

## US-Iran Relations: A Case of Hassan Rouhani's Regime

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| <b>Article History:</b><br><b>Received:</b><br>30 Sep, 2021<br><b>Accepted:</b><br>21 Dec, 2021 | <b>ABSTRACT</b><br><p>This study deals with President Hassani Rouhani's approach to foreign policy relations with the USA. It discusses the main pillars of thinking underpinning Rouhani's administration and the school of thought associated with it, within a focus on issues pertaining to development as well as mutual relations between the two countries. The signature of the "Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action" in 2015 showed the Iranian commitment towards the international requests on guarantees and transparency on its nuclear enrichment program. The paper analyzes the actual impact of the nuclear deal with especial emphasis on the balance of power and the internal implications at and economic level. It will assess the success or failure of the nuclear deal JCPOA as a foreign policy tool and its impact upon Iran and the region over all. At the end eventually this study will conclude that what were the dynamics of US Iran relations under the Hassan presidency.</p> <p><b>Key Words:</b> Nuclear Deal, Balance of Power, JCPA</p> |
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### Introduction

The US-Iran relations mainly under the presidency of Hassan Rouhani have been of significant importance as, under his moderate presidency both normalization and confrontation between both states is being observed (Belal, 2020). Hassan Rouhani was first time elected as the President of Iran on June 14, 2013 with more than 50% of the votes. Western media as a moderate, pragmatist president of Iran, described him. Rouhani hailed his victory as a, victory for "wisdom, moderation, and maturity over extremism" (Belal, 2020). Rouhani's reelection as the President of Iran on May 19, 2017 was surprisingly easy as, "he received 57% of the votes against his main opponent Ebrahim Raisi who won 38.5% in a presidential election with a very high turnout exceeding 70%." (Rezaian et al, 2013).

The advent of the moderate government of Iranian President Hassan Rohani in presidential elections of 2013 was considered as a harbinger of Iran's reintegration into the world, better relations with the west, economic prosperity, and a more democratic environment in the country. Under his regime, president Rouhani pledged, "to promote a policy for constructive interaction in the world, tackling deepening economic crisis, and political liberalization in the country by enacting a domestic civil rights charter" (Bozorgmehr et al. 2017).

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Similarly, Iran as a county and the world at large saw the elections of President Hassan Rouhani as, a change which was much needed in Iran for political liberalization and its assimilation in the world mainly after the ‘firebrand’ cleric Mahmoud Ahmadinejad’s fierce rule and his confrontational approach towards the west and especially for US (Shanahan, 2015). As, the relations between US and Iran specifically after the Iranian revolution of 1979 have been on the constant path of conflict, enmity and deterioration despite of the efforts of cooperation and engagement that were made under the moderate government of Iranian President Khatami towards the US.

In regards to US-Iran relations, the eight-year rule of President Hassan Rouhani is characterized as a continuous shift in the trajectory of US-Iran relations. Iran’s relations with the US have been basically the highlight of President Rouhani’s regime as the relations between US and Iran trudged on two different plateaus under the two terms of President Hassan Rouhani. It is mainly argued that the US-Iran relations under the first term of President Hassan Rouhani are mainly characterized by diplomacy, cooperation, and engagement between both states, which resulted into the nuclear negotiations of Iran with Obama administration in the form of signing of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) between P5+1 and Iran. This nuclear deal ensured the normalization of relations between US and Iran by fulfilling the national interests of both states. Such as, the JCPOA deal was intended to be used to negotiate comprehensive settlement that would allow Iran, to pursue a peaceful program, mainly including enrichment, but also under some limits and intrusive monitoring that would also to reassure the world that any parallel covert program would be spotted and stopped before Iran could make a bomb (Shamir et al. 2011). The JCPOA agreement was intended to lift the main sanctions on oil and banking that crippled the Iranian economy that may lead to the normalization of relations between Iran and the US for the first time since the 1979 Islamic revolution.

Together with 33 years of reciprocated demonization and antagonism since revolution, this nuclear accord specifically addressed the central problem of mistrust between the West and Iran. With this, according to the former US Republican Senator, Dick Lugar, “the nuclear deal was the best chance for US to stop the Iranian bomb without any other war in the Middle East” (Philips, 2016). In short, the nuclear deal was significant for both states as for Iran signing of JCPOA would lead to the lifting of sanctions that were imposed on it under the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolution 2231 and for US, JCPOA would prevent and contain the threat of Iranian nuclear power in the region of Middle East.

