

# JOE BIDEN AND THE FUTURE OF IRAN



@ Sanket 🕒 13th Dec 2020 📁 Current Affairs, World

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As we all know, with the announcement of presidential elections results in USA last month, Joe Biden has become the 46<sup>th</sup> president. With Joe Biden coming into power, the world looks at the changing dynamics of the future of Iran.

The government changes, the dealing methods also change. The outlook on problems also changes. And what the world is thinking about a particular matter depends to a large extent on what is **America's view** on that matter.



## Iran-US Relations:

With the 1979 Iranian revolution, which overthrew the Shah's regime in Iran, an **anti-American supreme leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini** took the throne. The coup surprised the US. Since then Iran and the United States have had no formal diplomatic relations.

In fact, during the Iran-Iraq war(1980-88), American intelligence and logistical support played a crucial role in arming Iraq.




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Bitterness in relationship can be gauged from the fact that Pres. Donald Trump has declared the whole Iranian Revolutionary guard, an elite force of Iran, a terrorist organization. In retaliation Iran also declared the US army a terrorist organization.

There's a lot of talk, bunch of stories, if I write, the pages will fall short but the list of Iran and US disputes will not be over.



## The Current Scenario:

At present, the entire relationship b/w the two powers revolves around Iran's very perilous nuclear program. Reports and analysis firmly suggest that Iran is aiming to develop a nuclear weapon which surely will be hazardous for the US as well as the Jews state Israel.

As a Shia majority state, Iran will also try to clamp its back on Sunni-majority Saudi Arabia.

The enemy of an enemy is a friend, you must have understood. Anyway, Arab unity is no longer what it used to be in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. UAE recognizes Israel, signed a peace deal, Bahrain recognizes Israel. The secret relation of Saudi Arabia and Israel is being revealed.



[Click here](#) to read my article on Arab-Israeli relations.

With that level of complexities, Iran is no hoping for a good. Hoping because Joe Biden is about to be the next president. Iran hopes Biden will play an important role in taking the relationship back to normal or at least reduce the harshness and sanctions on it, which Donald Trump had imposed previously.

## The JCPOA:

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The JCPOA, commonly known as the **Iran Nuclear deal**, is an agreement b/w Iran and the **P5+1** together with the European Union.

Make sure you know who was the president of US at that time. He was **Barack Obama**, a democrat.



Under the JCPOA, Iran agreed to eliminate its stockpile of low-enriched Uranium by 98% and reduce its no. of gas centrifuges by about two-thirds for the next 13 years. For the next 15 years, Iran will only enrich Uranium upto 3.67%. Iran also agreed not to build any new heavy-water facilities for the same period of time.

The agreement provides that in return for the verifiably abiding by its commitments, Iran will receive relief from the US, EU and UN sanctions.

Everything was going according to the deal, but in 2016, the Republicans came in power, Trump became president. As expected, on 8 May 2018, Trump announced United States withdrawal from the JCPOA. Trump said that he believes the nuclear agreement to be a **bad deal** long before he ran for presidency.

It can also be seen that the deal was in effect for only 15 years and after that no one knows what Iran will do. This deal had **never given a permanent solution** to the threat of Iran having a nuclear weapon.

## Recent updates:

Well, In November 2018 US sanctions came into effect intended to force Iran to dramatically alter its policies, including support for **Hezbollah, Hamas, Houthi Rebels** and many as such militant groups in the region.

Since then, there has not been much change in the situation. Condition have become worse now. America continues to introduce new sanctions regularly on Iran. Trump blacklisted the entire Iranian financial sector as a part of “**Maximum Pressure**” campaign on Iran that led to soaring inflation and shortages of medicine.

The situation in Iran has become very substandard with the arrival of Covid-19. Health system has collapsed. The country is going through a difficult time.

## Is Joe Biden really a hope?

In short, YES he is.




