

FLAME HOTLINE

Facts & Logic About the Middle East

February 6, 2019



Why do the Europeans still support Iran: It's the money, stupid.

Dear Friend of FLAME:

So threatened are members of the European Union by the U.S. exit from the Iran Nuclear Deal—and the re-imposition of harsh U.S. sanctions on the Islamic Republic—that last week Germany, France and Britain announced a new work-around: The [Instrument in Support of Trade Exchanges \(INSTEX\)](#).

INSTEX is essentially a primitive barter system—enabling companies and countries to enter into trades of European goods for Iranian goods—thus bypassing the U.S.-dollar-dominated international banking system and [avoiding U.S. sanctions](#) on those who do business with Iran.

However, the objective of INSTEX is not to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons—the Iran Deal already *ensures* a smooth runway to such WMDs. Rather, the Europeans are threatened by the loss of [newly booming trade](#) with Iran that U.S. sanctions promise to shut down.

In other words, the E.U. is not concerned about the [safety of the world's people](#)—and regarding the safety of Israel, which Iran bellicoseously vows to destroy on a daily basis, forget about it.

Bill Clinton once famously analyzed the key issue in his presidential election with his pithy, "It's the economy, stupid." For the E.U., it's the money, stupid.

While concern about trade with Iran is clearly in the E.U.'s—and Iran's—rational self-interest, we should allow no mistake: Under the current Iran Deal, the Islamic Republic will acquire murderous nuclear weapons, it will continue to develop ballistic missiles that can carry those weapons to Europe (and Israel), and it will continue to pursue a [global imperialist strategy](#) via Islamist terrorism.

As if that weren't enough, Iran was just months ago caught red-handed by European intelligence as it engineered terror plots and [plans to assassinate Iranian opposition leaders](#)

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YOU DESERVE TO KNOW THE TRUTH...

Recognize Israel's Golan Heights Rule

It's time to affirm Israel's Golan Heights sovereignty—protecting U.S. interests and preventing Iranian and Hezbollah terrorists from overrunning the Middle East.

What are the facts?

Israel has treated Israel as its enemy since the founding of the Jewish state, using hegemony to oppress Israel in 1948, 1967 and 1973, and being such since Israel took possession of the Golan Heights following the 1967 Six Day War. After countless refusals by Syrian President Hafez al-Assad to negotiate, Israel occupied the Golan Heights in 1967, and has since then used its 49-year-old military presence as an inalienable strategic security on the Syrian border, as well as for U.S. and world interests. These critical concerns make a compelling case for the United States and other world powers to recognize Israel's sovereignty over the Golan Heights now.

Israel's Golan Heights sovereignty keeps U.S. enemies at bay. The U.S. has opposed Syrian dictator Bashar al-Assad since he ascended to office in 2000, due to Israel's protection of the very people, including the number of half a million Syrian civilians—as well as his sponsorship of international crime and terrorism against U.S. citizens. Today, Syria's existence depends on its partnership with one of America's greatest enemies, Russia, and Iran. With the U.S. withdrawal of troops from Syria, Israel's sovereignty over the Golan Heights remains our strategic focus against Syria, Russia and especially Iranian aggression.

Israel's sovereignty over the Golan Heights impedes Iranian imperialism. As the world's largest sponsor of global terrorism, Iran has received an unprecedented mandate designed to give it a powerful hegemonic land bridge from Lebanon through Hezbollah and Damascus to Syria. Both Iran and its Lebanese proxy, the designated terrorist group Hezbollah, have more in common with Israel and Syria than they do with each other. Syria has been a key partner in Iran's efforts to develop and disseminate its nuclear technology to Hezbollah in order to launch the terror group's hand against Israel from Lebanon. Israel's sovereignty over the Golan Heights allows Arabians to monitor Tehran's nuclear activities and defend their lives from any further Iranian land and regional stability.

International law supports Israel's sovereignty over the Golan Heights. Which international law prohibits the acquisition of territory through aggressive conquest, it is universally agreed that Israel's control of the Golan Heights was the result of a defensive war. When Israel declared Syrian hegemony in 1967, no international arbitrators against defiance were created. What is more, the United States has ever recognized territory seized in aggression wars, such as the Republic of Vietnam's sovereignty over both the north and south of the country, and India's legal access to the Portuguese territory of Goa.

Syria's Assad regime should be punished for reorganizing Syria. Syria has been one of the most brutal and bloody regimes in the Middle East, having experienced the assassination of former Lebanese prime minister Rafik Hariri, and numerous other political and constitutional acts, as well as crimes on human rights and honorableness.

"Recognizing Israel's Golan Heights sovereignty would be a powerful form of justice."

