The July 14 signing of a nuclear weapons agreement by the U.S. and the Iranian regime seemed like an event strangely out of time. This despite the efforts of Israel’s far Right Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to rally reactionary opposition in Israel and in the U.S. Congress.

Despite words to the contrary, Netanyahu and other reactionary rulers, near or far, benefit from it. What is needed now is precisely what we don’t find at the moment—a revolutionary movement in Iran and Israel that would speak out against their own imperialisms.

THE REAL MOMENT AT HAND

Following the nuclear agreement, a humane logic would dictate that the same powers—the U.S., Iran, Russia, China, France, Germany and the UK—would encourage other peace initiatives. But imperialism is no humane logician.

The limits of Iranian imperialist flexibility were on display in mid-August. When their mercenary protégé, the Lebanese militia Hezbollah, met fierce resistance in the Syrian town of Zabadani, Iranian officials took the unprecedented step of meeting directly with the Islamist Syrian rebel group Ahrar al-Sham under the auspices of Turkey.

There the Iranians presented a ‘peace’ proposal for Zabadani that required the ethnic cleansing of all Sunni Muslims—the town’s main population. This would be part of a policy to divide Syria and allow Iran to salvage its investment in Assad and its pipeline of weapons to Hezbollah. It was properly rejected. Talks then ended, and the Assad regime, now largely controlled by Iran, began a particularly vicious bombing campaign (augmented by new Russian planes) against civilian targets. The massacre of over 100 civilians in the marketplace in Douma, Aug. 16, was just one of many recent regime atrocities.

The specter raised here, of the threatened sectarian division of Syria backed by a regional power and its militia proxies, while great powers stand by or collude, can’t help but bring up memories of the Bosnian war of the 1990s. It is a terrible place for the world to find itself exactly 20 years after the Srebrenica massacre.

REGION IN UPHEAVAL: IRAQ

To see the revolutionary opposite to this reactionary moment, it’s necessary to pull back and look at developments in a number of countries. For one, there are the stirrings of a new mass opposition in Iraq.

It was like a breath of fresh air in mid-August to see thousands of Iraqis pour into the streets around the country expressing an entirely different logic from that of reaction and sectarianism. Their slogans included ‘Daesh [IS, the Islamic State] and the Parliament, two sides of the same coin,’ referring to the influence of religious sectarianism on the Iraqi state; ‘Secularism! Secularism! Not Shia! Not Sunni!’ and ‘Humanity doesn’t live by religion, but by bread and dignity!’

continued on p. 10
Syria and Turkey. Since then they have helped to push the fascist IS in Kobane, Rojava, on the border between of the Women's Defense Units (YPJ) who helped defeat Arab enemies of Allah had buried.”

"The kidnap of thousands of Yazidi girls and young women from Mount Sinjar, Iraq, has given rise to a classic slave trade in IS-controlled ter-

ritory. Victims are advertised, paraded for in-
spection and sale. Fleets of special buses, with blankets and veils over the windows, transport these human puppets. They are also used as a recruit-

ment tool for young men for IS to use to build their army. They are an outcome of the genocidal rape campaigns conducted by Serb militia in Bosnia.

The Yazidi and Akhamic were separated from the women and killed en masse, another horrific echo of Serbdom. IS boasts of its crimes in their magazine, Dabiq. The 2011 protests at-

tended the same issues and criticized the Shia regime of Nouri, who was put in place by the U.S.

The U.S. insistence on recognizing Saddam Hussein's tortured country along religious and ethnic lines continued, beyond good governance. IS can be viewed as a joint cre-

ation of the two reactionary rivals that faced off after Sept. 11, 2001. The U.S. and IS imperialism was their interest in the sectarianized cauldron of the Iraqi many of whom combined with elements of Baath's Party, gave birth to such a hybrid monstrosity.

One of the many demonstrations across Iraq on Aug. 7. This one was in Baghdad.

MONSTERS BREED IN THE SLEEP OF REASON

From the first, Assad claimed that all opposition to him was the result of Western-inspired terrorism, and eventu-

ally these appeared. The world powers “No!” to the Syr-

ian people’s freedom struggle gave new life to the reac-

tionaries who emerged as the dominant force in the Arab Spring. Reaction feeds on reaction. IS, born in Iraq, has become the club the world’s rulers use to bash the Syrian Revo-

lution when they cannot win their way through military campaigns.

REGION IN UPEHAVAL: SYRIA

Turkish Erdogan, Iran’s Khamenei, Iraq’s Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi and Assad, conceal their own narrow political interests behind the suffering of civilians. Assad’s “protection” of minorities can extend to the torture or murder of anyone—whether religious or ethnic—who can help uproot today’s degenerate society.

The U.S. also remains silent when ally Erdogan be-

gins bombing the Kurds. They could only retain Syria’s national unity at the price of genocide. He pursued it. This has now resulted in over 250,000 dead and 10 million refugees.

The U.S. also remains silent when ally Erdogan be-

gins bombing the Kurds. They could only retain Syria’s national unity at the price of genocide. He pursued it. This has now resulted in over 250,000 dead and 10 million refugees.

The U.S. also remains silent when ally Erdogan be-

gins bombing the Kurds. They could only retain Syria’s national unity at the price of genocide. He pursued it. This has now resulted in over 250,000 dead and 10 million refugees.