



By Pouyan Zolfagharnia, MMA Analyst ©

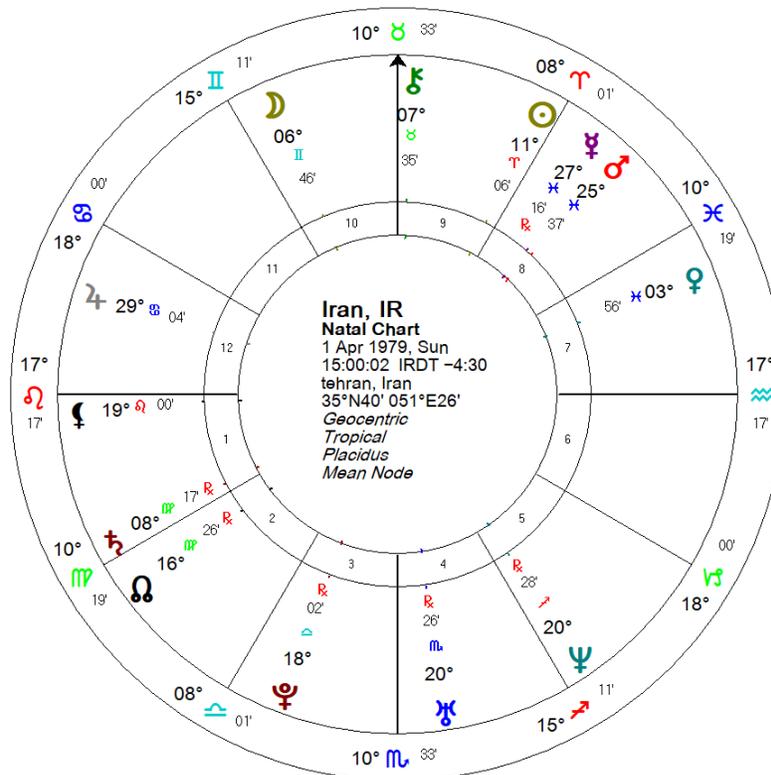
In this special report, I apply several astrological techniques to examine the timing and nature of the conflict. I favor the use of multiple methods because they often confirm one another and provide a clearer picture. I aim to gain deeper insight into the conflict's development and potential duration, particularly because it may carry significant implications for financial markets. As more nations become entangled in the war, many commentators have begun to describe it as a possible trigger for a third world war. The longer the conflict endures and the higher it escalates, the greater the risk of such an outcome, especially if China gets drawn in.

The analysis begins with Iran's national chart, followed by the introduction of planetary harmonics to provide further insight. A brief introduction to this method is included in the appendix for readers who are unfamiliar with the technique. Planetary harmonics are particularly valuable because they avoid the persistent difficulty of identifying a definitive national chart. This method is also applicable across all major astrological traditions, including Vedic, Western, and Sidereal astrology. In this sense, it offers a unifying framework and has demonstrated considerable accuracy in forecasting. The synodic cycles of the United States and Israel will then be examined to determine whether they correspond with those of Iran.

Even after many years abroad, thoughts of one's country and loved ones seldom fade. Although most of my life has been spent outside Iran, the impressions formed during those early years remain enduring. I was born in Iran in the winter of 1982, during a time of war and profound isolation for Iran. The country was engaged in a prolonged conflict with Iraq, whose military campaign appeared to benefit from extensive international support and supply. Memories from that period include the regular blackouts and the hurried descent to basement shelters as the bombing of urban centers intensified.

I remember it as a period of uncertainty and scarcity. Food and fuel were rationed, and political authority was exercised with strict control. Yet the foundations of patriotism and military capability established during the reign of Mohammad Reza Shah continued to shape the country's capacity to endure the conflict, even as the human cost grew ever more profound.

Although the war with Iraq came to an end, Iran has remained largely isolated under the rule of the Islamic Republic. Since its establishment, the regime has grounded its identity in the aim of extending the principles of the revolution beyond Iran's borders. It represents a distinctive political experiment: a form of republic shaped by religious authority, founded on the stated ideals of social justice and the defense of the oppressed, under the defiant leadership of a Supreme Leader. In symbolic terms, these aspirations echo Aquarian themes of revolution and equality.

