

Iran's next president seeks "moderation"

19th June, 2013



Iran's president-elect Hassan Rouhani has made it clear to the world that he seeks to follow a more moderate path than his soon-to-be predecessor Mahmoud

Ahmadinejad. He also promised to make his country's nuclear energy program more transparent, but said Iran would not halt it. Mr Rouhani, 64, was elected as Iran's new leader on Sunday and will take office in August. Rouhani wants to improve international relations with the USA and seek "constructive interaction with the world." He also hopes that the crippling economic sanctions imposed on Iran can be lifted. He told the USA that diplomatic relations could be restored if the White House respects Iran's right to nuclear power.

Mr Rouhani was the top negotiator of Iran's nuclear negotiating team. He believes it is time for Iran to be more accepted, saying: "We are ready to show greater transparency and make it clear to the whole world that the steps of the Islamic Republic of Iran are completely within international frameworks." He added that: "The Iranian nation has done nothing to deserve sanctions." The White House stated: "If he lives up to his obligations under the U.N. Security Council resolution to come clean on this illicit nuclear program, he will find a partner in us." British Prime Minister David Cameron said: "If they don't go down the path of nuclear weapons, then they can become a full part of the international community."

Sources: LA Times / Sky News

Writing

All countries have the right to build nuclear power programmes. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

moderate path / leader / nuclear energy program / international relations / sanctions / negotiator / transparency / obligations / U.N. resolution / partner / community

True / False

- Iran's next president aims to be more middle-of-the-road. T / F
- Rouhani said he would consider scrapping Iran's nuclear program. T / F
- Rouhani has made the lifting of sanctions a key issue. T / F
- The president-elect wants to restore diplomatic ties with the USA. T / F
- Rouhani was a top engineer in Iran's nuclear power program. T / F
- Rouhani said Iran's nuclear program abides by international rules. T / F
- The USA has said it will not talk to Iran. T / F
- The U.K. leader said Iran could never be part of the global community. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. clear | a. welcomed |
| 2. promised | b. stop |
| 3. halt | c. warrant |
| 4. improve | d. brought back |
| 5. restored | e. pledged |
| 6. accepted | f. route |
| 7. transparency | g. better |
| 8. deserve | h. unlawful |
| 9. illicit | i. plain |
| 10. path | j. openness |

Discussion – Student A

- What springs to mind when you hear the word 'Iran'?
- What do you know about Iran's recent history the (last four decades)?
- What do you think about Hassan Rouhani's election success?
- Do you think Hassan Rouhani will be better than Ahmadinejad?
- What should Hassan Rouhani do in his first year in office?
- What do you think about Iran's nuclear program?
- What does Iran need to do to get economic sanctions lifted?
- Do you think there will now be a new era of cooperation between Iran and the USA?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1. made it | a. more transparent |
| 2. he seeks to follow | b. of nuclear weapons |
| 3. make his country's nuclear energy program | c. could be restored |
| 4. crippling | d. negotiator |
| 5. diplomatic relations | e. greater transparency |
| 6. top | f. a more moderate path |
| 7. We are ready to show | g. illicit nuclear program |
| 8. done nothing to deserve | h. economic sanctions |
| 9. come clean on this | i. clear to the world |
| 10. If they don't go down the path | j. sanctions |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you know about Iran's nuclear program?
- Will greater transparency work?
- What did Iran do to get economic sanctions imposed on it?
- How would the world change if Iran was more internationally accepted?
- How much can Iran change?
- What will things be like in 10 years from now?
- What advice would you give to Hassan Rouhani?
- What questions would you like to ask Hassan Rouhani?

Spelling

- his soon-to-be erscoedsepr
- more eaasnrtrtnp
- seek constructive tioancrnite
- gipicnplr economic sanctions
- icploadmti relations
- if the White House scsrtppee Iran's right
- the top irtgotneao
- time for Iran to be more tadcepcce
- omtceelply within international frameworks
- nothing to vreedse sanctions
- If he lives up to his oiglotnbias
- iitillc nuclear program

Answers – Synonym Match

1. i	2. e	3. b	4. g	5. d
6. a	7. j	8. c	9. h	10. f

Role Play

Role A – Hassan Rouhani

You think you can lead Iran into a new era of friendship with countries you currently have poor relations with. Tell the others three reasons why. You need to persuade the others Iran's nuclear ambitions are only for energy. You are fed up with people believing otherwise.

Role B – White House negotiator

You would like to reopen diplomatic relations with Iran. Tell the others three reasons why. You are happy Hassan Rouhani will be president but not happy he will continue Iran's nuclear program. The U.S. will only become friends with Iran if it opens up its nuclear program to the world.

Role C – Average Iranian

You are full of hope about Iran's future. Tell the others three reasons why. Your life is difficult because of the economic sanctions and strict laws in Iran. Tell Mr Rouhani and the White House negotiator to make deals that will help all Iranians have a better life.

Role D – Regional cynic

You think Hassan Rouhani's election success will change nothing. Tell the others three reasons why. You think there should be more economic sanctions. You also think the whole nuclear program should be destroyed. Iran can buy energy from its neighbours.

Speaking – World partners

Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the most useful international partners at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|----------------|-----------|
| • USA | • U.K. |
| • Saudi Arabia | • China |
| • Brazil | • Nigeria |
| • India | • Japan |

Answers – True False

a	T	b	F	c	T	d	T	e	F	f	T	g	F	h	F
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.