Although, under the second term of President Hassan Rouhani, the détente between US and Iran lasted for a brief period because it was upended by the Trump Administration (Belal, 2020). Under the Trump administration, the US policy towards Iran was shifted mainly from cautiously and selectively embracing Iran’s international rehabilitation to

confronting the Iranian state on most fronts and also determined to dampen Iranian impulses towards more extroverted and conciliatory strategic conduct (Dizaji et al. 2021).

In this way, US under Trump administration walked out of the nuclear deal and re-imposed sanctions on Iran. By opting a hardline policy toward Iran, US under Trump administration used hard power towards Iran in the form of 'maximum pressure strategy' in order to pressurize it to renegotiate JCPOA in order fulfill the national interests of US. Similarly, in response to US maximum pressure strategy, Iran during the second term of President Rouhani used maximum resistance toward US and resumed all its activities which are not in the interests of US such as; nuclear enrichment activities, support to proxies like Hamas, Hezbollah in the Middle East, and opposition to the Middle East peace process (Dizaji et al. 2021).

In this way, during the second term of President Hassan Rouhani, the trajectory of US-Iran relations transformed from normalization into deterioration. However, with the advent of Joe Biden administration, US is attempting to engage Iran in the form of Vienna talks for negotiations and to revive JCPOA. Although, the recent victory of conservatives in the parliamentary as well as presidential elections of Iran 2021, will make it difficult for both states to indulge themselves on the path of engagement, cooperation, and eventually to normalization.

As, "the 11th parliamentary elections that were held in Iran on February 21, 2020 marked a landslide victory by the conservatives who have won 221 out of 290 seats, whereas, the moderates could get only 30 seats with the overall voter turnout of 42.6%" (Vaez et al. 2020). Similarly, the presidential elections of June 19, 2021 in the Islamic republic of Iran resulted into the victory of a hardliner, and the head of Iran's judiciary; Ebrahim Raisi who have won the presidential elections with 62% of votes with an overall voter turnout of 48.8% (Nada, 2021). These recent elections in Iran are indicating the domination of conservatives in the political system of Iran that is providing a prediction of obstacles in the way of nuclear negotiations between US and Iran (Toossi, 2020).

However, it is argued that, the rule of conservatives in the political system of Iran will to an extent give a hard time to US in its nuclear negotiations with Iran but, it is not impossible for US to convince Iran to renegotiate JCPOA through diplomacy. Therefore, this research article will try to explore and understand the dynamics of US-Iran relations under the regime of President Hassan Rouhani by highlighting the factors or variables that contributed to such events, which cause de-escalation or escalation of tensions between both states. In addition to this, this research study will also attempt to throw light on the way these recent elections will influence the negotiations between US and Iran and the possible way that could ensure the normalization of US-Iran relations.

## **Theoretical Framework**

Neither just one theory can be brought into practice in describing US-Iran relations under the regime of President Hassan Rouhani. The theories of realism and institutionalism will be helpful in providing an understanding of the dynamics of US-Iran relation under President Rouhani. In the context of realism, Iran wants to pursue its national interests of security and self-preservation in the world and especially in the region of Persian Gulf. For the purpose of pursuing its national interests in terms of its relations with US, it is using hard power as well as soft power strategies in its dealings with US. As, “with the change of time the world is promoting soft power strategy (realistically)” (Rafique et al. 2021). Therefore, from the theory of realism the variables of fulfillment of national interests, use of hard power, and soft power are taken.

Similarly, from the theory of institutionalism, “it is an approach to the study of politics that focuses on the formal institutions of government” (Olsen et al. 1998). According to one of its branches i.e., Rational Choice Institutionalism, the variable of calculus approach is taken which means, the policy-making institutions would behave instrumentally and also in a more rational way in order to maximize the attainment of the interests mainly by performing the functions which are delegated to them by state (Olsen et al. 1998).

