
Iranian Nuclear Deal: Future Perspectives and Implications for the Region

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The Iranian Nuclear programme remains the center of attraction for the international community since its inception. The programme has its implications, both for the regional and the global politics. This nuclear program started under "Atoms for Peace" has turned into "Atoms for Hostility". Fast changing international politics has converted this program from a non-negotiable issue to a matter of diplomatic resolution. Both Iran and the West remained at loggerheads for most of the time regarding this programme. This hostility not only influenced the involved parties but also the rest of global community. This paper seeks to study the reasons why Iran restarted its nuclear program? How have the hard stances of both Iran and West affected the regional and global politics? And what are the likely implications of the recent Iran-West deal?

Iranian's Nuclear program which was started as program of the "Atoms for Peace" with the full cooperation of West has been a source of conflict between Iran and the International Community since 1979 when Iran came under the rule of Islamic Clerics. Since then, the friends have been at logger's head and both parties were not ready to step down from their stand on the issue. Although the program was halted after Islamic Revolution but after Iran-Iraq war in 1980s, Iran felt that it needed a string

deterrent for its enemies as international and regional powers stood with Iraq in that war. Despite the opposition of Western countries especially of USA, the Islamic regime continued its nuclear program and as a result, the state had to face hard sanctions by states and organizations. These policies by other global actors made Iran harder in its stance towards the program. The recent conflict arose in 2005 when Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad restarted the Arak heavy water plant and at the same time, he started criticising the USA. Throughout his rule, Ahmadinejad held this stance which resulted in more sanctions, making the domestic and economic situation of Iran weaker with time. These sanctions made deep impact on Iran and also on international economy and regional atmosphere. The hard line policies of Ahmadinejad faced opposition in global circle, but also with in the Iranian state political elite and masses were not happy with him which they showed in the last presidential elections and chose a reformist president Hassan Rouhani who showed his good intentions towards the West and eventually struck a deal by using the tools of diplomacy with P5+1. Although the deal is on temporary pre-conditions but in case it became permanent, it will not only boost up the global economic market but also increase the regional stability.

Place in Literature

In her book "Post Revolutionary Iran Policy" the writer Lubna Abid Ali has discussed the circumstances and change of Iranian stance after the Islamic Revolution in the country. The writer discusses the Iranian relation with its neighboring Arab states, regional counter parts and relations with US and about the turnaround of the Iranian foreign policy under the rule of Khomeini pursued especially towards the US and Israel.

The book titled "The Iran Threat: President Ahmadinejad and the Coming Crisis" by Ali Reza Jafarzadeh described the political emergence of Iranian president Ahmadinejad, his views about the West and the hostile behaviour towards US, the structure of

Iranian nuclear programme and the threat perception of the world from the Iranian nuclear program.

In his book "The Iranian Nuclear Crisis: A Memoir." The writer Syed Husain Mousavi wrote about the history of the Iranian nuclear program and tried to give a work plan for a deal or bargain between Iran and the West which could be useful for both sides and to support his case he gave references from many texts and reports in his work

In the article written under the title of "Iranian Revolution of 1979: The Down Fall Of American Iranian Relations" the writer Krysta Wise put forwarded various reasons of deterioration in the US-Iran relations after the Islamic revolution in Iran. The writer gives a complete overview of the sudden change in policies of both states which were allies and became antagonistic over a short time period.

In his article Hassan Rouhani "Change for New Hope" the writer David Menashri gives a detailed view of reformist Hassan Rouhani and his emergence in political spheres of Iran. He writes about Rouhani's approach to Western community and his consent to make a deal with the US and the European states to secure a sanctions free Iran for the prosperity of its people.

This research will focus on the following questions:

- Why did the Iranian nuclear program "Atoms for Peace" become a threat for the Western Countries?
- What were the reasons behind West hostile stance regarding Iranisnuclear program?
- How with this deal affect the regional stability and global political economy?



