

A Transatlantic Approach Toward Iran?

The United States and Europe should consider bringing their current divergent positions on Iran closer into line.

[Emily B. Landau](#), [Shimon Stein](#) / June 22, 2017

Some observers in the West—first and foremost in Europe—rejoiced at [Hassan Rouhani](#)'s landslide victory over his conservative opponent in Iran's presidential election on May 19. But their expressed hope for a new and moderate approach from Tehran is puzzling. In his first four-year term as president, Rouhani had no success in enhancing more moderate trends in Iran, nor did he have an impact on curbing the aggressive hegemonic course that the country has been pursuing across the Middle East.

Barring a major change in the power structure in [Iran](#), the prospect that the reelected president will change course on foreign and security policies is anything but given. In this context, hopes that the [international nuclear deal](#) concluded in 2015 would have a moderating impact on Iran's basic policy directions have not materialized.

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