



Background on Iran & the JPA

Pertinent Facts

- **Iranian Budgets:** In 2015, the [entire budget](#) in Iran was \$312 billion. The official Iranian defense budget is [\\$14 to 17 billion](#). The IRGC [gets](#) 65% of the official defense budget; around \$10 billion. Iran budgets at least [\\$31 billion](#) for both its military and its proxies. The terror funding alone may amount to \$3.5-10.5 billion. (*Ilan Berman, CSP, 09/11/15*) At the start of the JPA negotiations, Iran had only [\\$20 billion](#) in fully accessible foreign exchange reserves. The Iranian government has [spent](#) between \$100–500 billion on the nuclear program.
- **The Iranian Economy:** In 2012/3, under sanctions, the Iranian economy [contracted](#) by 6.6%. These comprehensive, sanctions had “[cut](#) Iran’s oil exports in half, [drove inflation to 60 percent](#), cut growth, crashed the currency, and were beginning to generate widespread popular discontent that threatened the survival of the regime.” In 2013/4, after the JPA, it contracted by 1.9%. In 2014-2015, it grew [at least 3 – 4.3%](#). In 2015-2016, it is [estimated](#) to grow 3.7%. Some experts estimate that the deal’s sanctions relief could help Iran’s economy [grow 4-5% or higher](#) annually.
- **Iran is a Theocracy:** “On the [surface](#), the U.S. and Iranian governments have much in common: a president who is popularly elected, a boisterous legislature, and a powerful judiciary. The obvious difference lies in the fact that Iran is an Islamic theocracy, and that one man, the Supreme Leader, exerts ideological and political control over a system dominated by clerics who shadow every major function of the state.”
- **Iran is Apocalyptic:** “Iran has an [apocalyptic regime](#) with a great deal to be apocalyptic about. As I have argued in these pages since 2005, no poor country in the entire troubled history of the world has seen its fertility rate plunge from 7 children per female just one generation ago to only 1.6 children per female today... As a matter of arithmetic, Iran can sustain a third of its population as elderly dependents only by acquiring the wealth of its neighbors, for example, Eastern Province of Saudi Arabia, which has a Shia majority, and where Iran already is attempting to subvert the Saudi monarchy. That is why Iran is aggressive, and why no negotiation will contain it.”
- **Iran is Apocalyptic:** Dr. Bernard Lewis, the leading U.S. scholar on the Middle East, has [said](#) “Iran’s leadership comprises a group of extreme fanatical Muslims who believe that their messianic times have arrived. This is quite dangerous... with these people in Iran, mutually assured destruction is not a deterrent factor, but rather an inducement. They feel that they can hasten the final messianic process. This is an extremely dangerous situation of which it is important to be aware.” Leader Khamenei [believes](#) this. His likely successor [is also probably](#) a true believer.
- **Iran is at War with the U.S.:** Since 1979, and the seizure of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran, the Iranian regime has committed [numerous](#) acts of war against the U.S. It has supported terrorists that have killed 241 U.S. Marines and 17 Embassy personnel in the 1983 bombings in Beirut, and in the 1996 bombing of the Khobar Towers that killed 23 Americans; it supplied Explosively Formed Penetrators (EFP’s) and other weapons to Islamist rebels from 2003-2011 that killed [more than 1100](#) U.S. soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan; and it planned a 2011 bombing of a Washington, DC restaurant to kill the Saudi Ambassador.
- **True Sanctions Haven’t Been Tried Very Long:** The international sanctions on Iran only really began to bite in 2012, when the Europeans put sanctions on Iranian oil. (*Professor Matthew Kroenig, Hudson Institute, 04/24/15*)
 - Also important [was](#) “SWIFT [disconnected](#) 15 Iranian banks from its system in 2012 after coming under pressure from both the United States and the European Union at the height of the effort to curb Iran’s nuclear ambitions. It was a major blow to Tehran. Sure, it was how Iran sold oil, but it was also how Iranian banks moved money. According to SWIFT’s annual review, Iranian financial institutions used SWIFT more than 2 million times in 2010. These transactions, according to the [Wall Street Journal](#), amounted to \$35 billion in trade with Europe alone.”
 - “In 2011, [invoking](#) Section 311 of the Patriot Act, the U.S. Treasury took the extraordinary step of [designating](#) the entire “Islamic Republic of Iran [as] a jurisdiction of primary money laundering concern.” The Treasury cited Iran’s “support for terrorism,” “pursuit of weapons of mass destruction,” and “deceptive financial practices” as reasons for the action. It specifically targeted Iran’s Central Bank and made it clear that the entire

country's financial system [posed](#) "illicit finance risks for the global financial system." Iranian banks will get a boost from a provision in the agreement that calls for the United States to delist the Central Bank of Iran.