Source: <http://prophecytracker.org/2013/10/nuclear-iran-a-month-away/>

Historical Perspective and Development

Atoms for Peace: The Shah Regime (1950-60)

Iranian nuclear program was established in 1957 under an agreement with US under the cooperation program named as "Atoms for Peace" which was followed by purchasing of 5W research reactors in 1960 for the Tehran University. This program of Atoms for Peace was first advocated by American president Eisenhower in his address to the United Nations in 1953 in which he presented the idea of Global Atomic Energy Agency which will keep a check on the atomic activities around the globe and especially of Nuclear States and with this idea he gave the proposal of the usage of the nuclear material for "*the peaceful pursuit of mankind*". Tehran University reactor provided by US was fueled with highly enriched uranium while Iran signed the non-Proliferation Treaty in 1968 on the day of its opening and ratified it in 1970.

Iranian Nuclear Ambitions (1974-79)

The Iran Atomic Energy Organization (IAEO) was established in 1974 by Raza Shah Pahlavi and announced his intentions for the

atomic energy for the future which will ultimately include 20 nuclear power reactors. This strategy of Iran got the total support of Western powers and United States of America especially France and Germany who were keenly interested in selling _____ power reactors to Iran. An agreement was signed in 1974 between Iran and the German company Kraftwerk Union which is now known as Siemens. The agreement was for building the primary power reactors in Bushehr and to ensure the availability of low enriched uranium fuel, millions of dollars were invested by Iran in Europe because the enrichment plant was of French origin. Further, Iran also financed a project to get enrichment through laser. Along with Iran also showed its interest in purchasing a plutonium separation plant for domestic use and to handle power reactor which was opposed by the USA (Mousavian, 2012, pp. 25-27):. Behind all these policies and agreements there was the Iranian interest to get the nuclear weapons. According to an Iranian expert in Nixon Centre, Geoffrey Camp: "*The Shah's nuclear program was motivated partly by potential nuclear threats from Israel, Iraq, Pakistan, India, and the Soviet Union*"

Iranian Revolution and Hostile Regional Scenario (1979-88)

The Revolution in Iran of 1979 changed the nature of relations altogether and the supporters of Iranian nuclear program became its opponent. Although new Islamic regime decided to halt the nuclear program but total change in regional atmosphere forced Iran to restart its nuclear program especially after war with Iraq in which the US sanctioned Iran became the target of chemical weapons and Scud Missiles from Iraq resulted in massive casualties. This war made Iran realize that she needed a strong deterrent. Richard Perry wrote "*The Iran-Iraq war taught the Iranians a valuable lesson about the importance of having a credible deterrent force of its own; Iran had none, and they were extremely vulnerable*"

Iran first put the Bushehr plant in operation again without any external support and then contact with Dr. AQ Khan was established as per reports of IAEA, Iranian efforts to develop a gas centrifuge program started in mid 1980s for which they wanted an open source, (Albright, 2007, p.1). According to another report of IAEA published in 2004: *"In 1987, it acquired from Khan a set of technical drawings for a P-1 centrifuge and some samples of centrifuge components., according to Iran, gas centrifuge R&D testing began at TNRC in 1988 and continued there until 1995, when those activities were moved to a workshop of the Kalaye Electric Company, a company in Tehran belonging to the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI)"* After numerous diplomatic efforts Iran was successful in signing a deal with Russia in 1995 for the completion of Bushehr complex which will be under the restrictions applied by the IAEA.

Steady Developments (1988-2002)

This time period proved to be the most successful in Iranian nuclear ambitions especially its policy of acquiring full nuclear cycle, strong uranium mining infrastructure, research and development and establishment of uranium conversion and enrichment program. In pursuit of her goals, Iran secretly imported 1 metric ton of uranium hexafluoride (UF₆) from China but both countries did not report to IAEA about this transaction until 1991. China was not obliged to report to agency as it was not signatory to NPT but Iran was supposed to inform the agency as she is under the obligation of IAEA safeguards agreement. According to IAEA reports in 1994 Iran got the first of two shipments of design, drawing and components of 500 P-1 centrifuges

During 1994 and 1999, IAEA came to know about 13 meetings between Iran and members of "clandestine supply network". Iran also got her hands on the advanced P-2 centrifuge in 1995 but due to lack of professional expertise it remained unable to use it until 2002. Despite the aggressive US diplomacy, Iran and Russia kept on working on the Bushehr project in which

