

U.S. Strike on Iran Sparked Domestic Backlash



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The U.S. strike on Iran immediately triggered domestic backlash. Democrats denounced it as illegal, despite their presidents having committed similar acts in the past.

Details. Multiple polls showed a majority of Americans disapproved of the strikes. However, the majority of republican party supporters approved of the strikes.

- ▶ Democratic Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez called for Trump's impeachment for striking Iran without explicit authorization from Congress.
- ▶ Democratic Rep. Ro Khanna, Republican Rep. Thomas Massie and others tried to introduce a War Powers Resolution in response. This aimed to rein in the president's ability to use military action against Iran without congressional approval. This has since been blocked by the Senate.
- ▶ Donald Trump on Truth Social criticized Thomas Massie for opposing the strike and has since launched a campaign to unseat him in Kentucky in the May 2026 primary election.

Context. The U.S. Constitution formally requires congressional authorization for acts of war, yet both Democratic and Republican administrations have routinely bypassed this requirement.

- ▶ Obama used military force in Libya in 2011 without congressional approval. Biden authorized airstrikes in Syria and Iraq in 2021 and 2023 without a formal vote.
- ▶ Trump previously vetoed the War Powers Resolutions (introduced by Democrats in 1973), which require the President to consult Congress before sending troops into combat, in 2019 and 2020.

Important to Know. Following the unpopularity of the military action, Democrats are using the strike to position themselves as a constitutional and anti-war opposition, who uphold the "democratic" culture of America.

- ▶ Trump has used this military action to consolidate loyalty, exposing those in opposition and launching attacks against them.
- ▶ After the ceasefire, Trump claimed credit for ending the conflict in just a few days, calling it the "12-day war". This messaging aims to neutralise the popular discontent by portraying the war as short, resolved, and "successful" - despite reports suggesting it achieved little; the seeds for further conflict remain.