As a condition, in addition, Syria has never responded war against Israel three times. To insist on return of the Golan Heights to Syria would reward the will of the Assad regime—whichever recognizing Israel's sovereignty would be a powerful form of justice.

This message has been published and paid for by FLAME

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on European soil.

While the E.U. made small noises of protest to these violations of its sovereignty, the transgressions were not enough to dampen the allure of billions in new trade.

Indeed, trade opened up by the Iran Deal (formally called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or JCPOA) has been substantial. Remember that the E.U., before JCPOA relieved sanctions, was Iran's largest trading partner.

For France, in 2017 alone, JCPOA relief has meant a deal to develop an Iranian gas field worth \$4.8 billion, and an Airbus agreement to build 100 aircraft for Iran to the tune of \$18 billion.

Germany, once Iran's largest trade partner, has rebuilt trade with Teheran from \$2 billion in 2013 to \$3.5 billion in 2017—and it continues to grow. Austria's trade with Iran grew 34% in 2017. Italy's trade during 2016-2017 grew 117%.

In 2016-2017, E.U. exports to Iran grew by 31.5%, and imports grew 83.9%—and the E.U. is now Iran's third largest trading partner, exceeded only by China and the United Arab Emirates. The E.U. is no doubt aiming to return to its number-one position.

No wonder that ever since President Trump announced his decision to leave the Iran Deal and reintroduce sanctions, the Europeans have been genuflecting to Ayatollah Khamenei, trying desperately to salvage their burgeoning billions in trade with the Iranian outlaws.

While President Trump campaigned on promoting U.S. interests above those of all other nations—and he encourages other countries to act with similar self-interest—in this notable case Trump is not pursuing financial gain for the U.S., but rather U.S. and global security (including that of Israel). Obviously, the Europeans have baser motivations.

Yet clearly, the European strategy is already backfiring. U.S. Secretary of State Pompeo has made clear that companies seeking to bypass U.S. sanctions by trading with Iran in any form will be held accountable. Iran has also recently been implicated in assassination and terror plots in Denmark, Albania, Austria, Belgium and France—even as the Europeans implement desperate machinations to help Teheran and themselves financially.

As the adult in the room, the U.S. should hold fast to its decision to harshly punish Iran and all those who would aid the Islamic Republic (even as they fill their own pockets).

But even more, E.U. members should heed Pompeo's October 2018 exhortation: "We are asking every nation who is sick and tired of the Islamic Republic's destructive behavior to join our pressure campaign. This especially goes for our allies in the Middle East and Europe, people who have themselves been terrorized by the violent regime's activity for decades."

For pro-Israel activists, our position is clear: We should support all U.S. efforts to block Iran's deadly global aggression, including, especially, its efforts to develop nuclear weapons. This includes measures to persuade E.U. members to shift their priorities from short-term business deals to long-term global security.

Please forward this FLAME Hotline to your friends, family and fellow congregants, so

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they, too, can help us tell the true story of Iran's evil intent and the E.U.'s complicity.

I hope you'll also quickly visit FLAME's lively [new Facebook page](#) and review the P.S. immediately below, which describes FLAME's recent *hasbarah* campaign asserting the need for Israel to maintain its sovereignty over the strategically critical Golan Heights on the border of Syria.

Best regards,

Ken Cohen

Editor, Facts and Logic About the Middle East (FLAME)

P.S. After Syria used its control over the Golan Heights to attack Israel with thousands of rockets and sniper bullets—then belligerently invaded Israel in 1967—the Jewish state defeated Syria and ejected it from the Heights. Syria has refused to negotiate peace in exchange for the Golan Heights for all these decades. No wonder Israel annexed this strategically important territory in 1981. Today, the Golan Heights gives Israel the ability to protect Middle East security against Iran, Hezbollah and Syria. It's time for the U.S. and the world community to affirm Israel's sovereignty over the Golan Heights. That's why FLAME has created a new *hasbarah* message called "[Recognize Israel's Golan Heights Rule.](#)" I hope you'll review this hard-hitting paid editorial, which began running last month—including in the *New York Times*. It supports efforts by bipartisan members of Congress to officially recognize the Golan Heights as Israeli territory. In addition to running in mainstream media, this editorial will be sent to every member of the U.S. Congress and President Trump. If you agree that this kind of public relations effort on Israel's behalf is critical, I urge you to support us. Remember: FLAME's powerful ability to influence public opinion—and U.S. support of Israel—comes from individuals like you, one by one. I hope you'll consider giving a donation now, as you're able—with \$500, \$250, \$100, or even \$18. (Remember, your donation to FLAME is tax deductible.) To donate online, just go to [donate now](#). Now, more than ever, we need your support to ensure that the American people, the U.S. Congress and President Trump stay focused on Israel's critical role in protecting U.S. interests in the region—as well as protecting itself.

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