

Two Moves From Checkmate

By LTC Joe Rawlings

We are two moves from Checkmate with the nation of Iran, who helped invent and modernize the game of chess centuries ago. Within the game of chess, it is possible to be in a situation in which no matter how you move your pieces, within one of the next two moves you will be placed in Checkmate -- this is exactly the situation the United States finds itself now. There are facts that run contradictory to mainstream media and may not be known or understood, but an open-minded approach must be used when dealing with a complicated people, and to try to figure out what is really going on with the Islamic State of Iran. Partial or flawed statements are frequently being stated by Politicians and Pundits across official and media channels, but truth needs to break through this critical issue that our nation faces against the resurgent Persian Empire.

Know this - Embarrassment is likely part of the play, as it is important to prove the US and the international community have wrongly assumed the worst. But - that embarrassment creates leverage that could result in the US or international community offering up our very best technology in either a negotiated trade deal or simply giving away nuclear technology in hopes that Iran remains peaceful with its nuclear intentions and program. We are being played by Iran into a Checkmate situation in which the United States could be embarrassed on multiple levels.

Do not assume that Iran is producing nuclear weapons within its ongoing nuclear effort. This is more likely baiting us into Checkmate.

Iran needs nuclear power to offset ongoing fossil-fuel consumption that produces 87% of their electrical power (the other 13% from hydro). For every kilowatt of power shifted to nuclear power, that offsets the requirement to burn oil or natural gas for electricity, and would simultaneously improve both natural gas and oil exports to the world. Iran is so reliant on old technology and inefficient energy, they still import electricity.

A civilian nuclear energy program matured in Iran will result in Iran transitioning into the world's largest exporter of natural gas, and simultaneously becoming one of the top (if not **the top**) exporting oil nation to the world.

It is all about the method of energy production, gaining production/export offsets, and the ability to raise capital. With increased natural gas and oil exports, the additional capital could be used for other purposes - conventional weapons procurement, a conventional military force buildup, and/or further procurement that could result in nuclear weapons capability - but not necessarily a direct capability obtained through their current/ongoing nuclear engineering processes. However, even a so-called “peaceful” development of nuclear energy technology results in the know-how and enrichment processes to more quickly convert to making a nuclear arsenal. But – this bomb-making potential has become the shiny object that is blinding Politicians and Pundits alike.

If the U. S. and/or international inspection agencies do get access to Iran - expect embarrassment, expect Checkmate. When/if Iran shows the world that they have absolutely no nuclear weapons program - **WE LOSE**. We should not play into this trap - the strategy that Iran is likely playing needs to be considered, and the World Factbook data is useful to consider. But also know this - even if I am wrong, and a nuclear weapons program is discovered in some rudimentary capacity - **WE STILL LOSE**. Why? Because the world will still be at Checkmate to voluntarily trade Civilian Nuclear Energy technology to Iran as negotiation to discontinue its (alleged) weapons program. In either scenario, we still appear to be **TWO MOVES FROM CHECKMATE**.

With regard to Iran and the information we typically all gather from Western news outlets, most everything you have ever read or tried to understand about Iran come from speculative sources. One example of Iran’s methods, the most privy information in Iran may not ever be revealed except between their leadership (Grand Ayatollah) and his executive orders given to one single mission executor. What this means - if hypothetically the Grand Ayatollah has ordered a specific terrorist act to be carried out, he may have a private meeting with the individual that carries out the mission, and - only the two of them know about it, and that individual then executes the mission sometimes with no other assistance. When/if other people get involved in the mission, it could be under the guise of some named group to remove connectivity with the nation state of Iran. This example is why Iran is a very difficult nation to effectively gather information from, and even more difficult to trace back and lay blame toward when Iran gets involved in international terrorism -- they

are experts at cutting out middle men below the Grand Ayatollah. And further - why do I say the Grand Ayatollah? He is the true leader of Iran, and any named "president" is a figure head for the sake of Western expectations and media distraction.

For a more detailed discussion, there are statistics from the CIA's World Factbook for reference.

As a stepping off point, it is important to know Iran's rank in the world in terms of population, as it is the number 19 most populace nation.

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/rankorder/2119rank.html>

The Energy section within the World Factbook is specifically in need of reference for this discussion.

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ir.html>

Iran is the number 2 nation in the world, behind Russia, in terms of world Proven Reserves of Natural Gas.

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/rankorder/2253rank.html>

And yet - Iran is only number 26 in the world in Exporting that same Natural Gas.

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/rankorder/2251rank.html>

There is a tremendous disparity here of Iran's Proven Reserves vs Exports of Natural Gas. This contrast is one of the most overlooked statistics in all of our national strategy (and mainstream news) toward Iran. Iran does not effectively produce and export their natural gas. While Iran has developed hydro power (13% of electricity produced from hydro), there isn't much expansion or efficiency to be further gained from hydro power expansion in Iran. Improving the Iranian power grid requires that their Electrical power generation be diversified into other means of production.

Nuclear power is the sought-after diversification for the Iranian regime. What happens when Iran gains nuclear engineering capability to transition their power grid into mostly nuclear power? Their number 2 proven reserves of Natural Gas become an economic boon to Iranians, but to the rest of the world it is an economic beast or monster the world has never seen. If you think a nuclear weapons program is bad, just wait until you see what an Iranian regime loaded with capital can do to procure Conventional weapons and military

capacity! And with that capital and nuclear know how - the future could still hold a nuclear-armed Iran, whether their own or procured/bought capability.

I encourage you to be prepared and be informed. I don't want our great nation embarrassed, and I especially don't like to lose, yet I truly believe we are "Two Moves From Checkmate. "

The best solution to this problem is to simply walk away from the chess game and put the handcuffs on our chess opponent – do not give away any advanced nuclear technology, while forcing Iran to stop all current nuclear energy and nuclear enrichment activities.

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(These views are my own and do not reflect an official position of the U. S. Government or the U. S. Army)

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