

Mark Fitzpatrick, *The Iranian Nuclear Crisis*

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Mark Fitzpatrick, *The Iranian Nuclear Crisis: Avoiding Worst-Case Outcomes*, 2008, Routledge, Oxon

This book explores the options for building a fence between dormant Iranian nuclear-weapons ability and a real weapon, both in practice and in terms of observation. There is no definite firewall between the peaceful nuclear activities as Iran claiming allowed under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and weapons abilities, but there are some ways to make the difference between the two wider and more visible. The book also examines the policy question of whether the US and other western countries tolerating and providing legitimacy to an enrichment process in Iran is the suitable way to minimize the dangers, direct and indirect, stalking from Iran's nuclear enrichment programme. The book indicates how Iran developed its enrichment programme to the point where it intimidates to attain a weapons capability within a short time frame, and studies western policy responses aimed at prevention that capability.

This book details the impact of unilateral and collective sanctions against Iran, the domestic debate on the nuclear issue in Iran and the reverberations and impact of this crisis on western countries as well as on the gulf countries. Some options are also discussed in the book like will the world have accept an Iranian nuclear enrichment process and does having a weapons capability mean really having the nuclear Bomb.

The book also examines the fallback policies that would permit authenticity to nuclear programme in Iran in exchange for invasive inspections and restraints on the programme. This option in terms of possibility and their impact on the proliferation risks of diversion of nuclear material and knowledge, underground expansion and NPT break-out, and the risk of motivating a proliferation cascade in the Middle East and other regions.

Finally the author described that the risks are still best minimized by

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reinforcing the dual choice offered to Iran of cooperation such as provide economic incentive, allowing direct flight connections between the US and Iran, the release of impounded Iranian funds and the lifting of economic sanctions or adopt containment policy- containment policy involves isolation and other means of denying Iran the capability to use a nuclear status to achieve the goals it seeks of gulf hegemony and heightened prestige, and strengthening denial of supply. 