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## IRANIAN NUCLEAR PROGRAM: IMPLICATIONS ON MIDDLE EAST

### Abstract

*Iran has an essential influence on Middle East Politics, as a consequence of its geo-strategic and geo-political position. Iran's Nuclear Program can maintain the balance of power in this region in its personal favor but the other opposing countries from the region are expected to oppose such a program. Iran as a coming regional power in the Middle East always tries to apply the strategy of non-conventional weaponry to influence bordering states to begin their own nuclear weapons programs to maintain a balance of power in the region of Middle East. With the number of expectation, it become almost traditional perception to adopt that Iran with nuclear weapons really is bad for neighboring countries, Particularly Middle East region. It is completely meaningful phenomenon that Iran is evolving as a nuclear power can be encouraged as a matter of geopolitical and geo-strategic in the region. It is a dangerous threat to Israel and others that can lead to a bigger nuclear-armed race, nuclear enhancement between the regional powers. The purpose of this research paper is to explore the implications of the Iranian nuclear program and to discourse the ambition of Iranian nuclear policy in the Middle East.*

**Keywords:** Iranian Nuclear Program, Middle East, Nuclear Threat

### Introduction

Iran is known to be as one of the largest countries in the region of the Middle East, and it is one of the world's oldest and most important communities. Iran has a special significance for the Middle East, in this situation, the invasion of Iraq in 2002 and the uprising in the Arab region have seen various regional changes. The study discusses regional nuclear politics in the Arab region and how will the new strategic environment upset Iran's position in regional geopolitics. There was a well-known initiative situation in the Arab world, in which Iran's possibilities look unattractive. The Shiite uprisings in the Arab world were additionally observed as an Iranian danger. But this way, depicts an extremely unpredictable reality in Arab mentalities towards Iran when the beginning of the Arab upraise. There are many factors that influence the state's approach to pursuing or not pursuing nuclear weapons. Iran, in its case, has a number of domestic and external factors, not only to acquire nuclear weapons but also to refrain from them. The aim of this research is to compile all possible factors and written scenarios about them by different authors and to provide a simple comprehensive study that presents different theories within them. Because of their destructive power, nuclear weapons pose a great threat not only to international security but also to humanity.

Iran's nuclear program has been developed as a key security, political and diplomatic task of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Undoubtedly, Iran's nuclear program has led to a fundamental rethinking of the regional strategic

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alignment, which will undermine the existing security structure. Nuclear Iran will complicate the already geopolitical geography of the Middle East, which has a history of conflict, mistrust and a number of other interconnected factors. In the region, Iran's nuclear program has caused great unrest in neighboring states, especially the world of Arab, GCC states and Israel (Ehteshami, 2010). Clarify Iran's nuclear program and its regional stability, and its potential impact on the world at large, so that they can present empirical evidence and strong theoretical representations.

A very few people say that if Iran enhance nuclear program and truly become a world nuclear power, it will be security and geopolitical risk for Middle East in small and for the world in large. This theory also directs that Iran will necessarily increase its nuclear weapons to control the geopolitical and geostrategic affairs of the region of Middle East. It is a serious, and possibly existential, threat to Israel and others, and its immediate nuclear proliferation may cause a collision. Of course regional competitors make these claims. There are some experimental realities and some people see a nuclear-armed Iran as a positive change for Middle Eastern peace and prosperity or something new that only not should be supported but also welcomed. For this reason, much of the current debate has forgotten or ignored other significant geopolitical and geographical changes that have led to Iran's actions over the few years back: in fact, a grand optimistic for regional security politics and stability of this region. As big consequences, if a complete settlement on a nuclear program cannot be reached as soon as possible, the present or even though low strategic implication of a nuclear-armed Iran might not be as distracting and hard as some have suggested before everything happened. However, Iranian initiatives are changing and re-establishing greater Middle East relations.

