

The Big Mistake the West Is Making About Russia, China, and Iran

by [Anna Borshchevskaya \(/experts/anna-borshchevskaya\)](/experts/anna-borshchevskaya)

Jul 30, 2025

Also published in National Security Journal

ABOUT THE AUTHORS



[Anna Borshchevskaya \(/experts/anna-borshchevskaya\)](/experts/anna-borshchevskaya)

Anna Borshchevskaya is the Harold Grinspoon Senior Fellow at The Washington Institute, focusing on Russia's policy toward the Middle East.



Articles & Testimony

The axis hasn't fallen apart—if anything, these countries appear willing to work together even more closely now than before the Iran-Israel war.

Many commentators concluded that the Iran crisis highlighted the limits of the so-called “axis of upheaval” between Tehran, Russia, China, and North Korea. Some went further to suggest Russia and China’s policies are failing in the Middle East, and that this axis falls apart when it matters. It is undeniably true that Tehran couldn’t count on its professed strategic partners in this crisis, especially when the United States demonstrated it was willing to use force to prevent Iran from developing a nuclear weapon. But the consensus is wrong: the Russia-Iran-China axis hasn’t fallen apart. To the contrary, these countries now appear willing to work together even more closely to undermine U.S. interests...

[Read the full article on the National Security Journal website. \(https://nationalsecurityjournal.org/the-big-mistake-the-west-is-making-about-russia-china-and-iran/\)](https://nationalsecurityjournal.org/the-big-mistake-the-west-is-making-about-russia-china-and-iran/) ❖

RECOMMENDED



BRIEF ANALYSIS

Promises of Billions Confirm Saudi Political Support for Syria

Aug 4, 2025



Simon Henderson

(/policy-analysis/promises-billions-confirm-saudi-political-support-syria)



BRIEF ANALYSIS

If Iraq Passes the New PMF Law, the U.S. Response Should Be Severe

Aug 4, 2025



David Schenker

(/policy-analysis/if-iraq-passes-new-pmf-law-us-response-should-be-severe)



BRIEF ANALYSIS

Exploiting Fault Lines in Iran's Relations with Russia and China After the Israel War

Aug 1, 2025



Anna Borshchevskaya,

Grant Rumley

(/policy-analysis/exploiting-fault-lines-irans-relations-russia-and-china-after-israel-war)

TOPICS

Great Power Competition (</policy-analysis/great-power-competition>)

REGIONS & COUNTRIES

Iran (</policy-analysis/iran>)

