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**The U.S-Iranian Conflict over the Iranian Nuclear Program: Roots and  
Consequences**

**Dissertation Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for  
Master's Degree in Literature and Civilization**

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## **Dedication**

I dedicate this dissertation to:

The one who struggled, supported me and suffered a lot to see me in this precious moment; my mother, my beloved father, who worked hard for me, sacrificed and suffered to get the fruit of his sufferance.

my beloved sisters Merzaka, Saida, Nassima, and Nadjet, who were a great source of support and encouragement to complete and accomplish this study.  
my deceased father's wife, whom I called my mother al-Zohra, may God have mercy on her soil in her grave.

**MAFA**

I dedicate my work to:

The candle of my heart and soul, my dear father, may God have mercy on him, Hajj Saad, the fragrant soul and the spring of tenderness, my dear mother Zainab, who stayed up and worked hard to make me reach this position, my dear husband and the apple of my eye who supported me throughout this period to accomplish this work in the best way, my dears: my hasband's parents: Sheikh Mekki and Ayadi Fatiha, my children, the stars of my life, the light of my darkness, Tasnim, Asil ,and Ziyad, my beloved sisters, Louisa, Rabia, Akila, Naima, Aziza, Hanan, and Karima, and my honorable brothers Hamida, Hassan, Hamza, Towfik, Soufiane, and Zuhair.

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## **Abstract**

The Iranian nuclear program has been one of the most disputable issues around the world. This study aims to investigate the roots of the US-Iranian conflict over Iran's nuclear program and its consequences on both countries and the region, in general. The historical analytical approach was used to examine and analyse the data gathered from various documents including, official agreements, articles, books, reports, and websites on this issue. This approach is useful for tracing historical events and analysing the researcher's observations to come up with authentic and reliable conclusions. The results revealed that the U.S.–Iranian conflict commenced as a result of Iran's attempts to establish its nuclear program and the U.S.'s concerns that the former would possess nuclear weapons. This urged the U.S. to impose economic and political sanctions on Iran to prevent it from achieving this objective. However, the tension between both countries has been relieved owing to Iran Nuclear Deal through which Iran promised that it would not seek to obtain nuclear weapons and that its nuclear program would remain pacific.

**Keywords:** Iran, Iran Nuclear Deal, Negotiations, Nuclear program, the U.S.

## List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

<b>AEOI</b>	Atomic Energy Organization Of Iran
<b>CISADA</b>	Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act
<b>CRSS</b>	Congressional Research Service Stated
<b>DOD</b>	Department of Defense
<b>ENTEC</b>	Establish a Nuclear Technology Center on Esfahan
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>IAEA</b>	International Atomic Energy Agency
<b>IFS</b>	International Financial System
<b>IND</b>	Iranian Nuclear Deal
<b>JCPOA</b>	Joint Comprehensive Plan Of Action
<b>MOND</b>	The Ministry of National Defense
<b>NPT</b>	Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treat
<b>NPR</b>	Nuclear Posture Review
<b>NSA</b>	National Security Agency
<b>NSS</b>	National Security Strategy
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>US</b>	United States
<b>USA</b>	United States of America
<b>SWIFT</b>	Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunications
<b>WTC</b>	World Trade Center

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## General Introduction

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# General Introduction

## 1. Background of the Study

Iran has a strategic geographical location that influences the region. This location reflects the importance of Iran as a country and the strength of its diplomatic relations with other countries of the world; accordingly, it strategically affects the neighboring countries. It has a large area of about 1,633,000 km<sup>2</sup>, which makes it one of the largest countries in the region compared to Iraq, Turkey, Pakistan, and Afghanistan. As for the Arab Gulf states, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is the largest, with an area of about 2.199946 km<sup>2</sup>. It also ranks sixth in terms of area among the countries of Asia. It occupies an important position in international energy, security, and the global economy because of its large reserves of oil and natural gas. Iran stores the second largest reserves of natural gas in the world.

The emergence of the nuclear program began before the Iranian revolution, in which the relationship between Iran and the United States was characterized by cooperation and peace during the reign of the Shah. The development of the nuclear program went through three basic stages. This development revealed Iran's real intentions, and then, the relationship between Iran and the U.S. became tense, then, worsened owing to Iran's secret military nuclear program.

The Iranian Revolution, known as the Islamic Iranian Revolution, was under the shadow and leadership of the spiritual leader Ayatollah Khomeini. It occurred between January 7<sup>th</sup>, 1978 and February 11<sup>th</sup>, 1979. It led to the end of the monarchy led by the Shah of Iran, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, who was supported by the United States.

The reason for imposing economic and political sanctions on Iran by the United States was Iran's secret plans for possessing nuclear weapons within the development of the nuclear program. This was manifested by secret facilities established by Iran to obtain great power and prestige in the world, in addition to developing its economy.

## **2. Statement of the Problem**

Fears of the U.S. that Iran might develop weapons of mass destruction, pushed it and other Western countries to impose sanctions on Iran to oblige it to get rid of its undeclared nuclear program for military purposes. This program has been a source of tension since its beginning to the present. Iran has undergone many negotiations to get rid of the imposed sanctions that kept it under siege for a long time and weakened its economy. Iran looked for economic relief by abiding by the terms of the agreement signed with the Western countries. However, Iran has been criticized for not applying the conditions that it admitted to respect. The roots of the Iranian nuclear program can be re-read to come up with Iran's real intention of having a nuclear program. The consequences of the Iranian nuclear deal caused and, still causing, lots of issues locally and globally. Thus, re-reading the roots of the program and analyzing its consequences may give a deep understanding of the conflict between the U.S. and Iran over the nuclear program.

## **3. Research Questions and Research Hypotheses**

This aims to answer the following questions:

- a- How did the conflict between the U.S. and Iran start?
- b- What are the consequences of the US-Iranian conflict over the nuclear program?

In light of the above-stated research questions, it is hypothesized that:

- a- The U.S.-Iranian conflict was fueled by the establishment of the Iranian nuclear program.
- b- The U.S-Iranian conflict over the nuclear program has different repercussions for the U.S., Iran, and the region.

#### **4. Aims of the Study**

The current study set out to:

- a- investigate the causes that lie behind the US-Iranian conflict over Iran's nuclear program.
- b- Examine the consequences of this conflict and determine its impact on both countries, the region, and the whole world.

#### **5. Significance of the Study**

The significance of the study lies in the importance of the relationship between Iran and its neighbouring countries and how this relationship may affect the stability of the region and the world, in general. Tracing back the roots of the U.S.-Iran conflict and its consequences would help researchers understand the nature of the issues that hold between both countries, especially if these issues persist for a long time. The U.S.-Iranian conflict over the nuclear program has opened big doors for concern about the future of the region and its economic and political stability. Therefore, highlighting the roots and consequences of this conflict might help find authentic and practical solutions to this issue and prevent more tension between countries or even wars. Additionally, the importance of this research lies in its contribution to the analysis of the nuclear agreement repercussions to come up with a possible understanding of this issue.

#### **6. Research methodology**

This current study is qualitative in nature. It uses the historical and analytical research design to investigate the causes and consequences of the U.S.-Iran conflict over the Iranian nuclear program. The historical component of this research design approach involves describing and examining past events to draw conclusions and make prediction. This helps researchers better understand the present and anticipate the future. In other words, looking at the past to

inform the future. This is accomplished through the scrutiny of available sources such as articles, books, reports, official documents, websites, etc. The analytical part lies in synthesizing and analyzing the data collected from such sources to come up with what causes an event or phenomenon and what lessons are learnt from it. One of the strengths of historical research is that it can provide a fuller picture of the scope of the research as it covers a wider range of sources. Nevertheless, it entails some limitations like the difficulty to locate primary sources and to triangulate findings; that is, finding other resources to back up the information provided in the original resource.

## **7. Structure of the Dissertation**

This dissertation is divided into two chapters. The first chapter is entitled "Roots of the U.S.-Iranian Conflict". This chapter presents the historical development of the Iranian nuclear program and its role in fueling the U.S.-Iranian conflicts. Further, it focuses on the description of the sanctions imposed on Iran and the negotiations that led to some sanctions relief. The second chapter is entitled "Consequences of the U.S.-Iranian Conflict". This chapter is set to investigate the possible repercussions and consequences of the conflict on respectively the U.S., Iran and the whole region.

## **CHAPTER ONE**

### **Roots of the U.S.-Iranian Conflict**

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## **Introduction**

Iran, known in historical literature since ancient times as Persia, represents one of the most important countries in the Middle East. It is a geographical and strategic country that has an impact on the region. In addition, it has several diplomatic relations, which enable it to affect all neighboring countries. With its strategic location, this country has played an important function in international relations, and its nuclear production has increased its importance. This strong country has a history of relations with the U.S. of America. This chapter discusses the roots of the conflict over the nuclear program between Iran and the U.S. and specifically speaks about the relations between Iran and the U.S. First, it reviews U.S- Iranian relations during the Shah reign. Then, it discusses both U.S. interests in Iran and the causes behind the establishment of the Iranian nuclear program. After that, it tackles the post-revolution situation of the nuclear program and its rising of international concerns, which urged the U.S. and the UN to impose sanctions on Iran. These sanctions were the result of the reactivation of the nuclear program with the announcement of new facilities.

### **1.1. US-Iranian Relations during the Shah Reign**

Joyner (2012) brought back the nuclear program to its beginnings. He stated that Mohammed Reza Pahvali ruled Iran in 1957. During his Era, he established positive strong relations with the United States government, which considered Tehran and its president a strategic ally in the Middle East for several purposes. Shah showed his corporation in the attempts to modernize and secularize Iran and welcomed U.S.'s efforts about that. Consequently, magnificent military and economic support had been given to Iran. Furthermore, the U.S. permitted the sale of advanced weapon systems in hand with American military bases in Iranian territory. It is worth mentioning though that Iran was a valuable oil supplier to the U.S. and a strategic partner in the region

However, according to Joyner (2012), U.S-Iranian relations were also characterized by some tension during the Shah's reign. The Shah's regime was accused of human rights violations and abuse such as the suppression of political dissent and the use of torture and other forms of repression. On that account, left-wing groups and human rights activists criticized U.S. support of Shah's regime.

