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Is Tillerson Signaling a Change in U.S. Iran Policy?

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Following President Trump's inauguration, there was uncertainty regarding the administration's position on Iran, especially as far as the P5+1 Iran nuclear deal (JCPOA) was concerned. But Trump's strong campaign-trail statements about ripping up the "worst deal ever negotiated" have receded to the background. What currently remains at the forefront is no doubt acute dissatisfaction with the nuclear deal, but rather than ripping it up, the administration has stated that it wants to review the deal in the context of overall U.S. policy toward Iran. What has also moved to the forefront over the past three months is greater attention to Iran's provocative regional behavior. In late January, the administration stated clearly—following an Iranian ballistic missile test that can reach Western Europe with a nuclear warhead—that it "was putting Iran on notice" and would no longer be willing to turn a blind eye to Iran's provocations, behavior that the Obama administration had often been willing to gloss over in the post-deal period (mid-2015 to late 2016) in order not to upset Iran, which would risk upsetting the deal. But how are the nuclear and other aspects of Iran's behavior woven together in the new approach?

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