

Answers to Key Questions Will Determine Iran Deal's Success

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Only time and U.S. actions will tell whether the recent agreement is a step toward Iran's denuclearization or its rise as a nuclear power.

The "first-step" agreement (<http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/view/document-november-24-joint-plan-of-action>) regarding Iran's nuclear program is a timeout rather than a breakthrough. Under the accord, Iran pauses but does not significantly roll back its nuclear progress, and the West does the same with sanctions.

The emerging debate -- critics assert that more should have been demanded of Iran; defenders counter that this was the best the United States could do and that the alternative would not have been a better deal but a military conflict -- is important, but with the deal signed, the most critical questions regard what comes next.

Three questions will determine whether this deal ultimately advances or sets back U.S. national security interests. The first concerns implementation of the deal...

Read the full article on the Washington Post website. (http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/answers-to-key-questions-will-determine-iran-deals-success/2013/11/25/5c932544-55e4-11e3-ba82-16ed03681809_story.html) (#) ❖

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