

Iran Won? Foad Izadi on the US-Iran Peace Deal, Israel's Panic

The Iran-US peace framework has sparked intense debate across the Middle East and beyond. Has Iran emerged stronger? What does the agreement mean for Israel, the Gulf monarchies, Palestine, and the future of the region? In this interview, Iranian political analyst and professor Foad Izadi examines the significance of the agreement, the mood inside Tehran, and whether this moment compares to other historic turning points in modern Iranian history. Topics discussed include: • The atmosphere in Tehran after the agreement • Iranian morale and confidence after confronting the United States • The future of the Strait of Hormuz and global energy security • Gulf security architecture and relations between Iran and its neighbors • The future of Iran's nuclear program and enriched uranium stockpile • Why Israeli leaders are reacting so strongly to the agreement • Whether Washington can restrain Israel going forward • The evolving US-Israel relationship • The implications for Gaza, Lebanon, and the Palestinian struggle • What this deal means for the future balance of power in West Asia Featuring: Professor Foad Izadi Subscribe for more interviews and analysis on international affairs, political economy, Palestine, Iran, multipolarity, and the Global South. #Iran #USA #Israel #Palestine #MiddleEast #Trump #IranDeal #Gaza #Lebanon #SaudiArabia #Geopolitics #FoadIzadi

#Mudiar

Hello and welcome to another episode of India and Global Left. If you are new to the show, please hit that subscribe button. Also consider becoming a YouTube member, a Patreon, or donate a small amount using the link in the description box. Without further ado, let me welcome our guest tonight, Professor Foad Izadi. Professor Izadi is from Iran, and he teaches at the University of Tehran. Professor Izadi, welcome back to India and Global Left.

#Foad

Thank you.

#Mudiar

Iran-Iraq War

#Foad

The mood is generally positive. As you know, Iran was trying to avoid this war. It was an unnecessary war, an illegal war. If you remember the Omani foreign minister's interview with CBS

News before the war, he mentioned that a diplomatic solution was available within 24 hours, and the US and Israelis started attacking Iran just after that, thinking that they could overthrow the Iranian government, take over Iranian oil, and create Israeli hegemony in this part of the world. And they have failed on all three accounts. The Trump administration realized that this was costing them too much. And the hope is that this is serious. Some people here think that the US is just taking a break and preparing for the next round of attacks, but generally people hope that the United States and Israel have learned a lesson, and there are some successes.

For example, as part of the agreement, Iran is trying to make sure that there is peace in Lebanon as well. Iran couldn't do this before. This is something new for Iran — to force Israelis not to go on a rampage in Lebanon and try to do another genocide there. The Strait of Hormuz is going to be in Iran's hands, and whenever the other side engages in activities that are contrary to the agreement, that leverage is going to be used by Iran. Iran didn't have that situation before. The hope is that all these illegal American sanctions on Iran are lifted, and the people of Iran have been under a lot of pressure — 47 years of economic warfare, one year of military attacks. And they have resisted. There is this cultural resistance against imperialism, against Zionism. And if you're optimistic, you should be happy. If you're pessimistic, you should also be happy — at least for some time there's going to be some level of peace.

#Mudiar

And what does this do to the morale and confidence of the Iranian people, given this was a direct confrontation with the United States, the superpower? And, of course, we know about the 1980s when, just after the revolution, the inchoate state of Iran and its people pushed back Iraq. But how big is this moment — to take on the superpower and push it back — given most sane analysts are now saying that Iran would now be in the driver's seat of the process that would emerge after the Friday framework?

#Foad

I agree, Iran is going to be in the driver's seat because of Iran's military capacity. I think the other side realized that Iran can create a lot of damage for American-Israeli interests in this part of the world. The cost is going to be too much for them if they want to try this again. And people here realize that resistance pays. Trump wanted total surrender — I'm just quoting him, tweeting about total, complete surrender. Iranians did not accept that, and they won. At the end of the day, they experienced a lot of damage, but this is how you're supposed to act against two genocidal nuclear regimes. You're supposed to resist, although they're more powerful than you are.

You're supposed to resist, and if you resist enough, they will get tired. American soldiers will get tired. From the beginning, I think most American soldiers knew that they were not fighting for the United States; they were fighting for Israel and the Epstein class. They realized that—many of them did. Iranian soldiers were fighting for their country and the civilized world. They also understood

that. So when you have a situation as I described it, then the civilized world, I'm glad to tell you, has prevailed. And the other side is at least in retreat. We don't know with Netanyahu; he may be interested in starting another war tonight. But so far, so good.

#Mudiar

Let me come to some of the sticking points in the framework itself. You mentioned Iran controlling the Strait of Hormuz. Donald Trump tweeted, saying that the Strait of Hormuz would reopen and the ships of the world should get ready for a free Strait of Hormuz. If you could tell us a bit about what you expect regarding the Strait of Hormuz, given that Iran has been insisting it would be collecting a toll for the war damage that has been done?