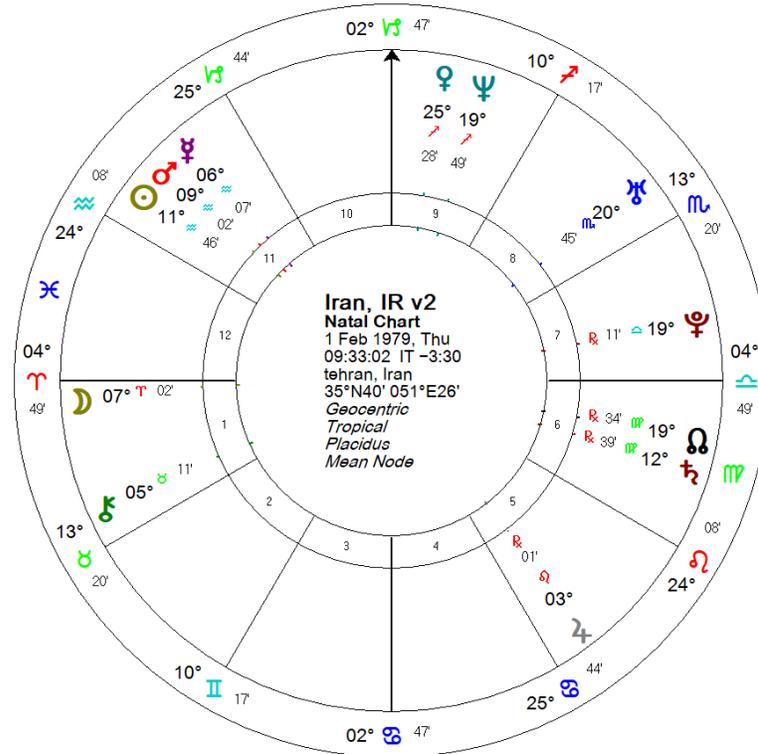


Most astrologers use the April 1, 1979, chart to represent modern Iran. The Islamic Republic was proclaimed on this date in a radio broadcast by Ayatollah Khomeini at 3 pm in Tehran. This was following a national referendum and marked the beginning of a new constitution. This chart symbolically reflects the character of the Islamic Republic through several striking themes. With a Leo Ascendant closely aligned with Black Moon Lilith, the state presents itself as proud, dramatic sovereignty while simultaneously embracing the role of a defiant outsider resisting dominant global powers. The Lilith may also be interpreted as the suppression of Iranian women, a marginalized force that refuses submission and repeatedly challenges authority. Its dominance on the Ascendant means that this tension becomes part of the nation's visible identity.

The Aries Sun reinforces the revolutionary birth of the regime and its enduring identity as a state forged through struggle and ideological confrontation. The Moon in Gemini in the 10<sup>th</sup> house suggests that the nation's public life and political authority are deeply intertwined with messaging, rhetoric, and ideological communication directed both domestically and internationally. Pluto in the 3<sup>rd</sup> house points to intense transformations in discourse, education, and narrative, reflecting the powerful reshaping and manipulation of media and political language after the revolution. Neptune in Sagittarius in the 5<sup>th</sup> house adds a strongly religious and mythic dimension, supporting a culture of ideological storytelling and spiritual symbolism that has played a central role in shaping national identity. Together, these signatures describe a revolutionary theocratic state defined by charismatic authority, powerful narratives, and a continuing struggle over ideology, identity, and social values within Iranian society.

With the Sun in Aries, we are seeing this nation once again fall into turmoil, a week after the Saturn-Neptune conjunction in Aries. Saturn will be transiting over the Iranian Sun in May 2026. This is one of the most serious and consequential cycles a state can experience. Saturn represents pressure, accountability, limits, and structural reality, while the Sun in a national chart symbolizes leadership, governing authority,

and the regime's core identity. When Saturn crosses the natal Sun, the country often enters a period of testing, consolidation, and institutional reckoning in which leadership structures are challenged to prove their durability. Governments may face increased external pressure, internal criticism, or the need to enforce stricter control in order to maintain stability. Looking back at the prior transit in March 1997, this was the period in which the reformist candidate, Mohammad Khatami, defeated the conservatives to power and attempted to liberalize civil society. Therefore, this chart would suggest a quick end to the current conflict.



I prefer to use the February 1, 1979, chart for modern Iran. This was the date on which the leader of the revolution, Khomeini, landed in Tehran and stepped onto the tarmac of Mehrabad Airport at 9.33 am. He was greeted by cheering crowds across Tehran. For me, this marked the beginning of the Islamic Republic as a dictatorship. I think it has become clear to most that any voting after this date has been a mere formality or façade, and not to be trusted. This chart places the Sun in Aquarius, conjunct Mars and Mercury. This resonates with the revolutionary ideas and principles outlined earlier. It also goes a long way toward explaining the importance of the nuclear and ballistic missile programs, both of which are Aquarian principles fortified by the Sun-Mars conjunction. It will also explain the unrest and internal protests for freedom that have continued to rock the foundation of Iran.