Russia was providing the fuel and taking it back after its use in the reactor. However, the US became successful in halting Russia from providing Iran with a centrifuge enrichment facility which was the part of their agreement (Fiore, 2011, p.3)

Iran conducted cold tests on some centrifuges in 1999 and 2002 which were installed at Kalaye Electric Company by using China provided UF₆. The major development in the Iranian nuclear program was the construction of Natanz enrichment facility in 2001. On August 14, 2002, the National Congress of Resistance Iran (NCRI) held a press conference in Washington DC in which they revealed the ongoing activities in Arak and Natanz although NCRI did not suspect Natanz as a full enrichment facility but this credit goes to ISIS which showed the satellite images of Natanz in December 2002 which identified it as a gas centrifuge site.

IAEA Investigation and Diplomacy (2002-05)

During this period, prominent Western powers decided to launch a diplomatic mission in Iran to make Iran agree for halting its nuclear program. In 2003, three European states Britain, France and Germany which are also known as EU-3 launched diplomatic negotiations with Iran. Both Parties met and on November 15, 2004, EU-3 with the support of High representatives of European Union and Iran reached an agreement which is called Paris Agreement under which Iran was supposed to halt its program on a temporary basis and the negotiations were to be conducted on long term arrangements. This agreement states that Iran will *"Continue and extend its suspension to include all enrichment related and reprocessing activities, and specifically: the manufacture and import of gas centrifuges and their components; the assembly, installation, testing or operation of gas centrifuges; work to undertake any plutonium separation, or to construct or operate any plutonium separation installation; and all tests or production at any uranium conversion...."* While the work related to the enrichment of the uranium remained suspended for two years, Iran kept on

research, development and construction of centrifuges and in 2005, the state restarted the uranium conversion at the Esfahan facility (ISIS Report, 2005, pp. 1-3)

Friends Become Enemies

Iranian nuclear program is facing strong opposition from the world especially from USA but a glance at history tells that this program was started with the full help and cooperation of United States and the president of US provided nuclear technology to Iran under the banner of "Atoms for peace". Many experts believe that the real reason for establishment of Iranian nuclear program was the Iran's alliance with western block during Cold War and during that period the US not only provided it with nuclear technology but also encouraged Iranian authorities to diversify its nuclear programme and to acquire "a number of nuclear reactors". This idea came from the Stanford Research Institute which influenced Raza Shah Pehalvi to acquire 23 nuclear reactors. In 1975, a deal was signed between Massachusetts institute of Cordesman and Al-Rodhan to give training to the Iranian nuclear scientists. Other countries like France helped Iran in building the nuclear technology Centre in mid 1970s and China gave support in Esfahan facility establishment (Cordesman, Rodhan, 2006, pp. 20-21).

The Iranian revolution in 1979 changed the total course of relations between the West and the US as Khomeini and its regime decided to run Iran under the Muslims law and the close friend like USA became "Great Satan" in matter of days (Ali, 2008). Khomeini blamed US that because of her and her exploitation of Iranian resources and money, Iran had to face a revolution in which Iranian blood was shed. In response, US congress passed a decree against Iranian government which resulted in massive Anti-American protests in Iran and even refused to accept the US ambassador in the country as according to Khomeini: "*All the problems of the East stem from those foreigners*

from the West, and from America at the moment. All our problems come from America"

Six main incidents trace the declining trajectory of relations between Iran and the US:

- The removal of US "containment"
- The alteration of oil policies
- A change in US-Iranian arms sales agreement
- US disapproval of Iran's lack of "Human Rights"
- The Iranian hostage crisis
- The US embargo on Iran (Wise, 2011, pp. 7-8)

Hard Stance towards West

After establishment of the Islamic regime the Iranian state has adopted the hard stance towards most of the West and especially towards USA. The American establishment believed that this hard stance will fade away with time and moderate government will come into power in Iran but it did not happen. The Iranian hard policy towards West was mostly because of Iranian perceptions about the double standards of Western countries especially regarding her nuclear program.

