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## Why Iran Should Get The Bomb

1 message

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Thu, Jun 21, 2012 at 2:29 PM

Dear Colleague,

Earlier this week, the P5+1 (the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council plus Germany) met in Moscow to discuss how to prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon. But according to Columbia University's **Kenneth N. Waltz** in the latest issue of *Foreign Affairs*, a nuclear armed Iran "would probably be the best possible result: the one most likely to restore stability to the Middle East."

Read the complete article here: [www.foreignaffairs.com/waltz062112](http://www.foreignaffairs.com/waltz062112)

Among the reasons Waltz cites for why a nuclear Iran would be a good thing:

- 1) **It would produce a more stable balance of military power in the Middle East:** "Israel's regional nuclear monopoly, which has proved remarkably durable for the past four decades, has long fueled instability in the Middle East... It is Israel's nuclear arsenal, not Iran's desire for one, that has contributed most to the current crisis... In fact, by reducing imbalances in military power, new nuclear states generally produce more regional and international stability, not less."
- 2) **It would reduce the risk of war between Israel and Iran:** "If Iran goes nuclear, Israel and Iran will deter each other, as nuclear powers always have. There has never been a full-scale war between two nuclear-armed states. Once Iran crosses the nuclear threshold, deterrence will apply, even if the Iranian arsenal is relatively small."
- 3) **It would produce a more cautious Iran:** "History shows that when countries acquire the bomb, they feel increasingly vulnerable and become acutely aware that their nuclear weapons make them a potential target in the eyes of major powers... Maoist China, for example, became much less bellicose after acquiring nuclear weapons in 1964, and India and Pakistan have both become more cautious since going nuclear."

Read the article: "[Why Iran Should Get The Bomb](#)"

More on Iran's nuclear program from *Foreign Affairs* and CFR:

"[The Cuban Missile Crisis at 50](#)," a *Foreign Affairs* essay by Harvard University's **Graham Allison**

"[Time to Attack Iran](#)," a *Foreign Affairs* essay by CFR Nuclear Security Fellow **Matthew Kroenig**

"[Negotiating a Nuclear Bomb](#)," a *Washington Post* op-ed by CFR's **Ray Takeyh**.

"[Iran: The Nuclear Challenge](#)," an ebook edited by CFR's **Robert D. Blackwill**. Read an excerpt from the ebook [here](#).

We encourage you to share these links with your audience and through social media.

Sincerely,

David Mikhail

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