The February chart has the Sun at 11° Aquarius, Mars at 9°, and Mercury at 6°. The Sun represents the national identity and its leadership. Mars, as the planet of warfare, represents its armed forces. Mercury represents its media and press, public discourse, commerce and trade, transportation and communication networks, internet, and diplomacy. Transiting Pluto is now in the sign of Aquarius and is making a slow march towards these natal planets. Pluto is the planet of transformation, death and rebirth, power and control, collapse and regeneration.

Based on the sequence of the planets in Aquarius, Pluto will reach Mercury first, suggesting that the first avenue to be exhausted will be diplomacy and negotiations. It may also pertain to the nation's media outlets and their news sources, which may be in danger of losing their voice and influence. This will be followed by military force as Pluto passes over Mars. Finally, as a result of war, the leadership will ultimately fall. However, Pluto's transits are slow, and its orb is wide.

We are within a 30-minute orb of conjunction with Iran's Mercury. As war has broken out, we are witnessing an internet blackout as the dark forces of the regime (Pluto) attempted to sever all forms of communication (Mercury). Diplomacy has given way to war, and as Pluto's transit continues, all signs are pointing towards a protracted and lengthy one. Pluto will form a conjunction with the Iranian Mars by 2029 +/- 2 years, and the Iranian Sun by 2030 +/- 2 years. Perhaps the current war will end, but the chart signifies continued turmoil for this nation. I expect that the Islamic Republic may not ultimately fall until 2030, +/- 2 years. It's also worth noting that the recent Saturn-Neptune conjunction is on the Ascendant of this chart, marking it as a trigger for recent events.

The problem with using national charts is that we may very well be looking at the wrong one. This is especially true when looking at charts from hundreds or thousands of years ago. Historical records are not always accurate, and even when they are, they usually lack exact dates. Fortunately, there is a solution: planetary harmonics. By identifying the synodic cycle between a planetary pair that correlates to key turning points in the history of a given nation, we can use the aspects being formed to forecast periods of growth and austerity. The beauty of this system of planetary harmonics is that it does not matter whether the government of that nation changes; the harmonics remain intact.

I would like to propose that the synodic cycle ruling over Iran is the 45-year Saturn-Uranus cycle, which has been dominant in Iran's history for millennia. From the Saturn-Uranus conjunction of 555 BC, which saw the rise of Cyrus the Great as he led the revolt against the Median King Astyages, to the fall of the Persian Empire under the Sasanian Dynasty, with the reign of Yazdegerd III, following the Saturn-Uranus opposition of 650 AD. There is a clear pattern of turmoil for the people and government of this land during hard aspects (0°, 90°, 180°, 270°), and growth and hope in soft aspects (60°, 120°, 240°, 300°).

An important observation from studying these cycles has been that not all significant changes occurred during the "seed phase" of the conjunction, when a new idea or leadership is born. At times, I noted that the new idea started to "sprout" at the Saturn-Uranus waning sextile (60°), preceding the conjunction. This means that there is a 5-8 year period before the conjunction that has sent Iran into a period of strife.

Looking at the most recent cycles, I noted the assassination of Naser al-Din Shah of the Qajar dynasty at the 1897 conjunction. The coup d'état of Reza Khan, commencing the Pahlavi dynasty at the Saturn-Uranus opposition that followed. The abdication of Reza Khan and the occupation of Iran by Britain and Russia, which led to major famine, all occurred in 1942. During the following Saturn-Uranus opposition, which is the "fruition phase" of the synodic cycle, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi was coronated. It was during this aspect that Khomeini was exiled, and the Iranian nuclear program was born.

However, before the next conjunction, the Islamic Revolution took place at the Saturn-Uranus waning sextile, which took place as a triple passage between September 1979 and July 1980. This also marked the start of the Iran-Iraq war, which would not end until the 1988 Saturn-Uranus conjunction, which also saw

the mass execution of Iranian political dissidents. The conjunction ended with the death of the supreme leader and revolutionary, Ayatollah Khomeini.

That means the current Saturn-Uranus synodic cycle, which we are in, began with the formation of the Islamic Republic under Khamenei's control. At each soft aspect within the synodic cycle, we saw glimpses of hope as reformist governments came into power and attempted to lead the country towards liberal ideas that would bridge the gap with the rest of the international community. The ultimate embrace came at the Saturn-Uranus waning trine (2016-2017), the "harvest phase," as the JCPOA nuclear deal was signed.

