

Opinion

## Realities and wishful thinking

**Iran behaves nicely, and at the same time creates havoc in the Middle East.**

By [Ephraim Asculai](#) / May 14, 2018

Strangely enough, almost all the facts cited by US President Donald Trump and by the supporters of the Iran deal (JCPOA) are correct. Moreover, there is little disagreement about the fact that Iran lied about its nuclear weapons ambitions and that it probably never abandoned them.

The big difference is in the unwillingness of the JCPOA supporters to acknowledge that the JCPOA deals only partially with the greater Iran issue, and that it only defers, not eliminates, Iran's potential to produce nuclear weapons, almost at will, with rapidly diminishing timescales.

From the beginning it was assessed that there were many loopholes in the deal; that the verification mechanism was insufficient; that the time lines (the "sunset clauses") would become worrisome in the not-too-distant future and that the issue of the missiles – the delivery systems for nuclear weapons – would remain unresolved and dangerous.

The partners to the deal were not misled into thinking that it was a perfect solution. They only thought, and they have not abandoned this idea, that Iran would behave itself, and work toward really abandoning its nuclear ambitions and given enough time would return to "normal" international relationships.

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