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**Seyed Hossein Mousavian**[Become a fan](#)

Head of Foreign Relations Committee of Iran's National Security Council (1997-2005)

If Congress Rejects the Iran Deal, It Would Be a Historic Blunder

Posted: 08/21/2015 7:19 pm EDT | Updated: 08/21/2015 7:59 pm EDT



The comprehensive nuclear [agreement](#) reached between Iran and six world powers represents a milestone achievement for the cause of global peace and security. Such a diplomatic resolution to a long-running dispute between rival powers has only rarely occurred in history. With this historic deal at hand, the dawn of a new age of relations between Iran and the United States is within sight.

It was not too long ago when tensions over the Iranian nuclear program had come to a head and the specter of a disastrous war loomed on the horizon. The situation had deteriorated to such an extent that Iran's nuclear activities had become perceived in the United States as a [foremost security threat](#) and had become a top-of-the-agenda international issue for other major powers. The International Atomic Energy Agency had also [come to designate](#) Iran as one of its top proliferation concerns. In Iran, the nuclear crisis had become the country's biggest national security challenge since the Iraqi invasion in 1980.

The morphing of the Iranian nuclear dispute into a zero-sum battle in which war seemed an inevitability, coupled with the presence of prudent leadership in Tehran and Washington that understood this reality, spurred the diplomatic approach that led to this deal. This roughly 100-page agreement, meticulously crafted by the indefatigable diplomats of Iran and the P5+1, not only averts another catastrophic war in the world's most volatile region, but sets new non-proliferation standards that can be applied throughout the world.

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The dawn of a new age of relations between Iran and the United States is within sight.

By ensuring a fully transparent Iranian nuclear program through verifiable mechanisms, this agreement blocks all possible paths Iran could take to build a nuclear bomb. It [will have Iran cease](#) its production and separation of plutonium, enrich only at the low-levels necessary for nuclear energy and not stockpile nuclear fuel beyond what it needs for its peaceful domestic needs. These are all principles that can be enshrined into international nuclear non-proliferation law. In return, Iran has won recognition of its right to [enrich uranium on its own soil](#) and secured the removal of the draconian sanctions regime that had been imposed against it.

Measures of this agreement can also be regionalized to mitigate the risk of a nuclear arms race ever occurring in the Middle East. This deal should be viewed as a step towards establishing a nuclear-weapons-free zone in the region. Given the spread of instability in the region and the hypertension-laden rivalries that exist between regional powers, the establishment of a NWFZ is imperative, and this nuclear agreement sets a positive precedent in this regard.

Finally, and most importantly, this agreement sets the stage for broader cooperation between Iran and the United States. Peace between Iran, a regional power, and the United States, a global superpower, would allow the two states to cooperate against their common adversaries, namely the jihadist groups plaguing the region such as the Islamic State, al Qaeda and the Taliban. Iran is an instrumental force leading the fight on the ground against these groups in Iraq, Afghanistan and Syria, and can be the United States' most effective partner in combatting them.

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Iran can be the United States' most effective partner in combatting the jihadist groups plaguing the region such as ISIS, al Qaeda and the Taliban.

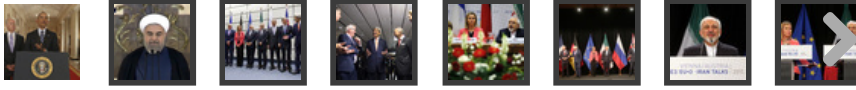
Of course, there are numerous obstacles to be overcome before such a relationship can be realized. Iran and the United States are on opposite sides of a chaotic civil war in Syria, Iranian allies like Hezbollah are considered terrorist organizations by the U.S. State Department, and American allies like Saudi Arabia and Israel are staunchly opposed to any U.S.-Iran détente. However, the fact is that as the Middle East descends into further anarchy and disorder, threatening to draw the United States into another costly and entangling conflict, Iran is in many ways the lynchpin to achieving a stabilizing equilibrium in the region.

The United States and Iran are both motivated by rational self-interest and a desire to maximize their national security. Sober realpolitik dictates that they should work together to achieve their mutual goals. Stability in Iraq and Afghanistan is clearly an interest the United States and Iran have in common, with both having essentially supported the same governments in Baghdad and Afghanistan since the toppling of their predecessors. This mutual interest has been demonstrated most consequentially in the fight against ISIS, which has seen both U.S. military and Iranian Revolutionary Guard advisors on the ground buttressing Iraqi forces.

In areas where serious differences exist, such as Syria and Yemen, these differences can be alleviated through the development of a diplomatic road map aimed at finding a political solution amicable to all relevant parties. In both Syria and Yemen, such a solution would ideally be centered on the following points: fostering inclusive cooperation in the fight against groups like ISIS and al Qaeda, preserving the territorial integrity of both countries, preventing the collapse of military and security institutions, advancing political transition through a power-sharing system that secures majority rule and minority rights and arranging a free election supervised by UN monitors. Such an outcome in Yemen and Syria would be in the interests of Iran and the United States.

