
Iran

- ✓ **Will the Iran Deal mark the start of an era of rapprochement between the U.S. and Iran?**
- ✓ **Does the nuclear deal assure the U.S. that Iran will not attempt to develop nuclear weapons?**
- ✓ **Can the U.S. pursue relations with Iran while maintaining strong ties with Israel and Saudi Arabia?**

Facts

Population: 81.824 million (2015 est.).

GDP: 387.6 billion (2015 est.).

Leaders: Sayyed Ali Hosseini Khamenei, 77, supreme leader of Iran; Hassan Rouhani, 67, president of Iran.

Important Dates.

1925: Reza Khan seizes power and becomes shah of Iran, taking on the name Reza Shah Pahlavi.

1941: Allied forces overthrow Reza Shah during WWII. His son, Mohammad Pahlavi, succeeds him.

1951: Mohammed Mossadegh, head of the coalition National Front party, becomes prime minister of Iran and begins the process of nationalizing the Iranian oil industry.

1953: A combined CIA and MI6 effort overthrows Mossadegh in a coup and reinstalls Mohammed Pahlavi as shah.

1979: The Iranian Revolution deposes the shah and Ruhollah Khomeini becomes supreme leader of the New Islamic Republic of Iran.

Iranian Relations with the U.S.

During the shah's rule, Iran was considered one of America's most reliable allies in the Middle East. Since the 1979 Iranian Revolution, relations with the United States have been adversarial. Anti-American sentiment in Iran is strong. Washington and

Tehran regularly find themselves on opposite sides of issues affecting the region, as Iran is a rival of both Saudi Arabia and Israel, the U.S.' main allies in the Middle East. The U.S. lifted longstanding sanctions against Iran with the successful completion of a landmark nuclear deal last year.

Current U.S. Policies

The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

JCPOA is the agreement between Iran, the UN Security Council and the European Union, reached in 2015. More commonly referred to as the “Iran Deal,” JCPOA pertains to the Iranian nuclear program and the longstanding sanctions levied against the country. The deal grants the International Atomic Energy Agency the right to monitor Iran’s nuclear facilities to ensure that they are not being used to develop weapons. The agreement also brings an end to the many economic sanctions that had been levied against Iran, including the freezing of overseas assets.

Candidate Positions



Hillary Clinton supports the Iran Nuclear Deal, but adopts a tougher tone than President Obama. She characterizes her attitude as “distrust and verify,” calling Iran a “subject” and not a “partner” in the agreement. She advocates for stronger sanctions against Iran for continued ballistic missile testing, and specifies that she would be ready to use military force should the country pursue nuclear weapons. She also emphasizes the need to contain Iranian and allied militant activity in the Middle East, and pledges continued military support to Israel.

As secretary of state, Mrs. Clinton spearheaded the Nuclear Deal negotiations between Tehran and Washington, and supported increased sanctions that pressured the country to come to the negotiating table.



Donald Trump opposes the entirety of the Iran Nuclear Deal as it now stands. He has criticized the unfreezing of \$150 billion of Iranian foreign assets, or what he calls the U.S. “giv[ing] \$150 to Iran,” and has also contended that the deal amounts to letting an untrustworthy Iran self-inspect its nuclear sites. He says he would tear up the deal with the intention of renegotiating for greater concessions. He has not articulated specific proposals for a revised deal.

Mr. Trump says he would punish Iran for ballistic missile testing and that he would significantly increase existing sanctions. In a speech addressed to the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, Mr. Trump called Iran “the biggest supporter of terrorism around the world.”

SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

- William J. Broad and Sergio Peçanha, *The Iran Nuclear Deal – A Simple Guide*, The New York Times. Jan. 15, 2015. <http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2015/03/31/world/middleeast/simple-guide-nuclear-talks-iran-us.html>
 - Kenneth Katzman, *Iran's Foreign Policy*, Congressional Research Service. Jun. 27, 2016. <https://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/mideast/R44017.pdf>
 - Kenneth Pollack, *U.S. Policy Toward the Middle East After the Iranian Nuclear Deal*, Committee on Foreign Relations, The United States Senate. Aug. 5, 2015. <http://www.brookings.edu/~media/research/files/testimony/2015/08/05-us-policy-iran-nuclear-deal-pollack/kenneth-pollack-testimony-before-the-senate-foreign-relations-committee.pdf>
-