- **Iran's Poor Human Rights Record:** The Iranian regime's persecutions [are increasing and continuing](#):
 - A human rights group leader has [noted](#) the "persistent and pervasive assault on women."
 - Iran [continues](#) to crack down on religious minorities. Open Doors International's list for 2013 [says](#) Iran is one of the top 10 countries for Christian persecution.
 - *The Huffington Post* [ran an expose](#) on anti-gay discrimination in Iran, quoting one refugee bluntly evaluating that "either you want to leave, or you want to die." The punishment for sodomy under Iran's criminal code is death.
 - Iran [remains](#) a world leader in the imprisonment and abuse of journalists. It is [ranked](#) 173rd of 180 countries in the 2014 World Press Freedom Index. Post-JCPOA Iran [has crack downed](#) on the press.
 - Since Rouhani took over, Iranian discrimination against the Baha'is has "[worsened](#)."
 - In 2015, Iran [carried](#) out 1,084 state-sanctioned executions, which marks the highest rate of executions in the country in 25 years. In 2014, 753 Iranians were executed, a 12-year high. Child executions [continue](#) to be high.

U.S. Payments to Iran: the Obama administration [has paid](#) Iran more than \$10 billion in gold, cash, and other assets since 2013

- The interim deal, or the Joint Plan of Action (JPA), released billions in frozen Iranian funds:
 - Prior to the JPA taking affect, the U.S. [released](#) \$8 billion in Iranian assets frozen in 1979.¹
 - Under the original six month deal with Iran, Tehran [received](#) \$4.2 billion in cash.
 - For the (first) four month extension, the United States [gave](#) Iran another \$2.8 billion in frozen funds.
 - For the (second) six month extension, Iran was [given](#) \$4.9 billion.Thus, Total Relief from the JPA is [estimated](#) to be almost \$12 billion (plus possibly \$8 billion) more for Iran.
- On Implementation Day of the JCPOA, Iran received billions of frozen funds in overseas accounts.
 - The Congressional Research Service has [estimated](#) the frozen oil funds are at \$115 billion.
 - President Obama has [cited](#) the \$150 billion figure.
 - Iran [has claimed](#) that it received "more than \$100 billion."
- The total amount of JCPOA frozen funds AND sanctions relief over ten years [may reach](#) \$700 billion.
- The Obama administration [wired](#) \$850,000,000 million to an Iranian bank account in Europe.
- Iran also [received](#) \$1.4 billion as "a bridge to the deal's full implementation" after the JCPOA was negotiated but before it was implemented.
- Iran also [received](#) \$1.7 billion in frozen funds separately the same day the JCPOA was implemented.
 - This money was given to Iran on January 16, 2016. It was [supposedly](#) to settle a lawsuit with Iran. However, it was released the same time the sanctions on Iran were waived and the frozen oil funds were released to Iran, and the exact same time that four American citizen hostages were released by Iran.
 - The entire \$1.7 billion amount [was paid](#) in cash - Swiss francs.
 - The supposed legal settlement should have already been dealt with. In 2000, the Clinton administration [agreed](#) to pay the \$400 million to Americans who had won judgments against Iran for terror attacks. American officials assured the victims that the Treasury would be reimbursed from the seized Iranian funds.

Iranian Actions: Showing Bad Faith

- An Iranian resistance group [said](#) it has found evidence of an "underground top-secret site" used for uranium enrichment.
- Iran [supports](#) terror groups throughout the region and has [bragged](#) that it controls the capitals of four Arab nations. Iran [continues](#) to be the State Dept's leading State Sponsor of Terrorism. 2016 marked its 32nd year on the list.
 - Yemen's Houthis, a Shiite group that is [supported by Iran](#), have taken [control](#) of much of Yemen. Estimates put the number of Iranian and Iraqi Shi'ite forces helping the Houthis [at around](#) 5,000 people. Some have been [caught](#).
 - Iran provides between [\\$6 billion - \\$35 billion](#) a year to Syrian dictator Assad. Gen. Dunford Jr., chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, [has said](#) that less than 2000 Iranians are in Syria. Iran [has admitted](#) that it has expanded its military support to Syria post-JCPOA to include training, recruitment assistance and help to revamp its army. At least 201 Iranians in the IRGC [have been](#) killed in Syria. The U.S. has determined that Iranian forces are [waging](#) "ethnic cleansing" campaigns in Syria to eradicate Sunni Muslims and replace them with Shia Muslims.
 - Iran's [influence](#) in Iraq since June 2014 has resulted in a wave of sectarian bloodletting. Also see [here](#). Gen. Dunford Jr., chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, [has said](#) there's more than 1000 Iranians on the ground in Iraq.

