

July 8, 2015

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Washington Post Editors smell a rat too.

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*Whether this flawed deal is sustainable will depend on a complex set of verification arrangements and provisions for restoring sanctions in the event of cheating. The schemes may or may not work; the history of the comparable nuclear accord with North Korea in the 1990s is not encouraging. The United States and its allies will have to be aggressive in countering the inevitable Iranian attempts to test the accord and willing to insist on consequences even if it means straining relations with friendly governments or imposing costs on Western companies.*

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Andrew Malcolm writes on our ISIS policy.

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president said he had no strategy and 10 months after he announced one that hasn't seemed to accomplish much.

His performance was classic Obama -- full of fudge words, misleading claims, unverifiable assertions and blaming others for mis-calculations. The president even pulled out his tired "Whack-a-Mole" image as an excuse for why the United States is not doing more to counter the bloody spread of ISIS affiliates now far beyond Iraq and Syria. And potentially the homeland.

Maybe you remember how **the Nobel Peace Prize winner** launched regime-change war on Libya when its dictator threatened to kill civilians? Now that ISIS is bravely executing thousands of bound prisoners, Obama is all about others doing the dirty work with American help. ...

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**Jim Geraghty** posts on the retirement system in Greece.

... You've got money in a safe deposit box? Tough luck, the left-wing Greek government declares:

Greeks cannot withdraw cash left in safe deposit boxes at Greek banks as long as capital restrictions remain in place, a deputy finance minister told Greek television on Sunday.

This may seem harsh to the Greeks. But they willingly and knowingly tried to build a society where everyone was allowed to retire early – really early:

Early: "Trombone players and pastry chefs get to retire as early as 50 on grounds their work causes them late-career breathing problems. Hairdressers enjoy the same perk thanks to the dyes and other chemicals they rub into people's hair.

Then there are masseurs at steam baths: They get an early out because prolonged exposure to all that heat and steam is deemed unhealthy."

Really Early: "The Greek government has identified at least 580 job categories deemed to be hazardous enough to merit retiring early — at age 50 for women and 55 for men... The law includes dangerous jobs like coal mining and bomb disposal. But it also covers radio and television presenters, who are thought to be at risk from the bacteria on their microphones."

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**Thomas Sowell** on slavery clichés.

... Today the moral horror of slavery is so widely condemned that it is hard to realize that there were thousands of years when slavery was practiced around the world by people of virtually every race. Even the leading moral and religious thinkers in different societies accepted slavery as just a fact of life.

*No one wanted to be a slave. But their rejection of slavery as a fate for themselves in no way meant that they were unwilling to enslave others. It was just not an issue — until the 18th century, and then it became an issue only in Western civilization.*

*Neither Africans, Asians, Polynesians nor the indigenous peoples of the Western Hemisphere saw anything wrong with slavery, even after small segments of British and American societies began to condemn slavery as morally wrong in the 18th century.*

*What was special about America was not that it had slavery, which existed all over the world, but that Americans were among the very few peoples who began to question the morality of holding human beings in bondage. That was not yet a majority view among Americans in the 18th century, but it was not even a serious minority view in non-Western societies at that time.*

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## Washington Post

### [The worst agreement in U.S. diplomatic history](#)

by Charles Krauthammer

The devil is not in the details. It's in the entire conception of the Iran deal, animated by President Obama's fantastical belief that he, uniquely, could achieve detente with a fanatical Islamist regime whose foundational purpose is to cleanse the Middle East of the poisonous corruption of American power and influence.

In pursuit of his desire to make the Islamic Republic into an accepted, normalized "successful regional power," Obama decided to take over the nuclear negotiations. At the time, [Tehran was reeling](#) — the rial plunging, inflation skyrocketing, the economy contracting — under a regime of international sanctions painstakingly constructed over a decade.

Then, instead of welcoming Congress' attempt to tighten sanctions to increase the pressure on the mullahs, Obama began the negotiations by [loosening sanctions](#), injecting billions into the Iranian economy (which [began growing again in 2014](#)) and conceding in advance an Iranian right to enrich uranium.

It's been downhill ever since. Desperate for a legacy deal, Obama has played the supplicant, abandoning every red line his administration had declared essential to any acceptable deal.

**Inspections.** They were to be anywhere, anytime, unimpeded. Now? Total cave. Unfettered access has become "[managed access](#)." Nuclear inspectors will have to negotiate and receive Iranian approval for inspections. Which allows them denial and/or crucial delay for concealing any clandestine activities.

To give a flavor of the degree of our capitulation, the administration played Iran's lawyer on this one, [explaining that, after all](#), "the United States of America wouldn't allow anybody to get into every military site, so that's not appropriate." Apart from the absurdity of morally equating America with the world's foremost state sponsor of terrorism, if we were going to parrot the

Iranian position, why wait 19 months to do so — after repeatedly insisting on free access as essential to any inspection regime?

**Coming clean on past nuclear activity.** The [current interim agreement](#) that governed the past 19 months of negotiation required Iran to do exactly that. Tehran has offered nothing. The administration had insisted that this accounting was essential because how can you verify future illegal advances in Iran's nuclear program if you have no baseline?

After continually demanding access to their scientists, plans and weaponization facilities, Secretary of State John Kerry two weeks ago [airily dismissed the need](#), saying he is focused on the future, “not fixated” on the past. And that we have “absolute knowledge” of the Iranian program anyway — a whopper that his staffers had to spend days walking back.