Furthermore, the Shah's program of modernizing Iran led to inner conflict in the country (Abbas Millani, 2010). Most of the oil revenues had been largely exploited in the program which led to a stark contrast between the modern, Westernized elite and the impoverished majority of Iranians. This tension pushed popular discontent and opposition to the regime, which eventually culminated in the Iranian Revolution of 1979. In all, U.S. and Iran had a mostly positive relationship under the Shah's reign. Despite the underlying tensions and criticisms of Shah's regime, the U.S. had its interests in the country and Iran had its reasons for having the support to its nuclear program.

According to Sahimi (2013), Iran's nuclear program has been a controversial issue for decades. In the 1950s, Iran's Shah succeeded in modernizing the country and making it a considerable regional power. In addition to the country's energy demands, the Shah's nuclear program had a military component aimed at establishing strategic parity with other regional nations.

Vaez and Sadjadpour (2013) assured that the U.S. supplied Iran's nuclear program for peace in 1950. It was formed to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy. This initiative aided Iran's acquisition of nuclear technology for military objectives. Nuclear energy helped improve the Iranian economy. They claim that due to a lack of capacity, resources, and experience, the Shah relied on foreign scientists to develop the program. Despite Iran's weak nuclear infrastructure, the Shah's regime was able to obtain the necessary technology and expertise from such countries as France and Germany. Despite Shah's insistence on the civilian aim of his

program, he posed a threat and apprehension about using it for military purposes. In regional politics, Shah's regime had a strong relationship, since the Shah sought strategic parity with other regional states such as Israel and Saudi Arabia (Mousavian & Shahidsaless, 2015).

Following the Iranian revolution in 1979, the Shah's nuclear program was put on hold. The new administration, led by Ayatollah Khomeini, became a symbol of the Shah's close links with the West, which was antagonistic to them and a threat to Iran's protection and integrity (Rezaei, 2017).

### **1.1.1. U.S. Interests in Iran**

U.S.-Iran relations had been swinging between alliance and tension (Amirahmadi & Hooglund, 1994). At first, the U.S. realized the importance of Iran in the region so it established strategic ties with it for several reasons and anticipations. The U.S., hence, believed that Iran was the highest beneficial country for it in the Middle East for its strategic location, which enabled Iran to be one of the most pungent allies of the U.S. In addition, the U.S. was considered the largest consumer of energy; oil, therefore Iran was the best choice for having energy, as it was the fourth-largest producer of oil. Since Iran has the power of oil and can control it, it has a significant role in the oil-producers region's stability. Thus, there are a respective number of U.S. interests in Iran.

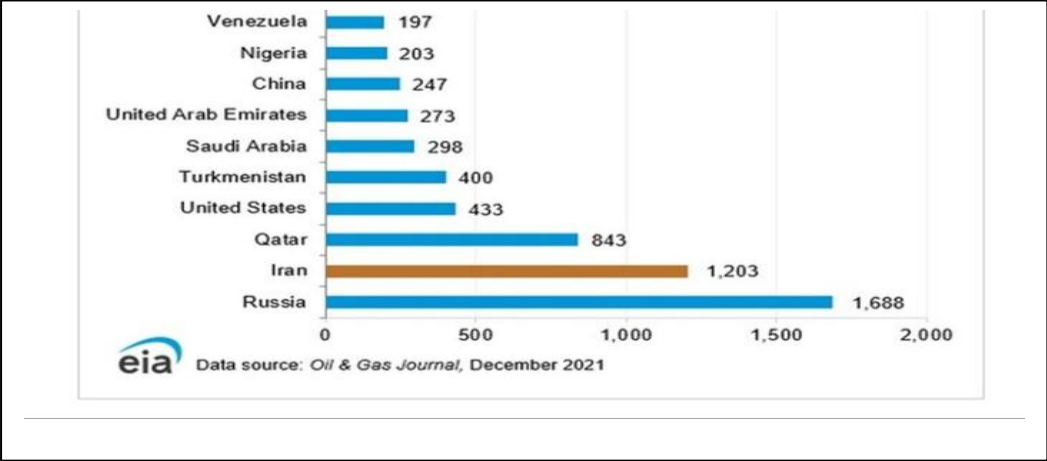
#### **1.1.1.1. Energy Purposes**

Mousavian and Shahidsaless (2014) claim that the U.S.'s foreign policy makes a strong strategic relationship with oil-producing countries, especially the largest ones. Iran ranks fourth worldwide in terms of oil and gas reserves, which triggers the U.S. to have access to these natural resources. Accordingly, Roshandel and Cook (2009) assure that American policymakers have always considered Iran a key country concerning the energy market worldwide, let alone its magnificent oil and gas reserves, enabling it to act strategically in the region. They confirmed

that Iran is “the energy guarantor of U.S. interests in the region” (p.12). Hence, the U.S. has established relations with Iran to guarantee its oil needs.

**Figure 1.1 :**

*Iran’s National Gas Reserves Ranking*

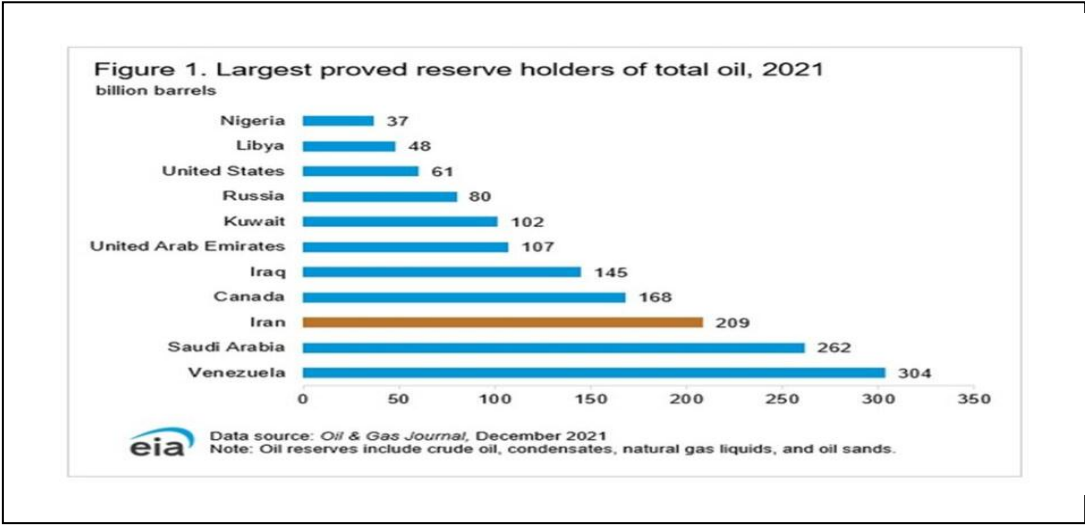


Note: adapted from (Islamic Republic News Agency, 2023)

<https://www.eia.gov/naturalgas/crudeoilreserves/>

**Figure 1.2**

*Iran’s Oil Reserves in the world*



Note: adapted from (Islamic Republic News Agency, 2023)

<https://en.irna.ir/news/85008991/Iran-ranks-2nd-3rd-in-gas-oil-reserves-in-world#:~:text=Iran%20holds%2017%25%20of%20the,terms%20of%20holding%20gas%20reserves>

### 1.1.1.2. Strategic Location

Iran is located in the west of Asia. According to Wright (2010), this situation is strategic since it is a crossroads of the Middle East, Central Asia and South it. It is important to know that Iran has had the power to influence its neighborhood because of its powers. Its location, furthermore, aids in stabilizing the relations in the region. Wright claims that the U.S. “has always valued Iran because of its location. No nation can afford to ignore Iran” (p. 6). The U.S. interest in the stability of the region urged it to restrict Iran through economic sanctions and diplomatic pressure.

**Figure 1.3**

Iran’s Geographical Location



Note: Adapted from (wiki) <https://www.worldatlas.com/maps/iran>

### **1.1.1.3. Nuclear Purposes**

According to Patrikarakos (2012), Iran has a nuclear program which has been supported by the U.S. However, Iran's intentions of making nuclear weapons concerned the U.S., which made it strive to prevent Iran from possessing nuclear weapons and keeping its program for peace services. The nuclear program of Iran is the source of the conflict in U.S.-Iran relations. The U.S. feared Iran's capability of having a nuclear weapon, which will change radically the region's stability. As Iran has unclear intentions about the purposes of its nuclear program and the probability of possessing nuclear military purposes, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) agreement in 2015, led by the U.S., sought to stop Iran's nuclear program in exchange for sanctions relief (Robinson, 2022).

To conclude, U.S.'s interests in Iran are various and multifaceted. Iran's' strategic location, natural powers, nuclear program intentions, and key role in the region's stability made the U.S. keep in relation with it. These relations have been characterized by both alliance and tensions.

### **1.1.2. Iran's Reasons behind the Nuclear Program**

Among the contemporary and controversial issues worldwide is the nuclear issue of Iran. Despite Iran's assertion that it possesses the nuclear program in a peaceful way, such as energy production and medical research, Iran has another purpose, unlike the first peaceful one. The United States of America is one of the Western countries that raised concerns about the possibility of developing Iran's nuclear weapons. From this idea, the source and the main reason behind Iran's nuclear program and the arguments supporting and opposing Iran's declared intentions are tackled.

