

America's Failing Iran Nuclear Policy: Time for a Course Adjustment

by [Michael Eisenstadt \(/experts/michael-eisenstadt\)](#)

Oct 20, 2023

Also published in War on the Rocks

ABOUT THE AUTHORS



[Michael Eisenstadt \(/experts/michael-eisenstadt\)](#)

Michael Eisenstadt is the Kahn Fellow and director of The Washington Institute's Military and Security Studies Program.



Articles & Testimony

Policymakers need to stay focused on halting the regime's fissile material buildup while undertaking a broader, longer-term effort to shape its assessment of the risks, costs, and utility of nuclear weapons.

America's inability to rein in Tehran's nuclear program after exiting the 2015 nuclear deal should prompt Washington to reassess its Iran policy. Such a reckoning should acknowledge that the United States has never used all of the implements in its policy toolkit to rein in Iran's nuclear ambitions, while the tools it has generally relied on—diplomacy, sanctions, and (to a much lesser extent) the threat of force—are less effective today due to a shifting geopolitical landscape. For now, it is unclear if ongoing stop-gap diplomacy to reach informal understandings absent a formal deal will cause the Islamic Republic to curb its fissile material buildup indefinitely in return for the easing of sanctions on its oil exports. Furthermore, the Israeli-Hamas war will almost certainly absorb the attention of U.S. policymakers for months to come...

[Read the full article at the War on the Rocks website.\(https://warontherocks.com/2023/10/americas-failing-iran-nuclear-policy-time-for-a-course-adjustment\)](https://warontherocks.com/2023/10/americas-failing-iran-nuclear-policy-time-for-a-course-adjustment) ❖

RECOMMENDED



BRIEF ANALYSIS

Facade Group Linked to Iran Claims Five Attacks on Americans in Iraq and Syria

Oct 20, 2023

◆
Amir al-Kaabi,
Michael Knights,
Hamdi Malik

(/policy-analysis/facade-group-linked-iran-claims-five-attacks-americans-iraq-and-syria)



ARTICLES & TESTIMONY

How the Palestinian Authority Failed Its People

Oct 19, 2023

◆
Ghaith al-Omari

(/policy-analysis/how-palestinian-authority-failed-its-people)



BRIEF ANALYSIS

Jordan Still Has a Vital Role to Play in the Gaza Crisis

Oct 19, 2023

◆
Ben Fishman

(/policy-analysis/jordan-still-has-vital-role-play-gaza-crisis)

TOPICS

Military & Security (/policy-analysis/military-security)

Proliferation (/policy-analysis/proliferation)

REGIONS & COUNTRIES

