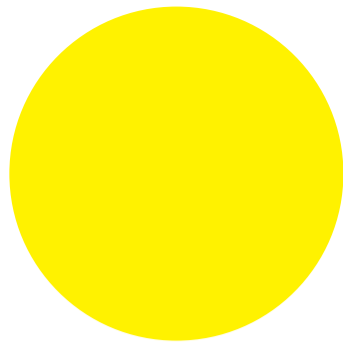


Iran FM:
Trip to China
aimed at
consulting on
international
issues



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Same Mistakes, Different Era: America's policies unchanged in 30 years

Newly declassified diplomatic memo uncovers decades of ignored warnings about US foreign policy failure

**EDITORIAL
EXCLUSIVE**

**30 years of
silence: Memo
that could have
changed
everything**

A newly declassified diplomatic memo, written by US diplomat Wayne Merry in March 1994, provides a rare and candid perspective on America's foreign policy missteps following the Cold War. At the time, Merry was the chief of the internal politics division at the US Embassy in Moscow, a position that placed him in direct contact with the turbulent realities of post-Soviet Russia. His role involved analyzing Russia's domestic political landscape and advising Washington on how to navigate relations with the Yeltsin ad-

ministration during a critical period of economic and political instability. The memo, marked Unclassified on 09/12/2024, was released by the National Security Archive, a private research organization at George Washington University, as part of its ongoing efforts to shed light on critical moments in US foreign policy. The memo, titled 'Whose Russia Is It Anyway? Toward a Policy of Benign Respect,' critiques the US emphasis on rapid economic reforms—such as the controversial "shock therapy" approach—and

warns against overlooking the importance of fostering democratic institutions in Russia. Written during President Boris Yeltsin's tenure, a time marked by severe economic turmoil and political unrest, Merry's memo highlights the dangers of imposing Western economic models on a country unprepared for such drastic changes. He cautioned that these policies risked alienating the Russian populace, eroding goodwill towards the US, and strengthening anti-democratic forces.

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Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships:

**Iran grabs 50 medals,
wins men's junior title**

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**Oskouei's portrait wins
gold at Kyrgyzstan
photography festival**

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**Iran, Russia
to ink
comprehensive
cooperation
agreement**

Ambassador: Pezeshkian to
visit Moscow in mid-January

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**Are Syrian developments
threat or opportunity for Iran?**

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