

The Foreign Policy Association
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U.S - Iranian Relations

Scribed by Devon Malloy
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Although far from perfect, the nuclear agreement between Iran and six world powers should not be scrapped by the United States, said Trita Parsi, founder and president of the National Iranian American Council, who spoke on March 15 to 130 members and guests of the Foreign Policy Association.

The agreement, reached in 2015, lifted crippling economic trade sanctions on Iran in return for limitations on that country's nuclear program. President Trump has criticized the Obama administration deal as too lenient and has threatened not to recertify it.

The Iranian-born Parsi acknowledged that a better deal could have been struck as far back as 2003, but by 2015, the global community had few other options to forestall Iran from eventually developing a nuclear weapon.

Parsi noted that the U.S. currently is planning talks with North Korea, which is further along than Iran in going nuclear. He said to scrap the Iranian agreement while proceeding toward a deal with North Korea would send the wrong message, that we won't negotiate unless an adversary is on the verge of building a bomb.

Other parties to the Iranian pact were the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Russia and China. However, Parsi said that if the U.S. withdraws, the deal is dead because few Western countries would trade with Iran if it meant the loss of the U.S. as a trade partner.

Parsi said economic sanctions first imposed by the George W. Bush administration proved to be ineffective, leaving only two other options to deter Iran from going nuclear: diplomacy or war.

Parsi is a widely recognized and oft quoted commentator on U.S. - Iranian relations. Although born in Iran, at age 4 he moved with his family to Sweden to escape political repression. He is the author of several books, his latest being *Losing an Enemy: Obama, Iran, and the Triumph of Diplomacy*. Several FPA members and guests purchased copies, which Parsi graciously autographed.

FPA to Honor Central PA Students

The Foreign Policy Association is presenting honorariums to three outstanding central Pennsylvania high school students who last summer attended the Pennsylvania Governor's School for Global and International Studies at the University of Pittsburgh.

The presentation will occur at our April 26 meeting between 7 and 7:30 p.m. The honorees are Austin Glass, a senior at Hempfield High School, Lancaster County; Divya Rajachandran, a senior at Dallastown Area High School, York County, and Emma Spearing, a junior at Penn Manor High School, Lancaster County.

2017-18 Program Topics / Schedule

- April 26** What's the Risk: American Foreign Policy Challenges and Opportunities?
- May 14** Mexican Embassy Trip
Registration deadline is April 20.
- May 17** The Koreas.

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