



Keep the Iran Deal — 10 Good Reasons Why

March 2018

President Trump should maintain the U.S. commitment to the Iran nuclear deal. Doing so will bring substantial benefits and strengthen America's hand in dealing with North Korea, as well as Iran, and help maintain the reliability of America's word and influence as a world leader. Ditching it would serve no national security purpose.

Maintaining Rigorous Implementation of the Agreement Enhances U.S. and Regional Security

- 1. Iran will be prohibited from exceeding severe limits on its nuclear program under continuing, unprecedented international monitoring,** preventing it from moving toward a nuclear weapon for the duration of the agreement. If there is no follow-on agreement that maintains constraints on Iran and if Iran should move toward acquiring a nuclear weapon, nothing prevents the U.S. from taking action.
- 2. Direct U.S.-Iran communications will be better maintained for crisis management if the nuclear agreement remains in place. The potential for military confrontation, inadvertent accidents and consequent misjudgments in Syria and the Gulf may require the contingency for emergency contacts made possible through the Joint Commission of the nuclear agreement.**
- 3. North Korea could not claim that the U.S. abrogates agreements without cause and would be more likely to negotiate an end to its nuclear program.** Efforts to limit nuclear proliferation would be strengthened.
- 4. Other states in the region would have significantly reduced motivation to develop nuclear weapons if Iran's program remains under intense scrutiny and restrictions.**

The Agreement Enhances U.S. Stature and Leadership

- 5. U.S. relations with major European allies, who all oppose U.S. withdrawal, would be preserved for advancing U.S. national security interests beyond the nuclear deal.**
- 6. The U.S. will build credibility and retain influence with its negotiating partners to ensure strict implementation with the agreement, be able to lead efforts to strengthen it, or garner strong support for imposing additional sanctions if necessary.** Should U.S. efforts with allies fail to reach understandings on remaining in the agreement, the Western Alliance would face significant additional strain.
- 7. Iran will be denied the opportunity to blame the U.S. should it renew its nuclear program in response to a U.S. withdrawal. Russia and China will be denied the opportunity to claim they are true guardians of international order.**



Maintaining the Agreement Provides Opportunities to Decrease Tensions in the Region

- 8. U.S. political and diplomatic influence would not be eroded, improving the U.S.'s ability to advance the resolution of regional conflicts.** There are no military solutions to the conflicts in the Middle East. The U.S. should not cede to Russia, Iran, or others, control over political settlements in Syria, Yemen, and Iraq.
- 9. Iranian hardliners who claim the U.S. can never be trusted would be proven wrong and their influence weakened.**
- 10. Russia and China would have greater difficulty moving closer to Iran politically, economically, and militarily** which could lead to increased transfers of conventional weapons and a Russia-Iran strategic alliance.

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* The signers of this statement were either former senior officials of the U.S. government or prominent national security leaders who have not held senior government positions. The positions listed after the names of the former government officials are senior posts held while in office. The positions listed after the names of those who were not from the government are listed with their current position.

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