

□ **BREAKING NEWS** □

AB FINANCIAL NEWS

IRAN SPECIAL REPORT: NEW SUPREME LEADER NAMED

Monday, March 9, 2026 | Supplement to Weekly Summary | Maraki Finance + Publishing

This is an update on the continued conflict in the middle east.

□ **WHO IS MOJTABA KHAMENEI? THE MAN WHO NOW CONTROLS IRAN'S WAR**

Full Name	Mojtaba Khamenei — 2nd son of assassinated Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei
Age	56 years old (born 1969, Mashhad, Iran)
Religion Rank	Hojatoleslam — a MID-LEVEL cleric. NOT yet an Ayatollah. His father was also not an Ayatollah when he took power in 1989 — the law was changed. The same may happen here.
IRGC Ties	Served in the IRGC's Habib Battalion during the Iran-Iraq War. Has cultivated IRGC ties for 40+ years. Called 'the power behind the robes' in U.S. diplomatic cables (WikiLeaks).
Political Record	Engineered the 2005 rise of hardliner Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. Personally supervised IRGC crackdown of the 2009 Green Movement protests. 2019: U.S. Treasury sanctioned him for advancing 'destabilizing regional ambitions.'
Personal Loss	His WIFE, MOTHER, and SISTER were killed in the same Feb 28 U.S.-Israeli strike that killed his father. He was not present. He survived.
Financial Empire	Controls a vast, undisclosed global business network — luxury properties in Europe, billions through associate networks. Has enormous personal financial stake in regime survival.
Was He His Father's Choice?	NO. Ali Khamenei reportedly opposed his son's leadership and never allowed the issue to be raised publicly. Mojtaba was the IRGC's choice, not his father's.
Trump's Reaction	Called him 'unacceptable.' Said: 'He's not going to last long if he doesn't get approval from us.'
Israel's Reaction	IDF has declared any new supreme leader is a legitimate target.
Putin's Reaction	Gave 'unwavering support.' Called on Mojtaba to 'honorably continue his father's work.'

□ AB FINANCIAL NEWS: WHICH SCENARIO DID WE PREDICT? VERDICT INSIDE.

RECALL: Our March 2 Scenario Prediction Table

SCENARIO	PROB.	OIL PREDICTION	VERDICT	WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED
1. IRGC Takes Control — seeks deal	40%	\$85–\$100	□ PARTIAL	IRGC did engineer the pick — but used that control to install a hardliner, not a deal-seeker. Half right.
2. Regime Collapse & Chaos	20%	\$120+	✗ DID NOT HAPPEN	No collapse. Regime rallied around the son. IRGC united quickly.
3. Democratic Transition	15%	\$65–\$75	✗ DID NOT HAPPEN	Zero signs of democratic opening. Assembly vote was IRGC-pressured, not democratic.
4. Hardline Successor — Continued War	25%	\$100+	✓ ACTIVE NOW	Mojtaba is harder than his father. War continues. IRGC fully backing him. THIS IS PLAYING OUT.

□ AB's Analysis: It's a Hybrid of Scenario 1 + Scenario 4

The IRGC did take operational control — but instead of seeking a deal to ease economic pain, they used that control to install the hardest-line option available: a man with personal grievances, IRGC loyalty, and no independent religious legitimacy of his own. Mojtaba is effectively an IRGC-installed figurehead — but one fueled by personal loss and ideological extremism. This is the worst combination for oil markets and global stability.

□ WHY DID THEY CHOOSE THE SON? — 5 REAL REASONS

1

THE IRGC FORCED IT. The vote was not free. IRGC commanders called Assembly members before the vote with 'repeated psychological and political pressure.' Those who argued against Mojtaba were given limited time to speak. The vote was rushed online — during wartime — before the count could be completed. This was a military appointment wearing a clerical robe.

2

THEY WANTED SOMEONE THEY CAN CONTROL. Mojtaba has no independent religious credentials — he is a mid-level cleric. He cannot command theological loyalty on his own. He needs the IRGC to legitimize his rule. The IRGC knows this. They chose a leader who depends on them.

3

THE KHAMENEI NAME IS A WARTIME ASSET. During a war, symbols matter. 'Khamenei' is 37 years of ideological continuity. Appointing the son says: 'We are not broken. We are still the same regime. The name continues.' It is propaganda by appointment.

