

3 Unanswered Questions That Will Shape Trump's Middle East Policy

by [Robert Satloff \(/experts/robert-satloff\)](/experts/robert-satloff)

Nov 16, 2024

Also published in The Hill

ABOUT THE AUTHORS



[Robert Satloff \(/experts/robert-satloff\)](/experts/robert-satloff)

Robert Satloff is the Segal Executive Director of The Washington Institute, a post he assumed in January 1993.



Articles & Testimony

The nascent administration needs to clarify its stances on preventing an Iranian nuclear breakout, investing in Arab-Israel military cooperation, and responding to potential West Bank annexations.

Donald Trump's election victory was a clarifying moment. But in terms of Middle East policy, months on the campaign trail still left three key questions unanswered. First, will he recommit the U.S. to a policy of preventing Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon? American presidents have differed wildly in their Middle East policies over the past 15 years, but they all agreed on the principle that it was too dangerous to allow Iran's messianic leaders to possess nuclear weapons. Presidents had different strategies to prevent this—from diplomacy (the Iran nuclear deal) to economic sanctions ("maximum pressure") to military threats ("all options on the table")—but the principle was constant. So far, however, the Trump-Vance team has not endorsed this approach...

[Read the full article on the Hill website. \(https://thehill.com/opinion/international/4993227-3-unanswered-questions-that-will-shape-trumps-middle-east-policy/\)](https://thehill.com/opinion/international/4993227-3-unanswered-questions-that-will-shape-trumps-middle-east-policy/) ❖

RECOMMENDED



IN-DEPTH REPORTS

[Semiconductors, AI, and the Gulf:](#)

Policy Considerations for the United States

Nov 18, 2024

◆
Elizabeth Dent,
Grant Rumley

[\(/policy-analysis/semiconductors-ai-and-gulf-policy-considerations-united-states\)](#)



BRIEF ANALYSIS

[Profile: Directorate of Education, Hashd al-Shaabi \(DEHS\)](#)

Nov 17, 2024

◆
Sary Mumayiz

[\(/policy-analysis/profile-directorate-education-hashd-al-shaabi-dehs\)](#)



BRIEF ANALYSIS

[With Its Conventional Deterrence Diminished, Will Iran Go for the Bomb?](#)

Nov 15, 2024

◆
Michael Eisenstadt

[\(/policy-analysis/its-conventional-deterrence-diminished-will-iran-go-bomb\)](#)

TOPICS

[Arab-Israeli Relations \(/policy-analysis/arab-israeli-relations\)](#)

[Peace Process \(/policy-analysis/peace-process\)](#)

[Proliferation \(/policy-analysis/proliferation\)](#)

[U.S. Policy \(/policy-analysis/us-policy\)](#)

REGIONS & COUNTRIES

Iran (/policy-analysis/iran)

Israel (/policy-analysis/israel)

Palestinians (/policy-analysis/palestinians)