

TIMELINE: HOW WASHINGTON HAS TIGHTENED THE SCREWS

EXECUTIVE ORDER 13902

Targets the construction, mining, manufacturing, textile, and financial sectors of Iran's economy and restricts access to the U.S. financial system of any foreign financial institution that facilitates transactions in those sectors.

2020

2017 - 2020: Executive orders target the Supreme Leader's office, conventional arms transfers, and Iran's metals sector; IRGC designated as a Foreign Terrorist Organization; waivers allowing import of Iranian oil ended; and secondary sanctions expanded through CAATSA.

2016-2018: Sanctions relief provided through the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

2018

EXECUTIVE ORDER 13846

Re-imposes banking, energy, and shipping sanctions waived as a result of U.S. participation in the JCPOA, following U.S. withdrawal.

IRAN FREEDOM AND COUNTER-PROLIFERATION ACT

Targets Iran's shipping, energy, and shipbuilding sectors.

2012

IRAN THREAT REDUCTION AND SYRIA HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

Tightens sanctions on Iran's energy, shipping and financial sectors, as well as on the IRGC.

COMPREHENSIVE IRAN SANCTIONS, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND DIVESTMENT ACT

Tightens restrictions on financial investments related to Iran and on Iran's development of petroleum resources.

2010

2001 - 2012: Executive orders target Iranian financial institutions, proliferation to and from Iran, terrorism, and Iranian entities enabling human rights abuses; Iran designated as a jurisdiction of primary money laundering concern; and Iran Freedom Support Act signed into law.

1996 - 2000: Trade and investment prohibitions for U.S. parties were consolidated and clarified.

2000

IRAN, NORTH KOREA, AND SYRIA NONPROLIFERATION ACT

Authorizes sanctions on foreign entities that knowingly traffic in items that contribute to the development of WMD or missiles to or from Iran (as of 2000), Syria (as of 2005), and North Korea (as of 2006).

IRAN SANCTIONS ACT

Aimed at preventing Iran from using petroleum resources to fund its WMD programs and to support terrorism by sanctioning non-U.S. entities that knowingly invest in Iran's energy sector; subsequently amended and extended.

1996

1993 - 1996: Several measures passed aimed at preventing WMD proliferation through sanctions on foreign entities pursuing nuclear and other WMD programs, or contributing to such programs through exports.

Since the national emergency declared in response to the 1979 hostage crisis, the U.S. has sought to block property interests linked to the government of Iran; the emergency has been renewed annually since that time.