At every hard aspect, we saw the Iranian People rise and demand change. Yet, in each case, the regime used increasing force and brutality to suppress the people. The "Green Movement" that resulted in mass protests across the nation, and the memorable image of the shooting of Neda Agha-Soltan, took place at the last Saturn-Uranus opposition. The "Woman, Life, Freedom" movement that commenced with the killing of Mahsa Amini commenced at the Saturn-Uranus waning square (2021-2022), the "major crisis phase." Also worth noting is the important role played by Iranian women. This starts to make more sense when you look at the Iranian Moon in Aries on the Ascendant of the February 1 chart, or Lilith on the ascendant in the April 1, 1979, chart, as a representation of women playing a bold and prominent role in the nation.

As of April 2025, the Saturn-Uranus synodic cycle is in its waning sextile phase again, lasting until January 2026. This is the same aspect that formed during the 1979 revolution and the Iraq invasion.

The conjunction is not due until June of 2032. I would apply an orb of 1 year to these aspects. You can see here that the synodic cycle timeline supports my earlier analysis of the February 1 national chart. The next 6 years will cover the balsamic phase (the last 1/8 or 45°) of the synodic cycle, as the old idea, born during the prior conjunction, begins to fall apart and the new idea takes shape. This technically begins in April 2027, but with an increase of four degrees, it will be in evidence in mid-2026. In the case of the Islamic Republic, a study of the synodic cycles shows that this can only be achieved through force. At every hard aspect, they have spilled the blood of the Iranian people, and this pattern will sadly continue to hold as a new war has been launched. However, just as day follows the night, we should not lose hope for brighter days ahead. We are approaching the "seed phase," and a new government is about to be formed. Unfortunately, in the world of geopolitics, change is oftentimes accompanied by conflict.

What about the synodic cycles of the United States and Israel? Mundane events in both nations appear to align well with the Saturn-Pluto synodic cycle. Israel as a nation was created following the 1947 Saturn-Pluto conjunction, and has faced major conflicts and turmoil at each of the subsequent hard aspects:

- Waxing square (1955-56): Suez crisis
- Opposition (1965-66): Six-Day War
- Waning square (1973-74): Yom Kippur War
- Conjunction (1982): 1982 Lebanon War
- Waxing square (1993-94): First Intifada and Oslo Accords
- Opposition (2001-02): Second Intifada
- Waning Square (2009-10): Gaza War
- Conjunction (2020): Start of the Israel-Hamas war.

The Saturn-Pluto cycle that commenced in 2020 will be entering its waxing sextile, “sprouting phase” in 2026, and will go on to face its first crisis phase with the waxing square of 2028-29. The waxing sextile is the point at which the new theme born under the 2020 conjunction will take hold and begin to show itself to the wider world. During the prior cycle (1988-89), we saw the fall of the Berlin Wall and the signing of an arms-control agreement between the United States and the Soviet Union, and in Israel, a shift towards negotiations following the Palestinian Declaration of Independence. So, optimism about the future and the new system of globalization and free trade was ripe.

Looking back at the prior Saturn-Pluto waxing square (1993-94), we can see that this was a period of turmoil for both the United States and Israel. In the United States, we saw the Los Angeles riots, which marked a period of intense civil unrest, and the first World Trade Center bombing, which acted as a prelude to the 2001 opposition. For Israel, it marked the creation of the Palestinian Authority and the beginning of a structured peace process, which went on to fail. Therefore, as we approach the next waxing square phase of the Saturn-Pluto cycle of 2028-29, I am mindful that there is a risk of intensification in the current war. This also aligns well with the pattern of conflict and warfare in the United States, as Uranus transits Gemini (2026-2032), with the transit of Saturn in Gemini (2030-2032) intensifying.

On the positive side, at the time of the Saturn-Uranus conjunction (2032), which is the new seed phase for Iran, we are also seeing a Saturn-Pluto waxing trine for the United States and Israel. This is a cosmic indication that the U.S. and Israel may be achieving their goals and accomplishing their mission, just as the new governing structure is born in Iran. As such, the attack on Iran will not likely result in a quick shock-and-awe strategy aimed at regime change. Based on the analysis above, it appears that the change will occur more gradually. This often means an intensification of the escalatory ladder. We could also see an on-off strategy of ceasefires followed by more conflict as things don’t go to plan. Either way, I don’t believe we will see a new regime in Iran (be it an evolved version of the Islamic Republic or an entirely new structure) until the early 2030s. This is further supported by the event chart of the current U.S./Israel strike on Tehran the morning of February 27, with Mercury just turned retrograde and a void-of-course Moon in effect. Actions initiated under such astrological signatures as those usually indicate plans do not go as expected.