Ultimately, peace between Iran and the United States can also clear the path for the construction of a regional cooperation system that provides security and stability to the Persian Gulf and ensures peace between Iran and its neighbors, most importantly Saudi Arabia. Such a development would secure the stable flow of hydrocarbons out of the Persian Gulf and lead to the end of the proxy wars consuming the region today. It would allow the United States to gradually withdraw from the region, saving it billions of dollars and allowing it to rededicate its resources and attention to more pressing concerns.

While on recess, members of Congress should be cognizant of the significance of this deal and resist pressure to quash it from special interests groups that benefit from never-ending hostility between the United States and Iran. Arguably the most tragic consequence of Congress killing the deal would be that it would eliminate the prospect for greater U.S.-Iran cooperation in the region on areas of mutual concern. It would lock in continued enmity between the United States and Iran, serving only to exacerbate tension and conflict across the Middle East. To go down this path when such a mutually advantageous alternative exists would truly be a blunder of historic proportions.



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Conversations

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Wirius Jackson

Everybody keeps forgetting this: Its a deal between us and four other countries, and highly approved by nuclear inspectors and scientists. NOW, the media doesn't want you to keep hearing this, because then there's no controversy. Without controversy, how will there be outrage? Without outrage, how will the media get you to click on their links?

Like · Reply · 39 · Aug 21, 2015 10:26pm



William Hudson · Wake Technical Community College

The corporate media is controlled or sympathetic to Israel, which is why no criticism of Israel is never allowed.

Like · Reply · 16 · Aug 21, 2015 11:28pm



David Dougherty · Greensboro, North Carolina

No, this is a deal with the US and France, The United Kingdom, China, Russia, Germany and the EU. The US and 5 other countries and the EU. Even more than you thought.

Like · Reply · 6 · Aug 23, 2015 10:53pm



Connie Paetsch

Sadly, our airwaves were sold to the highest bidders. 'The have's and have more's', George W. called them his base, bought our airwaves.

People are spun into thinking things that aren't true, because there is no honesty required. It's not illegal to distort what they report. I don't even think there are any laws, governing how they report. Sweet deal if you can get it.

But, until Americans stop moving along, when things are covered wrong, nothing will change. The court of public opinion, has the weapon of 'accountability and shame'. It's time we use it. Hold people accountable. Tell Congress to 'give peace a chance'!

Like · Reply · 5 · Aug 23, 2015 11:12pm

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DL Goldberg · Chief of Operations at Complaint Department


Everybody knows that if Romney had been elected and the agreement were exactly the same the Republicans would be 100% for it.

Like · Reply · 19 · Aug 21, 2015 11:36pm



Barry Headley · STNA at VA Hospital

who is everybody you speak of? people of both parties are against this

 who is everybody you speak of? people on both parties are against this deal and if Romney had won the election a bad deal like this would never have happened

Like · Reply ·  6 · Aug 22, 2015 5:20am



Richard Overman · North Kansas City High School

it would of been way different obama has done everything he can to bring down this country

Like · Reply ·  3 · Aug 22, 2015 7:33am



Richard Booth

Richard Overman I hope you are not in a teaching position at North Kansas High School. Wow!

Like · Reply ·  15 · Aug 23, 2015 10:59pm

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Thomas Prestwood · Crew Chief at Alsalam Aircraft Company

Right on, it would be a terrible mistake to APPROVE the deal. Who wrote this. Well consider the source!!!

Like · Reply ·  14 · Aug 21, 2015 8:13pm



Jozek Niegrol · University of New Hampshire

The consider another source: Two hours ago I listened to the former leader of the Mossad, Mr. Halevy. He fully supports this deal.

Like · Reply ·  23 · Aug 21, 2015 9:32pm



Rick Shlosser

Even high ranking Israeli military approve of the deal...you know more than they do?

Like · Reply ·  20 · Aug 21, 2015 10:42pm



Thomas Prestwood · Crew Chief at Alsalam Aircraft Company

Rick Shlosser I really really doubt that dont know where your getting that info.

Like · Reply ·  4 · Aug 21, 2015 10:51pm

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Valerie Jean


Israel's opposition has more to do with the shifting power balance and potential cooperation between the US and Iran than with concerns about the bomb that Iran DOESN'T HAVE.

Like · Reply ·  10 · Aug 22, 2015 8:38am



Elizabeth Pengson

we won't have this hassle if it weren't for Netanyahu's meddling.. & they know that..

Like · Reply ·  3 · Aug 24, 2015 5:58am



Thomas Prestwood · Crew Chief at Alsalam Aircraft Company

Elizabeth Pengson This admin has been Israels worst ally. Can't blame BB for defending his right to exist. BTW any Arab living with Israel has carte blanch they have full citizenship rights. Now let play that in the reciprocal.

Like · Reply · Aug 24, 2015 9:12am



Arthur Crichlow · Baruch College

Thomas Prestwood No more tail wagging the dog. Israel can fend for themselves while they expand their territories. Just remember Bibi stated that invading Iraq would bring a new level of stability in the ME.

