



Rabbinic Recap

The week ending August 14, 2015

IRAN

What Ending Sanctions on Iran Will Mean for the Country's Economy

The end of economic sanctions on Iran would mean a 14 percent drop in world oil prices and a \$15 billion boost in Iranian oil revenue, according to a World Bank report. Oil industry experts say that eventually Iran's oil exports could triple to about 3 million barrels a day, which the World Bank said would require major investments. As President Obama strives to win congressional support for the accord limiting Iran's nuclear program, the impact of lifting economic sanctions has become a controversial component of the plan, reports [The Washington Post](#). Critics of the deal fear that Iran will lose its incentive to stick to the accord and might use its windfall to finance its proxies throughout the region, including U.S. foes such as Hezbollah, Houthi forces in Yemen, Shiite militias in Iraq and Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

Zarif in Beirut: Nuke deal 'historic opportunity' to face Israeli threats

The Iran nuclear deal presents a "historic opportunity" to combat Israeli "threats," Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif told Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah during a Tuesday meeting in Beirut, Hezbollah's al-Manar television station said Wednesday. According to [The Times of Israel](#), "Zarif said from Beirut that the nuclear agreement between Tehran and the world powers created a historic opportunity for regional cooperation to fight extremism and face threats posed by the Zionist entity," al-Manar reported. Along with the Syrian regime, the Lebanon-based terror group Hezbollah is funded by Iran. Hezbollah has dispatched thousands of fighters to support embattled Syrian President Bashar Assad in the country's five-year civil war. The foreign minister [Zarif] arrived in Beirut on Tuesday for a two-day visit. He also met Lebanese Prime Minister Tammam Salam in Beirut Tuesday, in their first official meeting since Salam took office last year. Zarif stressed the importance of coordination between Iran and Lebanon on issue of "regional peace and stability."

Senior House Democrat Disapproves of Iran Deal

In an August 13 op-ed for the *Palm Beach Post*, Rep. Alcee Hastings (D-FL) announced that he will oppose the Iran deal when it comes before Congress for a vote. "When the House of Representatives reconvenes in September, one of our first priorities will be to address the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) to curb Iran's nuclear program. After careful review, I have decided that I cannot support this deal. The goal of the recently concluded negotiations was to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon. The negotiators worked diligently, but in the end, the JCPOA allows Iran to remain a nuclear threshold state while simultaneously reaping the benefits of relief from international sanctions. Just last month, the U.N. Security Council agreed to Resolution 2231, endorsing the JCPOA. Among other things, the resolution lifts the ban on conventional arms sales to Iran after five years, and gives Iran the authority to

restart its nuclear-capable ballistic missile development program within eight years. This poses a threat to the U.S. and to our allies. These provisions, coupled with a mere delay of Iran's nuclear program, will give other regional powers a clear window of opportunity to strengthen or create their own weapons programs. As conventional weapons shipments to Iran resume, its neighbors will feel obligated to bolster their own security. All the while, billions of dollars will be injected into the Iranian economy as sanctions are lifted. Some portion of this money is likely to be directed toward state-sponsored terrorist groups, such as the Iranian Revolutionary Guard, Hezbollah, Houthi and Hamas. We must maintain a strong sanctions regime—to do otherwise is to give up our leverage. Sanctions are what brought Iran to the table, and they depend on large-scale international cooperation and compliance. What's more troubling, the agreement imposes a process that can take up to 24 days before inspectors gain access to any undeclared nuclear sites discovered in the future. This delay could provide Iran with substantial opportunity to hide any missile or nuclear activity."

[Click here to read Rep. Hasting's full op-ed.](#)

New Poll Shows More Americans Think Iran Came Out on Top

According to a [new poll by Monmouth University](#), forty-one percent of Americans believe that Iran got more out of the nuclear deal than the United States. Only 14 percent believe the U.S. got the upper hand and 23 percent believe each side profited equally. Additionally, 23 percent of Democrats believe Iran received more of what they desired from the deal, compared to 15 percent of Democrats who consider the U.S. did. The poll also found that 61 percent of Americans do not trust Iran to abide by the agreement's terms at all. The poll was sponsored and conducted by the Monmouth University Polling Institute from July 30 to Aug. 2 with a national random sample of 1,203 adults. In recent weeks, multiple studies, including the Monmouth University poll, have shown that the majority of Americans are skeptical of the Iran deal.

ISRAEL IN THE NEWS

All-time traveler records broken at Ben-Gurion Airport

On the day with the peak number of passengers ever to fly through Ben-Gurion Airport, the Israel Airports Authority (IAA) announced that 2015 has broken all-time records for summer travel, reports [The Jerusalem Post](#). More than 79,800 travelers passed through the airport on Thursday, on a total of 457 flights, the IAA said. All in all this August, more than 2 million passengers have flown in and out of the airport thus far, with summer travel beating all forecasts and national records, according to the IAA. The surge in August air traffic follows a July that featured a 20-percent jump in passenger numbers and a 10% rise in flights in comparison to the same month the previous year, the authority added. IAA officials said that their employees were well equipped to handle the dramatic increase in travelers and flights. The integration of new technology at the airport allowing passengers to proceed with independent check-in procedures, as well as the option to print boarding passes at home and use the biometric passport control system, have contributed to the smoother flow in traffic, the IAA added. In addition, a TLV Airport mobile app is now available for both Android and Apple devices, allowing travelers to look up flight information and check in to their flights, the authority said.