#Foad

You know, this is a memorandum of understanding. The negotiations will start soon. We are going to have the 60-day negotiations. And one thing that Iran will insist on is that the Strait of Hormuz is in Iran's territorial waters and contiguous zone. In international law, we have this UN Law of the Sea. They have 12 miles of territorial waters, countries have, and 12 miles of contiguous zone. That's 12 plus 12 is 24. The Strait of Hormuz is 21 miles. So the Strait of Hormuz is not international waters, it's not high seas. The Strait of Hormuz is in Iran's territorial waters and contiguous zone, and the same thing is true with Oman. These are the two coastal states, and the Strait of Hormuz has only two.

The U.S. is not a coastal state to the Strait of Hormuz. The U.S. is a coastal state to the Gulf of Mexico. They're 11,000 kilometers away. They have no position to dictate to countries in this region how they are supposed to act. So as part of this agreement, Iran and Oman will make arrangements, and that's it. And Iranian officials have said that they will have, they don't call it tolls, they call it pilotage fees, fees for different services that Iran gives, and one service is providing security. You know, we have in this part of the world pirates. I'm not using bad words. This is how Trump described the U.S. Navy taking over oil tankers, creating blockades, shooting at ships.

So providing security here is going to be costly. This is a rich area. We have people who are descendants of pirates, or at least are interested in taking over this area, and for those services Iran will charge what will eventually be called something like pilotage fees. Fees of this nature, and Americans can either accept that or not accept it. Iran will not let the Strait of Hormuz go back to the situation that you had before. We have regime change not in Tehran, in the Strait of Hormuz, and that's how it's going to be. If Americans don't like it, they can start another war and be defeated again.

#Mudiar

This also involves the regional countries, particularly in the Persian Gulf, given their energy has to pass through the Strait of Hormuz and given they have security pacts with the United States. One of the things Iran has insisted on is the end of the U.S. military bases. Of course, most people would not expect that to happen overnight, but many analysts are saying that this might be the beginning of the end of the U.S. military empire in the region. So if you could tell us your sense of what will happen with the security frameworks in the region and Iran's relationship with the Gulf countries going forward.

#Foad

Iran wants to have good relations with all its neighbors. Iran has good relations with its western neighbors, eastern neighbors, northern neighbors. We have had difficulties with southern neighbors — not all of them. Oman has been quite accommodating. But Iran wants to have good relations with southern neighbors as well. And these are petrodollar states. They're generally rich, and Iran wants them to get richer, because if you live in a neighborhood with rich people, that would benefit all people in that neighborhood. So Iran has no animosity towards these countries. Unfortunately, in the past, they decided to provide bases to the United States — bad policy, because those bases did not protect these countries. These countries actually protected those bases and American soldiers. I think this is something that they understand. They have been relying on the U.S. for many years.

Moving towards a multipolar world may be difficult for them, but sooner or later they will decide to do that. And Iran will be helpful to them if they decide to do that. So we'll go back. If this ceasefire holds, if this peace is lasting, Iran is going to try to normalize relations with these countries. As part of this agreement, there is this \$300 billion fund that is supposed to help reconstruct all the damages in Iran. These countries have said, at least while Iran was negotiating, that at least some of these funds will come from these countries. That's why Iran doesn't mind these countries getting richer, because they can contribute more. So overall, if we have Netanyahu and Trump behaving properly, you can have peace. That's one option. The other option is going back to war. I think Iran is ready for both cases.

#Mudiar

On the nuclear question, people are expecting the unfreezing of Iranian assets, the end of sanctions, and in exchange, a commitment towards nonproliferation, or let's say, no nuclear weapons from Iran. How would this framework be different from the 2015 framework?

#Foad

It's not going to be very different. Trump had an interview with The New York Times yesterday acknowledging that Iran will keep low-enriched uranium. Iran will do low-level enrichment. In order to do low-level enrichment, you need to have these nuclear facilities. So Iran will build these nuclear

facilities. And this is what you had in 2015. Iran was enriching at 3.65%. That's why this war was totally unnecessary. So Trump is going back to something that we had before.

#Foad

He has killed a lot of people in the process. He has spent billions of dollars chasing a pipe dream. And with that state of foremost leverage, I think he has given Iran an opportunity to defend itself to a greater capacity than what Iran could do before.

#Mudiar

Some people are saying that the enriched stockpile of uranium above the level or threshold of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, Iran should keep it, Iran will keep it, given it cannot trust the United States. Others are saying that Iran, in goodwill, if the U.S. sticks to its commitment, might dilute its more enriched uranium stock. I know you are not in the government, but do you have any opinion or thoughts about this?

#Foad

You know, it depends on the United States. If they stay with this agreement, lift sanctions, terminate sanctions, and behave like a normal country instead of an aggressive empire in decline, if they become a serious country instead of going on a rampage killing other people, then Iran may dilute, I don't know. But that will happen if the U.S. stays with this agreement. You know, one reason Iran enriched at a higher level was this was done after pressures from the United States. So if they take off pressures, then Iran may go back to the same level of material that Iran had before. So it depends on the U.S. whether they want to stay with this agreement or they want to just take a break and start another war.

