

# Download Iran Contra Reagan S Scandal And The Unchecked Abuse Of Presidential Power

At its center was President Ronald Reagan amid a swirl of questions about illegal wars, consorting with terrorists, and the abuse of presidential power. Yet, despite the enormity of the issues, the affair dropped from the public radar due to media overkill, years of legal wrangling, and a vigorous campaign to forestall another Watergate.

This item: Iran-Contra: Reagan's Scandal and the Unchecked Abuse of Presidential Power by Malcolm Byrne  
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Despite its hyperbolic subtitle, Malcolm Byrne's *Iran-Contra: Reagan's Scandal and the Unchecked Abuse of Presidential Power* (2014) is a carefully constructed and highly detailed account of the Iran-Contra scandal, using both newly declassified documents (the author is Deputy Director at the National Security Archive) and interviews.

First, he shows that while President Ronald Reagan was the “driving force” behind both parts of the affair—selling arms to Iran to secure the release of American hostages and funding the Contra war in Nicaragua despite the congressional prohibition on U.S. aid—Reagan displayed little interest in the details or legality of the actions he sanctioned (p. 3).

A new book on the Iran-Contra affair shows that President Ronald Reagan stood at the epicenter of the scandal both in terms of his willingness to break the law in order to free American hostages in *Iran-Contra: Reagan's Scandal and the Unchecked Abuse of Presidential Power* | National Security Archive

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