

# **The Center**

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April 22, 2006

### **Iran**

### **The Options**

**The Iranian state is posing significant problems for the United States. The international arena is beginning to feel shaky... just as it was in 1935 when Hitler was building up his power in Germany. What is the problem? What are our options?**

**The problems:**

**1. Iran is seeking nuclear weapons**

**If Iran obtains nuclear weapons, it will use them to attack Israel, set itself up as the leader of the Middle East Region and the Islamic World, increase terrorist attacks on Israel, the United States and its allies (including the threat of or actual nuclear attack), restrict or close the flow of oil through Strait of Hormuz, threatening the industrial world (using the nuclear threat to try to hold off the U.S. Navy). This is a set of conditions that the U.S. simply can't afford to allow.**

**2. America is engaged in Afghanistan, Iraq and around the world in the so called "War on Terror".**

**The American military is near its maximum utilization point. We could not deal with an Iranian threat without a national mobilization and significant increases (primarily Army and Marine Corps)**

**3. America's military strength is in its technology. Numbers of troops have been significantly reduced over the past fifteen years.**

**Clinton took us to new low levels. Bush has not acted to increase, relying rather on a bogus "transformation program" emphasizing victory with light mobile forces and high technology (a Rumsfeld fixation)... in a war where numbers, armor and the right kind of ground troops are essential.**

**Our options with respect to Iran are:**

**1. Do nothing.**

**The same choice made in 1935.**

**2. Rely on the United Nations to sanction Iran, leading to their backing away from developing nuclear weapons.**

**This is very close to choosing number one above due to the ineffectiveness of the U.N.**

**3. Fund insurgents to force peaceful regime change toward an Iranian government that does not seek nuclear weapons and does not threaten Israel and the U.S.**

**Wishful thinking.**

**4. Exercise power diplomacy backed by other principle world powers, leading to Iran backing away from developing nuclear weapons.**

**Worth a try IF Russia and China will join the U.S. and Britain. This is unlikely.**

**5. Strike Iranian nuclear and weapons development sites, leading to their destruction (an act of limited war).**

**A temporary solution. Postpones the problem a little. But... it does not change the radical Muslim regime and its stated intent to destroy Israel and conduct high level terrorist operations against the U.S. Though we have heavy “bunker buster bombs”, there is no assurance that we will destroy all of the nuclear capability. And, because of lack of intelligence in that area, we won’t know.**

**6. National mobilization for a confrontation with Iran, including adding significant ground forces to the Army and Marine Corps. Sometimes mobilization is enough to deter. The problem is, it is politically difficult to mobilize until the enemy “does something”. It takes great political courage. Do we have it?**

**7. Declaration of War on Iran by the Congress, with mobilization for war.**

**If we have to have conflict with Iran, we should declare war... not go at it as we did in Iraq. And, we should fully mobilize, bringing back the draft if necessary.**

**8. Stationing of overwhelming ground, naval and air forces around Iran to signal intent and deter them, positioning for war if necessary.**

**We have to send the right signals. Two more Divisions in Iraq, a deployment of air power and a significant naval force in the Strait of Hormuz would send strong signals. Right now we are only sending signals of weakness!**

**9. War with Iran to achieve regime change and a peaceful government in Iran (hopefully not with the Rumsfeld inspired mistakes we made in Iraq... no post war planning, no martial law, no reconstruction plan, no security plan, no political plan, etc).**

**This won't be necessary if we take the right steps now. BUT... it could happen. The big question then is... if there is war, what will Russia and China do? Will Russia stay neutral? Go on the side of Iran? Will China stay neutral? Will it use the opportunity to attack Taiwan? Will North Korea use the opportunity to attack South Korea? What has to be done to prevent escalation into World War III? Is a World War necessary to stamp out the Wahhabi Muslim crazies?**

**It is my view that the only actions that will work are 6 and 8 above. We should do 2, 3, 4 and 5, but only as delaying actions until we can mobilize, build up our intelligence and be ready to either face down or fight Iran. If we do not do this, we are back to 1935... and it will soon be 1939!**

**If we act now and mobilize, it will be a long (decades, as in the Cold War) uphill battle to stamp out the Wahabbis and restore global stability. Do the American people have the fortitude for this kind of contest? If so, it hasn't been showing lately! We have an internal battle to fight also... a battle against those who practice the politics of weakness.**

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