Some of the United States' ways can have a huge impact on the Iranians' view about them. For example, it is considered very rude to sit with your back turned by someone (Fallahi). The members of the programs will have to adapt to some of Iran's rules, so they do not accidentally offend.

The United Nations can adjust the JCPOA (Davenport). The EU has said this deal is “crucial to their national interest” (Erlanger). Iran and the other countries that signed the deal have complied with the requirements (Erlanger). Under the JCPOA, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) was to look over Iran's nuclear programs and to make sure they remain peaceful (Davenport). Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) have come up with the IAEA to surveillance Iran's nuclear activities (Davenport). The peaceful nuclear energy program has shown that Iran has no interest in war or sanctions (IAEA). In fact, Iran had been working in the everlasting competition over fusion energy (Stone). Scientists have been trying to develop a machine that can burn fuel at high temperatures, creating fusion that can produce electricity without radioactive waves (Staff). The only country that is against this deal is the United States (Erlanger). If the UN were to adjust the deal, the countries could continue to learn about Iran's nuclear activities. A challenge that may appear in adjusting the new deal is that all 5 permanent members of the UN must agree on the matter (United Nations). So, it makes it hard

for the UN to be able to appease United States requirements and appease Iran's needs to rule their country.

In sum, there are many ways in which organizations around the globe can help Iran out. The INSTEX channel could help rebuild the trade with Iran and other organizations, through food, humanitarian, and medical aid (Welle). The SHTA can gather volunteers in giving non-sanctionable goods to Iran ("United States and Switzerland"). Or the United Nations can adjust the JCPOA deal. Hopefully, this will please both the United States' requests and Iran.

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