

Trump withdraws U.S. from Iran nuclear deal

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U.S. President Donald Trump holds up a memorandum that reinstates sanctions on Iran after he announced his decision to withdraw the United States from the 2015 Iran nuclear deal in the Diplomatic Room at the White House May 8, 2018, in Washington, D.C. Photo by: Chip Somodevilla/Getty Images.

President Donald Trump decided May 8 to end U.S. participation in the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran. The decision means the United States will stop trade with Iran. It will reimpose sanctions, or trade penalties, on Iran. It also forces several other countries, including U.S. allies in Europe, as well as China, Russia and Iran, to decide what to do next.

Trump said the deal is a "horrible, one-sided deal" that "didn't bring peace" and "never will."

What Ending The Iran Deal Means

Trump's decision to pull out of the deal will have a "chilling effect on any kind of economic activity" between Europe and Iran, said Tony Blinken. He is a former government official who helped create the deal President Barack Obama signed. The deal called for Iran to limit its nuclear program. In exchange, the United States and several other countries started trading with Iran again.

It will take some time to stop doing business with Iran, said Robert Einhorn, a former official who served with Obama's first secretary of state, Hillary Clinton.

The practical effect of Trump's decision is to put banks, businesses and buyers of Iran's oil on notice. Einhorn said they have to stop or limit their importing of Iran's oil in the next 180 days, or before November.

Why Trump Decided To Pull U.S. Out Of The Deal

Trump campaigned for election by speaking against the Iran nuclear agreement, which he called the worst ever negotiated. The leaders of France, Germany and Britain had pledged to improve the deal. The issues include:

- Eliminating expiration dates on the most important restrictions on Iran's nuclear activity, which means Iran could begin large-scale processing of nuclear fuel starting in 2025
- Inspections of military sites, which Iran currently disputes
- Limiting Iran's ballistic missile program
- Addressing Iran's support of terror groups across the Middle East

French President Emmanuel Macron met with Trump at the White House last month and urged the United States to keep the deal and seek to improve it. German Chancellor Angela Merkel met with Trump last week and British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson met with Trump on May 7.

All foreign leaders urged Trump to stay with the deal. They vowed to work with him to address his concerns. They agreed with U.S. intelligence agencies and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who testified that the agreement limited Iran's nuclear activities for now, and that Iran has complied with it.

Johnson of Great Britain went on Fox News to make his point.

He said that Iran does "develop intercontinental ballistic missiles. We've got to stop that. We've got to push back on what Iran is doing in the region. We've got to be tougher on Iran. We have to fix the flaws in the deal."

Johnson also said, "We need to find a way of fixing that (deal)." He insisted Trump should not back out of the deal because it also had positive results.

What's Next?

While Iranian President Hasan Rouhani said his country would respond to the U.S. action, he and others involved in the deal have said they would seek to stay in it.

Russia, a crude oil exporter, doesn't import much crude oil from Iran. China could direct its oil purchases through its Kunlun Bank, which has already been cut off from U.S. trade, Einhorn said.

The European Union said May 8 it still plans to protect companies if Trump pulls out of the deal.

"We are working on plans to protect the interests of European companies," Maja Kocijancic, EU spokeswoman for foreign affairs, told reporters in Brussels.

Still, Einhorn said that might be difficult for them to achieve.

"Virtually all banks and businesses will make the decision to pull out of Iran," he predicted. Einhorn said they face too much economic risk by not following the U.S. lead.

Banks and businesses are already worried about doing business in Iran because business there is poorly managed and corrupt, Einhorn said. Any economic gains Iran had made from the nuclear deal will fade away, he said.

Trump's Goal

Trump's goal is to create a better deal with Iran, said Stephen Rademaker, who worked under President George W. Bush.

"Our president believes he is a negotiator," Rademaker told the House Foreign Affairs Committee May 7.

Even after the United States stops trade with Iran, Rademaker said the president will still have control to begin trade again.

Trump said May 8 at the White House he still wants to work out a deal. He thinks Iran will probably say it does not want to work out a new agreement with the United States at first. "That's fine. I probably would say the same thing if I were in their position. The fact is they will want to," Trump said.

"When that happens I am willing and able," Trump said. "Great things can happen for Iran."

Quiz

- 1 Why did German Chancellor Angela Merkel and British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson meet with Trump to discuss the Iran deal?
 - (A) They wanted to persuade him to keep the deal because it has had positive results in limiting Iran's nuclear activities so far.
 - (B) They wanted to convince him to end the deal so he could work on getting a better one by negotiating with the president of Iran.
 - (C) They wanted to ask him to let the U.S. continue to trade with businesses in their countries even if they keep trading with Iran.
 - (D) They wanted to tell him that they had already decided to pull almost all of their banks and businesses out of Iran ahead of his decision.

- 2 How does Trump's decision to end the deal affect companies in Europe?
 - (A) Companies in Europe are going to be completely protected by the European Union.
 - (B) Companies in Europe will have 180 days to stop buying oil or sending tourists to Iran.
 - (C) Companies in Europe are likely to end trade with Iran in order to maintain economic ties to the U.S.
 - (D) Companies in Europe will have to spend much more money to continue getting oil from Iran.

- 3 Read the article's introduction [paragraphs 1-2].
 How do these paragraphs introduce the MAIN idea?
 - (A) They highlight the potential for other solutions in the nuclear and trade deal with Iran.
 - (B) They contrast Trump's feelings about the nuclear deal with leaders of other countries involved.
 - (C) They detail the problems with the deal with Iran that caused Trump to end U.S. participation.
 - (D) They summarize the impact of Trump's decision on Iran and other countries involved.

- 4 What is the MAIN reason the author includes the section "What Ending The Iran Deal Means"?
- (A) to elaborate on the specific requirements of the deal with Iran that was signed by Obama
 - (B) to provide background on the basic causes and effects of joining and leaving the Iran deal
 - (C) to contrast the amount of trade between the U.S. and Iran before and after the deal was made
 - (D) to outline the period of time that banks and businesses have to end their trade with Iran