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*“I will make an unshakable commitment to prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon. I will offer Tehran a credible path back to diplomacy. If Iran returns to strict compliance with the nuclear deal, the US would rejoin the agreement as a starting point for follow-on negotiations”.* These are the words of Joe Biden about Iran. This clearly indicates that Biden is keenly interested in reversing the situation back as it was in 2015. It’s also important to know that Biden was handling the post of **Vice-president** at the time of nuclear deal.



According to Biden, US is in a situation where it is loosing the support of its allies, have lost the standing in the Middle-East. He thinks that the next president must be able to pull those folks back into the agreement.

On the other hand, Iran, which has weathered the Trump storm, has its own demands. Officials say that removal of sanctions won’t be enough. Iran expects to be compensated for two and a half year of crippling economic damage.

## The Unexpected Trauma:

27 November 2020 has been a “never ending day” for Iran. Dr. Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, the father of Iranian nuclear program was assassinated in the town of Absard, to the east of Tehran. For the past two decades he was working on the program.

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Iran treads cautiously after assassination of nuclear scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh – The Globe and Mail

Intelligence officials say there is very much doubt that Israel was behind the killing as it had all the hallmarks of a precisely timed operation by Mossad, the intelligence wing of Israel.

Joe Biden and the future of Iran:

Well the killing of Fakhrizadeh is clearly a great move by Israel with the support of Donald Trump. Israel’s stand is clear, “There must be no return to the previous nuclear agreement”. The future of Iran lies largely in how it reacts in the next few weeks.

If the Iranians retaliate, it will give Trump a pretext to launch a return strike before he leaves his office in January. Iran has already expressed fear about it. US military officials said that they are closely monitoring Iranian security forces after Iran’s vow to retaliate for its scientist’s death.

Conclusion:

Though, the killing of Fakhrizadeh could limit the options for Joe Biden, still there are chances of Joe Biden returning to the deal. Now everything lies within the Iranian domain, Joe Biden and the future of Iran. Furthermore, if Iran wills to return to the deal, it’ll have to consider the loss as a bad phase and must move forward, because currently there’s **only one superpower** in the world and you can’t afford a war with her.

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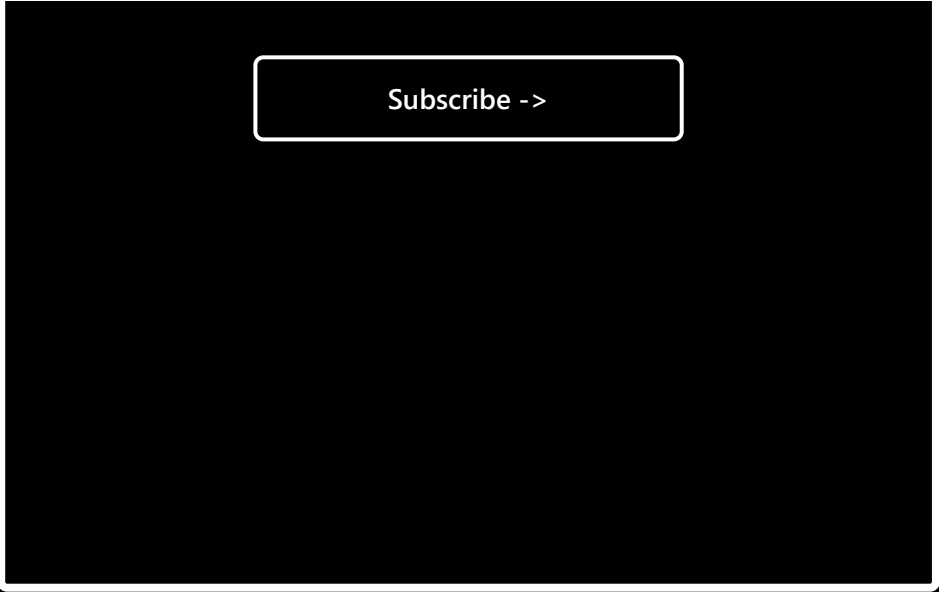
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