In this way, the variables which are operationalized in this research article to comprehend the dynamics of US-Iran relations under the era of President Hassan Rouhani are; fulfillment of national interests, use of soft and hard power (from theory of realism), and calculus approach from the rational choice institutionalism (branch of institutionalism). It is basically described in this research article that Iranian policy-making institutions under the first term of President Hassan Rouhani while following calculus used soft power in its negotiations with US in order to fulfill its national interests. Whereas, in the second presidential term of president Hassan Rouhani, Iran used hard power after following calculus approach towards US in order to pursue its national interests.

## **Normalization of US-Iran Relations**

It is mainly argued that under the first term of President Hassan Rouhani i.e., from 2013-2017, Iran followed the calculus approach and used soft power in the form of diplomacy and negotiations towards US in order to attain its national interests, that resulted into the signing of a nuclear deal between P5+1 and Iran called as Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) in 2015. Under the first term of an Iranian moderate president i.e., Hassan Rouhani, whose agenda was mainly, the greater integration with the world as well as better relations with the west in order to attain Iran’s national interests, that would lead to preferred diplomacy and negotiations with US to resolve the nuclear issue between both states (Rezaian et al. 2013). In this way, Iran while negotiating the nuclear deal with

US calculated the costs and benefits that; “the signing of the nuclear deal will not only serve US’ interests but will also prove helpful for Iran in attaining its national interests of security and self-preservation in the region of Middle East” (Rezaian et al. 2013). In short, the JCPOA deal will be mutually significant for both US and Iran.

### **Significance of JCPOA**

The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action is considered as the most significant development under the second Obama administration in US and during the first term of Iranian President Rouhani as the relations between both states began to move on the path of normalization after decades of animosity between both states. This nuclear deal ensured the interests of both US and Iran as, for US the nuclear deal was preventing Iran from developing a nuclear program that would be a threat to US allies in the region of Middle East that may indirectly threaten the interests of US in the Middle Eastern region. Such as, the JCPOA deal allowed the low-level uranium enrichment of Iran to continue, and Iran also pledged not to stockpile as well as to stop refining uranium to 20% U-235 (Shamir et al. 2011).

Similarly, according to the nuclear agreement, the Islamic republic of Iran will convert the 200 kilograms of 20% uranium it has amassed to a form which further cannot be easily enriched (Shamir et al. 2011). The nuclear agreement would also freeze most work at heavy water reactor called Arak that if completed, can have the potential to yield plutonium (another potential bomb fuel). Similarly, this nuclear accord has also provided IAEA with unprecedented daily access to Iranian enrichment plants as well as potential answers to questions about the alleged past weapons research at military sites. With this, the nuclear agreement was also providing an opportunity to US to resolve the nuclear conflict with Iran peacefully and without any war because, any war by US against Iran in the Middle East would threaten the stability of Middle East that may make it difficult for US to attain its interests in the region.

In case of Iran, the nuclear deal was intended basically to lift the main sanctions on oil and banking that have crippled the Iranian economy, which may follow to the normalization of relations between Iran and the US for the first time since the 1979 Islamic revolution (Rezaian et al. 2013). In the consequence of signing the nuclear deal in 2015, the harsh sanctions which were imposed by US on Iran were lifted that allowed Iran to continue its trade relations internationally as Iran is included among the list of countries who are the main exporter of oil and natural gas and the exports of Iran from oil and natural gas consist of the major part of Iranian economy as, the exports of Iran from oil and natural gas were mainly account for 82% of the state’s export revenues (Cordesman, 2015).

In this manner, the signing of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action between Iran and P5+1 countries ensured improvement in economic activity in the Islamic republic of Iran which is in compliance with the political agenda of the regime of President Hassan Rouhani i.e., to strive for economic prosperity in Iran. This nuclear deal and the benefits which Iran reaped from it includes, not merely an improvement in the US-Iran relations in the form of increased cooperation and engagement, but also the strengthening of the moderate regime of President Rouhani in Iran mainly due to the economic benefits which Iran experienced because of the lifting of economic sanctions from it (Cordesman, 2015).

However, Iran was still remained under US sanctions for the foreseeable future for the support of groups such as Hezbollah which the US regards as terrorist and for abusing the human rights of the Iranian people. The European sanctions related to such areas would also remain in place. In this way, under the first term of President Hassan Rouhani, Iran's calculus approach toward US with the use of soft power resulted into the signing of JCPOA in 2015 between P5+1 and Iran, that ensured the attainment of the national interests of both US and Iran in the region of Middle East.