### **Review of literature**

To find out a gap the researcher studies books, newspapers, magazine, Journal articles, interview of the governmental officials, political leaders etc. Seyed Hossein Mousavian & Mohammad Mehdi (2019) *Building on the Iran Nuclear Deal for International Peace and Security*, the writers present their views that Iran's increasing role in the Middle East and the increasing of disorder; supporting terrorism, mismanaging of refugees, promoting civil war, dividing sectarianism, and failed states forces the world powers to accept that attaining stability in the region without the help and cooperating with Iran is not possible. Fifat Oncel (2019) *Debating Nuclear proliferation and international security*, the author argues that the contradiction between stability and instability is an evidence that nuclear weapons bring stability and equality to the international system by neutralizing traditional imbalances and ensuring mutual trust. Sajid Bagum and Naudir Bakht, (2018) *Nuclear Program of Iran and Perception of West*, the authors said that for Iran; not building nuclear weapons or weapons of mass decimation is a spiritual obligation, a reality authenticated by the Supreme Leader's statement against nuclear weapons.

### **Origin and Developmental Process of Iranian Nuclear Program**

Under Shah, Iran embarked on a series of controversial nuclear projects that, from 1974 to 1978, relied on aid for Iran from the president of the Atomic Energy Organization, the United States and Europe. Iran was already conducting atomic research and teaching at Tehran University when the NPT came into force on March, 1970 (Akbar, 1987). The work focused on a five-megawatt research reactor provided by the United States, which began operations in 1967.

By the mid-1970s, Iran had launched a comprehensive nuclear energy program. In 1974, Shah set a target of generating about 23,000,000 megawatts of electricity from nuclear power plants within twenty years. Many agreements were reached between Iran and nuclear suppliers in Europe and the United States. Iran signed an agreement with the Kraftwerk Union (KWU) to build a 2,012-megawatt reactor in Bushehr. Talks were held with a French company Framemat for two additional nine hundred MW reactors (Richardson, 2002). In 1974, Iran has purportedly put 1 billion out of a European-possessed French uranium improvement plant, on the off chance that it is a European consortium. The Iranian Revolution of 1979 halted this work for quite a while. The war with Iraq, which began in 1980, ate up assets and hurt Iran's present nuclear establishment. Two force reactors were being worked on in Bushehr that impacted a couple of times (Agency, 2004) after which Siemens abandoned the project.

By the early extensive era of 1990s, as Iran pulled again from the war with Iraq, its atomic program was indeed pushed forward with the assistance of Masco, Beijing and Islamabad. With China, Iran stamped two shows on atomic facilitated exertion in 1985 and again in 1990. In 1995, Iran denoted a demonstration of participation with

Russia to complete the progression of a reactor at Bushehr and perhaps to flexibly a uranium upgrade plant. Government and illegal bargains struck by Iran during the 1990s empowered it to put significant critical advancement in its indigenous atomic attempts. By 2003, when the scope of its atomic program turned out to be clear, Iran started to have some expertise in making enhanced uranium one of the substances that could be utilized to fuel atomic weapons. Progress has been made in aging innovation (Bruno, 2003), since a significant number of its atomic tests were in violation of an assessment with the IAEA, Iran had to give some new data about the activity and explain its purpose. Iran's clarifications, alongside the result of the IAEA assessment, were published in June 2003 report by the organization.

### **Implications of a Nuclear Iran on the Region**

The United States and Israel both have cleared their position about nuclear-armed Iran is never acceptable and they will use military power against Iran by attacking Iran's Nuclear power projects including other related project sites. The United States shows two major reasons for attacking Iran, the first and foremost, US does not want to go for another war in Middle East, and the second reason is that, United States believes that Iran is so far many years far from obtaining nuclear equipment (Wehre, November 2007). However, Israel's situation on the rising problem is very much dissimilar and it is very old strategy to target Iran's nuclear facilities rather it is older than recent decision of the government. According to the view of Israel, so far it has a lot of time to attack Iran's nuclear programs, because Iran is far away from reaching nuclear weapons, Moreover, Israel feels that it does not have the potential and experience to deal such a new emerging problem. Israel also says that the soft decisions are not workable to stop Iran from acquiring nuclear capability. Therefore, in Israel's view, there is no other way to stop Iran from pursuing its nuclear program, despite the short-lived destruction of Iran's conventional military and nuclear capabilities.

