

WHAT ARE OPPONENTS OF THE FINAL IRAN DEAL SAYING?

FACT SHEET

Compiled by Joel C. Rosenberg
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What polls of the American people are saying

- **“Poll: Americans oppose Iran deal by 2-1 margin”** (The Hill, 8/3/15)
 - Nearly six in ten Americans, or 57 percent, oppose the nuclear deal, while only 28 percent voice support for it in the national poll released Monday—a two-to-one margin against the deal.
 - Republicans strongly oppose the deal brokered by the Obama administration, 86 to 3 percent, while Democrats support the top second-term foreign policy agenda item for President Obama, 52 to 32 percent.
 - A majority of Americans (56 percent) disapprove of the way Obama is handling the situation in Iran, compared with 35 percent who approve. A majority (58 percent) also thinks the deal makes the world less safe.
 - The latest survey from Quinnipiac was commissioned amid testimony on Capitol Hill in favor of the deal from Secretary of State John Kerry, Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz, and Treasury Secretary Jack Lew.
 - The survey of 1,644 registered U.S. voters was conducted July 23–28 via landlines and cellphones with a margin of error of 2.4 points.
- **“New poll shows opposition to Iran deal”** (Washington Examiner, 7/29/15)
 - 80 percent oppose giving Iran \$150 billion in lifted sanctions absent congressional approval of the deal.
 - 72 percent said that Congress shouldn’t approve an agreement that does not allow independent U.S. inspections of Iran’s military laboratories.
 - 68 percent don’t believe that inspections overseen by the United Nations that allow up to a 24-day notification period beforehand will prevent Iran from cheating.
 - 65 percent think the deal will result in other nations seeking their own nuclear weapons to protect themselves from Iran.
 - 63 percent disagree that the deal stops Iran from developing nuclear weapons.

- “It’s abundantly clear that the more Americans learn about key details within the Iran agreement, the less they like it,” said Pat Caddell, a Democratic pollster who conducted the poll along with the Republican firm McLaughlin & Associates. “Opposition to the deal is growing as the facts work their way into kitchen table conversations across the country.”
- The poll was conducted by McLaughlin & Associates and Caddell Associates for Secure America Now, a group that bills itself as a nonpartisan organization focused on security issues. It surveyed 800 likely general election voters July 22–23 and had an error margin of 3.5 percentage points, although some message testing questions had an error margin of 4.9 percentage points. Polls gauging American voters’ opinions of the Iran deal have varied, with some showing support and others showing opposition.

What Democrat opponents of the final Iran deal are saying

- Hon. James Woolsey, Democrat, former director of the Central Intelligence Agency during the Clinton administration:¹
 - “This would be a perfectly reasonable agreement if it were with, say, Denmark.
 - “You could trust the other party to do what they said, and what they said would be consistent with the written agreement and they wouldn’t use all kinds of subterfuges to get away from their obligations. But the Iranians never deal straight. They haven’t at least since 1979 when this government came in.
 - “It’s really naive to think that they’re going to act as the Danes would if we were negotiating with the Danes.”
- Sen. Robert Menendez, the New Jersey Democrat, opposes the Iran deal:²
 - “The bottom line is: The deal doesn’t end Iran’s nuclear program—it preserves it.”
 - “New Jersey Sen. Robert Menendez, a senior member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, has led Democratic opposition to the administration’s Iran plans for months. On Tuesday, he told CNN’s Joe Johns that he was disappointed in what he said was the deal’s lack of ‘anytime, anywhere inspections,’ which he ‘thought was something that was one of our red lines.’ He added that the agreement still preserves Iran’s nuclear infrastructure but held out hope that ‘there can be an effort to get a better deal.’”³