### **1.1.2.1. Political Reasons**

Among the reasons behind Iran's nuclear program is to become, from the perspective of other countries, the largest regional force. Kerr (2019) stated that Iran sought regional dominance and greater influence in the Middle East, and believed that nuclear weapons capability would increase Iran's status. Iran has several different ambitions behind holding nuclear programs. First, it is the desire to be as potential and strategic as other regional Middle East countries. Secondly, it is the desire to develop its status in the region as a powerful independent powerful country. Further, the program facilitates the attainment of self-sufficiency among individuals, thereby reducing dependence on Western powers. The Islamic Republic of Iran intends to demonstrate its ability to employ sophisticated technology and sustain self-sufficiency, in the face of external pressures exerted through the imposition of sanctions by other nations. One approach employed in achieving their objective is through the establishment of a nuclear initiative. The aforementioned stipulation implies that Iran endeavors to project itself as a formidable and significant nation, akin to other prominent states across the globe. This aspect holds significant value for them, as it is intrinsic to their national identity.

### **1.1.2.2. Energy Reasons**

According to Tagma and Lenze (2020), Iran needed domestic energy as its population grew and the economic development of the oil-producing state is still novice. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) reports that "Iran's growing population and industrialization, coupled with its abundant reserves of natural uranium, make nuclear power an attractive option for meeting its growing energy needs. The civilian aim behind the Iranian nuclear program was to access the nuclear technology such as energy production which encouraged it to join in international agreements such as the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

On the other hand, Tagma and Lenze (2020) argue that all the powerful countries do not agree with Iran's declared intentions, including concealing several nuclear activities and

obtaining a nuclear facility whose goal was military, such as finding a secret uranium storage facility in Natanzin 2002, which was not announced globally. Several countries have been contentious about the real intentions of Iran if it plans to merge its program with military goals like using nuclear weapons. Due to that reason, the International Atomic Energy Agency is concerned about the military dimensions of Iran's nuclear program activities related to the development of a nuclear explosive device.

In the end, Iran's development of the nuclear program resulted from several motives, through which it sought influence in the region, in addition to its urgent need for energy despite Iran's continuous assertion that its nuclear program is for peaceful purposes. However, all the evidence contradicts reality, due to the presence of facilities that can be used militarily. This is what put it in constant conflict with the West, so it became necessary for the international community to move to address the situation and ensure Iran's peaceful use of nuclear weapons(Azadi et al., 2022)

## **1.2. Phases of Establishing the Iranian Nuclear Program**

Iran went through three stages in establishing its Nuclear Program. The first stage extended from the sixties to the period of the Iranian revolution in 1979; the second stage began in 1980 and lasted to the beginning of the twenty-first century; and the third stage ranged between the beginning of the twenty-first century until now.

### **1.2.1. First Phase (1957-1979)**

According to Shahram Chubin (2006), the first stage was during the reign of the Shah. Then, U.S.-Iranian relations were peaceful, strategic, and considerably they were in alliance. During this period, the U.S. cooperated and supported Iran to establish its nuclear program. According to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), in 1974 the Shah declared and confirmed the green light has been given for his men to of nuclear energy which was significant and had the potential for the country's and the region's future stability. The nuclear infrastructure

was established by the Shah of Iran, who focused on uranium enrichment and research reactors. Therefore, Tehran announced the establishment of the Nuclear Technology Center on Esfahan (ENTEC ) and the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran AEOI.

Firstly, In 1974, Reza (1977). Said that the (AEOI) decided to establish a Nuclear Technology Center on Esfahan (ENTEC) through a partnership with France's Technical Atomic Company. The establishment of this center had been planned for the period spanning from 1976 to 1980, and its operation was expected to commence within this timeframe. The establishment of ENTEC was motivated by three principal objectives. The aim was to furnish scientific and technical assistance for the functioning of nuclear power plants and nuclear industries within Iran, to facilitate the implementation of the technology transfer initiative, and to establish provisional laboratories in Tehran to cater for the needs of engineers and technicians. Additionally, training sessions were arranged primarily in France to further enhance their skills. As part of the ENTEC initiative, a school was established to provide education and training to aspiring junior scientists and engineers interested in the field of nuclear technology.

### **1.2.2. Second Phase (1979-1990)**

According to Boroujerdi and khani (2018), the second phase of the Iran program was marked by the ruling of the Islamic Republic under Ayatollah Khomeini's rule. He concealed every development program Shah had done, most specifically the nuclear program. Despite this, Iran insisted on rebuilding its nuclear program, which it needed to develop technology and obtain nuclear energy. The Iranian nuclear program was re-established during the 1980s and met the needs of the people. This period was characterized by their saturation of Iran's nuclear program and uranium enrichment khani (2018) .

According to Joyner (2013), subsequent to the bombing of the Iranian facilities in 1982 by Iraq during the first Gulf War, the leaders underwent a change of perspective which elicited a revival of the nuclear program in 1984. The reinvigorated program took on an amplified scope,

with a pronounced emphasis on the nuclear fuel cycle aiming to guarantee day-to-day enrichment. The processes of producing and separating Uranium and Plutonium. In the year in question, the Islamic Republic of Iran inaugurated the Isfahan Center. The pursuit of gaining recognition from various entities was present alongside the endeavor to acquire nuclear proficiency. Notably, in the year 1986, a formal covenant was established with the intention of obtaining nuclear knowledge. Pakistan had engaged in collaborative efforts with Iran for the training of Iranian scientists, and in 1987, it partnered with Argentina to procure nuclear fuel and enriched uranium with the intention of utilizing them for peaceful pursuits. Furthermore, there were negotiations aimed at renewing pre-existing agreements for access to Urea enriched from South Africa. In that specific year, the Nuclear Research Center came into existence. In March 1986, a conference was convened in Tehran with the primary objective of advancing the foundational principles of atomic theory within the scientific community in Iran, against the backdrop of the impressive Calais landmark district. The professed objective at this juncture entailed the utilization of nuclear reactors through electric energy.

### **1.2.3. Third Phase (1991-2004)**

The third stage of the Iranian nuclear program began in the early 1990s (Huang, 2016). Some countries, like the United States and Israel, insisted on reconsidering the secret nuclear work Iran was secretly conducting. Iran's secret operations for military purposes made America impose economic sanctions on it. Huang confirmed that the secret, undeclared actions on the part of Iran led to tension and continuous conflict between it and America, and the relationship is still in an enlightened conflict that has no way and a solution over the Iranian nuclear program and its nature. One of the most important challenges that emerged is the ambiguity of the nuclear program.

In addition, Iran did not take the International Atomic Energy Agency as a door to cooperation on its nuclear activities, which made the military nuclear aspect of it a military action. Iran did not show the military aspect in its work but rather maintained that it only worked

for civilian purposes. The stages of the Iranian nuclear program contributed to several political and economic factors, especially technological development. This program was characterized by periods between conflict and cooperation, and it is still the subject of open discussion and continuous questioning, as Jahan Bo (2000) indicated that it is one of the most controversial and complex issues of international relations.

### **1.3. Post-Revolution Nuclear History**

The Shah of Iran wanted to modernize Iran through the secular school of thought. The Muslim opponents refused the system and the Americanization of Iran and they returned the country under the Islamic doctrine and control. This act left many consequences, especially on the Nuclear program.

#### **1.3.1. Causes of Iranian Revolution**

The Iranian Revolution, also known as the Islamic Revolution, broke out in 1979 to oppose the Shah's regime system. It is worth mentioning that the Shah had exiled Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini to France during his reign. Years after, Khomeini came back, brought down the Shah's reign, and established his regime. The bloodshed by Shah military forces at the time of the revolution caused tension and unease situation in the country. The Shah's security forces responded with violence during the revolution, marked by the emergence of many obstacles and unrest throughout the country. Farsoun and Mashayekhi (1993) claimed that during the evolution, the Shah's regime was controlled and Shah was forced to flee Iran. Thus, Khomeini became the new regime leader. During the Shah's reign, his ambitions to modernize the country left serious reactions and effects. Iran faced hard times characterized by economic difficulties and political corruption. People protested on the streets and asked for greater political freedom. These events marked the start of the revolution in Iran.

### **1.3.2. Development of the Iranian Revolution**

Asaf Hussain (1985) stated that in January 1979, the Shah of Iran was exiled, and Khomeini returned to Iran as a public hero. In April 1979, the government held a referendum that guaranteed the re-establishment of an Islamic republic. Right after, the new government applied and worked on the Islamization of Iran by implementing Islamic laws and establishing Islamic institutions.

Ayatollah Ali Khomeini's believed that nuclear weapons and all kinds of mass destruction weapons were prohibited in his belief. Therefore, his fatwa of preventing and pausing the nuclear program came in favour of international concerns about Iran's nuclear program. The Western countries and their allies believed that Iran's nuclear program would have serious negative implications globally. Milani (2014) argued that the overthrow of the Shah's reign was led purposefully by America as it noticed the anticipated fearful situation if Iran continuing its attempts to get nuclear weapons. Therefore, Iran's nuclear activities were suspended in 2003 then Iran had several negotiations with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the European Union.

### **1.4. Escalations in US-Iranian Relations**

After the Islamists arrived in power in Iran and reconsidered the peculiarities of the country, the U.S. commenced to shift negatively concerning its foreign policy towards Iran. Both sides helped the tension to worsen later.

#### **1.4.1. The Hostage Crisis 1979**

Farber (2009) stated that under Islamic rule and during the revolution, sixty-six American citizens had been locked in Tehran for over a year, which later was referred to as the hostage crisis. This crisis was the shifting point of the radical change in U.S-Iranian relations. Ever since, the relations have been characterized by instability, mistrust, and hostility. The U.S.

considered this act as a sign of the power of the nuclear program development which raised concerns about Iran's intentions and capabilities.

The hostage crisis began on September 4<sup>th</sup>, 1979 (Zaretsky, 2007). Iranian gunmen stormed the U.S. embassy asking for the return of the Shah to the U.S. For reaching their purpose, they locked many Americans there. In addition, the hostages were interrogated, tortured, and skinned psychologically and physically. Undoubtedly, this crisis profoundly affected Iranian-U.S. relations. The U.S. responded through severe diplomatic relations and imposed economic sanctions; its resonance was wider on the foreign policy of the United States. This act led to a more confrontational approach towards countries hostile and threatening to the interests of the United States.