### **Impact of Iranian Nuclear Weapon on Israel**

Dan Gellerman, the ambassador of Israel to the US has said in October, 2006 that Israel warmly welcomes the Security Council's disapproval of Ahmadinejad's comments by saying that the statement of the president of Iran was just not a threat but also a very dangerous threat for all of the Middle East. Israel intends to completely destroy Iranian nuclear projects. Israeli policymakers have repeatedly reiterated that Iran will recognize early removal and that serious steps will need to be taken to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear capability. The administrations of Israel have called on the global community to yield action against Iran before it is very late the people of Israel and military administrations have assumed that Iran is a serious risk to Israel. Everyone agrees that Iran's nuclear ambitions and its ballistic missiles, equipped with nuclear warheads, will fundamentally change Israel's national security. With a nuclear Iran as a key target, Israeli defense and military officials are more frustrated than their civilian counterparts. Ahmanigadeh said that Israel needs to be erased from the map, or if Europeans are honest and have good intentions with the people of Israel, they must give them some of their own area, such as America, Austria and some others to the Israeli people so that the people of Israel will be able to build their new state in Europe and there will be no problem to fight against the territory of Israel. This is the first time in the history of world; traditional military capabilities Israel will not be enough to threaten the existence of a Jewish state. If Iran in the future proves to test its nuclear capabilities, for example its own atomic expedient, it will propose Israel numerous decisions (Yaph, 2001).

Israel can demonstrate its nuclear power by revealing its weapons. The problem is that Iran has learned from this and dismantled its nuclear facilities. Additionally, many Iranian places are hidden underground. Israel will reduce or delay some of Iran's nuclear program, but it has not done so. Israel can negotiate with Tehran as did in the past. Basically, the issue is that Iranians do not trust Israel's right to live in Israel and that Iranian government does not open their doors to talk of extremism. Israel looks to announce dangerous ramifications for Iran if it openly crosses the atomic threshold and uses Weapons of Mass Devastation. Such a declaration would permit Israel to keep up its atomic transparency without its own notice.

### **Iranian Nuclear Weapon Impact on Gulf State**

Inside the Middle East and the GCC, Iran is suspected of imparting monetary, logistical and even army assistance to radical Islamic agencies to export the Islamic revolution and assist worldwide terrorism. Underneath the late Ayatollah Khomeini, Tehran considered itself the herbal leader of the Muslim global. In an effort to deliver

lengthy-range missiles into nuclear warheads, it seems that if it chooses to make complete use of its perceived authority, a militant Iran may be given a totally effective facet. The GCC states have welcomed signs and symptoms of moderation in Iran and rejected the suggestion that Tehran helps terrorism, or when it launches lengthy-variety missiles at WMD warheads. Has evolved the era, then he intends to threaten. The GCC states have dropped severe predictions of a nuclear Iran risk. If Iran assessments its nuclear talents, it has several alternatives (Sokolski, 2006).

Most of the Gulf States are very rich. From past experience, they have invested heavily in conventional weapons systems, such as airplanes, tanks and arrows missile system. According to Richard Russell, Saudi Arabia invested heavily in Pakistan's nuclear program for its commitment to supplying nuclear weapons to Saudi Arabia wherever necessary, as Richard Russell estimates, "Research, Saudi-Pakistani Development, and delivery to help each other (Venter, 2005). The UAE is concerned about Iran's intentions and will seek to negotiate arms deal with the United States. The understanding will incorporate everything the projects they require to ensure their nation. The two nations will do all that they can recover their freedom, remembering the acquisition of rockets framework for China. Building or joining an atomic umbrella could be an answer for other Gulf nations like Kuwait, Bahrain and Qatar. It could be a vital partnership with the United States, like the NATO model. Americans will make sure that they have oil, opportunity of route and the arrangement of more soldiers to their nations. Americans are ensured about their security. The third option is that the GCC will sit anything and they will hold to see how the world reacts to Iran's atomic bomb. This was part of his arrangement when Iraq assaulted Kuwait. They may be happy to see Israel assault on Iran and may even allow Israel to fly or use their territorial waters.