### **Deterioration of US-Iran Relations**

It is mainly argued that under the second term of President Hassan Rouhani, Iran followed the calculus approach and demonstrated its hard power against the aggressive policies of US toward Iran in order to attain its national interests in the region of Middle East that resulted into the deterioration of US-Iran relations. As, after the unilateral withdrawal of US from JCPOA, US introduced hardline policy of 'maximum pressure strategy' against Iran under the Trump administration, which basically aimed to eliminate Iran's oil revenues entirely.

As, in the consequence of the US' maximum pressure policy, the oil exports of Iran which were at 2.5 million barrels a day before the reimposition of US sanctions in 2018, were fallen to as little as 248,000 barrels a day (Dehzoeei, 2017). Due to this, inflation and unemployment rates started to increase in Iran. All these things eventually forced the regime of President Hassan Rouhani to cut fuel subsidies and the loss of oil income had also made it hard for the state to even meet its pension obligations and maintain its affordable housing programs.

Similarly, the US withdrawal from JCPOA under Trump administration weakened President Hassan Rouhani politically and forced him further to the right. As, many Iranians were unable either to stall Trump's decision or to entice real economic benefits from Europe that resulted into their consideration of President Rouhani an inept in achieving his own goals (Etebari, 2013). Similarly, due to the reimposition of harsh sanctions by US on Iran, the middle class in Iranian society was diminished; which was the source of most of Rouhani's support, and reform movements (Etebari, 2013).

On the other hand, the sanctions by US on Iran strengthened the conservative forces whose warnings not to trust the US have been vindicated. In this way, those individuals who have access to state levers of control, specifically in the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) became able to monopolize the black markets, which were thriving under the sanction - regime (Belal, 2020).

Moreover, US under the Trump administration also resorted to ending the sanction waivers, which were granted Russian, Chinese, and European firms to continue to work at certain Iranian nuclear sites. Such move by US was mainly applied on Iran's Arak heavy water reactor, the provision of enriched uranium for its Tehran Research Reactor, and also the transfer of spent and scrap reactor fuel abroad (Belal, 2020).

In addition to this, US have also sanctioned second party, which were also involved in Iran's Mahan air, under US sanctions since 2011 (Belal, 2020). Besides with the unilateral withdrawal from JCPOA and imposition of sanctions on Iran under Trump administration, US has challenged Iran's geopolitical assertiveness in the region of Middle East specifically in Syria and Yemen, and continued its support to Israel and Saudi Arabia in their strategic animosity towards Iran.

### **Maximum Resistance by Iran**

In response to the 'maximum pressure policy' of US towards Iran; it stopped to comply with the rules of JCPOA and started to enrich its nuclear development program in the consequence of the US aggressive policy towards Iran as it exceeded its nuclear enrichment activities for about 20% purity and stockpile levels which is beyond the limits set out in the nuclear deal of 2015, and also begun construction activity at both the Natanz and Fordow nuclear plants, where they appear to be building additional underground facilities that would ultimately pose a threat to the allies and national interests of US in the region of Middle East (Belal, 2020).

Similarly, in order to deal with the economic crisis in the Islamic Republic of Iran due to the imposition of sanctions by US, Iran under the second presidential term of Hassan Rouhani focused on strengthening its ties with the Asian trading partners mainly China and Russia. As, by analyzing the recent economic conditions of Iran, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF); Iran's economy will shrink by at least 6 percent, while an Iranian experts predict it to shrink by 11 percent, however, it is believed that Iran would be able to resolve many of its issues, especially oil exports, through establishing long term strategic relations with its Asian Trading Partners mainly Russia, and China (Khandouzi, 2020). Moreover, strengthening of Iran's ties with the rival states of US mainly Russia and China would also provide them an opportunity to increase their influence in the region of Middle East, which may pose a threat to the interests of US in the region (Khandouzi, 2020).

Similarly, in response to the pressure that Iran faced due to the maximum pressure strategy by US institutions toward Iran under Trump administration, Iran became radicalized and responded strongly by undertaking actions against commercial shipping in the Persian Gulf, supporting attacks by allies in Iraq and Yemen to attack US, Saudi, and other targets in the region (Wintour, 2020). The events between both states under the second term of President Hassan Rouhani reached a tipping point with the assassination of Qasem Soleimani; who was the major general in IRGC by US and the retaliation by Iran through missile attacks at the US' Ain-al-Asad air-base in Iraq in January 2020.