#### **1.4.2. U.S. Sanctions against Iran**

Since the country underwent the 1979 Islamic Revolution, the American government has been instituting primary sanctions concentrated on diminishing Iran's oil exports and freezing any assets from Iran held within America. These are referred to as 'primary sanctions' since they were established with the main objective of preventing any U.S. corporations or persons from engaging in business dealings with Iran. Mossavar- Rahmani (1980), assured that in spite of Iran's assertion of the peaceful purposes of its nuclear program as it was established only to secure the country's energy needs, the U.S. discovered the secret and underlined origins of the program. The U.S. had already warned Iran of having or making nuclear weapons or using the program for military purposes. Therefore, the U.S. had a special foreign policy towards Iran. It imposed several different sanctions to prevent the global threat if Iran continued its intentions.

##### **1.4.2.1. Economic Sanctions**

Introduced during the 1990s, secondary sanctions prevented foreign enterprises and individuals from trading with Iran. To pressurize foreign companies in compliance with the existing U.S. sanctions against Iran, these regulations targeted numerous aspects of the energy

sector, financial affairs, as well as shipping industry. Persons or firms in evasion of these stipulations would be subjected to both fines and a ban from accessing the U.S. market.

Gheissari (2006) reported that the U.S. is strong and its foreign policies can immobilize countries. It has a series of a long history of penalizing economic sanctions on Iran. The purpose of these sanctions was a response to Iran's terrorism support action, its nuclear program's intentions, and its human rights violations. The U.S. blocked all Iranian assets to access the U.S. financial system and trade with it.

The U.S. exceeded in its imposing of sanctions on Iran and considered it as a part of its "War on Terror" campaign (Tabatabai & Esfandiary, 2018). The U.S. took several measures to prevent Iran from acquiring weapons of mass destruction and freeze the funds of terrorist groups (Ghazvinian, 2006).

In addition, according to BBC News (2021), the U.S. asked its allies to exert pressure on Iran and accord with its sanctions which would lead to the reduction of Iran's oil export and put the country in front of further economic hardship. In 2012, the U.S. added comprehensive penalties that further zeroed in on entities of Iran's banking system, energy sector, and shipping industry all at once. In addition to this, the punitive action was mandated in an attempt to push Iran into entering negotiations for striking a deal centered on its nuclear program. Additional targets specified under the comprehensive sanctions included the prototypical Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), closely affiliated companies, along with the Central Bank of Iran.

However, U.S. sanctions have been contentious and disputable worldwide as they violate the rights of the Iranian people. Therefore, the U.S. justifies its policy as the only solution left to force Tehran to accept the negotiations about the nuclear program. On, the other hand, a supporter of politics and the government assured that U.S. policy succeeded in demobilizing

Iran's economy for the sake of limiting its nuclear program in exchange for some sanctions relief (Ramazani, 1966).

#### **1.4.2.2. Political Sanctions**

The U.S. did not only impose economic sanctions on Iran but also added political ones (Dahl, 2013). That was a warning against Iran's human rights record and its backup for terrorism in the region. For that reason, the U.S. Congress passed the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability and Divestment Act (CISADA) in 2012, which led to assessing the appended sanctions on Iran's energy sector and financial institutions.

Kinch (2016) affirmed that the U.S. declared its withdrawal from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA); a signed agreement that sought to confine Iran's nuclear program in exchange for sanctions relief. The U.S. claimed that Iran had violated the agreement's terms, which urged America to impose sanctions on Iran's oil exports and access to the international financial system. These political sanctions deeply affected Iran's relationships with other countries, as well as its ability to engage in international trade and diplomacy.

#### **1.5. 9/11 Implications**

On September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001, a pair of unidentified aircraft assaulted the World Trade Center, resulting in a prolonged period of economic turmoil within the United States. The United States harbored suspicions of numerous nations implicating their involvement in the attack, consequently deteriorating diplomatic relations. The attacks marked a pivotal moment in American perception and understanding of terrorism. Higgs (2005) reported that before the attack, the United States and Iran maintained a strained relationship marked by mutual allegations of promoting terrorism and inciting instability in the area. In the wake of the aforementioned attacks, the United States encountered a circumstance wherein it required regional allies to combat terrorism, and consequently, Iran emerged as a plausible collaborator (Sullivan, 2002).

Paul Sullivan (2002) discussed the consequences of the 9/11 attacks on U.S.-Iran diplomatic relations. 9/11 turned out to be a chance for a re-talk between the two countries and for re-flourishing their relations. The US declared that Iran has become an important ally needed in the war against the Taliban in Afghanistan.

The United States and Iran collaboration succeeded to overthrow the Taliban in Afghanistan. After the war ended in Afghanistan, the Bush administration announced in the media that Iran was part of the "Axis of Evil" which justified the U.S. prevention of Iran's nuclear program. Sullivan (2002) continued to argue that the U.S. purposefully opposed the re-gained friendship with Iran. He asserted that Iran possesses a crucial capacity to promote stability in the region and combat terrorism, and averred that the United States must not disregard this fact.

Despite the initial indications of amicability, the relationship between the United States and Iran persists to be characterized by disagreement and opposition to this day. The two countries disagree on several issues namely Iran's intentions of nuclear weapons, backup terrorism, and eagerness to control the region. Sullivan believes that the U.S. should be cautious when it deals or negotiates with Iran. He knows that Iran is very important in that part of the world and wants the U.S. to work together with Iran on different issues.

Sullivan (2002) posits that the pivotal events of September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001, significantly influenced U.S-Iranian relations. The terrorist attacks gave rise to a singular prospect for the two nations to collaborate in combating terrorism. However, regrettably, this opportunity was ultimately neglected. The diplomatic association between the United States and Iran continues to be a source of dispute, and despite sporadic instances of collaboration, the fundamental factors that polarize these two nations persist without resolution. There is a necessity for the United States to adopt a more refined and perceptive strategy towards Iran, and to participate in

constructive diplomatic discussions aimed at resolving the multifaceted challenges that exist between the two nations(Sullivan, 2002).

## **1.6. Reactivation of the Iranian Nuclear Program**

The Iranian nuclear program commenced in the 1950s and is still going on until the moment. This program constitutes the most critical and complex subject of discussion between the West and Iran's region. After extensive deliberations, Iran signed the Comprehensive Plan of Action. This program was curtailed for the country in exchange for sanctions relief. In 2018, the countries withdrew from the agreement and imposed new sanctions on Iran, which encouraged the Iranians to re-program and revitalize it (Joyner, 2013).

### **1.6.1. Causes of the Reactivation of the Iranian Nuclear Program**

Among the main factors, the United States of America worked to withdraw from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, which made Iran feel betrayed and disappointed. The United States of America applied economic sanctions that also made Iran feel isolated and insecure. Therefore, the reactivation of the nuclear program helps Iran confront the expected attacks and increase its strength in future negotiations.

Among the other factors that contributed to the revitalization of the nuclear program is that Iran sought to establish itself as a regional power parallel to the influence of its competitors in the region, including Saudi Arabia and Israel. It wanted to show its force and strengthen its position as an important component in the Middle East. In addition, this program is considered a symbol for its technological progress and national pride.

### **1.6.2. Implications of Announcement of New Facilities**

According to Hesse (2012), in August 2002, Iran announced its nuclear facilities, including its numbers and conditions. This announcement was a turning point in Iran's program. Iran declared its rich reserve of uranium and intention to construct the Arak Heavy Water

Reactor (1990) to save its need for heavy water to generate energy. The international community was concerned with regard to these declarations and questioned Iran's intentions although its previously assured that the program was for purely civilian purposes.

The announcement of these facilities was met with suspicion and condemnation by many Western countries. Therefore, the U.S. imposed further sanctions on Iran. During his State of the Union speech, President George Bush, described Iran, Iraq, and North Korea as the countries that formed the Axis of evil that greatly threatens global security.(Reardon, 2012).

Gaietta (2016) emphasized that the exacerbation of international concern in 2006 was caused by Iran's subsequent refusal to fully cooperate with the International Atomic Energy Agency and its continued activity to enrich uranium, as international security called on Iran to suspend all uranium enrichment activities. Nevertheless, Iran ignored these calls and continued to develop its nuclear program, which led to an increase in the violence of the United States with it and the imposition of other sanctions and a joint plan of action.

Finally, the announcement of the facilities was a great shift in the Iranian nuclear program. U.S. and Israel considered Iran's program untrustworthy as it has the intention to develop nuclear weapons. Despite the worldwide critique, Iran strengthened its position and claims of the peaceful intention of its nuclear program and the importance of its energy needs.

Where Khomeini assured the West and the globe that his nuclear program was for peaceful purposes to pursue technology, Iran had the right to enrich and develop its energy needs and reserves. In addition, he insisted on the idea that he did not aim to have a nuclear weapon that may threaten the stability of the region. Experts believed that Khomeini's intentions were to develop nuclear weapons to deter opponents and strengthen their position.

Overall, the reactivation of the nuclear program during the Khomeini era turned out to be a critical issue, in addition to the withdrawal of the United States of America from the Joint

Comprehensive Plan of Action and Iran's regional ambitions. Khomeini's personal beliefs also contributed to the reactivation of this program, such as the tensions between the U.S. and Iran, and the Iranian nuclear program is still certain.