4

HE WAS CHOSEN TO DEFY TRUMP. An Assembly member explicitly stated the candidate was picked because he should 'be hated by the enemy.' Trump had called Mojtaba 'unacceptable' — so the Assembly chose him. Choosing someone Trump despises is itself a political act of defiance.

5

HE HAS EVERYTHING TO FIGHT FOR — AND NOTHING LEFT TO LOSE. His wife, mother, and sister were killed by U.S.-Israeli bombs. He oversees a multi-billion dollar empire that exists only inside the Islamic Republic. If the regime falls, he loses everything — his wealth, his power, possibly his life. He is the definition of a man who will fight to the last.

□ IS MOJTABA MORE AGGRESSIVE THAN HIS FATHER?

Ali Khamenei (Father)

36 years as Supreme Leader (1989–2026). A pragmatist who balanced ideology with statecraft. He managed nuclear negotiations (the 2015 JCPOA deal), played geopolitical chess with the West, and allowed limited economic openings when needed. He was hardline — but strategic. He understood limits.

Key trait: Calculated restraint. Never crossed the line that would end the regime.

Mojtaba Khamenei (Son)

No governing experience. Studied under Mesbah Yazdi — an ultra-hardliner who called for killing Iranians who promoted 'Western immorality.' Engineered Ahmadinejad's rise in 2005. Personally supervised the violent crushing of the 2009 protests. Has no record of compromise or negotiation — only suppression and escalation.

Key trait: Ideological maximalism + personal grief + zero diplomatic track record.

⚡ Bottom Line for Our Broadcast

The consensus among analysts, including the Council on Foreign Relations, Axios, and NPR, is that Mojtaba is expected to be MORE hardline than his father — particularly in the short term. The man who lost his family to U.S.-Israeli bombs eight days ago is now the most powerful person in Iran. There is no historical precedent for a leader in this position choosing de-escalation in week one. Markets are priced on this reality. Oil above \$90 reflects this.

□ UPDATED SCENARIO ANALYSIS: 4 PATHS FORWARD UNDER MOJTABA

SCENARIO A — DEFIANT HARDLINER DIGS IN | Probability: 45% (MOST LIKELY)

What Happens

Mojtaba refuses all talks. No nuclear deal. No Hormuz reopening. IRGC escalates drone and missile strikes. War extends well beyond the original 4–5 week Trump estimate. Russia and China provide diplomatic cover.

Oil & Gas Impact

WTI stays \$90–\$120 range. Brent above \$100 for 6–10 weeks. U.S. national gas average hits \$4.00–\$4.50/gallon by April. If Hormuz remains blocked, oil could spike to \$120+.

Ethiopia / Diaspora Impact

Oil import costs rise sharply — Ethiopia imports 100% of its oil. Birr under severe inflation pressure. Diaspora remittances buy less back home. Emergency funds critical NOW.

SCENARIO B — IRGC BACKCHANNEL DEAL, MOJTABA STAYS | Probability: 25%

<p>What Happens</p> <p>Behind the scenes, IRGC negotiates a limited ceasefire through Oman or China. Hormuz reopens partially. Mojtaba saves face publicly — Iran declares 'victory.' No formal nuclear deal, no regime change. A managed pause.</p>	<p>Oil & Gas Impact</p> <p>WTI drops sharply to \$70–\$80 on relief. Brent follows. U.S. gas prices fall back toward \$3.20–\$3.50/gallon within 6–8 weeks. S&P 500 rallies hard — tech leads the bounce.</p>	<p>Ethiopia / Diaspora Impact</p> <p>Relief on oil import costs. Birr stabilizes. Remittance timing window improves. Best outcome for diaspora communities in the short term. Job market stabilizes.</p>
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SCENARIO C — ISRAEL TARGETS MOJTABA, DEEPER CHAOS | Probability: 20%

