



## **THE IRANIAN NUCLEAR AGREEMENT AND ITS IMPACT**

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The nuclear ambitions of Iran begin at the time of Shah Muhammad Riza Pahlavi 1957. In the context of the Eisenhower Program the U.S.A was one of the supporters of the Shah's nuclear vision. Moreover, the change of regime and the establishment of Islamic - theocratic state with the arrival in power of Ayatollah Khomeini in 1979 forced the West to adopt opposite policy on the Iranian nuclear program. So the long confrontation- controversy between the West and Tehran recently come to a historic agreement to settle the nuclear issue and ward off the military solution.

The international economic and geopolitical factors contributed to the acceptance of the Agreement by the West. Meanwhile Iran was hopping to come soon to an agreement in order to escape the devastating sanctions.

According to the new agreement, which is temporary, for six months, until negotiations are completed, within one year, there is recognition of the national rights of Iran to enrich uranium<sup>1</sup> but only at the 5% level<sup>2</sup>. Alongside western countries will proceed to a partial lifting of sanctions worth \$ 7 billion in form of

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<sup>1</sup> <http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2013/11/24/Rowhani-says-Iran-s-nuclear-rights-sealed.html>

<sup>2</sup> For the terms of the agreement see: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/middleeast/iran/10470976/Iran-nuclear-deal-what-are-the-terms-of-the-agreement.html>

trade. Already EU is likely to lift Iran sanctions in December<sup>3</sup> 2013. Nonetheless Iran seeks total lifting of sanctions mainly by the Security Council.

The historic agreement allows to the theocratic Islamic regime to follow the peaceful nuclear program which was banned mainly from Israel due to safety problem.

### **Consequences and Implications of Agreement**

The effects of the agreement will not be limited on solution of the nuclear issue but would be extended to other issues critical importance to the Middle East like the Syrian crisis. In addition, it shows that Iran returns to the international diplomatic chessboard, the strengthening of the Iranian role could lead to a cooling of relations between Saudi Arabia and the USA<sup>4</sup> but not to final rupture.

For Saudi Arabia, a possible significant Iranian role in the region could be more dangerous than the actual nuclear program. The Saudis believe that the agreement needs "good intentions<sup>5</sup> to be achieved but they do not exist!

The agreement will assist in the revitalization of the Iranian economy in particular the lifting of sanctions<sup>6</sup>. Already caused the immediate fall of oil prices \$ 2 per barrel<sup>7</sup> and led to the rise in the value of Iran's currency<sup>8</sup>, the important element is that the Iran's oil industry receives lifeline from nuclear agreement.

Furthermore, the decision to create the Iranian American Chamber, the launch of air service between the U.S. and Iran<sup>9</sup>, the strengthening of the role of Russia in the Middle East, the reopening of the plant oil extraction in the North Sea, where Iran controls 50% of the share<sup>10</sup> are some of the immediate consequences of the agreements.

Israel seems to be at present the biggest loser. The Israelis "lost" the opportunity to attack effectively with other forces against Iranian nuclear facilities. Today Tel

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<sup>3</sup> <http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2013/11/25/EU-likely-to-lift-Iran-sanctions-in-December.html>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/10/22/saudi-usa-idUSL5N0IC3QK20131022>

<sup>5</sup> <http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2013/11/25/Riyadh-Solution-on-Iran-needs-goodwill-.html>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/nov/26/in-iran-big-symbolic-payoff-in-sanctions-relief>

<sup>7</sup> [http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/business/2013/11/131125\\_iran\\_oil\\_prices\\_fall.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/business/2013/11/131125_iran_oil_prices_fall.shtml)

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.aljazeera.net/ebusiness/pages/19715f11-6168-4948-974d-dc94bd6a7b08>

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.alarabiya.net/ar/iran/2013/11/27/%D8%BA%D8%B1%D9%81%D8%A9-%D8%AA%D8%AC%D8%A7%D8%B1%D8%A9-%D8%A5%D9%8A%D8%B1%D8%A7%D9%86%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D8%A3%D9%85%D9%8A%D8%B1%D9%83%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D8%AF%D9%8A%D8%B3%D9%85%D8%A8%D8%B1-%D9%84%D8%AF%D9%81%D8%B9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B9%D9%84%D8%A7%D9%82%D8%A7%D8%AA-.html>

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.alarabiya.net/ar/iran/2013/11/26/%D8%A8%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%B7%D8%A7%D9%86%D9%8A%D8%A7-%D8%AA%D8%A8%D8%B9%D8%AB-%D8%AD%D9%82%D9%84%D8%A7-%D8%BA%D8%A7%D8%B2%D9%8A%D8%A7-%D8%AA%D9%85%D8%AA%D9%84%D9%83%D9%87-%D9%85%D9%86%D8%A7%D8%B5%D9%81%D8%A9-%D9%85%D8%B9-%D8%A5%D9%8A%D8%B1%D8%A7%D9%86.html>

Aviv is facing significant change in the strategic balance of forces in the region. Moreover, the agreement showed disagreement with the Americans<sup>11</sup>, where USA suggests safeguards could show Iran is not developing nuclear weapons, while Israel demands effective dismantlement.

The characterization of the agreement as a historic mistake<sup>12</sup> and it may be lead to war<sup>13</sup> are spontaneous reactions of Israeli because of embarrassment and diplomatic isolation of Tel Aviv.

The agreement causes an involuntary passive approach disaffected Arabs and Israelis. The decision by Israeli Prime Benjamin Netanyahu to freeze the construction of thousands of settlements in the Palestinian territories<sup>14</sup> was a right move to gather allies in the international community.

As one of the nuclear powers, Israel could use the achievement of peace with the Arabs as a strategic weapon against Iran. Resolving the Palestinian issue Israel would limit Iran within its borders, as would not be able to exploit the security vacuum of Arabs. In addition, Israelis could (after the Peace) use their economic influence by controlling the Arab market which is one of the biggest markets in the world by limiting Iran's access to this market.

## **Conclusion**

Iran is part of the international system since 1914 therefore efforts uncoupled excluded. Despite the good cooperation between Moscow and Tehran, Iran as a theocratic state that does not allow interference in its internal affairs serves western targets preventing the Russians to reach the Gulf area. Strengthening the Iranian role as source of threat and tension against Arab Gulf states, force these monarchies to depend on the U.S. to protect their thrones. In addition Shia Iran is a wedge between the Sunni nuclear Pakistan and the Arab countries. The nuclear deal confirmed the importance of the Iranian factor in the West, particularly in the financial sector. The agreement also indirectly allows Iran, playing a stronger role to intervene in Syria and spend billions of dollars to support Assad regime. From the other side Westerners know that long-term bleeding of Iran in the Syrian ground will force the Iranians to make significant concessions in the future even if it has cost tens of thousands of Syrians victims.

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<sup>11</sup> <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/10/israel-us-differ-iran-nuclear-file-20131023133939371927.html>

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/nov/24/israel-condemns-iran-nuclear-deal-binyamin-netanyahu>

<sup>13</sup> <http://www.aljazeera.net/news/pages/29836197-32a0-47a6-91b0-03ffc5314f1>

<sup>14</sup> <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/nov/13/binyamin-netanyahu-west-bank-settlement-plan>