### **Conclusion**

This chapter discussed the roots of the nuclear program, which first started in the Shah period during which the relations between Iran and the U.S. were strong. This later supported Iran's nuclear program from the 1950s to 1979. After Shah's overthrow, Iran's nuclear program stopped. Later, discussions about US sanctions were held by Ali Al Khomeini. Providing weapons to Iran and subsequent disposal pertains to 1979 hostage crisis, a significant event that altered US-Iran dynamics. US failed to collaborate with Iran in countering terrorism after 9/11. Al Khomeini revived the dormant program and declared his regime the Islamic Political System, guided by ethics and religion. This exacerbated the predicament. Sanctions against Iran were increased due to recent developments.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **Consequences of the US-Iranian Conflict**

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## **Introduction**

The US-Iranian relations have been tense since Iran has had different intentions for its nuclear program. Different sanctions have been imposed on Iran by the U.S., the UN, and the EU. Consequently, Iran was enfeebled and, thus, getting rid of these sanctions and restrictions has become an ultimate goal. The international community, on the other hand, wanted to seize the sanctions as they would harm the Iranians who enormously suffered from these economic and financial sanctions. Not only the public was affected, but also Iran as a country encountered terrible economic conditions. Therefore, the Iran Nuclear Deal was an inevitable negotiation that resulted in several repercussions. This chapter investigates and analyses the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JACOP) terms to determine their repercussions on the U.S., Iran and the Gulf region.

### **2.1. Iran Nuclear Deal**

Jett (2018) stated that after a series of negotiations reached by Iran and the six countries (China, Russia, America, France, Germany, and Britain), an agreement and a plan called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action JCPOA were concluded. The negotiations started from March 26<sup>th</sup> to April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015 in the Swiss city of Lausanne. They aimed at a comprehensive amendment that would guarantee the peaceful nature of the Iranian nuclear program, in exchange for the complete lifting and abolition of all sanctions imposed on Iran. These negotiations were characterized by the fact that they began, then were suspended, then continued and then extended. After that, the six countries and Iran reached, in April 2015, a clear and common solution that included a solution to the nuclear program and everything related to it.

Further, Adebahr (2018) claimed that the international powers and Iran reached an agreement in the talks on the nuclear program, whereby the sanctions imposed on Iran were lifted in return for Iran reducing its Iranian nuclear activities. This agreement was officially announced, according to U.S. President Barack Obama, who confirmed that the agreement

would prevent Iran from accessing and using any nuclear weapon. The JCPOA agreement was the last agreement between the six countries of the world p5 + 1 and Iran, which came after a number of negotiations between them. The six countries, in addition to the European Union, agreed to form a final solution to these negotiations on the nuclear program, and it came as a result of the secret facilities that Iran carried out, as the world nations testified that Iran had a secret intention that made it establish secret facilities. In addition, the United Nations wanted to improve the situation in Iran by lifting the sanctions imposed on it, which caused their harassment and expelled them from the negotiations that were the cause of the economic and military blockade on Iran. Iran succeeded in developing the nuclear program for peaceful and military purposes.

This led to the formation and drawing of an agreement between the two parties, in which Iran was committed to specific conditions that prevented it from using nuclear weapons and military purposes. On April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015, Iran agreed to the agreement in return for lifting the sanctions imposed by the United States. Under this agreement, the United States and the United Nations established a series of conditions, including an international inspection of Iran to monitor the implementation of the agreement.

## **2.2. Consequences of the Nuclear Agreement on Iran**

The Iranian nuclear agreement is a historical and diplomatic achievement which prevents Tehran from developing nuclear weapons. This agreement, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPA), was launched in July 2015 between Iran and the international powers and lasted approximately 22 months of negotiations. Under the plan, Iran and the United States of America, Germany, Britain, China, Russia and France agreed to lift international sanctions on Iran. The agreement decisions included many positive economic and political benefits for Iran.

### **2.2.1.Economic Repercussions**

One of the most beneficial results Iran has earned from the agreement was relief from the economic sanctions imposed by different powers, namely, the United Nation (UN), the European Union (EU), and the U.S.

#### **2.2.1.1. UN and EU Sanctions Relief**

According to article number 18 of the agreement, the UN affirms that all the previous economic sanctions will be seized. Also, article 19 affirms that all the sanctions imposed by the EU concerning the nuclear program must be cancelled. It, hence, lifts all the related economic and financial restrictions. First, it permits Iranian Individuals and entities, who encompass financial institutions, as well as institutions located within Iran to transfer funds. Secondly, it re-allows its backing treatments and transactions worldwide. Third, all the assurances will be re-given and all support for the international Iranian trade will be allowed and supported (JOCP, 2015).

According to Martinez (2016), various financial sanctions were relieved, including those pertaining to financial backing for commercial activities, transactions involving public or public-backed bonds, and pledges for subsidies, fiscal aid, and advantageous loans to the Iranian government. The present discourse pertains to the revocation of European Union (EU) sanctions which pertained to trading and, more specifically, the crude oil segment. The 2012 EU oil embargo targeting Iran represents a notably stringent sanction implemented by the European Union towards a foreign nation.

The eighth, ninth, and tenth sections, related to the term 19 from JCPOA (2015) reflect this sanctions relief which carries significant ramifications for the Iranian economy, rendering it the gravest repercussion of its kind. JCPOA permits Iran to import and exports its oil and coerces of energy like petrol and gas. Also, Iran has been allowed to conduct transactions concerning petrochemical products by exporting the necessary technological requirement for energy factories and it has the opportunity to enjoy the lifting of sanctions on its sectors.

The lifting of supplementary trade sanctions encompassed the exportation of essential naval equipment and technology, the design and development of cargo ships and oil tankers, and the privileged admission of Iranian cargo flights to EU airports. The topic of precious metals was also deliberated upon and the measure pertaining to the limitation of the exportation of gold, precious metals, and diamond was rescinded (JCPOA, 2015).

Samore (2019) affirmed that lifting all economic sanctions imposed by the United Nations and the commitment of European countries to encourage trade, investment and technology for Iran, with the hope of its accession to the World Trade Organization. Including granting Iran significant value in uranium enrichment, oil, gas, energy, transportation, trade, and gold. In exchange for Iran's commitment to the conditions not to enrich uranium in additional quantities, in addition to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the sanctions imposed by the United Nations on weapons will remain within five years, but the UN Security Council can prevent them. Some exceptions could remain for ballistic and any missile-related trade. They charge it with nuclear warheads prepared for a specific period that includes lifting all U.S. and European sanctions related to the Iranian nuclear program and targeting sectors such as money, energy, and gas.

According to the Board of Governors, Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treat (NPT )Safeguards Agreement with the Islamic Republic of Iran (2023), assigned the International Atomic Energy Agency to regularly monitor all Iranian nuclear sites and the entire nuclear network, starting with the use of uranium and ending with research and development, passing through the conversion and enrichment of uranium, or enabling agency inspectors to access uranium mines and places where yellowcake (uranium adsorbent) is produced for a period of 25 years. In addition, the IAEA inspectors had limited access to non-nuclear military sites if they were informed of doubts within the framework of the Additional Protocol to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Institutes, with Iran's commitment to visit their sites(JCPOA, 2015).

### **2.2.1.2. Lifting U.S. Sanctions**

The lifting of economic sanctions applied by the United States of America and the European Union resulted in several positive effects which were beneficial to Iran after its liberation from the prison of sanctions and crises, represented in Iran (Tehran) possessing complete freedom to develop the nuclear program peacefully and to the great progress in its economy and its development again. In addition to obtaining Axis trade, technology, money, oil, and, energy, it was the first benefit that Iran obtained after the JCPOA agreement.

Iran has benefited from recovering the frozen funds in the foreign treasury by liberating the frozen oil revenues of Iran, represented in foreign expenses, amounting to about 100-140 billion dollars, and there is a value ranging between 30-50 billion dollars. It also benefited from the opening of new branches for its expenses in the territories of the member states—in the European Union. Additionally, the operation of the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunications (SWIFT) system which is responsible for financial services, export of major marine equipment and technology, design, manufacture and construction of goods, ships and oil tankers. The benefits also involved entering Iranian cargo battles to European Union airports, and the heavy metals area has been dealt with, re-exporting gold and minerals (precious metals and diamonds), listing persons, entities and agencies that were previously under the control of visa bans and asset freezes, processing the plan The joint comprehensive goal of Iran, which is the lifting of economic sanctions.

### **2.2.2. Political Repercussions**

According to the article term in ( JOCPA), the U.S. emphasized the following conditions: the development of the nuclear program for peaceful purposes; that Iran does not seek to adopt any military nuclear program, and that Iran does not cooperate with its neighbouring countries (its allies). This latter means not collaborating with other countries to develop nuclear weapons for military purposes in exchange for Iran's concession. Iran's reaffirmation that it will not, under

any circumstances, develop a nuclear program for military purposes. (United States, Britain, Germany, China, France, and Russia).

Giving Iran the right to develop the nuclear program in return for not seeking to manufacture nuclear weapons for military purposes under the articles related to (NPT) and what corresponds to Iran's commitment to the required and agreed-upon conditions; with the use of the usual method in the development of the nuclear program, like other countries (JOCPA, 2015)

Lifting the political sanctions imposed by the United Nations in return for Iran serves its political relations with other countries. Knowing that Iran's failure to respect this condition will make it to be subject to new sanctions or create problems with the countries with which Iran has cooperated for the development of the nuclear program. The EU+3/E3 countries refrain from imposing new procedural sanctions instead of the old ones and their commitment to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action while building a relationship based on respect and mutual cooperation in return for Iran not relying on the secret intentions that permeate the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action and stressing that any action contradicts with this agreement, he will be met with severe penalties (JOCPA, 2015).

The results of lifting the political sanctions on Tehran were represented in Iran adopting the model of China as a means of dealing with the United States of America by re-establishing foreign international relations and seeking help from its allies and other neighboring countries. Establishing diplomatic relations with countries targeted by Iran to assist in the development of the nuclear program, enriching uranium in special areas such as the Fordow area located under the mountain tunnels (underground) for an illegal purpose contrary to the agreement with the United States of America and the European Union. Emphasis on the importance of regional cooperation as evidence of seriousness and leadership in the development of bilateral, tripartite and multilateral relations as the only way to ensure peace, stability and security in the region (JOCPA, 2015)..