The Western powers and US have established international law themselves and use it according to their interests. According to Iran, their policies have caused instability in the region as on one hand Israel has their total support for its nuclear programme but on the other hand that community has imposed sanctions on Iran being in the same region. Although Iran has declared many times that her nuclear program is for peaceful purposes and to maintain the regional power balance against Israel but the Islamic state has been the main target of international embargos and rules of international law.

This point of view has also been carried by the reformist elite of Iran including presidential candidate of 2009 elections Hossein Mousavi who was the critic of Iranian policy of enhancing the nuclear capability but he also stated: *"We are talking here about Iran's right to possess and develop nuclear technology"* similarly the Iranian ex-chief nuclear negotiator Ali Larijani who was not on right terms with Ahmadinejad has the same point of view. Zbigniew Brzezinski President Carter's national security advisor described the US behavior towards Iran as *"Silly and Disturbed"* and this attitude pushes Iran outside the process of negotiations which resulted in the loss of both sides. He said that Western demand about *"stoppage of uranium enrichment from Iran of a precondition for dialogue is neither understandable nor justified"* (Bsaikri, 2009, pp.12-13).

Iranian government holds the view that major source of the conflict is the constant American threat to the Iranian Islamic regime and it can be clearly seen in the 2007 policy paper of Iran which stated:

"From the inception of the Islamic Republic of Iran, (the United States and the West) have assailed the existence, independence and sovereignty of our country by raising issues such as human rights, export of revolution, women's rights, minorities rights, sponsoring terrorism, opposition to the so-called Middle East peace process, efforts to destabilize Iraq and Afghanistan, and finally our peaceful nuclear technology as pretext. America, under the slogan of sponsoring democracy, explicitly talks about regime change in one of the most democratic countries in the region and the world"

On the nuclear issue, Iran holds the opinion that the state is only doing what Nuclear- Proliferation Treaty has allowed it to do which gives them the right to use the nuclear technology for the civil nuclear power but the Americans keep insisting that Iranian nuclear program is actually for the purpose of Nuclear weapons. The US administration has already declared that Iran is not

building the bomb yet. So, while resisting the international pressure, Iran has adopted policies of its own gradually increasing the number of centrifuges for uranium enrichment from 164 in 2006 to almost 9000 in Natanz and 3000 in Fordow till 2012. At the same time, Tehran has provided logistic support to the militant groups against Israel in the region and also in Iraq (Shahid Saleh, Amirahamdi, 2013, pp. 145-147).

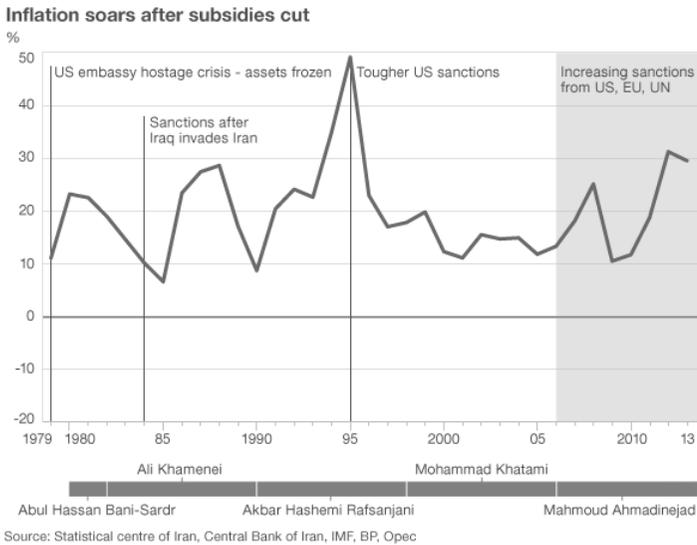
The last major confrontation between Iran and the West began in 2005 because of some specific, timely actions and strategies adopted by Iran which lead to the beginning of new brinkmanship with international community in the context of its nuclear program. Foremost action was taken by Ahmadinejad, which he took just after holding the office by sending a notification to IAEA regarding restarting of the conversion of uranium in Esfahan Nuclear Technology Centre (GOV/2005/67 2005, p. 13) and that conversion started after a short time (GOV/2005/87, 2005, p. 4) and this aggressive behavior was completely opposite to the Iranian soft tone since 2002 after the discovery of its hidden nuclear facilities. The second critical step was taken by Ahmadinejad when during his address to United Nations in 2002, he stated that it is Iran's *"inalienable right to have access to a nuclear fuel cycle"* and severely criticized U.S policies and actions towards Iran which left no doubt that Iran was adopting a new and aggressive strategy regarding its nuclear programme (Jason J, Blackstock, 2007, p. 8). The Iranian president carried the religious point of view regarding the politics and the nuclear programme and while defending his hard stance for the nuclear programme he stated: *"The enemies of Islamic Republic are furious because Iranian nation has dared to grow its self-confidence out of their domination sphere"* (Jafarzadeh, 2007, p. 32)

