

Despite being limited by a weakened economy, Iran threatens U.S. allies in the Middle East and beyond. The deal hands Iran up to \$150 billion—nearly half of Iran’s annual gross domestic product—which will embolden a regime openly committed to confronting the United States and destabilizing the Middle East.

LEADING STATE-SPONSOR OF TERRORISM	HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATOR
<p>Since the 1979 revolution, Iran has fomented unrest as part of a concerted strategy to spread its radical Islamic ideology and dominate its neighbors. The State Department has designated Iran a state sponsor of terrorism for more than three decades.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Iran funds and trains Shi’ite militias, rebel groups and terrorist organizations in Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Bahrain, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Gaza and Yemen. Beyond the Middle East, Iran has been implicated in terrorist plots in Bulgaria, Argentina, Uruguay, Peru, Thailand, Nigeria, India and the United States. 	<p>Iran’s authoritarian regime brutally represses internal dissent. Iranian President Hassan Rouhani has not delivered on campaign promises of reform and moderation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In June 2015, the State Department reported on Iran’s deteriorating human rights situation: “judicially sanctioned amputation and flogging;” “severe restrictions on freedom of speech...and press;” “discrimination and violence against women, ethnic and religious minorities, and...[LGBT] persons.” Iran has imprisoned Washington Post reporter and U.S. citizen Jason Rezaian, holds two other U.S. citizens hostage, and continues to withhold information on a fourth U.S. citizen last seen in Iran.
ANTI-WESTERN POWER	NUCLEAR PROLIFERATOR
<p>The Iranian regime promotes one of the world’s most radical ideologies to achieve its vision of an Islamic state, and seeks to diminish America’s presence and influence in the Middle East.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Since 1979, Iranian leadership has viewed Western culture and liberal values as toxic contaminants to its Islamist vision. The Iranian regime is sworn to Israel’s destruction, and has openly threatened to “wipe Israel off the map.” 	<p>As a party to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT), Iran has sworn to never obtain nuclear weapons or to use nuclear technology for military purposes, and has pledged transparency in its nuclear activities. But Iran has consistently cheated and lied to the IAEA for 30 years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Of Iran’s eight major nuclear sites, seven were started secretly, in violation of the NPT. Iran has repeatedly failed to come clean in answering IAEA questions about the nature of its nuclear program.



“If the deal is reached and results in sanctions relief...it’s my expectation that it’s not all going to flow into [Iran’s] economy. I think that they will invest in their surrogates. I think they will invest in additional military capability.”

– Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Martin Dempsey, June 9, 2015

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