

# The Iran Nuclear Deal: Un Updated Perspective

Written By Giada Frulla



The seventh round of talks in Vienna to **restore the Iran Nuclear Deal** (formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action) has ended and while it appears progress was made.

**The negotiating world powers are not close to an agreement.**

With the clock slowly running, the way forward towards the drafting of a **revised version** of the JCPOA is becoming more and more blurred.

With changes in leadership among the world's leading nations, **as the on-going friction between Tehran and Washington**, a new period of escalating uncertainty approaches.

Nuclear deals are always an important topic for all the countries all over the world.

People maybe don't care too much what it would mean **if a State started producing nuclear weapons**, but it is a topic that can't be underestimated.

All changes are important to understand and be ready for all possible consequences, **small one or big one**.

For this reason the IDI Global team decided to **report some updates regarding the Iran Nuclear Deal**. With the participation of **Dr. Oir Goldberg**, who came to answer our questions about this important topic, which is now at stake.

## What is the Iran Nuclear Deal?

The Iran nuclear agreement, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), is **an accord reached between Iran and several world powers**, including the United States, **in July 2015**. Under its terms, **Iran agreed to dismantle much of its nuclear program** and open its facilities to more extensive international inspections **in exchange for billions of dollars' worth of sanctions relief**.

Proponents of the deal said that **it would help prevent a revival of Iran's nuclear weapons program** and thereby reduce the prospects for conflict between Iran and its regional rivals, **including Israel and Saudi Arabia**.

**In 2018, the United States** under the Trump administration **decided to withdraw the deal putting it in jeopardy**. In retaliation for the U.S. departure and for deadly attacks on prominent Iranians **in 2020**, including one by the United States, **Iran has resumed some of its nuclear activities**.

**In 2021, President Joe Biden said the United States will return to the deal if Iran comes back into compliance**, though Iran's leaders have insisted that Washington lift sanctions first.

**Ebrahim Raisi**, a conservative cleric elected as Iran's president in June, **has indicated that he will take a harder line than his predecessor in nuclear negotiations**.

## A Brief Introduction of the JCPOA Agreement by Dr. Goldberg

**"It is a political process between political players.**

Because if Iran has a nuclear weapon or if it doesn't have it, the result won't be different.

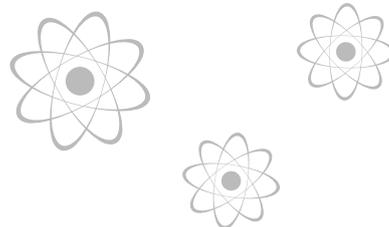
They don't capture the importance of agreements, because **they aren't political agreements**.

**"There is nothing deterministic**, there is nothing known in advance about this process, **it's a new process**. It's a political process. It depends on the complex juggling of interests long-term/short-term of political visions.

It isn't about clearly defined ideological commitment, **it isn't a zero-sum game that if the west wins iran loses and vice versa"**

**"It's a game that has a lot of implications for the future of the middle east:**

for the potential arms race in the middle east, for the potential demilitarization, or a potential excessive militarization.



There is a lot at stake but **the process** according to which this is being done **is a political process**, and the part that various players have in this process is an interesting point of view."

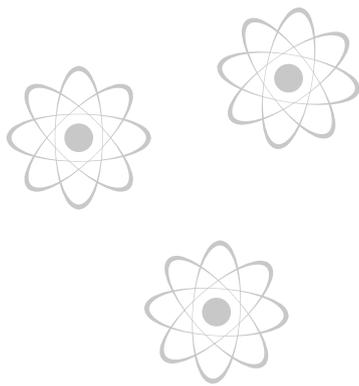


## About Him

**Dr. Ori Goldberg** is an expert on the study of **modern Iran and Shi'i revolutionary movements**. Over the last several years, Dr. Goldberg has begun a broad comparative study of the relationship between **faith and political behavior in the Middle East and the world**.

Dr. Goldberg **has lectured and spoken in a broad variety of academic institutions**, from Tsinghua University in Beijing to the University of Oslo in Norway.

Dr. Goldberg serves as a **regular consultant to Israel's government and defense establishment**, including organizations such as **the Israeli Prime Minister's Office and the IDF**.



This Lecture was made in an interactive way, Infact Dr. Ori Goldberg was glad to answer our questions about this complex topic, which, today more than ever, touches the reality of the Middle-East and not only.

Through the questions that students and members of the meeting did, we could understand the reality and the different importance that political parties have in these kinds of agreements.

**The reality of what owning nuclear weapons means for States.**

It is not only a security issue. Or maybe yes. But not in the way to use it.

We always have to remember that we live in **a world based on anarchy**.

And all States worldwide always operate to ensure security to its Nation.