- “Rep. Steve Israel, the highest ranking Jewish Democrat in the House, said Tuesday he opposes the Iran nuclear deal and will work to defeat it in next month’s vote in Congress,” reported Politico.⁴
 - “I tried very hard to get to yes. But at the end of the day, despite some positive elements in the deal, the totality compelled me to oppose it.”
- “U.S. Rep. Ted Deutch said Tuesday he would vote against President Barack Obama’s nuclear agreement with Iran. Deutch’s move is significant,” reported the Orlando Sun-Sentinel. “Deutch is the top Democrat on the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa.”⁵
 - “Too many issues I have long raised as essential to any nuclear deal with Iran are not adequately addressed in this agreement. I will vote against it when Congress reconvenes in September,” [Deutch wrote in an op-ed article for the Sun Sentinel](#). “There are different predictions about what will happen if Congress rejects this deal. But the consequences of approving it aren’t up for debate. Opening Iran up to foreign investment, increasing its oil exports, and unfreezing over \$100 billion in assets means more money for Hamas for building terror tunnels in Gaza, more weapons for Hezbollah in Lebanon, more slaughter in Syria, and more violence worldwide.”
- Rep. Grace Meng, the Democrat from New York’s 6th District (Queens) and a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and its subcommittee on the Middle East, was one of the first Democrat members of the House to announce that she will vote against the deal:⁶
 - “I strongly believe the world could and should have a better deal than that set forth in the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, which I will therefore oppose.”
 - “I believe the inspections procedures set forth are flawed—leading nuclear experts to assert that, pursuant to these procedures, inspectors would not necessarily know whether Iran is manufacturing uranium components for a nuclear weapon. This is unacceptable.”
 - “Furthermore, I am deeply concerned that almost all of Iran’s nuclear infrastructure would remain intact; this leads me to believe Iran would simply resume its pursuit of a nuclear weapon at the conclusion of the deal in a decade’s time.
 - “Finally, the immediate sanctions relief provided Iran in the deal would incentivize the funding of terrorism and lessen Iran’s interest in restraining its nuclear ambitions over the long term.”

What Canadian opponents of the deal are saying

- “Canada’s Foreign Minister Rob Nicholson came out strongly in favor of Israel over the new Iran nuclear deal on Wednesday, saying that his country would maintain a policy of economic sanctions against Iran in spite of the accord signed Tuesday by Tehran and world powers,” reported the *Times of Israel*.⁷
- “We will continue to judge Iran by its actions, not its words,” Nicholson said. “We will examine this deal further before taking any specific Canadian action.”
- “Iran continues to be a significant threat to international peace and security owing to the regime’s nuclear ambitions, its continuing support for terrorism, its repeated calls for the destruction of Israel, and its disregard for basic human rights,” Nicholson said.
- “Canada will continue to support the efforts of the International Atomic Energy Agency to monitor Iran’s compliance with its commitments,” he added.

What Israeli opponents of the deal are saying

Israelis strongly oppose the deal and a plurality find them increasingly ready for war, according to July polls:

- 74 percent of Israelis say this deal won’t stop Iran from getting The Bomb.⁸
- 47 percent of Israelis support unilateral strikes against Iran if there is no other way to neutralize the threat.⁹
- Only 35 percent of Israelis oppose unilateral strikes.¹⁰

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu stated on July 14, 2015:¹¹

- “Israel is not bound by this deal with Iran, and Israel is not bound by this deal with Iran because Iran continues to seek our destruction.
- “This deal repeats the mistakes made with North Korea. There too we were assured that inspections and verifications would prevent a rogue regime from developing nuclear weapons. And we all know how that ended.
- “In the coming decade, the deal will reward Iran, the terrorist regime in Tehran, with hundreds of billions of dollars. This cash bonanza will fuel Iran’s terrorism worldwide, its aggression in the region, and its efforts to destroy Israel, which are ongoing.
- “Amazingly, this bad deal does not require Iran to cease its aggressive behavior in any way. And just last Friday, that aggression was on display for all to see. While

the negotiators were closing the deal in Vienna, Iran’s supposedly moderate president chose to go to a rally in Tehran and at this rally, a frenzied mob burned American and Israeli flags and chanted ‘Death to America, Death to Israel!’ Now, this didn’t happen four years ago. It happened four days ago.”

Prime Minister Netanyahu said in an interview with Steve Forbes published on July 16, 2015:¹²