¹ That amount is claimed by the Iranians. However, the State Department and other experts have not confirmed this number.

- Iran [provides](#) arms and money to the Taliban in Afghanistan (and [here](#)).
- In Latin America, Iran has [boosted](#) its efforts as it is [engaged](#) in [criminal activities](#) and plotting terrorist attacks.
- Iran [birthed](#) Hezbollah ([\\$100-200 million annually](#)), which [controls](#) Lebanon, and has killed hundreds of Americans.
- Iran [supports](#) Hamas ([\\$3-18 million annually](#)) and Palestinian Islamic Jihad ([\\$70 million annually](#)).
- Iran [has established](#) al Sabirin (“the patient”) terror group in Gaza, with an estimated \$10 million annual budget.
- Iran [is supporting](#) Shia Muslim terrorists in Bahrain.
- Iran has [increased](#) support for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, which in 2014 killed 3 Americans.
- Iran [has ties](#) to ISIS. It [provides support](#) to ISIS through Iranian funding of Hamas, and Iranian agents have also [directly sold](#) weapons to ISIS in exchange for oil.
- Iran continues to spew hatred and act in hostile ways towards the U.S. and Israel.
 - President Rouhani [described](#) his country’s diplomacy with the U.S. as an active “jihad”.
 - Leader Khamenei [stated](#) on July 23, 2014 that the only solution for the region is the destruction of Israel.
 - Ali Younesi, senior advisor to Iranian President Rouhani, [stated](#) that “Obama is the weakest of U.S. presidents, he had humiliating defeats in the region” and “that is why they want to compromise with Iran”.
 - Iranian General Jazayeri has [said](#), “The low-IQ US president ... (is a joke).”
 - Iranian TV [ran](#) a computerized video of an attack on U.S.S. carrier and later [showed](#) a real attack on a mock carrier.
 - On April 28, 2015, a Marshall Islands-flagged container ship was [fired upon and intercepted](#) by Iran’s Navy in the Strait of Hormuz. The incident came after another incident when Iranian warships surrounded a U.S.-flagged ship [in international waters](#). The Marshall Islands has a defense compact with the U.S.
 - An Iranian military official has [warned](#) the U.S.-backed coalition against blocking a Yemen-bound Iranian aid ship. Later, five Iranian boats [fired shots](#) across the bow of a Singapore flagged vessel in the Persian Gulf to stop the ship.
 - Leader Khamenei [said](#), after the JCPOA, “The next point is that whether this document is ratified or not, we will not abandon our regional friends: the oppressed people of Palestine, the oppressed people of Yemen.... our policy towards the arrogant government of America will not change... The American policies in the region are 180 degrees the opposite of the policies of the Islamic Republic.” At the speech, [Khamenei](#) stood next to an assault rifle.
 - Leader Khamenei has [tweeted](#) an image of Obama holding a gun to his own head.
 - Every day as they enter their offices, President Rouhani and his “moderate” ministers [walk](#) on an American flag.
 - On August 25, 2015, a prominent Iranian official [said](#), “Our positions against the usurper Zionist regime have not changed at all; Israel should be annihilated and this is our ultimate slogan.”
 - Iranian [cyberattacks](#) are [growing against](#) the [U.S.](#) and the [West](#) and Iranian [dissidents](#).
 - Leader Khamenei has [said](#) “We must combat the plans of the arrogance [i.e. the West, led by the U.S.] with jihad...”
 - U.S. naval forces operating in and around the Strait of Hormuz [are](#) “routinely approached by Iranian warships and aircraft” on a “nearly daily basis,” according to a Pentagon official.
 - Leader Khamenei [banned](#) any further negotiations between [Iran](#) and the United States.
 - Post-JCPOA, a majority of the Iranian parliament [declared](#) they would not abandon the “Death to America” slogan, and a [backlash](#) against the U.S. has gained steam.
 - Iran [announced](#) a blockade of all U.S. goods into the country following an order by Leader Khamenei.
 - On Nov. 4, the Iranian regime [continues](#) to [celebrate](#) a yearly “Death to America” day. Iranians [chanted](#) “Death to America,” “Death to Obama,” and “Death to Kerry.” Iranians [set up](#) a booth to throw shoes at President Obama, [hung](#) Obama in effigy, and [used](#) an image of Obama to throw darts at. Iranians [walked on](#) and burned U.S. flags.

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