### **Shiite Bomb a Nuclear Threat for Saudi Arabia**

Saudi Arabia might be constrained to build up an atomic program if a Iranian bomb is created. An atomic arrangement was signed between Iran, the US, and other world major powers on the fourteenth of July 2015. This atomic arrangement pulled in analysis from US. Moreover, Iranian disciplinarians, just as from the other territorial groups, for example, some Arab nations. In the perspective on Saudi Arabia, this is a demonstration of the U.S. affirming Iran's atomic program. Saudi Arabia as the major key and historical opponent of Iran declared its own arrangement to begin an atomic program with in any event 16 atomic reactors with an end goal to close this whole (Samaan L, 2018). They accepted that the approach of atomic weapons from an external source. Being that Saudi Arabia is known for having a past filled with undercover atomic exercises, it is as just workable for them to deliver a Sunni bomb to counter Iran's Shi'ite bomb. Permitting Iran entrance to an atomic bomb is viewed as a danger to world and a move that could achieve the proliferation of atomic weapons in the Middle East.

Despite these asserted claims, Iran utilized on the attack of Iraq by the United States to accomplish its public point of atomic proliferation. It was the assessment of the specialists that permitting Iran to have atomic weapons will definitely push Saudi Arabia to restore their own atomic program (Huwaidin, 2015). Saudi Arabia got stressed of becoming a pawn in Iran's clash of becoming into the sovereign country in the Islamic World. Accepting Islamic authority and territorial authority would give Iran an unrivaled force which the other driving countries would not have any desire to provoke. Saudi Arabia, a most despised opponent of Iran, isn't irritated if Iran will convey the bomb against them, Israel, or the United States. In any case, the hypothesis of deterrence is still set up, however Saudi Arabia may not permit the discretionary, political, and military force Iran can accomplish whenever permitted to create atomic weapons. Saudi Arabia has been compelled to reexamine its situation in the Middle East and to investigate its own atomic choices because of the developing Iranian atomic expansion threat, combined with the opposing open articulations and international strategies of Ahmadinejad. An issue of the measures that can be taken to have a global substitute against Iran if the Iranian government undermines the financial interests of oil-trading nations was raised.

### **A Nuclear Iran: Threats and Opportunities in Middle East**

This test is exacerbated in the Middle East, where there are poor relations between states, particularly among Israel and Iran, which do not have strategic relations. In an atomic Middle East, the absence of immediate and viable channels of correspondence between nations can lead them to misconstrue the opponent's goals, misread the circumstance and attack the enemy. In the mutual model of discouragement, the credibility of the guarding groups blocking messages relies upon the aggressor committing intolerable harm on the gathering. Notwithstanding, in multilateral governments, this danger isn't total, yet is estimated against different threats in the field. Tehran will contrast the Israeli threat and the Saudi threat and the US risk.

This question can have a conclusive impact, for instance, with regular just as threats that sabotage strategic strength. This unpredictable condition can give various opportunities that, whenever used appropriately, will make it conceivable to reduce instability to some extent. Fear of a very common adversary' of various nations may inspire them to coordinate and improve their autonomous abilities. Subsequently, for instance, Israel and Saudi Arabia can participate against Iran, and each exploiting its own. Israel has a wonderful modern armed force and a solid political leadership and in the military activity against Iran. On off the chance that two Iranians, the danger is more noteworthy than it could be in present. Another opportunity is to enhance to the prevention of denial, fundamentally to the improvement of dynamic abilities. With regards to the Nation, it has global help since it empowers it to manage threats utilizing techniques that are not defensive or aggressive. Active protection abilities are not only a deterrent. They likewise make it conceivable to manage chance and reduce the weight on leaders to shape reaction when the prevention falls flat. In this way, they can help limit and control the war between nuclear states and prevent any kind of war, which could lead to regional catastrophe. For example, if Iran has nuclear weapons, the Arrow system could be a key deterrent in the event of an escalation between Jerusalem and Tehran.

### **Reasons for Proliferation and Its Likely Impacts**

The purposes behind proliferation are of convenience as indicated by which prevention is probably not going to work in the Middle East. The recommendation proposed that atomic weapons will promote peace, harmony and stability is appropriately viewed not as a reality, but as a translation to a great extent dependent on the proof of a solitary case. A significant number of the specialized, political and situational roots of stable atomic prevention might be deficient in the Middle East where there is a high likelihood of atomic weapons being utilized. The highlighted stakes and decreased space for man oeuvre in conflict inclined areas, the unstable initiative and more regional instability all sabotage the validity of deterrence (Dunn, 1982).