Moreover, the matters for Iran were strained further just weeks after when the Iranian air defenses, which were on the high alert mainly for US incursion, accidentally shot down a Ukrainian civilian airliner which was departing from supreme leader Khomeini airport in Tehran, killing all 176 passengers on board (Wintour, 2020). The incident basically shattered the illusion of solidarity which was viewed within the massive crowd of mourners of Qasem Soleimani and eventually erupted into countrywide protests.

With this on April 22, 2020, when Iran launched its satellite named as 'Nour', then at that time, US was the first country to criticize it, while the Islamic republic of Iran reiterated that its aerospace program is in compliance with the resolution of UNSC (Lubold, 2020). During that period, both states threatened to crush and destroy the ships and vessels on the Persian Gulf in close proximity of the others.

Therefore, all the escalations of tensions with deterioration of US-Iran in the form of the events described above is the consequence of the hard power that Iran used in response to the aggressive policy of US against it. As, to counter the hardline agenda of the US and to pursue its national interests in the region, Iran followed the calculus approach and started to enrich its nuclear program, strengthened its ties with its trading partners in order to pressurize US, and also used its hard power by retaliating every attack of US discussed above. But all this led to deterioration of US-Iran relations.

However, with the advent of a new presidential administration in US in January 2021 i.e., under the administration of President Joe Biden, US is making attempts to convince Iran to renegotiate JCPOA in order to resolve issues and to promote cooperation, and engagement between both states. Iran under the last year of the rule of President Hassan Rouhani, is also taking part in Vienna talks with US, although, the factor of mistrust is mainly hindering any productive engagement between US and Iran (Belal, 2020).

As, US under Trump administration despite of Iran's compliance with JCPOA (although there were flaws in the deal that did not ensure US interests in Middle East on permanent basis) used hard power against Iran and imposed sanctions that resulted into economic crisis in Iran, which further led to anti-American sentiments in Iran and strengthening of

conservative forces in the country that may prove as an obstacle in the normalization of US-Iran relations.

Moreover, Iran under the last year of presidency of Hassan Rouhani, has used calculus approach and decided to move in a direction that would ensure the attainment of its national interests as it basically wants Washington to step up its game by making the first move, and also refused to budge until those sanctions are lifted from Iran (Turak, 2021).

According to Sanam Vakil; an Iran expert and deputy head of Chatham House's MENA program; the Iranians are publicly saying that they need US to lift all of the sanctions before they do anything, and they are saying this because they need to know the position and intentions of US toward Iran and what the US red lines are as Iranian have limited confidence in the process (Turak, 2021). Therefore, it depends on US that how it will overcome the factor of mistrust among Iranians and convince Iran to renegotiate JCPOA that would ensure the national interests of both states.

### **Recent Elections in Iran: Emerging Political Scenario and its Implications on US-Iran Relations**

The victory of conservatives in the recent parliamentary and presidential elections in Iran has established the domination of hardliners in the political system of Iran. In this way, it is a common built perception by experts that in the result of elections in Iran conservatives or hardliners would have a greater role in the political system of state as well as in moulding or influencing the relations between US and Iran and is mainly described by experts that conservatives in Iran oppose any engagement with the west specifically US, therefore, it would be difficult for US to engage Iran to renegotiate JCPOA (Vaez et al. 2020). Hence, the refusal of any opportunity by conservatives in Iran to engage and cooperate with US through renegotiating JCPOA could hinder an improvement or normalization in US-Iran relations.

Although, it is mainly argued in this research study that, Iran is a pragmatic state whether it is ruled by hardliners or moderators, and it will move on a path that may ensure the attainment of its national interests. If the national interests of Iran will be fulfilled by engaging with the US, then it would renegotiate JCPOA no matter whether Iran is ruled by hardliners or moderators. As, in the result of 2021 presidential elections in Iran, Ebrahim Raisi won the elections and will be inaugurated in early August, has expressed his interests in reviving the 2015 nuclear deal in order to take advantage of the benefits which the JCPOA deal may provide to Iran (Nada, 2021).

