



# Impact of Ukrainian Crisis on Iranian Nuclear Choice

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Some facts:

1. After beginning of Ukrainian crisis the number of the nuclear status proponents increased in Ukraine
2. Ukrainian Ambassador to Iran in 2010 – 2014 Oleksandr Samarsky said in March 2014 in his official interview to Iranian news agency “ILNA”:

**“Ukraine made a big mistake when it gave up nuclear weapon”**



Source: Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Ministry website <http://iran.mfa.gov.ua/ua/press-center/publications/2159-intervju-posla-ukrajini-v-irani-osamarskygo-informacijnomu-agentsvu-ilna>

3. A lot of publications of Iranian experts are devoted to the Ukrainian topic. This reflects Iranian interest in the Ukrainian events

## Ukrainian Crisis and Iran’s Role in European Energy Security

After beginning of Ukrainian crisis tension between Russia and USA and EU raises concerns regarding security of energy supply to Europe because Europe is dependent on imported Russian gas...



## Ukrainian Crisis and New Opportunities for National Interests/ Ruhollah Musavi Mundy

In general we can say that the Ukrainian crisis and joining Crimea to Russia provides to Iran opportunities to conduct more independent policy



## Iran’s Position Regarding Ukrainian Crisis/ Ali Matin Farr

In general Iran’s policy regarding Ukrainian crisis is rather passive. Such policy is determined by realistic understanding of the current situation. The question...



Source: Website of Iranian think tank based in Tehran “Center for Scientific Research and Middle East Strategic Studies” (translated from Farsi) <http://fa.cmess.ir>

4. Iran has supported joining Crimea to Russia which Iranian media call “reunification”. Iranian experts recognize that Ukrainian crises will impact on the situation around Iranian nuclear program but they repeat Iran’s official position: Iran will never acquire nuclear weapon



## The Influence of the Ukrainian Crisis on the Nuclear Negotiations with Iran:

The Opinion of Some Ukrainian Experts:

*Budapest Memorandum with Ukraine = The future nuclear accord with Iran    Unlikely Iran will sign or implement this accord*

**Other opinion:**

*Budapest Memorandum has no similarities with the nuclear agreement with Iran. Furthermore thanks to Ukrainian crisis Iran could receive very profitable agreement which slightly limits its nuclear program. Probably the western powers are forced to approve this questionable agreement because they want to concentrate their resources on containing Russia in Europe, and in these conditions they are not able to pressure Iran effectively. Furthermore the cooperation with Iran could limit Russia’s possibilities in oil and gas markets and weaken its economic positions in Europe.*

## The Implications of Reaching Nuclear Agreement with Iran for International Security, the Ukrainian Crisis, and NPT Regime: Two Possible Options

### Option 1

Iran’s economic power will considerably grow after lifting sanctions

Iran will use its growing economic capabilities to further destabilize situation in Yemen and even in Saudi Arabia

After such destabilization of Gulf region the oil prices will increase (after temporary decreasing), and Iran’s role in the region will grow

Thanks to high oil prices Russia will not suffer from western sanctions very much and might increase its activity in Ukraine

Iran might use this turbulent situation to withdraw from the nuclear agreement. The NPT regime would weaken

### Option 2

Iran’s economic power will grow after lifting sanctions

The western powers will actively support the anti-Iranian moderate opposition in Syria and anti-Iranian forces in Yemen. Iranian growing resources will be dispersed to fight against ISIL and moderate opposition in Syria and Yemen. In this case western powers

At the same time the western powers maintain a limited cooperation with Iran in gas and oil trade. As a result the oil prices will decrease

The anti-Russian economic sanctions will be more effective

Iran will have a theoretical possibility to obtain nuclear weapon, but this would be unlikely because Iran would be more economically vulnerable and it would understand: Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Turkey could try to follow suit