- “I think if the deal goes through we’re in danger of war, and it might be the worst kind of war we can imagine.
- “Because this deal will open the way for Iran not to get *a* bomb but many bombs.
- “Within a decade it will be free to enrich uranium on an unlimited basis.
- “And it will be able to make the fissile core for dozens of bombs—indeed, hundreds of bombs—which it can then put on the hundreds of ICBMs it already has.
- “Under this deal Iran is going to get \$100 billion to \$300 billion, which it will be able to use to fund its terrorism and its aggression in the region—its aim being to destroy Israel.
- “Given Iran’s history of aggression, I’d say that this double bonanza of a guaranteed pathway to a nuclear arsenal and a jackpot of money to continue its aggression actually makes the danger of war, even nuclear war, a lot greater.
- “The greatest danger in this deal is not that Iran will violate the agreement. That’s a danger—and it’s probably a certainty, given its record of cheating. The fact is that within ten years Iran won’t have to violate anything; it can just walk into the bombs. Into many bombs. The Iranians are openly saying that they won’t have the 6,000 centrifuges they’re allowed under this deal, they can have 190,000 centrifuges. Which is a vast amount.
- “We always have the right and the duty to protect ourselves against a regime that, while denying the Holocaust, is planning another Holocaust against the six million Jews of Israel. That will not happen. We won’t let it happen.”

Israeli opposition leader MK Isaac Herzog stated on July 15, 2015:¹³

- “I think [the final Iran deal] is bad for Israel.”
- “As an Israeli patriot, [I believe] this deal is dangerous.”
- “We [Netanyahu and myself] will certainly cooperate when it comes to the security of Israel.

What Arab opponents of the deal are saying

Bandar Bin Sultan Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud (widely known as Prince Bandar), the Saudi ambassador to the U.S. from 1981 to 2005, warns that the deal with Iran is far worse than the U.S. deal with North Korea, which led to Pyongyang building and testing nuclear warheads.¹⁴

- “Pundits are saying that President Obama’s Iran deal stirs déjà vu of President Clinton’s 1994 [North Korean nuclear deal](#). I humbly disagree. President Clinton made his decision based on a strategic foreign policy analysis, top-secret intelligence, and a desire to save the people of North Korea from starvation induced by its leadership.
- “It turned out that the strategic foreign policy analysis was wrong. If Mr. Clinton had known about the major intelligence failure, he would have made a different decision.
- “Mr. Obama made his decision on the Iran nuclear deal aware that the strategic foreign policy analysis, the national intelligence information, and intelligence from U.S. allies in the region predict a worse outcome than in North Korea—and Iran will have access to billions of dollars.
- “This deal will wreak havoc in the Middle East, which is already a disastrous environment. Iran is a major player in the destabilization of the region.
- “Why would Mr. Obama go ahead with such a deal with Iran? It is definitely not because Mr. Obama is not smart enough, because he is. He must believe that what he is doing is right. Still, I am convinced that my good friend Henry Kissinger was correct when he said, ‘America’s enemies should fear America, but America’s friends should fear America more.’
- “People in my region now are relying on God’s will and consolidating their local capabilities and analyses with everyone except our oldest and most powerful ally.”

Headlines from across the Arab world:

- **[“Like Israel, U.S. Arab Allies Fear Obama’s Iran Nuclear Deal”](#)**—*Wall Street Journal*, March 4, 2015
 - “A lot of the Gulf countries feel they are being thrown under the bus,” said Mishaal al-Gergawi, managing director of the Delma Institute in Abu Dhabi and a prominent Emirati political commentator. “The Gulf thought

it was in a monogamous relationship with the West, and now it realizes it's being cheated on because the U.S. was in an open relationship with it.”

- “The Sunni Arab nations led by Saudi Arabia that are engaged in proxy conflicts with Tehran in Yemen, Syria, Bahrain, and Lebanon view this confrontation as an existential zero-sum game—and interpret any American opening to Iran, and any relaxation of the economic sanctions that have hobbled Iran’s ability to project power, as succor to the enemy.”
- **“Arabs Blast ‘Obama’s Deal’ with Iran”**—Gatestone Institute, April 4, 2015
 - “Some Arab countries are opposed to the nuclear deal because it poses a threat to their interests,” said the Egyptian daily *Al-Wafd* in an article entitled “Politicians: Obama’s deal with Iran threatens Arab world.”
 - “The newspaper quoted Hani al-Jamal, an Egyptian political and regional researcher, as saying that the deal means that the international community has accepted Iran as a nuclear power. He predicted that the framework agreement would put Iran and some Arab countries such as Saudi Arabia and Egypt on a collision course.
 - “Even Jordanians have joined the chorus of Arabs expressing fear over Iran’s growing threat to the Arab world, especially in wake of the nuclear deal with the U.S. and the big powers. Salah al-Mukhtar, a Jordanian columnist, wrote an [article](#) entitled ‘Oh Arabs wake up, your enemy is Iran,’ in which he accused the U.S. of facilitating Tehran’s wars against Arab countries. . . . Al-Mukhtar said that the most dangerous aspect of the framework agreement is that it allows Iran to continue with its ‘destructive wars’ against the Arabs. ‘This is a dangerous agreement, particularly for Saudi Arabia and the opposition forces in Iraq and Syria,’ the Jordanian columnist cautioned. ‘This agreement provides Iran with what it needs most to pursue its wars and expansionism against the Arabs: funds. Lifting the sanctions is America’s way of backing the dangerous and direct wars against Arabs; the lifting of the sanctions also provides the Iranians with the funds needed to push with their Persian advancement. The US wants to drain Saudi Arabia and the Arab Gulf countries in preparation for dividing them.’”
- **“Saudi Arabia says it won’t rule out building nuclear weapons”**—*UK Independent*, March 27, 2015
- **“Arab states fear nuclear deal will give Iran a bigger regional role”**—*Washington Post*, July 14, 2015
- **“Iran deal could start nuclear fuel race—Saudi Arabia”**—BBC, March, 16, 2015