Despite of the fact that, the newly elected president of Iran Ebrahim Raisi, is among one of those hardliners and conservatives who oppose any improvement in relations with the west, but unless the national interests of Iran are being served by engaging and having

better relations with the west specifically US, Iran as a pragmatic state may follow its calculus approach and opt to promote better relations with US.

Similarly, in order to convince Iran that renegotiation of the nuclear deal and engagement with US will also serve its national interests, as it is a great incentive for a state that signing a particular deal could be helpful in attaining its objectives, US as a sole superpower in the world has the responsibility to persuade Iran through its behavior and smart power strategies mainly including the use of soft power because in past, US have used aggressive and hardline policies against Iran and demonstrated its hard power to change Iran's behavior in the greater interests of US by neglecting the national interests of Iran which bred anti-American interests among Iranians that further hindered any improvement in US-Iran relations (Etebari, 2013).

Therefore, it depends on US and the tactics it would use to assure Iran the significance of renegotiating the 2015 nuclear deal. As, if US under the presidential administration of Joe Biden assure Iran that the renegotiation of the nuclear deal would address its concerns, and the interests of the signatories of the deal will be served then there are chances that Iran would renegotiate JCPOA and a productive engagement and cooperation between US and Iran would become an entry point to resolve the issues between both states.

## **Conclusion**

The US-Iran relations under the regime of present Hassan Rouhani are categorized into two parts i.e., under the first and second presidential term of Hassan Rouhani. During the first presidential term Hassan Rouhani (2013-17), Iran followed calculus approach with the use of soft power towards US in order to attain its national interests in the result of which the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action was signed between P5+1 and Iran that lifted economic sanctions which had crippled Iranian economy and caused economic crisis and political instability in Iran.

When Iran became the signatory of the 2015 nuclear deal, it got economic and political benefits besides with limitations on its nuclear program. In this way, the application of a rational and calculus approach by considering the interests of US regarding the deal and its behavior towards Iran under Obama administration made Iran to engage with US in order to resolve concerned issues between both states which would ultimately in better interests of Iran. All this resulted into improvement in US-Iran relations, which is mainly observed under the first presidential term of Hassan Rouhani.

However, the trajectory of US-Iran relations was changed under the second presidential term of Hassan Rouhani (2017-21), as US under the Trump administration formulate aggressive policy toward Iran and unilaterally withdrew from the 2015 nuclear deal. After walking away from the nuclear deal, US re imposed harsh sanctions on Iran by executing its 'maximum pressure policy' against Iran which affected Iran in a negative

way as, the harsh sanctions affected the economy of the country resulted into unemployment and inflation which bred anti-American sentiments among Iranians and weakened the moderate forces like president Hassan Rouhani who supported engagement of Iran with the west mainly US.

In this manner, Iran in response to US maximum pressure strategy, followed calculus approach pressurized US to lift its sanctions from Iran by demonstrating maximum resistance against US through enriching its nuclear program beyond the levels that was declared in JCPOA, strengthening its ties with Asian trading partners such as Russia, and China whose presence in the region of Middle East is a threat to the interests of US. Similarly, Iran used its hard power toward US by retaliating all its attacks as are mentioned above. Therefore, under the second presidential term of Hassan Rouhani, Iran followed calculus approach and used hard power in response to the aggressive behavior of US under Trump administration, in order to attain its objectives, although, this resulted into deterioration of US-Iran relations.

Furthermore, with the emerging political scenario in Iran that can be seen under the domination of conservatives in the Iranian political system after the recent parliamentary and presidential elections, it is commonly argued that the victory of hardliners could hinder any improvement in US-Iran relations. Although, it is highlighted in this research article that, Iran is a pragmatic state, and no matter whether its political system is dominated by conservatives or moderates, if US is showing such behavior that assure Iran of the attainment of its interests through engagement with US in the form of renegotiating JCPOA, then there are chances that Iran would renegotiate JCPOA.

The recent example of this is of the newly elected conservative President of Iran; Ebrahim Raisi who is showing his interest in reviving JCPOA and engaging with US in order to attain the benefits from the deal which would surely be helpful for Iran to attain its national interests. However, the decision of Iran to renegotiate JCPOA also depends on the kind of attitude US shows toward Iran, as it is argued by considering the unproductive results of hardline policies of US against Iran that only soft power strategies of US would bring Iran on the table of negotiations that may create engagement and cooperation between both states which would improve US-Iran relations.

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