

Why negotiate with the US again

International Desk

Amid Iran's domestic and regional challenges, some believe that engaging in negotiations with the US could be a solution to the crises, while others view this approach as naive. In the current context, is negotiating with the US a viable way to address problems or merely a route to a historical dead end? Negotiating with the US has always been one of the most challenging issues in the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran. In this regard, opponents of negotiating with the United States have presented various reasons for their opposition. In the last one or two months, when the issue of negotiation has once again made headlines in the media, it has been met with various reactions from government opponents who have a dim view of the matter. Below, you will find the arguments of the opponents of negotiation and the perspective of a supporter of negotiation:



Kazem Sediqi, Tehran's Friday Prayer Leader
Viewpoint: The US has lost its negotiating credentials and instead, it demands ransom.
Argument: The US demands ransom

Ahmad Alamolhoda, Mashhad's Friday Prayer Leader
Viewpoint: The country's problems cannot be solved through negotiation; negotiating with the enemy is a mistake, and if the enemy's pressures are effective, they will continue and increase.
Argument: Increased pressure in case of negotiation

Mohammad Saeidi, Qom's Friday Prayer Leader
Viewpoint: Those who are enthusiastic about negotiation with the US should know that the people and the Islamic Republic of Iran will never surrender to the US again.
Argument: Negotiation means captivity

Mohammad Baqer Laeini, Sari's Friday Prayer Leader
Viewpoint: Negotiating with the US is meaningless because the US is the 'Great Satan', and negotiating with the devil yields no results. Negotiation is a tool that enemies use to stall us, and it is futile.
Argument: Futility of negotiation

Hossein Shariatmadari, Managing Director of Keyhan newspaper
Viewpoint: Those who these days, instead of trying to solve some of the country's problems, prescribe negotiation with the US, are either "naive" and not very intelligent, or "ineffective" and hide their inability to solve problems under the cover of negotiation with the US, or, God forbid, are deceived or tempted to "collude with the enemy"... Negotiation with the US does not solve any problems. If you are willing to pay ransom, you will have to do it repeatedly, in all fundamental issues, and cross all your red lines.
Argument: Futility of negotiation and the necessity of crossing red lines

Mohammad Mehdi Hosseini Hamedani, Karaj's Friday Prayer Leader
Viewpoint: Some people, driven by betrayal, negligence, or ignorance, discuss negotiation and surrender, instilling doubts in people's minds. It is essential for the Revolutionary front to present an accurate narrative of the US' crimes to prevent deviation and counter the ongoing efforts that seek to make people forget the injustices committed by the US.
Argument: Negotiation arises from betrayal or negligence



Let's not create a dichotomy about dialogue
However, some individuals like Hossein Taeb, the former head of the Intelligence Organization of The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) and current advisor to the Commander-in-Chief of the IRGC, believe that, "We must be careful not to move towards a dichotomy of compromise and negotiation because the US intends to impose its beliefs and goals on us in the negotiations. But if negotiations are to take place, we should get what is rightfully ours."

Negotiating with the assassin of Gen. Soleimani?
Recently, Ali Abdolalizadeh, the president's Special Representative for Sea-Oriented Economy, said, "We need a new foreign policy; the first principle in our sea-oriented development is to improve foreign relations with the world. I also said during the elections that we should negotiate with

Mr. Trump. We cannot keep the country's issues on hold, so we must speak honorably and defend our national interests. We have always been in favor of negotiation, and the entire ruling system has agreed to face-to-face negotiation." Abdolalizadeh's remarks come despite the fact that after the direct negotiation between Iran and several countries, including the US, which led to the nuclear deal known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and the lifting of sanctions, a large group described the negotiation as treacherous, using the keyword "We will not negotiate with the assassin of General Soleimani," after the assassination of General Soleimani by Trump's order. This is while in the past year, after the Operation Al-Aqsa Storm, in which the Israeli regime killed more than 45,000 Palestinians, the resistance movement Hamas has always kept the door open for negotiation with Israel to prevent the continuation of Israel's crimes and the killing of the oppressed Palestinian

people by securing the release of hostages. Given the diverse perspectives and the significance of the issue, Mehdi Motaharnia, an international relations expert, shares his valuable insights:

Negotiation amid distrust
Hossein Shariatmadari, managing director of Keyhan newspaper, advocates for confrontation with the US rather than addressing the country's actual issues. If he has a plan to resolve these problems, why doesn't he and his like-minded associates accept direct executive action? With the nation facing economic, social, and cultural challenges, why does it maintain a weak position in the global economy despite having substantial foreign exchange reserves in the past? It is crucial to concentrate on the country's internal issues. If these internal challenges are addressed, the country can better withstand external pressures. Despite the efficiency of the Islamic Republic that many officials highlight,

The photo shows a rally held in Tehran on November 3, 2024 to mark the anniversary of the US embassy takeover in 1979.
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