For global markets, this implies that geopolitical risk in the Middle East may remain a persistent feature rather than a short-lived shock. Energy markets, in particular, may experience recurring periods of volatility, while defense spending and strategic security investments are likely to rise. At the same time, episodes of escalation may periodically trigger movements toward safe-haven assets and increase risk premiums across global financial markets.

Viewed through the lens of cycle studies, this conflict may serve as an important inflection point in the longer-term economic cycles. We will monitor this closely within our monthly and weekly MMA Reports.

## Appendix – Planetary Harmonics

The concept of planetary harmonics concerns the cycle created by the relative motion of two planets. A synodic cycle is measured from one conjunction (0 °) of the planetary pair to the next. From the conjunction to the opposition, the faster planet moves away from the slower planet, forming the waxing phase. From the opposition to the next conjunction, the faster planet returns, forming the waning phase and completing the cycle.

As astrologers, our task is to identify cycles in the mundane world and relate them to the appropriate synodic cycle. Once this correspondence is clearly understood, the cycle can be used to anticipate and forecast the timing of significant developments.

Each planetary pair produces a cycle with its own theme and duration. The principal stages of the synodic cycle are commonly associated with the aspects formed between the two planets. In these explanations, I refer to an “idea” rather than an object, person, project, or nation, because every material expression begins in the human mind as an idea.

**0° Conjunction:** The ‘seed phase’, the point in time where the seed idea is initiated and born. A new upward and outward movement begins.

**60° Waxing Sextile:** The ‘sprouting phase’ in which the idea begins to establish itself and work actively in the world. Strong growth is observed in this positive phase.

**90° Waxing Square:** The ‘first crisis’ point as the idea begins to manifest, testing and strengthening itself in the world by overcoming challenges and obstacles.

**120° Waxing Trine:** The ‘flowering phase’ as the idea is accepted and begins to move and motivate people strongly.

**180° Opposition:** The ‘fruition phase’ as the idea manifests and is given objective expression in the world. In its fullest form, the idea confronts a need to reconcile views and possibilities. This may be considered the second and most powerful crisis point in the cycle. This is usually an extreme crisis point in any cycle, and therefore, the easiest to identify as the seed idea will be challenged by the fruit, which bears the next seed of the next idea to come. These two ideas, the old and the new, will challenge each other overtly, daggers drawn.

**240° Waning Trine:** The ‘harvest phase’ as the motive power of the seed is now seen as the fruit of the labor and becomes desirable, and hence the motivating idea is society.

**270° Waning Square:** The ‘major crisis’ point as the idea is challenged to prove its worth and justify itself in the eyes of the world and reassert itself. This is the point of instability and tension, with a sense of urgency to actualize the cycle's ideas through sheer effort and will. This is the winter point in the cycle when dead branches fall, and all is stripped bare.

**300° Waning Sextile:** The idea enters the ‘balsamic phase,’ which technically begins at the waning semi-square or 315° arc, and consolidates itself in the daily work and rhythms of society. This may also serve as the ‘shadow sprout phase’ for the new seed or idea that begins to take shape.

**360 °/0 ° Conjunction:** The death of the old cycle and rebirth of the idea in a new guise. The conjunction represents both the final fulfilment of the preceding cycle and, at the same time, the birth of the new cycle. It is usually accompanied by some measure of instability and the initiation of new directions and activities.

**Waxing Phase:**

From 0° to 180°, the idea is in its growth phase, known as the waxing phase. The combined principle of the two planets gradually increases in significance. The cycle begins at the conjunction and steadily gains prominence until it reaches its peak at the opposition. At times, the next idea that presents itself at the next conjunction starts to appear as the waxing phase nears the opposition.

**Waning Phase:**

As the cycle progresses from 180° to 360°, it enters the waning phase. The idea begins to lose momentum, and its energy gradually declines as it approaches its conclusion. The end of one cycle both marks and shapes the beginning of the next. Like the phoenix rising from the ashes, the new cycle emerges from the remnants of the old cycle. The ancients expressed this principle through the image of a serpent consuming its own tail, sustaining itself through its own substance. Each new cycle, therefore, arises from the energy and events that brought the previous one to its close.