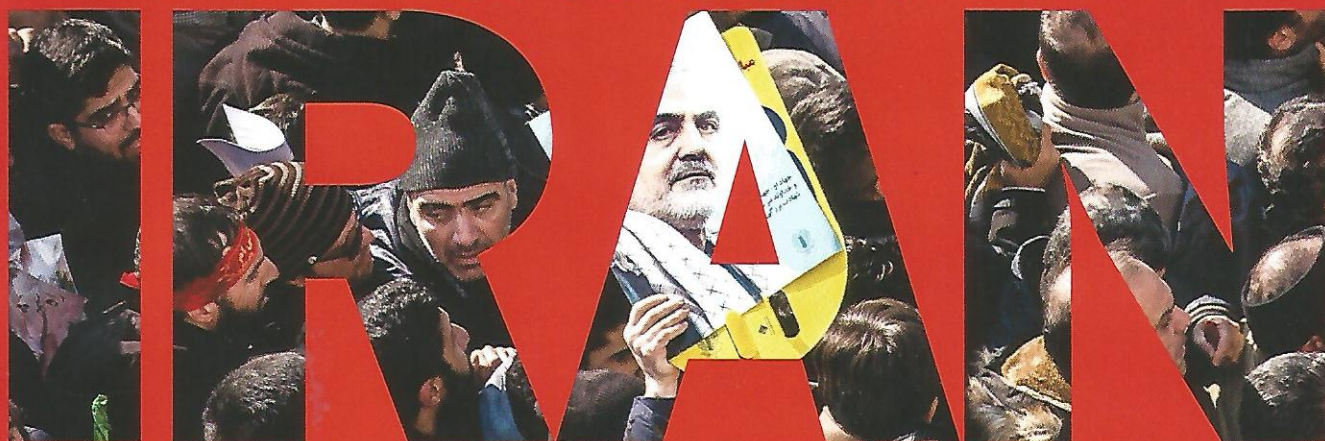


# TIME



THE 40-YEAR CONFLICT

*Essays by*

**ELLIOT ACKERMAN, DAVID FRENCH  
and JAMES STAVRIDIS**

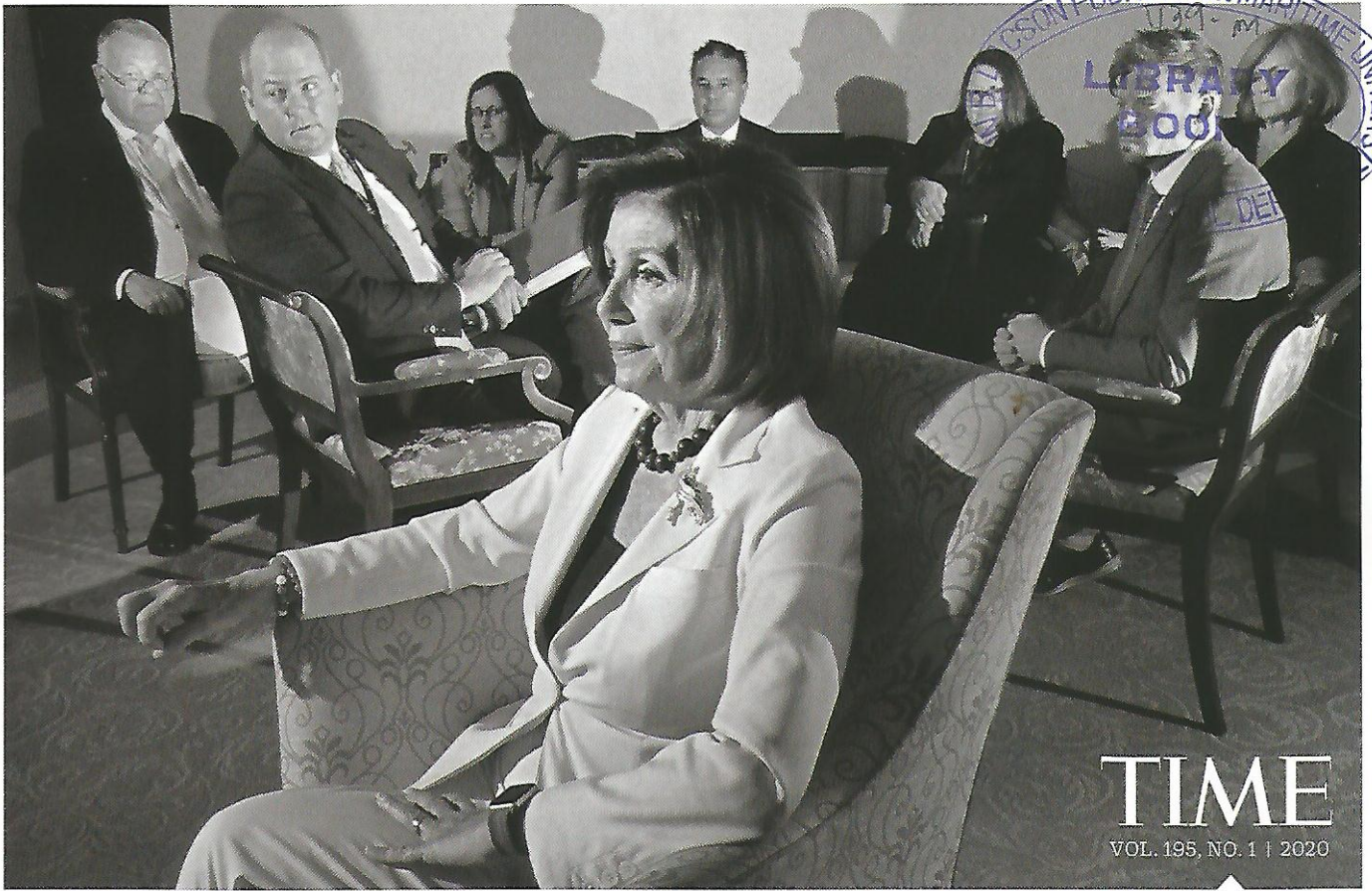
WHAT IT MEANS FOR  
THE WORLD

*by* **KARIM SADJADPOUR**

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**TIME**  
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**4 | Conversation**  
**6 | For the Record**

## The Brief

News from the U.S.  
and around the world

**7 | Deadly wildfires engulf Australia**

**9 | Attack on protesters further roils India**

**10 | Why American dairies are going bankrupt**

**11 | The trial of Harvey Weinstein**

**12 | 20 moments to watch in 2020**

## Features

### ▣ The Iran Conflict

What the U.S. strike on Qasem Soleimani and Iran's retaliation mean for the world  
*By Karim Sadjadpour 14*

### Pelosi's Playbook

Why Nancy Pelosi chose to bet the Democratic majority on a confrontation with President Trump  
*By Molly Ball 22*

### Leading Taiwan

President Tsai Ing-wen tries to keep the island out of China's reach  
*By Charlie Campbell 32*

### Reviving World War I

In 1917, Sam Mendes finds a way to escape trench warfare onscreen  
*By Karl Vick 36*

## Time Off

What to watch, read, see and do

### Best of the Decade:

Judy Berman on TV shows and miniseries, Stephanie Zacharek on movies and performances, Maura Johnston on albums and songs, and TIME staffers on fiction and nonfiction 43

**52 | 7 Questions for actor Alfre Woodard**

▲ *Pelosi meets with her staff on Capitol Hill on Dec. 5*

*Photograph by Philip Montgomery for TIME*

**ON THE COVER:**  
*Photograph by Morteza Nikoubazi—NurPhoto/Getty Images*