Result of Hard Stance

Iran had maintained its hard stance against the West and US but as a result, it had to face severe sanctions from the

international community. These sanctions varied in different regimes and in different regional and international issues.

The following chart depicts the variations in the rate of inflation as a result of sanctions on Iran since 1979



Source: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-22840729>

New Iranian Perspective towards West

The sanctions and isolation from international community and trade made a deep negative impact on Iran's domestic infrastructure and economy especially in Ahmadinejad's era in which president of Iran took a real hostile stance towards the West. This policy of Iranian president not only engendered enmity at global level but also established a negative opinion and opposition within the state which ultimately led to the victory of reformist candidate in 14th presidential Iranian election. Even the members of Revolutionary Guards which are considered to be hardliners against West were not happy with the Ahmadinejad's policies as one former Revolutionary Guard and pro-regime writer said: *"It baffles me how our current political leaders don't*

understand that their hardline rhetoric will only bring more trouble for the country" A commander of Revolutionary Guards even stated *"Ahmadinejad's presidency has been the most destructive eight years in our regime's history"*. The Following chart depicts the worsening economic situation of Iran in recent years

Net Oil Revenues

| | |
|--------------|---------------|
| 2011 | 2012 |
| \$95 Billion | \$ 69 Billion |

Source: Economic Intelligence Unit

Cost of Living (Pound Sterling)

| Years | Beef (1Kg) | Milk (1 Liter) | Bread | Rice (1 Kg) |
|-------|------------|----------------|-------|-------------|
| 2007 | 0.88 | 0.10 | 0.06 | 0.02 |
| 2013 | 5.00 | 0.45 | 0.11 | 1.44 |

Source: Statistic Centre of Iran

With the passing of the second term of Ahmadinejad which was based on a policy of hostility towards West, it increased the ideological gap among the political elite of the state. The top politicians of Iran knew that they cannot afford to walk on the same path and they feel "Ashamed" and "Disgusted" for the policies adopted by the Iranian president and were deeply worried for the country's future had the same opinion *"this is not what we wanted to create"* and even the supreme leader was pragmatic about these policies along with Revolutionary Guards , Parliamentary Basij who all wanted to take the state on the new path for its survival in the international community (Bajoghli, 2013, p.1)

This dissatisfaction with Ahmadinejad led to the sweeping victory for Hassan Rouhani in the June 14 presidential election of Iran which clearly showed that even Iranian masses wanted their state on a different path and adoption of anew foreign policy. The new president was fully aware of the wishes of people and the need for a new policy towards the West and about their nuclear program (Menashri, 2013, p. 7).

After assuming office, Hassan Rouhani declared that he was ready to hold talks with Washington although it would turn out to be a highly risky move for both the countries as in the past, both the states have not trusted each other resulting in more conflict between the both the states. Rouhani can overcome this barriers he has the ability to break the deadlock of 35 years between both states which can clarify their perspectives about each other and explain the national narrative leading to fruitful results for both the parties. (Byrne, 2013, p. 5).

Iran-West Deal

The Positive vibes from the Iranian government, nominations of the experienced diplomat Mr. Jawad Zarif as their foreign minister, the speech of Barak Obama at United Nations on September 24, 2013 in which he hinted that US is ready to talk referring to the "Fatwa" by the Iranian Supreme leader and successful diplomacy of P-5 states, resulted in the historical Iranian-West deal on November 24, 2013. Although a temporary arrangement with all its "ifs" and "buts" none the less, it is considered to be major success for the Iranian diplomacy as well as the foreign policy of Obama.