Security instability challenge, which accentuates that a restricted ordinary war is possible under the presence of atomic weapons, is a tremendous danger where conflict could incidentally go into an atomic one. Under the instability of atomic weapons entice nations to clash little kind of wars the domain area of international ties it isn't amazing that the intensity of speculations is compelled and any minor acceleration could transform a customary clash into an atomic one. From this view point, as in South Asia, the circumstance in the Middle East is a long way from stable and could lead unintentionally to an atomic heightening during a regular clash among Iran and Israel. In a possible regular clash, actors may 'gather their atomic weapons in the heat of contention with shocking results. Atomic prevention even concedes that widespread proliferation builds the chances of disasters and atomic oppression. Atomic accidents and unapproved atomic use are bound to occur in a more multiplied atomic and unstable regional.

### **Escalatory Scenario with Israel**

Iran's contention with the United States and Israel is developing day by day. As it is discussed before, the US conflict with Iran has political measurements, yet the idea of its contention with Israel is basically a religious one. The current Iranian government perceives Israel as an occupier country that ought not to be perceived. It will be destroyed by hands of Iran. The Mahdi will not come forward until the whole world is in turmoil, which could result in the last confrontation of the Muslim world with Israel or a strike on Iran (Jafarzadeh, 2007). A few experts in the field of Iranian Nuclear program accept that if Iran secures an atomic bomb, it could utilize it to make the conditions for Israel to come back to its hotly anticipated Messiah. Notwithstanding, this case has extremely feeble grounds in light of the fact that in any such case, Israelis as well as numerous Palestinians will be the objective of the Iranian strike and Iran will be the objective of aggression. As per Shiite custom, the Mahdi can't uphold the intruders. For Israel, in any case, an atomic outfitted Iran, paying little mind to Shiite convictions, is an existential threat (Yaphe, 2010). Mainly because of its small size, this can end a single nuclear strike. These perceptions of danger can lead Israel to believe that the only way to ensure its survival is against a nuclear-armed Iran. To counter such possibilities, Israel has developed various contingency plans and trained electronic weapons on the scene of a nuclear attack (Goodspeed, 2011). If the Palestinian conflict persists, could Iran's conflict with Israel and the escalation of tensions in the region jeopardize its security? In addition to demonstrating the ability is to hit long-range nuclear-capable missiles and high-tech development targets from a distance.

## Conclusion

It is privileged to say that the Middle East is an extraordinary confusing area in term of geography and geopolitics, yet Iran's obtaining of atomic weapons has additionally complicated the effectively dangerous aspect of the Middle East. Despite the fact that it might be unpopular to highlight the attention, there is proof that Iran's atomic program has had a few advantages for the region over the previous decade. Basically, it has encouraged another period of relationship-based security intended to address normal worries among assorted states about Iran that balance old style power. Actually, the cooperative concerned about Iran has permitted previous rivals and previous enemies to set aside a portion of their disparities and resolve the issue, which is a significant normal threat. The clearest appearance of this is among Israel and the Sunni Arab world; however, it is likewise occurring in a more conventional country state, as well as between different Sunni Arab governments. It is possible that, far from predicting an outbreak of domino effect or by anyone, away from Iran's escalating chaos, the current crisis may have provided a certain level of stability, which, despite the high level of widespread, through other mechanisms. It was impossible to get diplomatic engagement.

At last, plainly Iran's atomic program will have a very destabilizing impact on security in the Middle East, particularly in the region. Despite the fact that Waltz's vision offers a positive perspective on Iran's atomic program in the area, the expansion convictions, which propose that if Iran procures atomic weapons, would prompt more clash in the region. Neighbors' interests about Iran's aspirations for regional incomparability and terrorizing could incite an atomic weapons contest in the region, prompting a further multiplication. This could prompt a multi-polar territorial situation that is considered profoundly precarious. Moreover, a complex temperamental regional organization, the absence of correspondence foundation among Iran and Israel, and potentially an untimely strike makes the condition significantly more dangerous, and thus, a few investigators state that atomic war would start.

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