- [**“Saudi Arabia Promises to Match Iran in Nuclear Capability”**](#)—*New York Times*, May 27, 2015

END NOTES

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² Kevin Liptak, “Now that he has a deal with Iran, Obama must face Congress,” CNN, July 14, 2015, <http://www.cnn.com/2015/07/14/politics/iran-nuclear-deal-congress-obama-block/>.

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⁴ Lauren French, “Rep. Steve Israel announces opposition to Iran deal,” Politico, August 4, 2015, <http://www.politico.com/story/2015/08/rep-steve-israel-announces-opposition-to-iran-deal-121000.html>.

⁵ Anthony Man, “In break with Obama, Ted Deutch opposes Iran nuclear agreement,” Orlando Sun-Sentinel, August 4, 2015, <http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/politics/fl-ted-deutch-bill-nelson-iran-nuclear-20150804-story.html>.

⁶ “Democratic lawmaker announces opposition to Iran deal,” Times of Israel, July 29, 2015, <http://www.timesofisrael.com/democratic-lawmaker-announces-opposition-to-iran-deal/>.

⁷ Avi Lewis, “Canada won’t lift Iran sanctions, will judge ‘actions,’ not words,” Times of Israel, July 15, 2015, <http://www.timesofisrael.com/canada-wont-lift-iran-sanctions-will-judge-actions-not-words/>.

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⁹ “47% of Israelis would back unilateral Iran strike: poll,” Agence France Presse, July 17, 2015, <http://news.yahoo.com/47-israelis-back-unilateral-iran-strike-poll-093113859.html>.

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¹¹ Full text of Prime Minister Netanyahu response to the Iran deal, Times of Israel, July 14, 2015, <http://www.timesofisrael.com/full-text-of-netanyahus-response-to-uke-deal-it-will-fuel-irans-efforts-to-destroy-israel/>. Cited on Rosenberg blog, July 14, 2015, <https://flashtrafficblog.wordpress.com/2015/07/14/world-strikes-final-historic-nuclear-deal-with-iran-will-it-bring-peace-or-war-here-are-my-initial-thoughts/>.

¹² Steve Forbes interview with PM Netanyahu, Forbes magazine, July 16, 2015, <http://www.forbes.com/sites/steveforbes/2015/07/16/why-iran-deal-is-so-deadly-israeli-prime-minister-netanyahu-talks-with-steve-forbes/>.

¹³ “Opposition head will work with PM against Iran deal, won’t join gov’t,” Times of Israel, July 15, 2015, <http://www.timesofisrael.com/opposition-head-herzog-says-he-will-work-with-pm-against-iran-deal/>.

¹⁴ Prince Bandar, letter to the editor of the Washington Post, “Why the Iran agreement is worse than the U.S. deal with North Korea,” July 16, 2015, https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/why-the-iran-agreement-is-worse-than-the-us-deal-with-north-korea/2015/07/16/7d7747f4-2b0d-11e5-960f-22c4ba982ed4_story.html. Cited on Rosenberg blog, July 18, 2015, <https://flashtrafficblog.wordpress.com/2015/07/18/sunni-arab-leaders-aghast-at-iran-deal-saudis-publicly-blast-it-as-worse-than-the-u-s-deal-with-north-korea-warn-deal-will-wreak-havoc-in-the-middle-east/>.