The participants of this meeting were Iranian foreign minister Jawad Zarif, US secretary of State John Kerry, Britain's Foreign Secretary William Hague, French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius, and Foreign Ministers of Germany, Russia and China, Guiso Westerwelle, Sergey Lavrov and Wang Yi however the critical role in making this deal happen is of EU's foreign Policy Chief Catherine Ashton. These politicians had complete three sessions of talks since September and after the deal, John Kerry stated : *"This deal actually rolls back the program from where it is today. I will not stand here in some triumphal moment and claim that this is an end in itself. The bigger task was to go forward and negotiate a comprehensive deal"*(Borger, Dehgan, 2013, p. 1)

The deal has been signed for a time period of six months and under these conditions it will be completely impossible for Iran to build a nuclear weapon secretly and in return Iran will be freed from the sanctions and will be given access to the frozen accounts in some of the western states but in case of violation by Iran, the sanctions will be re-imposed (Garrin, Werrack, 2013, p. 2).

The White House issued a "Fact Sheet" of the Six month deal. Under this deal Iran has to:

- "Halt all enrichment (above 5 percent and dismantle the technical connections required to enrich above 5 percent.
- Iran has committed to neutralize its stockpile of near-20 Percent uranium:
- Dilute below 5 percent or convert to a form not suitable for further enrichment its entire stockpile of near-20 percent enriched uranium before the end of the initial phase.

Iran has committed to halt progress on its enrichment capacity:

- Not install additional centrifuges of any type.
- Not install or use any next-generation centrifuges to enrich uranium.
- Leave inoperable roughly half of installed centrifuges at Natanz and three-quarters of installed centrifuges at Fordow, so they cannot be used to enrich uranium.
- Limit its centrifuge production to those needed to replace damaged machines, so Iran cannot use the six months to stockpile centrifuges.
- Not construct additional enrichment facilities.

Iran has committed to halt progress on the growth of its 3.5 percent stockpile:

- Not increase its stockpile of 3.5 percent low enriched uranium, so that the amount is not greater at the end of the six months than it is at the beginning, and any newly enriched 3.5 percent enriched uranium is converted into oxide.

Iran has committed to no further advancement of its activities at Arak and to halt progress on its plutonium track. Iran has further committed to:

- Not to commission the Arak reactor.
- Not to fuel the Arak reactor.
- Halt the production of fuel for the Arak reactor.
- No additional testing of fuel for the Arak reactor.
- Not to install any additional reactor components at Arak.
- Not to transfer fuel and heavy water to the reactor site.
- Not to construct a facility capable of reprocessing. Without reprocessing, Iran cannot separate plutonium from the spent fuel.
- Provide daily access by IAEA inspectors at Natanz and Fordow. This daily access will permit inspectors to review surveillance camera footage to ensure comprehensive monitoring. This access will provide even greater transparency into enrichment at these sites and shorten detection time for any non-compliance.
- Provide IAEA access to centrifuge assembly facilities.
- Provide IAEA access to centrifuge rotor component production and storage facilities.
- Provide IAEA access to uranium mines and mills.
- Provide long-sought design information for the Arak reactor. This will provide critical insight into the reactor that has not previously been available.

- Provide more frequent inspector access to the Arak reactor.
- Provide certain key data and information called for in the Additional Protocol to Iran's IAEA Safeguards Agreement and Modified Code 3.1".

