



## War in Iran, Stocks at Home

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Nobody who understands the investment markets was surprised by the recent drop in stock prices just days after war broke out in the Middle East. Those who follow economics were completely unsurprised that when a country that normally produces 15 million barrels of oil a day goes offline, oil prices (and prices at the pump) would jump unpredictably.

The add-on effects higher oil prices ripple through every part of the economy, basically raising costs for any manufacturer who uses energy (basically all of them) and denting the pocketbooks and wallets of consumers when they fill their tanks. Consumers who have a bit less money in their pockets might be inclined to spend less and drive less economic growth. The question one might ask is: how long will this war last—and therefore how long will it continue to erode corporate profits and slow the economy?

Of course, only the people in the White House Situation Room can answer this. But the essential thing that investors should understand is that the market decline, currently and hypothetically in the future, represents emotional reactions driven by uncertainty and perhaps even fear.

Fear of what? War itself is frightening in its costs and tragic human consequences. But from an investment standpoint, the missiles and drones flying around the Middle East are not diminishing the underlying value of companies owned in investment portfolios. Small increases in costs, small decreases in profits, all if it is probably short-term (and much of it offset by rebates of tariffs) are unlikely to have much of an effect.

Somehow, our investment markets have managed robust long-term growth through wars, Presidential assassinations, the brink of nuclear war and a few other disturbing events that caused temporary panic.



If you have any questions about this article or want to discuss your family finances, investment portfolio, or financial planning advice, please call on me anytime at my number [\(215\) 325-1595](tel:2153251595) or you can [click here to schedule a meeting](#).

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