#Mudiar

I want to come to the mood in Israel and hear your thoughts a little bit if you are following. There seems to be a hysterical response within Israel about what has happened between Iran and the United States. Bezalel Smotrich, the finance minister, says this is bad for Israel. Naftali Bennett, the former prime minister and a strong contender in the upcoming election, is saying this is a dangerous turn for Israel's security. Yair Golan, head of the Democratic Party, said that Israel's military achievements have been erased with the stroke of a pen. There are similar hysterical opinions from Itamar Ben-Gvir and others. What is your sense of the significance of this for Israel?

#Foad

I agree. Netanyahu became over-aggressive. He shouldn't have started this war. He thought he could change Iran's government and create an Israeli hegemony in line with the Greater Israel idea.

And he has gotten Israel into a big mess. As I said before this war, Iran could not create peace in Lebanon. If this agreement goes through properly, then you will have peace in Lebanon. Netanyahu is running on a Likud ticket, and he has caused a lot of hardship to the Israelis. He should not be elected again, and these people who have come from different countries, taking over other people's land, should go back to their original countries and give Palestine to Palestinians, because Palestine will be free from the river to the sea.

#Mudiar

The Iranian Supreme Leader's office recently said that its relationship with Hezbollah would be greater than what it used to be in the pre-war period. Israel Katz, the defense minister, said that they are not going to vacate any occupied lands in Gaza, Syria, and Lebanon. Do you expect a very tumultuous relationship between Iran and Israel going forward? Or do you think the U.S. would be able to discipline Israel going forward?

#Foad

You know, it may not be easy for Trump to put a leash on Netanyahu. But the U.S. has a lot of leverage on Israel. The Israeli army uses all these weapons from the United States. They support Israel economically and politically. They veto resolutions for Israel. So in reality, the U.S. can stop Israel from engaging in these types of activities. They have that choice. So either Trump will use that choice or he will not. And if Israel attacks Iran again or attacks Lebanon, then you'll go back to war because that's not going to be acceptable. So it's a decision that they have. They should have learned a lot of lessons from what they did in the last year. And if they take those lessons, they'll realize that achieving those goals is not going to be possible. But it's their choice. I think Iran is ready for either case.

#Mudiar

I wanted to ask you about what Gideon Levy, the Israeli scholar and journalist at Haaretz, commented about the U.S.-Israel relationship. He said that there would now be more and more people within the Trump administration who would see Israel as an obstacle, and from here on, the Trump administration would treat Israel as an obstacle. I wonder what your response is to this.

#Foad

You know, people who are holding high offices — Marco Rubio, Hegseth — we don't know who the new DNI is going to be. But these people have very extensive links with Israel. These are pro-Israel people, very close to Trump. And so that comment may be a little bit optimistic, but I think U.S.-Israel relations are damaged in a very serious manner, and the next administration in the United States is going to turn a page and sort of realize that supporting Israel is not in the interest of the United States. It's all liability and damage to U.S. credibility. It's damage for U.S. taxpayers because

they pay for all this aid that the U.S. is sending to Israel. But this current administration is very pro-Israel. That's why they provided American soldiers for Netanyahu's war on Iran. And whether these people are going to be able to become America first instead of Israel first, that's a doubtful thing.

#Mudiar

And I wanted to hear your thoughts about the impact of all this on Palestine, given Professor Mohammad Marandi on our program said that for Iran, the genocide in Palestine and in Lebanon to end — to bring an end to the genocide in both areas — is very central to Iran's commitment. I was also listening to Professor Hassan Ahmadian, your colleague at the Drop Site News, and if I got him right, he said that it seems to him that right now Iran's leverage on the issue of Gaza seems to be relatively limited, while there seems to be a greater opening to an end of the genocide in Lebanon. That's why Iran is insisting much more strongly on Lebanon. I'm curious about your thoughts on the two issues.

#Foad

I think Iran is in a stronger position today. I think this axis of resistance is in a stronger position today. I think the U.S. is in decline. Trump has accelerated the American decline. And Israel, with politicians like Netanyahu, is destroying itself. You know, you look at public opinion polls in the United States — most people now oppose Israel. And the U.S. government cannot continue to provide that level of support with that type of opposition. I think the Israeli image in the United States has been damaged permanently. And as I said, without American money and military support, Israel is not a serious country. So overall, I think this is the beginning of the end of Israel. Not that Iran will send troops and take over — Iran will watch Israel disintegrate because Israeli leaders are genocidal people under war crimes indictment in international courts. And you cannot continue that regime with this type of people leading it.

#Mudiar

This is the beginning and end of the Israeli regime, and Iran will oversee it. That was your statement, and we'll leave it there. Professor Foad Izadi, thank you so much for joining us, and it was great talking to you.

#Ayushman

Hi, my name is Ayushman. I, along with Mudiar Jyotishman, have started this platform. Over the last two years, we have tried to build content for the left and progressive forces. We have interviewed economists, historians, political commentators, and activists so far. If you have liked our content and want us to build an archive for the left, I have two requests for you. Please do consider donating for

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