In return to these steps taken by Iran, the state will get some limited, temporary and targeted, reversible benefits from the international community which include:

- Not impose new nuclear-related sanctions for six months, if Iran abides by its commitments under this deal, to the extent permissible within their political systems.
- Suspend certain sanctions on gold and precious metals, Iran's auto sector, and Iran's petrochemical exports, potentially providing Iran approximately \$1.5 billion in revenue.
- License safety-related repairs and inspections inside Iran for certain Iranian airlines.
- Allow purchases of Iranian oil to remain at their currently significantly reduced levels -- levels that are 60 percent less than two years ago. A sum of \$4.2 billion from these sales will be allowed to be transferred in installments if, and as, Iran fulfills its commitments.
- Allow \$400 million in governmental tuition assistance to be transferred from restricted Iranian funds directly to recognized educational institutions in third countries to defray the tuition costs of Iranian students (CNN Report, 2013)

The Fatwa

"Fatwa" was the magic word in the speech of Barack Obama at the United Nations which took the attention of the hard liners in Iran that there is something serious in the US president's approach for settlement. (Hashem, 2013, p. 1) Since then this Fatwa is

under study and its authentication has been discussed frequently. There are Fatwas by Ayatollah Khomeini and Ayatollah Khamenai against the use of nuclear Weapons and they called it "Haram" in Islam as these cause the destruction human beings at an unacceptable scale.

Khomeini Fatwa

The supreme leader of Iranian revolution Ayatollah Khomeini gave a Fatwa about which Iranian authorities were told in 1995 in which he stated *"the use of nuclear weapons and all other types of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) is forbidden or haram constituting a sin, while being useless, costly, harmful and a serious threat to humanity"* During Iran-Iraq war in 1980s Iraq used the WMDs on Iran killing 100,000 Iranian citizens but Khomeini was even not in favor of using these weapons at that time (Mousavian, 2012, p. 2).

Khamenai Fatwa

The present supreme leader of Iran issued an oral Fatwa in October 2003 in which he forbade the use and production of WMDs as he stated *"the production, stockpiling, and use of nuclear weapons are forbidden under Islam and that the Islamic Republic of Iran shall never acquire these weapons."* Since then the Iranian authorities have referred to it many times while presenting their case to IAEA. On March 21, 2005 he said *"(Western government) lie and say that we are engaged in making a bomb. They know that the production of an atomic bomb is not on our agenda. The Iranian people should know it...Using atomic weapons to destroy other nations is an American behavior...Islam does not allow us (to produce the atomic bomb)."*

Again on June 4 and November 9, 2006, he openly stated in his speeches "

"The West claims that Iran is after a nuclear bomb. This is untrue and is a pure lie. We do not need nuclear bombs. We do not have any target against which we can use nuclear bombs. We believe that using nuclear weapons is against Islamic rulings (ahkam). We have explicitly announced this. We believe that imposing on our people the cost of producing and

stockpiling nuclear weapons is absurd. Production of such weapons and their preservation is very costly and we do not see it [as] right to impose these costs onto our people.

This is not right to use science in order to produce. . . nuclear weapons. [Because] when such a bomb is dropped somewhere, it would kill both guilty and innocent, armed individuals, young children, babies, and oppressed human beings. A science used for this end and a country in possession of such a weapon and its development would be led to this point which we do not approve [of]; we do not like such change”(Eisenstaedt, Khalaji, 2011, pp. 1-14).

Global Implications of the Deal

Iran was once the second largest oil exporter with 4th largest oil reserves in the world but sanctions and trade embargos have badly affected its oil industry as it has dropped to 700,000bpd in 2013 from 2.2 million bpd several years back. According to many experts Iran is a sleeping economic giant and on getting chance it will regain its previous place in international market. *“It may not take a long time for Iran to reach pre-sanction levels, as it stopped production only due to declining exports,”* said Sara Vashkuori, president of Washington based SVB Energy International. Iran’s return to the oil market will give it a “positive shock” and the prices can plunge down to US \$20 per barrel (Husain, 2013, pp. 1-2)

Relations with US

The relations between both the states have gone from bad to worse sine 1979 firstly on account of Islamic Revolution and secondly the issue of Iranian Nuclear programme. Iran has faced the US sanctions since 1995 imposed by the US president Bill Clinton and were tightened in the subsequent years. However the, recent elections in Iran, moderate Rouhani’s victory and a the deal struck between the US and Iran have turned the relations towards a positive direction Barak Obama has directly talked to Hassan Rouhani over phone which is highest-level of

communications between the two states in three decades. The trust-building steps are being taken by both parties but despite the deal the US secretary of State John Kerry has clearly stated that US will maintain close relations with Israel to keep the balance in the region.