To conclude, all that we have said before, the terms of the agreement, based on the economic and political aspects, affirmed the willingness of the United States of America to lift all sanctions against Tehran in return for preventing it from acquiring nuclear weapons, and within certain conditions that Iran must abide by. The results of the 2015 agreement had a great impact on benefiting Iran from the economic and political sides. Among the most prominent of these results are the recovery of Iran's revenues and the increase and development of its economic growth with the improvement of its relations with neighbouring countries.

### **2.3. Consequences of the Nuclear Agreement on the U.S.**

The nuclear agreement that was set between Iran and the six major countries in 2015 in the Swiss city of Lausanne aimed at reaching a comprehensive settlement between the two sides that guarantees the peaceful nature of the Iranian nuclear program and the complete abolition of all sanctions, especially economic ones, on Tehran. However, the crisis worsened in this agreement because the U.S. President announced the withdrawal. Sossai (2020) claimed that the European side had another opposing opinion in the statement of affirmation of commitment to the nuclear agreement concluded despite the decision of the United States of America to withdraw from the agreement. The European Union has confirmed that it will guarantee Iran's protection, provided that it adheres to the provisions of the agreement.

#### **2.3.1. Iran's Power Effects**

Sossai (2020) asserted that after Iran's agreement with the six countries in 2015, during the Obama term, aimed at developing the nuclear program for peaceful purposes, that is, not using any nuclear weapon that disrupts and obstructs the plan joint overall work. However, Sauer (2003) confirmed that "Iran agreed to the terms of the agreement ratified by the United States of America and the European Union" ( p,15). After the International Atomic Energy Agency monitoring the sites for the production of nuclear weapons and after confirming Iran's commitment to the temporary and agreed written conditions of the comprehensive plan of action.

All economic and political sanctions were lifted, and Iran was able to restore oil production, energy, and trade with great progress in its economy.

### **2.3.2. Tensions in the Middle East Region**

According to National Security Strategy (2017), the stability of Iran and its neighbouring countries relations, especially with the Middle East, represented Iran a powerful country. This balance and stability did not please the United States because its main goal was hegemony and control over the countries of the world, in addition to sowing a state of tension, anxiety, chaos, and instability in Iran.

McInnis et al. (2019) argued that the reason that caused Trump's exit from the nuclear agreement was to separate the region from Iran possessing nuclear weapons. However, Iran had another intention about the program. Iran's development of ballistic missiles, the money it recovered and used to increase tampering with the region and harm the Arab countries in the region, provoked Trump. This latter insisted in his statement that "the rejection of a nuclear agreement that does not surround the opportunity for Iran to reach any agreement, and therefore, the discussion will remain because there is a study on another nuclear agreement, or finding another solution because he stated that he would "study with his allies what the solutions are" (p. 14).

Kerr (2018) indicated that the President of the United States affirmed that, "The goal of the American government is to control the danger posed by the dictatorship in Iran, which has been neglected by those who ratified the European Union agreement. The National Security Agency also emphasized that the view of the American administration lay in the determination of Iran's dictatorship and its insistence on instability in the region, in addition to threatening its people. National Security Strategy (NSS) explained that it was the goal of the United States of America to cooperate with the countries of the European Union to make a comprehensive plan aimed at

stopping nuclear weapons (NSS) and limiting the establishment of Iranian nuclear activities, but Iran continued and was able to develop the nuclear program with a military purpose.

Parsi (2017) reported that Iran has achieved its goal of promoting the proliferation of nuclear weapons. While the goal of the United States of America was to combat the proliferation of nuclear weapons and maintain peace and stability by protecting itself and its allies from aggression to reduce the chance of it falling into the hands of opposing countries while holding accountable governmental and non-governmental actors from using weapons of mass destruction.

### **2.3.3. Destabilisation of the U.S.**

According to the National Security Strategy of 2017, ensuring the stability of America and its allies lies in expanding the military nuclear arsenal with little use of nuclear weapons. It was stated in a statement that the United States of America contributed to work on new arrangements and strategies for stability. Also, the NSS affirmed that the United States of America will not leave threats in the establishment of the nuclear program for military purposes and the use of nuclear weapons, which is considered. It served as a form of security that was essential to US nuclear policy, thus compounding the nuclear taboo of the international community.

The US Department of Defence (DOD) has stated that Iran continued to pose a significant global security threat to the United States. This was because of its ability to dominate, obtain regional power, and develop nuclear weapons. The United States Department of Defense confirmed that the U. S Congress established economic sanctions against Iran as a result of its continued manufacture of ballistic missiles and hostilities.

Pollack (2014) stated that the spiritual president warned America against imposing new economic sanctions that it might start its nuclear program in a short period, and the parliament voted, which confirmed the increase in the country's ballistic missile budget and weapons of

foreign operations. However, the United States announces its cooperation with the countries of the Middle East to prevent the spread of weapons and Iranian influence.

The Ministry of Defence classifies Iran as one of the five entities and the Iranian threat requires active monitoring again. In addition to its assertion that the United States of America is developing advanced nuclear weapons that compete with European countries, and a deterrent to enemy strikes with weapons of mass destruction, as it works on a reliable American nuclear force that provides security for allies while achieving pressure on them. The Ministry of National Defence confirmed in 2018 that Iran continues to sow violence and that it aims to stabilize the Middle East through its acquisition of nuclear weapons (2018).

Davenport (2021) claimed that Iran encourages extremist and terrorist groups throughout the Middle East and is keen to create a network that threatens the United States of America and the world. The documents of 2017 to 2018 of the U.S. Ministry of Defence reflected the deterioration of relations between America and Iran as the United States affirmed the international non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. However, the Department of Defence and the US administration focused on maintaining and strengthening the defensive and nuclear deterrent capability.

According to the Nuclear Posture Review (NPR) in 2018, the proliferation of nuclear weapons in Iran posed many concerns to the European Union regarding the hidden technology that Iran possesses and lies in developing nuclear weapons in a short period, knowing that Iran has committed to the terms of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). Previously. This proliferation of nuclear weapons has posed many fears and a threat to the European Union countries, and while Iran has applied the usual conditions, it will eliminate the problem of the nuclear program and its development for military purposes by 2031.

Board (2023) maintains that the neighbouring countries imitate Iran in developing a nuclear program for military purposes. America's assistance to Iran aims to remove any military

attack against it and bring the state of Iran under its control (NPR). Iran's pledge to develop its nuclear program for a peaceful purpose for a long-term period has raised doubts and controversy in the minds of neighboring countries, in addition to its establishment of ballistic missile strategies. Iran's hacking of the Trump administration's NPR report, which crosses the line between nuclear and non-nuclear war, with US President Barack Obama's pledge to limit the use of the nuclear bomb in 2010.

Brown (2018) proved that nuclear weapons have a miraculous power that can stop any external attack and protect the country from any foreign threats. Brown also argued that controlled nuclear transfer techniques (NPRS) would increase the chances of crises. The statement of the (NPN) report in 2018, that the United States of America seeks to think and develop peacefully and not to submit to any military party, and it also opposes the absence of nuclear weapons and the transformation of foreign policy from 2003 to 2015.

Lonsdale (2019) quoted Iranian President Hassan Rouhani stating that "America is not our neighbor. The United States is here, not in the Middle East, and it is "not the defence attorney for any country, nor the guardian of any country," as he described the American sanctions against his country as genocide" (p. 13). With America depriving Iran of the advantages of participating in the global economy, he demanded re-consultation regarding the lifting of economic and political sanctions. He also added that America's withdrawal from this agreement not only is it a violation of Resolution 2231, but it is also an attack on world sovereignty and its economic and political independence.

Iran's President Hassan Rouhani was upset with the United States for breaking an agreement they made together. The United States promised to help Iran with peace, stability, progress, and prosperity, but instead, they put severe sanctions on Iran. President Rouhani believes that the United Nations is very important for global cooperation.

In conclusion, America's withdrawal from the agreement stipulated in 2015 resulted in the destabilization and instability of Iran while inciting it to withdraw from the Joint Comprehensive Work Agreement. America's real goal was not to settle the situation between the two countries, but rather it aimed at America's control and hegemony over all countries, including the state of Iran, and achieving its interest represented in acquiring oil, gas, gold, and trade in a peaceful way.

#### **2.4. Consequences of the Agreement on the Region**

The agreement was like a road map, and this did not mean that relations have become normal, that the consolidation has been completed, and that everything is fine. Rather, this is only a road map and an agreement on the principles that the two parties want the relations to be on to improve and consolidate these relations.

##### **2.4.1. Impact of the Agreement on the Arab Gulf**

Saudi Arabia is one of the main allies of the United States. The agreement took place with the blessing of China, given that China is considered the main rival today in the international arena of the United States. By applying the nuclear agreement to the state of Iran, it benefited politically and economically from that, as it established foreign diplomatic relations with other countries, and the success of Iranian President Hassan Rouhani's policy was guaranteed during that period. Saudi Arabia does not seek to support Iran but rather served as a threatening side to it. Saudi Arabia also demanded to develop its nuclear program, and that is under the supervision of the United States.

#### **2.4.2. Iranian-Saudi Relations before the Agreement**

Iranian-Saudi relations have been characterized by tension, and this tension has increased evidently in the nuclear agreement concluded in 2015 during the term of Iranian President Hassan Rouhani.

Iran has established successful foreign political relations with other countries due to the economic and political pressures imposed on it by the United States (Esfandiary, 2022). This is equivalent to the success of Iranian President Hassan Rouhani's policy for some ten years. For many years, the issue of developing the nuclear program has been an important issue for the Iranian state and policy. However, Iran was able to establish successful constructive interactions and relations with the policy of other countries of the world to serve its interests, which made it a country with an international standing in the global international equations that rejects the policy of oppression and equality.

The Rouhani government was seeking to solve the problem of negotiations with the West, P5 + 1, by establishing a successful diplomatic relationship by removing the latent tensions between the two parties (Wehrey, 2009). Therefore, Saudi Arabia, which used to follow the footsteps of the policy of the United States of America, insisted on continuing the negotiations between Iran and other countries of the world.

