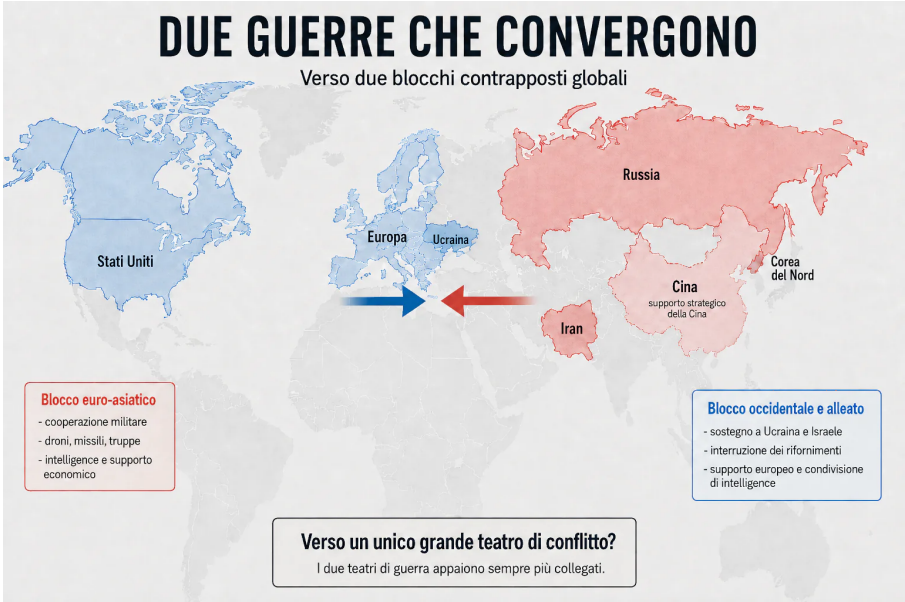

Iran and Ukraine, 2 Wars Converging Towards the Delineation of 2 Opposing Global Blocs

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The attack conducted by Ukraine against an Iranian merchant ship in the Caspian Sea — accused of transporting military equipment for Moscow — has brought the conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East to a dangerous point of convergence. Analysts highlight how the two crises are moving beyond their respective regional boundaries to openly delineate two major opposing global blocs:

The Euro-Asian Bloc: Russia, Iran, and North Korea (with strategic support from China)

This axis sees increasingly close and symbiotic military cooperation:

- **Russia and Iran:** Moscow has received drones from Tehran (initially deployed in Crimea) and ballistic missiles. In return, Russia actively provides Iran with advanced intelligence and

satellite surveillance, as well as interception data (SIGINT), to track movements and improve the accuracy of attacks against U.S. troops, ships, and military bases in the Middle East.

- **North Korea:** Pyongyang actively contributes by sending armaments and even troops to support Russia's war effort in Ukraine.
- **The role of China:** While maintaining a position of external support, Beijing acts as Moscow's main economic "enabler," is the largest buyer of Iranian oil, and is monitored by the United States for its companies' plans to supply advanced missiles (such as MANPADS) to Iran.

The Western and Allied Bloc: United States, Israel, and Ukraine (with external support from Europe)

On the opposite front, the coalition engaged in defending the international order and its partners is coalescing:

- **Ukraine:** Engaged in an existential conflict against the Russian invader, it uses any military means to disrupt supply lines directed to Moscow, wherever they originate. While clarifying that the attack on the ship was "involuntary" and not seeking direct escalation with Tehran, President Volodymyr Zelensky has offered intelligence to Western allies to expose the satellite cooperation between Russia and Iran, sending experts to help Middle Eastern countries defend against Iranian drones.
- **United States and Israel:** Involved in a large-scale conflict in the Middle East, they face Tehran's attacks while simultaneously supporting Kyiv. Analysts in Washington are pushing for strengthened American commitments to Israel and Ukraine precisely to counter this new anti-American coalition.
- **Europe:** Provides robust support to Ukraine, integrating into the defense network against the expansion of the Russian-Iranian axis.

Towards a Single Large Theater of Conflict?

The question that haunts governments worldwide today is whether these two conflicts will ultimately merge into a single open war encompassing Eurasia and the Middle East. The dynamics of these alliances demonstrate that the separation between theaters of war is

increasingly blurred.

Sources and References of the Article

The above analysis integrates the original investigation by the *New York Times* with international intelligence reports:

- Main reference publication: The New York Times ("*Ukraine's Strike on Iranian Ship Shows How Two Wars Could Spiral*", Edward Wong, July 31, 2026).
- Alina Polyakova: President of the *Center for European Policy Analysis* (CEPA), on the total intertwining of conflicts since 2022.
- *Russian satellite support to Iran:* Documented by investigations from the The Wall Street Journal and the The Washington Post (also covered by The Times of Israel), regarding the sharing of satellite images and SIGINT data to target U.S. forces in the Middle East.
- *The role of China:* Indicated in reports from publications like The Guardian and analyses from the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace as Moscow's economic pivot, main buyer of Iranian oil, and supplier of technological components and satellite images to support the axis's supply chains.
- *The role of North Korea:* Documented by intelligence reports and international publications like The Guardian regarding the active supply of armaments, ammunition, and troops, also facilitated by the development of dedicated logistics corridors at the border with Russia.