Relations with EU

EU is the main trading partner of Iran with \$6.6 billion trade between them in 2012 and although EU follows the lead of US regarding relations with Iran still EU states want more trade and economic relations with the Islamic state and that's why the Foreign Policy Chief of EU Catherine Ashton played a leading role in the Iran-West deal. This deal can lead to greater economic cooperation and boost for both parties.

Regional Implications

The deal between Iran and P5+1 has its regional implications as outlined below:

- Israel is not happy with this deal and has declared it as "Historic Mistake" and Netanyahu has even said : *"The world has become a much more dangerous place because the most dangerous regime in the world has taken a significant step toward attaining the most dangerous weapon in the world"* This approach of Israel is clearly suggesting that it will try its best to keep the balance of power in the region in its favor and hostile atmosphere will develop in the region
- Saudi Arabia is also not pleased on this deal and its silence on this issue shows the hostile reaction of the state. Although both states are Islamic but because following the opposite schools of theology both states are at logger's head and are fighting proxy wars in the region against each other. This deal can lead to greater conflicts between the two states(Aljazeera, 2013, pp. 2-5)

- Russia and China have condoned this deal as these are major trading partners of Iran and it will lead to greater trade cooperation between these states
- Pakistan can take benefits from this deal and increase its trade with Iran especially for its energy needs but Pakistan will have to face the pressure of Saudi Arabia and the US in the case of the gas pipeline project with Iran
- This deal will lead to a larger Iranian role in Iraq and Afghanistan as Iran can invest more in these countries to stabilize the region and it can build a new “Silk Road” to Central Asian States to boost economic cooperation
- Iran and Turkey have been increasing the economic ties with each other especially after the West disconnected its business with Iran but on the other hand both states can go to conflict on the issues of regional economic hegemony and Syria

Findings

- Iranian nuclear program was started by the full support of Western powers but after fall off their ally regime , it was sanctioned
- Despite sanctions, Iran was somewhat successful in developing its uranium enrichment ability
- The nuclear program has been and still remains the priority of the Iranian regime, it is not ready to halt the programme completely
- Good diplomacy has created good results for Iran
- In case of success of this deal , Iran will emerge as a strong good thriving regional economy with significant states at the international level

Suggestions/Temporary Arrangements

- Iran should cooperate with IAEA and give them access to complete their inspection
- Diplomacy is the strongest tool of Iran right now, so the state should use it to gain more allies
- Israel and Saudi Arabia are not happy from this deal, so Iran should again use its diplomacy to reduce tension and should avoid any conflict with these states
- Iran should increase the regional economic cooperation with Pakistan, China, India and Russia to make its economy strong and to ensure domestic prosperity

Conclusions

The Iranian nuclear program has remained a matter of concern not only for Iran but also for the international community. The programme which was started with the full cooperation of Western powers became a critical threat for the same entities. The program was started under Raza Shah Pahlavi's regime was halted by Islamic regime after 1979 revolution in Iran. The Islamic leadership of Iran considered Nuclear weapons "haram" as these are dangerous for humanity. The Iranian government was forced to restart its nuclear programme after the Iran-Iraq war in 1980s. Iran was isolated during that war and targeted by Iraqi chemical weapons. After the restart of program, it faced strong opposition from the regional and global actors. Iran opted for hard stance for its nuclear program and refused to compromise on this matter. The major factor behind this stance was the double standards of the West because they favored Israeli nuclear ambitions in the same region while targeted the Iranian nuclear program with embargoes and sanctions. Although, the non-compromising policy of Iran was successful in increasing her nuclear capabilities but at the same time on other hand the economic and domestic infrastructure started crumbling. The

hard-line policies by the last Iranian government not only faced opposition at global level but the Iranian masses also started to agitate against it. The worse economic conditions and isolation at the global level led to change in leadership in Iran. The newly elected government is moderate and inclined to negotiations. This policy and successful diplomacy by Iran and P5+1 resulted in the historical nuclear deal between both the parties. This nuclear deal though a temporary step will have deep implications for the regional politics and global economy in the future.

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