

# The Iranian Nuclear Negotiations: A Washington Institute Backgrounder

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Will Iran be able to build nuclear weapons?

The answer could be determined by the November 24 deadline for talks between Iran and the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council and Germany (P5+1). The outcome has profound consequences for America and the Middle East.

Over the years, Washington Institute experts have offered U.S. policymakers in-depth research to clarify Iran's political and military positions. **The**

following selection provides background on Iran's nuclear intentions and possible next steps.

Find additional research (<http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/topic/iran#categories=66>)

**How to Muddle Through with Iran** by Dennis Ross (<http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/view/how-to-muddle-through-with-iran>)

"The essence of the deal that has always made most sense -- a rollback of the Iranian nuclear program in return for a rollback of sanctions -- seems increasingly beyond reach. So a comprehensive deal by November 24 appears very unlikely." [Read more \(http://washin.st/1rYVOe6\)](http://washin.st/1rYVOe6)

**Assessing Iran-P5+1 Talks as the Deadline Nears** by Michael Herzog (<http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/view/assessing-iran-p51-talks-as-deadline-nears>)

"For Israel the debate goes deeper than just the number of centrifuges or the amount of enriched uranium Iran can stockpile. It is a deep feeling that the P5+1 -- the West -- is more eager for the deal than Iran is." [Read more \(http://washin.st/1sf7kT9\)](http://washin.st/1sf7kT9)

**Iran Remains Our Biggest Challenge** by Dennis Ross, et. al. (<http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/view/iran-remains-our-biggest-challenge>)

"Instead of pursuing the chimera of cooperation with the likes of Khamenei, Washington should contest all of Iran's regional assets. From the Shiite slums of Baghdad to the battlefields of Syria, Iran should be confronted with a new, inhospitable reality as it searches for partners." [Read more \(http://washin.st/YYxuD6\)](http://washin.st/YYxuD6)

**Senate Testimony: Status of the P5+1 Talks** by Michael Singh (<http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/view/iran-status-of-the-p51>)

"A good deal with Iran is one that clearly advances U.S. interests -- not only the interest in nuclear nonproliferation globally, but in the stability of the Middle East and U.S. prestige and influence in the region." [Read more \(http://washin.st/1lRwchV\)](http://washin.st/1lRwchV)

**The Nuclear Debate Iran Needs to Have** by Michael Eisenstadt (<http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/view/speaking-about-the-unthinkable-the-nuclear-debate-iran-needs-to-have>)

"A public airing of the potential consequences of Iran's nuclear program could alter the terms of debate and possibly encourage greater restraint within the Islamic Republic." [Read more \(http://washin.st/1iRmQGx\)](http://washin.st/1iRmQGx)

**Possible Military Dimensions of Iran's Nuclear Program** by Nima Gerami (<http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/view/background-on-the-possible-military-dimensions-of-irans-nuclear-program>)

"While the P5+1 negotiations focus on Iran's nuclear research program, the possible military dimensions (PMD) are being investigated by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The Iranians may not satisfy the demands of IAEA investigators." [Read more \(http://washin.st/1AzzuO\)](http://washin.st/1AzzuO)

**White House Should Seek Congressional Endorsement for Any Iran Deal** by Dennis Ross, et. al. (<http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/view/white-house-should-seek-congressional-endorsement-for-any-iran-deal>)

"Notwithstanding partisan difficulties, seeking congressional endorsement is essential lest any agreement rest on a shaky foundation and be difficult to implement." [Read more \(http://washin.st/RwLk13\)](http://washin.st/RwLk13)

**Nuclear Iran: A Glossary of Terms** by Simon Henderson and Olli Heinonen (<http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/view/nuclear-iran-a-glossary-of-terms>)

The Institute and the Harvard Kennedy School Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs copublished an interactive glossary of the complex terminology and history behind IAEA inspections, centrifuge enrichment, basic nuclear physics, and nuclear weapons development. [Read more \(http://bit.ly/Wn21Gg\)](http://bit.ly/Wn21Gg)

Find additional research (<http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/topic/iran#categories=66>)

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