On the other hand, Khan (2018) argued that Saudi Arabia, which was affiliated with the government and policy of the United States of America, accused Iran of intervening in Syria and Yemen for its benefit against Saudi Arabia, which was, considerably, evidence of its rejection of the nuclear agreement. Saudi played a great role in secrets on the continuation of negotiations to reach a nuclear agreement in crisis circumstances. After the failure to change the path of the talks, Saudi Arabia worked to continue negotiations and thwart the good relations that existed between the West and Iran under the framework of the nuclear agreement. The nuclear agreement that the United States established with Iran has aroused concern and fear in some

Arab countries in the region, such as Saudi Arabia. The view of some Arab countries regarding the nuclear agreement between Iran and the West was that the United States sought to protect them from Iran and its military nuclear program.

### **2.4.3. Iranian-Saudi Relations after the Agreement**

According to Kéchichian (2015), Saudi Arabia refused to establish diplomatic relations with Iran's policy regarding cooperation in developing the economy, in contrast to Iran, which seeks to establish independent and bilateral regional relations with countries in the region, such as Saudi Arabia, with the aim of cooperation for the growth of the country's economy. Iranian Foreign Minister Muhammad Javad also tried to open a path aimed at cooperation between Iran and Saudi Arabia to develop and prosper the economy. In its foreign policy, Iran focused on economic development and development, by strengthening cooperation with neighboring countries in the region, despite the existing threat from Saudi Arabia over the development of the Iranian nuclear program.

Pollack(2015) adds that the United States reacted negatively by withdrawing from the JCPOA nuclear agreement because Saudi Arabia accused Iran of not abiding by the terms of the agreement. The major Saud newspapers confirmed that the United States, which aimed to cooperate with Iran on the development of the nuclear program for peaceful purposes has lifted its hand, and that it has turned its back to its Arab allies to gain Iran. They also made it clear, indirectly, that not changing US policy would enable them to agree with their allies to ensure the development of the nuclear program also for nuclear military purposes.

Saudi Arabia was in negotiations with Iran, despite its jealousy of Iran's development of the nuclear program, in addition to its demand from the United States to settle rights and establish equality between them and the state of Iran and other Arab regions. This is what made it against the idea of the United States supporting Iran regarding the nuclear program, even if it was in its interest. Saudi Arabia claimed under the title of the "Iranian Nuclear Deal" that this

agreement would only result in more aggressiveness and evil in the Middle East region. Although Saudi Arabia did not express its objection to the terms of the nuclear agreement directly, this would inevitably appear in their actions and foreign policy, because they thought that the nuclear agreement would leave the effect of evil and that from it they would enter into a war and a crisis like what happened with Iraq. Syria, Bahrain, and Yemen followed other policies of a more aggressive nature against Iran (Esfandiary, 2022).

Kalout (2015) also proved that Saudi Arabia was calling for an end to the nuclear program under the Iranian deal while maintaining the sanctions imposed on Iran (2015). In this regard, it is possible to lay out the reasons for the pessimistic and frowning view of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia regarding the Iranian nuclear agreement, which can be summarized in four factors.

First, breaching the balance of power in the region. Iran relied on the differences it faced with Saudi Arabia over the nuclear program, which was a major victory and achievement for Iran, which resulted in achieving a nuclear fuel cycle. Iran also considered its agreement with major countries such as the United States a victory for it to reach the process of enriching fuel that can be used in the manufacture of nuclear weapons. Iran's power was increasing greatly because it was not seeking settlement and balancing of power, but rather it was aiming at control through the great growth of its economy, unlike other Arab countries that demand equality with the state of Iran, and for this reason, the axis of settlement between the Arab countries was lacking. With the decline of the axis of settlement, Saudi Arabia sought with all its efforts to achieve its regional strategies in its interest with the aim of control and hegemony.

Secondly, the level of economic power has risen. The view of the Al Saud team is that Iran has been able to influence and dominate the region, under the lifting of sanctions. Likewise, once Iran obtained financial resources, it would be able to expand in the region. In addition to the belief of some that Iran sought to advance and achieve its revolutionary goals and political influence, through the charm of improving its economic situation, in this regard, Iran would

work within the strategy of opening a revolution in the region and achieving economic growth while opening the door to internal challenge.

Third, the loss of Iran's phobia. As long as Iran poses a threat and danger to the region, this will force the Saudis to move on to other issues. Iran's phobia is an obstacle to concealing many regional problems. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia continues to confront Iran, with its insistence on making the Iranian nuclear capability dangerous by threatening Iran (Farazmand, 2015).

Fourth, Iran was able to obtain military power. By lifting the sanctions imposed on Iran regarding the spread of nuclear weapons, the United States enabled it to have a high economy and expand its military power, while encouraging groups neighboring the government in Yemen, Syria and some other places. It is not possible to overlook and forget what was mentioned in the above context the four regional developments that concern the developments after the Islamic Revolution and the impact on the relationship between Iran and Saudi Arabia. There are more than twenty effective and active conflicts in the Khalij Al-Farsi region, and both sides, Iran and Saudi Arabia have interests of their own. A diplomatic transition and shift were observed for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia from conservative to aggressive, from a friendly government in Egypt and Yemen with the victory of the axis of resistance in Syria and Iraq at the expense of the House of Saud to the invasion and occupation of Yemen with the internationalization of the conflict. For this, on the one hand, Iran's foreign political government sought to obtain any opportunity that would enable it to grow and develop the country's economy and politics after the period of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action in the international arena. On the other hand, despite the critical conditions in the Middle East, Iran continued its security policy in obtaining stability for the country and preventing terrorism within its borders (Mousavi, 2015).

Behboodinejad and Kumarpardi (2015) stated that Saudi Arabia, being the most important ally of the United States, believed that the rapprochement between Iran and the United States might lead to the division of hegemony in the region, and the region might return to the former

Iranian Shah. The Iranian nuclear issue was the reason for the improvement of relations between the United States and Iran, in addition to the military hegemony in the Persian Gulf, with which Iran considered itself the regional gendarmerie. This is what made Saudi Arabia concerned about the new US policies towards the region. Saudi Arabia has also worked to strengthen and multiply the policy of “Asia Pivot” and “leading from behind”. However, this situation would cause Saudi Arabia to lose all American support, with the Saudi elite believing that its interests in the United States would be endangered by the United States and Iran's rapprochement.

The goal and false hope that the United States made Iran live in is to transform Iran from the strongest revisionist country in the region into an ally in building a new political system in the Middle East. Through this method, it must be affirmed and declared that Saudi Arabia continues to serve American interests since it is the support that follows in its footsteps. If Saudi Arabia continues in this service, this will make it critical and follow a path in which it does not care about the interests of America (Bhagat, 2007). On the other hand, according to the Saudi political elites, the United States must prevent Iran from exercising its military actions and spreading its nuclear weapons, while limiting the expansion of its regional influence and its nuclear program, while strengthening the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. It is possible to use the United States for military confrontation if necessary.

After the Iranian Islamic revolution, Saudi Arabia sought to cut off relations between the United States and Iran while making a path for themselves that would grant them a regional role. But after the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, Saudi Arabia no longer has a right to US policy in the Middle East. As a result, Saudi Arabia took an extreme approach. In light of the Saudi threat, Iran is adopting a cautious policy in the region to challenge and confront the policy of the Saudis. This was due to the pessimistic view of Saudi Arabia that Iran was a threat factor, and that it would be able to develop its nuclear weapons once it allied with the United States (the great powers).

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia tried to cut off and prevent the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action applied by the United States and the European Union to the State of Iran but failed to do so. After the nuclear deal, Saudi officials felt that Iran has a nuclear goal regarding nuclear activities to develop its economy and stabilize its country. Iran was able to ally with Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Bahrain, and Yemen to achieve its interests and develop its economy. This resulted in harassment in the Saudi Arabia region. Iran's power and economy have increased thanks to its alliance with the West, while we find that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia wants to ally with other countries except for the West to maintain its security and stability (Naderinasad, 2010). In this regard, Riyadh needs help and support from countries inside and outside the region. The Rouhani government countered the Saudi approach to solving problems through the use of diplomatic means. Iran's policy has a strong defensive security, despite the threat from Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia has used irrational and diplomatic approaches to regional competition with Iran and they have resorted to destroying Iran's security.

Since 2015, the Saudi-led coalition against the Houthis in Yemen has not guessed Riyadh's progress in this file, because there is a war and there are huge losses on the material and humanitarian level. Reports are showing 500,000 dead in this war, and therefore the interest of Riyadh today is to stop this war with the blessing of the Iranians who support the Houthis. Therefore, this Iranian-Saudi rapprochement must be consolidated for Iran to put pressure on the Houthi side. That is why Riyadh hopes to sign a cease-fire, or perhaps to stop the war, also to stop the material and humanitarian bleeding in the long term, and this is one of the most important files that Riyadh is looking at. Including Riyadh today, it wants to overcome these shocks and these differences that did not reap anything from it and want to focus on economic development only. Today, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia looks a lot in search of this economic development away from disputes, and surely Tehran wants security after the tension it is experiencing with the West in its relations. It wants, at least, its regional relations to be less severe and less tense in the West.

## **2.5. Discussion of the Results**

The Comprehensive Plan of Action plays a great role in the independence of Iran and its ambitions to be a regional power. Despite the limitations of this agreement, it allowed Iran to regain its power and prosper its economy. The consequences of the agreement on Iran can be determined at three levels. First, Iran accepted all the conditions to relieve the sanctions, which turned out to be a great chance to re-establish international transactions in banks, trade, and financing its sectors of energy. Second, Iran can, be additionally, allowed to have free diplomatic affairs with its allies and other countries. This can help its project of gaining worldwide support for its program and motivate other countries of doing the same. Thus, this agreement has great beneficial repercussions on Iran economically and politically.