**That can work in a military way or in a psychological way.**

# “What will Happen to the Formula of the Balance of Power if Iran Gets Their Own Nuclear Program?”

## What will Be the Future of the Israeli and Iranian Relationship? Especially from an US Perspective?”

- a Princeton University Student

**“I’m not sure what will happen. I don’t think that Iran wants nuclear weapons, I think they want the potential to develop nuclear capabilities.**

Iran wants a nuclear program as a **deterrent**. It sees its own foreign policy mostly as defensive.

**I reject the notion that Iran has embarked on the hegemonic project**, which means to take over the Middle East.

**It’s a defensive tool.** Also as a symbol of respect by middle-eastern countries and by the world.

**Iran sees the nuclear program has a means for getting back its place at the “adults table”.**

**“People who are afraid about iranian nuclear program talk about a necessary unavoidable arms race.**

One in which Saudi Arabia will want the bomb, other countries will invest a lot of effort because they will fear iranian aggression.

**My understanding of iranian policy is that Iran often tries hard to refrain from engaging in brute aggression.”**

**Regarding Iranian and US relation:**

**“The US seems to not have problems with the iranian nuclear program, as long as Iran abides by the agreement that was reached: the JCPOA.**

The Biden administration is trying to look at Trump’s unilateral withdrawal from the agreement **as an aberration.**

For a lot of countries the problem with Iran is not the nuclear program, **it is Iran’s regional presence in political involvement, in regional squabbles.**

**I think the US is very much in favour of reinforcing the original agreement. “**

Then Dr. Goldberg concluded saing:

**“THE US wants an agreement, because it feels like an agreement that can stabilize the middle east.**

**The US doesn’t want to be troubled with the middle east anymore.**

**Israel doesn’t want an agreement but it seems like it will be forced to accept it”**



## “Could You Talk About the Public Opinion of the JCPOA Agreement?”

- Amelia from Reichman University

“When the JCPOA was signed in 2015 there was a struggle between the Iranian leadership, the words that they use to describe themselves as republicans and revolutionaries.

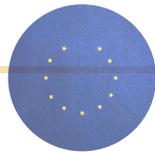
**The JCPOA agreement was their biggest achievement** because what they could offer **Iranians was re-entry into the global community.**

I think that, **the main goal of the JCPOA agreement is to ensure that Iran will never have a nuclear weapon.** “

“Iran is perfectly capable of making the decision to possess the potential to acquire a nuclear weapon, but not to conduct public tests.

**That will demonstrate that it has such a weapon to keep it constantly on the threshold state.**

I think the Iranians are capable of making the political decision to do so, and I think that my interpretation is supported by the fact that the iranians were capable of making the political decision to sign the original JCPOA, and I know that all the major intelligence organizations in the world, including Israel's Mossad, **verified that Iran lived up to all of its commitments under the JCPOA before the american withdrawal.**”



## “Do You Think that the United States May Find Any Advantages in Reviving the JCPOA? And if They Might Even Seriously Try to Do It?”

### What is Your Point of View on the Air Force Made by the European Union During the Trump Presidency as Well as Their Current Efforts in Vienna?”

- Hugo from Paris

“Yes, the US find a lot of advantages in the JCPOA agreement.

Under the JCPOA, Iran agreed to eliminate its stockpile of medium-enriched uranium.

It cuts its stockpile of low-enriched uranium by 98%, and reduces by about two-thirds the number of its gas centrifuges for 13 years. For the next 15 years, Iran will only enrich uranium up to 3.67%.”

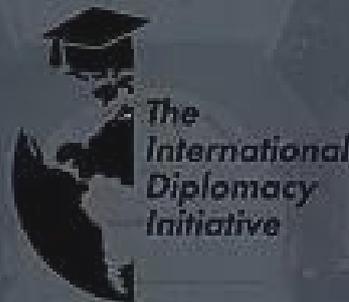
“The JCPOA would as far as America is concerned bring a blessed degree of stability to the region, this is why it would be called it “de-vilify” Iran”

“Regarding the UE position, they will instal a mechanism which can permite to Iran to deal with the consequences of american withdrawal.

**The EU mechanism FAILED, but we have to remember that the JCPOA was never cancelled”**

## These are some of the questions that Dr. Goldberg answered during his lecture.

He explained in simple words what the agreement means, transferring us his passion for the subject. Dr. Goldberg was very clear and frank about the topic. Obviously there are many more things to say and many more updates to do. But we have just given you an idea of what the JCPOA is, and the international influences that it has.



# The International Diplomacy Initiative

THE FUTURE OF DIPLOMACY

*You can find all the information and events at the IDI website! Click on the Logo!*

*Thanks for reading!  
We are waiting for you at our next event!*

**If You Want to See the Full Lecture Go to Our Youtube Profile or Click on Our Logo!**