
NAVAL POSTGRADUATE SCHOOL

MONTEREY, CALIFORNIA

THESIS

NATIONAL SECURITY TO NATIONALIST MYTH: WHY IRAN WANTS NUCLEAR WEAPONS

by

Charles C. Mayer

September 2004

Thesis Advisor: Co-Advisor: Peter R. Lavoy James A. Russell

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REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE Form Approved OMB No. 0704-0188

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instruction, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the National Security to Nationalist Myth: Why Iran Wants Nuclear Weapons data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to Washington headquarters Services, Directorate for Information Operations and Reports, 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 1204, Arlington, VA 22202-4302, and to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0704-0188) Washington DC 20503.

1. AGENCY USE ONLY (Leave blank) 2. REPORT DATE 3. REPORT TYPE AND DATES COVERED

September 2004 **4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE** National Security to Nationalist Myth: Why Iran Wants Nuclear Weapons

6. AUTHOR(S) Charles C. National Security to Nationalist Myth: Why Iran Wants Nuclear Weapons Mayer

7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) Naval Postgraduate School Monterey, CA National Security to Nationalist Myth: Why Iran Wants Nuclear Weapons 93943-5000

9. SPONSORING /MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) N/A Master's Thesis

5. FUNDING NUMBERS

8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER

10. SPONSORING/MONITORING

AGENCY REPORT NUMBER National Security to Nationalist Myth: Why Iran Wants Nuclear Weapons

11. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES The views expressed in this thesis are those of the author and do not reflect the official policy or position of the Department of Defense or the U.S.

Government.

12a. DISTRIBUTION / AVAILABILITY STATEMENT 12b. **DISTRIBUTION CODE** Approved for public release; distribution is unlimited

13. ABSTRACT (maximum 200 words)

Throughout twenty-five years of strained relations, U.S. policy efforts have delayed but not thwarted Iran's clandestine nuclear weapons program, largely because Washington has failed to influence Iran's motivations National Security to Nationalist Myth: Why Iran Wants Nuclear Weapons for acquiring nuclear weapons. National Security to Nationalist Myth: Why Iran Wants Nuclear Weapons

There are three main motivations behind Iran's nuclear program. First, at the systemic level, external threats drive Iran's perceived need for a nuclear deterrent. Second, at the individual level, well placed governmental elites propel the nuclear security myth to spur nationalistic support for nuclear weapons. Third, at the state level, institutional bureaucracies, created to build Iran's nuclear infrastructure, now compete against other organizations for their own self interests, which are National Security to Nationalist Myth: Why Iran Wants Nuclear Weapons closely associated with the continued development of nuclear weapons.

The thesis recommends three policy tracks, addressing National Security to Nationalist Myth: Why Iran Wants Nuclear Weapons causal factors at each level. First, the United States should try to create a new Gulf Security organization, including Iran and the new Iraqi government, to build a collective security environment without nuclear weapons. Second, Washington should build a multilateral coalition to contain National Security to Nationalist Myth: Why Iran Wants Nuclear Weapons Iranian proliferation activities while offering economic incentives for Iranian disarmament. Third, the United States should work to discredit Iran's nuclear security myth by fostering a public debate within Iran on the costs of nuclear weapons, using U.S.-run media.

14. SUBJECT TERMS 15. **NUMBER OF** Nuclear Weapons, Nuclear Proliferation, International Atomic Energy Agency, IAEA, Nuclear **PAGES** Nonproliferation Treaty, NPT, Iran, International Relations, Balance of Power, Military Doctrine, 105 Bureaucratic Politics, Nuclear Myths, Mythmakers. 16. **PRICE CODE**

17. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF REPORT

18. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF THIS PAGE

19. SECURITY 20. **LIMITATION CLASSIFICATION OF OF ABSTRACT ABSTRACT**

Unclassified Unclassified

NSN 7540-01-280-5500

Unclassified UL Standard Form 298 (Rev. 2-89) Prescribed by ANSI Std. 239-18

i ii

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NATIONAL SECURITY TO NATIONALIST MYTH: WHY IRAN WANTS NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Charles C. Mayer

Major, United States National Security to Nationalist Myth: Why Iran Wants Nuclear Weapons
Air Force B.A., University of Minnesota, 1989 M.B.A., Touro University International, 2003
Submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

MASTER OF ARTS IN SECURITY STUDIES (DEFENSE DECISION-MAKING AND PLANNING)

from the

NAVAL POSTGRADUATE SCHOOL September 2004

Author: Charles C. Mayer

Approved by: Peter R. Lavoy Thesis Advisor

James A. Russell Co-Advisor

James J. Wirtz

Chairman, Department of National Security Affairs iii

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