Announced in July 2015, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) sought to prevent Iran from building a nuclear weapon. But the deal only imposed temporary restrictions on Tehran’s nuclear quest and has had no moderating effect on its regional aggression.

In the coming years, most restrictions on Iran’s nuclear program will lift, allowing it to become a nuclear weapons threshold state.

The JCPOA only temporarily restricts Tehran’s nuclear program.

The deal legitimized Iran’s nuclear program, left a vast nuclear infrastructure in place, and largely expires after only 15 years.

A long-term strategy must be developed to ensure Iran’s nuclear program is peaceful.
WHAT’S NEXT:
THE PROVISIONS OF THE IRAN NUCLEAR DEAL
ARE SET TO QUICKLY EXPIRE OR “SUNSET”

Agreement is reached on the nuclear deal.
The P5+1 (China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, the United States plus Germany) and Iran agree to the deal, followed by the U.N. Security Council (UNSC) adopting Resolution 2231 endorsing the deal.

The P5+1 and Iran begin implementing the deal.
The P5+1 lifts nuclear-related sanctions on Iran, resulting in the release of as much as $150 billion to Tehran.

U.N. ban on assistance to Iran’s ballistic missile program will end.
Iran—whose ballistic missiles already threaten Israel and parts of Europe—will have a much easier path to acquire missile components and technology. Advances in its program will facilitate accurate targeting and may enable Tehran to threaten America.

Ban on manufacture of advanced centrifuges will begin to expire.
Iran will be able to reduce its nuclear weapon breakout time by perfecting rapid manufacture of advanced centrifuges.

Assuming congressional approval, U.S. nuclear sanctions will lift.
The deal calls on the president to seek congressional repeal of nuclear sanctions legislation. If approved, the end of the complex U.S. sanctions architecture would make difficult the unilateral or multilateral re-imposition of sanctions in a timely way, should it be necessary.

U.N. ban on Iranian arms exports and imports will lift.
Iran can freely build up its military and fuel regional conflicts through support of its terrorist proxies.
Snapback provision embedded in expiring U.N. resolution will terminate.
New sanctions would require passage of another UNSC resolution, which Russia and China could veto.

Cap of 5,060 IR-1 centrifuges at Iran’s Natanz facility will lift. More centrifuges will allow faster uranium enrichment and facilitate a breakout to a nuclear weapons capability.

Ban on replacing IR-1 centrifuges with more advanced models will expire. Iran’s breakout time will shrink rapidly as it can deploy new, more advanced models.

Restrictions on centrifuge R&D will end. Iran will be able to perfect its enrichment cycle and streamline its capabilities.

All nuclear restrictions will lift. All restrictions on the number and type of centrifuges that Iran can manufacture will lift, as well as the number of enrichment facilities and the amount and level of enriched uranium Iran may stockpile. Restrictions on heavy water reactors will also expire.

International access will expire to Iran’s supply chain centrifuge manufacturing and nuclear storage facilities. Without access for the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to inspect Iran’s facilities, Iran can more easily set up a secret nuclear program.

BOTTOM LINE:
In 2031, Iran emerges with multiple pathways to a nuclear weapon and a possible breakout time to a bomb of days.
AMERICA’S IRAN STRATEGY MUST:

• Overhaul the problematic sunset clauses of the nuclear deal.

• Press the IAEA to strengthen and expand its inspection of Iran’s nuclear program.

• Oppose Iran’s regional aggression and support for terrorism, including any permanent military presence in Syria.

• Toughen sanctions against those supporting Iran’s missile program, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and Hezbollah.

• Ensure Israel has the means to defend itself against the growing Iranian threat.