

Has Trump made the world a safer place?

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The [New York Times](#) reported last night:

A preliminary classified U.S. report says the American bombing of Iran's nuclear sites sealed off the entrances to two of the facilities but did not collapse their underground buildings, according to officials familiar with the findings.

The early findings conclude that the strikes over the weekend set back Iran's nuclear program by only a few months, the officials said.

So, what do we know? It seems to be:

- * Trump's attacks did not work.
- * Iran's nuclear programme is only mildly disrupted.
- * Its nuclear resources are intact.

What is more:

- * Trump declared a ceasefire that it seemed the parties had not agreed to.
- * What is more, it seems incredibly unlikely they will do so for long.
- * And now Israel has no incentive to grant a ceasefire, except that it may be running out of weaponry, and Iran still has a nuclear programme, although absolutely no one knows if it intends to produce weapons with it.

In other words:

- * My economic warnings remain appropriate; the risk of economic confusion remains high.
- * The chance of peace is low.
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There is no way the US can easily back out of the mess it has created.

So, has Trump made the world a safer place? The answer would appear to be that he has, quite emphatically, not done so. But the one thing we can be sure of is that nothing he says can be relied on.

What a total mess.