Like · Reply ·  1 · Aug 24, 2015 10:00am

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Albert Tiller

Are they serious, here? It would be a mistake to reject the deal where Iran gets a nuclear-weapons-grade-Uranium program, they get what would be equivalent to us getting a trillion dollar windfall, they get 24 DAYS notice before an inspection, and then they get to SELF INSPECT with their own inspectors. Really? It would be a mistake to REJECT that?

Does Obamacare cover Medical Marijuana? Because it sounds like the President had been partaking when he came up with this godawful mess.

Like · Reply · 9 · Aug 21, 2015 7:51pm



Ralph Bolton · Professor of Anthropology at Pomona College

Yep, when he came up with this along with the other negotiating countries and all of their leaders, the United Nations, most of the reputable nuclear scientists, dozens of military leaders in both the US and Israel. It's Bibi who's been imbibing, probably cocaine. And all the Republicans (the do-as-I-say not as I do crowd).

Like · Reply · 33 · Aug 21, 2015 8:29pm



Thomas Prestwood · Crew Chief at Alsalam Aircraft Company

Ralph Bolton this totally inane and specious leftythinking. Just the sort of rubbish taught in our schools today.

Like · Reply · 6 · Aug 21, 2015 9:44pm



Thomas Prestwood · Crew Chief at Alsalam Aircraft Company

The UN is an impotent body of anti american nations. The goal is to weaken the USA at all costs could not be clearer. Yes dont get me wrong we have done wrong things I question the slaughter of the red man. The forced draft of Irish to fight in war of northern aggression. I even question the bginning of the Mexican american war. But this is game time. Serious

Like · Reply · 4 · Aug 21, 2015 9:47pm

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Sidney Wagner · Bishop Heelan Catholic High School

Iran has never cooperated with the United States since they got rid of the Shau. They tormented Jimmy Carter but yeilded to Ronald Reagan. They have absolutely on respect for our current pretender of a President.

Like · Reply · 7 · Aug 21, 2015 9:19pm



Phillip Ziegler · On the couch at Retired

Hope you aren't actually teaching Sidney. You're spelling is terrible and your knowledge history is shamefully inaccurate. Do you know that the US and British overthrew an elected government because the leaders wanted to nationalize British Petroleum. They installed the Shah who murdered and imprisoned thousands of progressive people. Making way for the religious zealots. And Reagan sold those zealots weapons. Read your history.

Like · Reply · 29 · Aug 21, 2015 9:57pm



Gregory Urbach · California State University, Northridge

What the heck are you talking about? Ronald Reagan did nothing about the hostages Iran took and then sold them missiles!

Like · Reply · 9 · Aug 21, 2015 10:13pm



Rick Shlosser

Gregory Urbach What Reagan did was make those hostages wait to be released until he did his back room deal with Iran to get elected...you went to college?

Like · Reply · 13 · Aug 21, 2015 10:45pm

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Pat Mason



The deal would be a disaster.

Like · Reply · 7 · Aug 22, 2015 1:52am



Barb Ann

Thank you for your prophetic vision of destruction.

On the other hand, the agreement through diplomacy, may lead to more understanding and less inter-state aggression in West Asia.

Like · Reply · 14 · Aug 22, 2015 6:55am



Scotty C Bryon

For the Arms Manufacturers

Like · Reply · 9 · Aug 22, 2015 9:25pm



Abraham de Mooy · Portland, Oregon

Pat have you read the deal , actually , or are you justshowing ignorance

Like · Reply · 8 · Aug 24, 2015 2:22am

[Show 2 more replies in this thread](#)



Sheila Khani

A nuke will never reach Israel, they have the technical capacity to prevent it. Iranian regime is fully aware of the catastrophic consequences of using or selling such a thing. So they can't possibly make a bomb to use it or sell it. Having a nuclear weapon is a sign of power. Iranian regime has won big in showing power without it by taking pleasure at everyone's blatant and brain-washed fear.

I much prefer to understand why Israel has 200 nuclear warheads?

Like · Reply · 5 · Aug 23, 2015 1:55am



Elizabeth Pengson

Iran is not stupid.. I ill s ay that.. t he one tempting fate is BB with all his tactics & antics.

Like · Reply · 3 · Aug 24, 2015 6:02am



Cynthia M Clemmons Lee · Columbus, Ohio

Thanks to President Obama the strangle hold on the middle east has been broken. The neocons have been eliminated from the years of pot stirring.If they ever go back, Iran will not be recognized by them.

Like · Reply · 6 · Aug 23, 2015 10:42pm



Ray Kraft

Republicans are dedicated to the cause of being America's historic blunderers.

"The fastest way to defeat my enemy is to make him my friend."

Abraham Lincoln

But Lincoln would find no welcome in the GOP today, way too liberal, too progressive, too intelligent, too rational, too sensible, too sane.

Like · Reply · 4 · Aug 24, 2015 9:20am

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