<p>What Happens</p> <p>Israel follows through on its explicit threat to target the new supreme leader. Mojtaba is killed or goes into deep hiding. Iran splinters — no clear command structure. IRGC factions operate independently. Proxy forces across the region act without central coordination.</p>	<p>Oil & Gas Impact</p> <p>Worst case for markets. WTI spikes above \$120, possibly \$130+. U.S. gas approaches \$5.00/gallon — recession trigger territory. Global supply chains fracture. G7 forced to release strategic reserves.</p>	<p>Ethiopia / Diaspora Impact</p> <p>Catastrophic oil import crisis for Ethiopia. East Africa food transport costs explode. Diaspora job losses accelerate — hospitality, transportation, retail all contract. Emergency fund is your lifeline.</p>
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SCENARIO D — MOJTABA PIVOTS TO PRESERVE HIS EMPIRE | Probability: 10%

<p>What Happens</p> <p>Mojtaba — who controls a multi-billion dollar personal business empire — decides within 60–90 days that a negotiated settlement protects his wealth and power better than a war he cannot win. A pragmatic calculation overrides ideological posturing.</p>	<p>Oil & Gas Impact</p> <p>Oil drops sharply toward \$65–\$75. Markets rally hard. Gas returns to \$3.00–\$3.20/gallon range. Federal Reserve has more room to cut rates. Best macro outcome of the four scenarios.</p>	<p>Why Unlikely Short-Term</p> <p>His personal grief makes immediate softening politically impossible. The IRGC hardline base would not accept a deal in week one. Probability rises after 90 days if Iran's internal economy deteriorates fast enough to force IRGC pragmatism.</p>
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🛢️ OIL & GAS PRICE OUTLOOK UNDER EACH SCENARIO

SCENARIO	WTI CRUDE	BRENT CRUDE	U.S. GAS AVG	DIRECTION
A — Defiant Hardliner (45%)	\$90–\$120	\$92–\$125	\$4.00–\$4.50	☐ PRICES RISE
B — Backchannel Deal (25%)	\$70–\$80	\$72–\$82	\$3.20–\$3.50	☐ PRICES FALL

C — Israel Kills Mojtaba (20%)	\$120–\$130+	\$125–\$135+	\$4.50–\$5.00+	☐ PRICES SPIKE
D — Mojtaba Pivots (10%)	\$65–\$75	\$68–\$78	\$3.00–\$3.20	☐ BEST CASE DROP
TODAY (March 9, 2026)	~\$90.14	~\$92.32	\$3.48–\$4.00	☐ CURRENT BASELINE

☐ AB'S BROADCAST QUESTION FOR THE AUDIENCE

"The man who just became the most powerful leader in Iran lost his wife, his mother, and his sister to American bombs — eight days ago. Do you expect him to pick up a phone and negotiate with Donald Trump? Or do you expect him to pick up a weapon — and fight?"

Financial literacy means understanding that GEOPOLITICS IS PERSONAL FINANCE. The price you paid at the gas pump this morning, the remittance rate you send home this week, the job market your family depends on — all of it is connected to one man's grief and one regime's survival instinct. This is why AB Financial News exists: to connect the headlines to your household.

☐ MARAKI ECONOMIC LADDER™ — YOUR ACTION PLAN RIGHT NOW

STEP 1: WORK	STEP 2: CAREER	STEP 3: MISSION
Scenario A (45% likely) means gas hits \$4–\$4.50 within weeks. If you drive for work — Uber, Lyft, delivery, construction — recalculate your real take-home pay after fuel. Adjust your hours and routes. Do not wait for the market to stabilize before protecting your income.	Energy, defense, logistics, and healthcare are the sectors hiring right now. If you are building your career, look in these directions. Broadcom's AI revenue doubling is also a signal: tech skills tied to AI infrastructure remain valuable even in a down market.	Share this broadcast. The Iranian succession is not a foreign affairs story — it is a personal finance story. Every family in our community is affected by today's oil price. Financial education saves lives and livelihoods. Help us reach 100,000 people.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Abnet A. Tessema, MBA, is the CEO and Founder of Maraki Group — an immigrant empowerment platform serving Ethiopian and Eritrean diaspora communities across the United States and Canada. He holds an MBA, has a background in law, and previously lectured at Addis Ababa University. He has been delivering financial wellness training since 2014 and hosts AB Financial News, a bilingual daily broadcast in English and Amharic. Abnet's mission is to educate 100,000 people annually using the Maraki Economic Ladder™: Work → Career → Mission.

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