On the other hand, the U.S. also has been affected by this agreement. Its ultimate goal was to prevent Iran from acquiring its nuclear weapon. Its aim prevents the U.S. from considering the potential benefits that Iran took. Thus, after 2016, The U.S. noticed a sense of stability and compliance in the region, which, surely, raised some serious concerns. Although Iran is always considered an ally of the U.S. after the agreement a sense of threat has been felt as Iran became a powerful influence in their region especially, in energy matters. Therefore, during Trump's term, the U.S. withdrew from the agreement and imposed more sanctions on Iran to prevent the threat that can damage the existence of the U.S.

At the regional level, although Saudi Arabia is pro-Western, it is concerned about the rapprochement between America and Iran. The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action applied by the United States of America with European countries to Iran made Iran seek to develop its economic growth and stability in the region, in addition to expanding its foreign trade. Iran's agreement was in its interest, with the establishment of good diplomatic relations. The talks between Iran and the United States on the nuclear deal also showed that Saudi Arabia had no interest in it and that it was an important achievement for Iran on the diplomatic scene. It can be

said that Saudi Arabia enjoys military and political support from the United States, its ally. While the state of Iran is facing a threat from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which did not want stability and security for the state of Iran, but also demanded the development of its nuclear program. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia refused to implement a nuclear agreement by the United States and the European Union on the State of Iran. The success of the State of Iran in establishing effective, constructive, and successful foreign diplomatic relations with other countries of the world. Al-Saud newspapers affirmed the United States' cooperation with Iran regarding the development of its nuclear program for peaceful purposes only. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia demanded the United States settle rights and establish equality between it and the state of Iran and other Arab regions, which made it against the idea of supporting Iran and implementing a nuclear agreement for it. The return of the Iran-Saudi alliance again and resumption, and Saudi Arabia's dependence on Iran to develop its economy after its material and human losses in the wars.

### **Conclusion**

This chapter examined the possible consequences of the Iran Nuclear Agreement on Iran, the U.S., and the Gulf region. The results revealed that the repercussions on Iran were beneficial in terms of economy and politics. Under the relief of sanctions imposed on it, Iran got its independence in economic transactions, importing energy and exporting its energy and rebuilding diplomatic relations with its neighbors. All these results affected Iran in terms of becoming a powerful regional influencer, a tendency that has gained worldwide support. In this line, the U.S.'s primary goal in the agreement was preventing Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons. Ironically, the sanctions relief was beneficial to Iran more than harmful. The threat of the influence of Iran's power aftermath of the relief and its continuation in stabilizing the region urged the U.S. to withdraw from the agreement and put more severe sanctions on it. The impact went further on the Gulf region, where Saudi re-engagement with Iran did not aim at hurting the

position of the U.S. and its allies but also reshaping the map of power in the region and the world.

## **General Conclusion**

The issue of Iran's nuclear program has raised the concern of the U.S., in particular, and the globe, in general, about the possibility of acquiring nuclear weapons. In the beginning, America supported the Iranian nuclear program, but as Iran showed some intentions for developing nuclear weapons, the American attitude changed and economic and political sanctions were imposed on Iran. This ignited the conflict between Iran, on one part, and America, on the other part.

The present investigation aimed to explore the origins and ramifications of the U.S.-Iranian dispute over the Iranian nuclear program. It attempted to elucidate the underlying causes of the ongoing conflict, tracing its origins from the time of the Shah until the present epoch. Additionally, it examined the repercussions of this conflict, resulting in a comprehensive understanding of the present issue.

Two research questions were asked in the current study. The first question traced back the causes and origins of the conflict; the second one examined the repercussions of this conflict on the U.S., Iran and the region. To provide reliable answers to these questions, the historical and analytical research design was employed. This type of research design helps researchers describe and examine past events to draw conclusions and make predictions. It involved looking into the available sources such as articles, books, reports, official documents, websites, etc., to understand the nature of this conflict and predict its consequences.

For synthesizing the major studies related to the research, a relevant literature review was conducted. The first chapter was dedicated to exploring the roots of the nuclear program and the conflict over it. It started with the alliance between the U.S. and Iran during the Shah's time when the U.S. supported Iran's nuclear project. Since then, Iran constructed nuclear facilities and got help from scientists from different powerful countries. However, the relationship commenced to worsen as the Islamic regime came to power in Iran. A series of events that strengthened the

enmity between the two urged the U.S. to accuse Iran of the possibility of transforming its program into a nuclear bomb. Correspondingly, economic and political sanctions were imposed to prevent Iran from achieving its objectives.

The results vividly proved that The Comprehensive Plan of Action is a significant contributor to Iran's quest for regional power and independence. Despite the limitations imposed by this agreement, it allowed Iran to regain its power and foster the growth of its economy. The repercussions of the Iran Agreement can be regarded from various perspectives. Initially, Iran complied with the prerequisites that facilitated the alleviation of sanctions, thereby presenting a significant opportunity to restore global banking operations, commercial dealings, and facilitate the financing of its energy sectors. Moreover, it is imperative to note that Iran could be granted the liberty to exercise diplomatic relations with its allies and other nations. This measure has the potential to facilitate the attainment of global backing for the program in question and encourage other nations to emulate the approach. Consequently, it can be inferred that the aforementioned agreement holds significant advantages for Iran, both in terms of economic and political implications.

Conversely, the United States has also been subject to the impact of this accord. The ultimate objective was to hinder the attainment of nuclear weapons by Iran. The stated objective served as an impediment for the United States to contemplate the prospective advantages that might have accrued to Iran. After the year 2016, the United States observed a sense of stability and adherence prevailing within the region, thereby instilling a degree of apprehension. Despite being traditionally regarded as an ally of the United States, Iran's growing influence in the region, particularly in the arena of energy, has been perceived as a source of concern in the aftermath of the agreement. In light of contemporary political trends, notably the administration of the Trump presidency, the United States terminated its participation in the agreement and augmented the imposition of economic sanctions on Iran. This course of action was taken to

avert a perceived danger that, if realized, had the potential to jeopardize the very survival of the United States.

At the regional level, Saudi Arabia exhibits a pro-Western stance whilst concurrently expressing reservations about the burgeoning diplomatic ties between the United States of America and Iran. The strategic implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action by the United States in conjunction with European nations towards Iran stimulated the country's aspirations towards fostering economic robustness and stability within the region, alongside augmenting its foreign commerce. The agreement entered into by Iran was advantageous to its national interests, as it facilitated the establishment of positive diplomatic relations. The negotiations about the nuclear agreement between Iran and the United States have revealed that Saudi Arabia holds no inclination towards such an endeavor. This outcome marks an essential success for Iran within the realm of diplomacy. It can be posited that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia benefits from military and political backing from the United States, its strategic partner. The Islamic Republic of Iran is currently confronted with a peril emanating from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which appears to be disinclined towards promoting stability and security within Iranian territory. Furthermore, it is noteworthy that the Kingdom has expressed an interest in advancing its nuclear program. The non-compliance of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia with the nuclear accord put forth by the United States and the European Union about the Islamic Republic of Iran.

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## Appendix

### SANCTIONS

18. The UN Security Council resolution endorsing this JCPOA will terminate all provisions of previous UN Security Council resolutions on the Iranian nuclear issue - 1696 (2006), 1737 (2006), 1747 (2007), 1803 (2008), 1835 (2008), 1929(2010) and 2224 (2015) – simultaneously with the IAEA-verified implementation of agreed nuclear-related measures by Iran and will establish specific restrictions, as specified in Annex V.

19. The EU will terminate all provisions of the EU Regulation, as subsequently amended, implementing all nuclear-related economic and financial sanctions, including related designations, simultaneously with the IAEA-verified implementation of agreed nuclear-related measures by Iran as specified in Annex V, which cover all sanctions and restrictive measures in the following areas, as described in Annex II:

- i. Transfers of funds between EU persons and entities, including financial institutions, and Iranian persons and entities, including financial institutions;
- ii. Banking activities, including the establishment of new correspondent banking relationships and the opening of new branches and subsidiaries of Iranian banks in the territories of EU Member States;
- iii. Provision of insurance and reinsurance;
- iv. Supply of specialised financial messaging services, including SWIFT, for persons and entities set out in Attachment 1 to Annex II, including the Central Bank of Iran and Iranian financial institutions;
- v. Financial support for trade with Iran (export credit, guarantees or insurance);
- vi. Commitments for grants, financial assistance and concessional loans to the Government of Iran;
- vii. Transactions in public or public-guaranteed bonds;

viii. Import and transport of Iranian oil, petroleum products, gas and petrochemical products;

## ملخص

يعد البرنامج النووي الإيراني من أكثر القضايا الخلافية حول العالم. تهدف هذه الدراسة إلى تقصي جذور الصراع الأمريكي الإيراني حول البرنامج النووي الإيراني وانعكاساته على كل من الدولتين والمنطقة بشكل عام. تم استخدام النهج التحليلي التاريخي لفحص وتحليل البيانات التي تم جمعها من وثائق مختلفة بما في ذلك الاتفاقيات الرسمية والمقالات والكتب والتقارير والمواقع الإلكترونية حول هذا الموضوع. هذا النهج مفيد لتتبع الأحداث التاريخية وتحليل ملاحظات الباحث للتوصل إلى استنتاجات موثوقة. وكشفت النتائج أن الصراع الأمريكي - الإيراني بدأ نتيجة محاولات إيران إقامة برنامجها النووي ومخاوف الولايات المتحدة من امتلاكها أسلحة نووية. وهو ما دفع الولايات المتحدة إلى فرض عقوبات اقتصادية وسياسية على إيران لمنعها من تحقيق هذا الهدف. ومع ذلك ، خف التوتر بين البلدين بسبب الاتفاق النووي الإيراني الذي وعدت إيران من خلاله بأنها لن تسعى للحصول على أسلحة نووية وأن برنامجها النووي سيظل سلميًّا.

**الكلمات المفتاحية:** إيران ، الاتفاق النووي الإيراني ، المفاوضات ، البرنامج النووي ، الولايات المتحدة.