Not to worry, we are told. The accounting will be done after the final deal is signed. Which is ridiculous. If the Iranians haven't budged on disclosing previous work under the current sanctions regime, by what logic will they comply after sanctions are lifted?

**Sanctions relief.** These were to be gradual and staged as the International Atomic Energy Agency certified Iranian compliance over time. Now we're going to be [releasing up to \\$150 billion](#) as an upfront signing bonus. That's [25 times the annual budget](#) of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard. Enough to fuel a generation of intensified Iranian aggression from Yemen to Lebanon to Bahrain.

Yet three months ago, [Obama expressed nonchalance](#) about immediate sanctions relief. It's not the issue, he said. The real issue is “snap-back” sanctions to be reimposed if Iran is found in violation.

Good grief. Iran won't be found in violation. The inspection regime is laughable and the bureaucratic procedures endless. Moreover, does anyone imagine that Russia and China will reimpose sanctions? Or that the myriad European businesses preparing to join the Iranian gold rush the day the deal is signed will simply turn around and go home?

**Nonnuclear-related sanctions.** The administration insisted that the nuclear talks [would not affect separate sanctions](#) imposed because of Iranian aggression and terrorism. That was then. The administration is now leaking that everything will be lifted.

Taken together, the catalog of capitulations is breathtaking: spot inspections, disclosure of previous nuclear activity, gradual sanctions relief, retention of nonnuclear sanctions.

What's left? A surrender document of the kind offered by defeated nations suing for peace. Consider: The strongest military and economic power on earth, backed by the five other major powers, armed with what had been a crushing sanctions regime, is about to sign the worst international agreement in U.S. diplomatic history.

How did it come to this? With every concession, Obama and Kerry made clear they were desperate for a deal.

And they will get it. Obama will get his “legacy.” Kerry will get his Nobel. And Iran will get the bomb.

## Washington Post - Editors

### The U.S. response to Iran's cheating is a worrying omen

IF IT is reached in the coming days, a [nuclear deal with Iran](#) will be, at best, an unsatisfying and risky compromise. Iran's emergence as a threshold nuclear power, with the ability to produce a weapon quickly, will not be prevented; it will be postponed, by 10 to 15 years. In exchange, Tehran will reap hundreds of billions of dollars in sanctions relief it can use to revive its economy and fund the wars it is waging around the Middle East.

Whether this flawed deal is sustainable will depend on a [complex set of verification arrangements and provisions](#) for restoring sanctions in the event of cheating. The schemes may or may not work; the history of the comparable [nuclear accord with North Korea](#) in the 1990s is not encouraging. The United States and its allies will have to be aggressive in countering the inevitable Iranian attempts to test the accord and willing to insist on consequences even if it means straining relations with friendly governments or imposing costs on Western companies.

That's why a recent controversy over [Iran's compliance with the interim accord](#) now governing its nuclear work is troubling. The deal allowed Iran to continue enriching uranium, but required that amounts over a specified ceiling be converted into an oxide powder that cannot easily be further enriched. According to the International Atomic Energy Agency, Iran met the requirement for the total size of its stockpile on June 30, but it did so by converting some of its enriched uranium into a different oxide form, apparently because of problems with a plant set up to carry out the powder conversion.

Rather than publicly report this departure from the accord, the Obama administration chose to quietly accept it. When a respected independent think tank, the [Institute for Science and International Security](#), began pointing out the problem, the administration's response was to rush to Iran's defense — and heatedly attack the institute as well as a report in the New York Times.

This points to two dangers in the implementation of any longterm deal. One is “a U.S. willingness to legally reinterpret the deal when Iran cannot do what it said it would do, in order to justify that non-performance,” institute President David Albright and his colleague Andrea Stricker [wrote](#). In other words, overlooking Iranian cheating is easier than confronting it.

This weakness is matched by a White House proclivity to respond to questions about Iran's performance by attacking those who raise them. Mr. Albright, a physicist with a long record of providing non-partisan expert analysis of nuclear proliferation issues, [said on the Foreign Policy Web site](#) that he had been unfairly labeled as an adversary of the Iran deal and that campaign-style “war room” tactics are being used by the White House to fend off legitimate questions.

In the case of the oxide conversion, the discrepancy may be less important than the administration's warped reaction. A final accord will require Iran to ship most of its uranium stockpile out of the country, or reverse its enrichment. But there surely will be other instances of Iranian non-compliance. If the deal is to serve U.S. interests, the Obama administration and its successors will have to respond to them more firmly and less defensively.



*ISIS enforces its POW policy.*

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His performance was classic Obama -- full of fudge words, misleading claims, unverifiable assertions and blaming others for mis-calculations. The president even pulled out his tired "Whack-a-Mole" image as an excuse for why the United States is not doing more to counter the bloody spread of ISIS affiliates now far beyond Iraq and Syria. And potentially the homeland.

Maybe you remember how [the Nobel Peace Prize winner](#) launched regime-change war on Libya when its dictator *threatened* to kill civilians? Now that ISIS is bravely executing thousands of bound prisoners, Obama is all about others doing the dirty work with American help.

That "strategy," combined with Obama's unrelenting suck-up to Iran, has [proven so convincing to our one-time regional allies](#), that Saudi Arabia's king will make his first visit to Moscow this summer to talk with his new buddy, Vladimir Putin.

Here are some of Obama's ISIS claims:

"Our coalition has now hit ISIL with more than 5,000 airstrikes." The president didn't have time to admit that 90% of strikes are U.S. and 75% of sorties return with ordnance un-dropped due to his cumbersome targeting protocols.

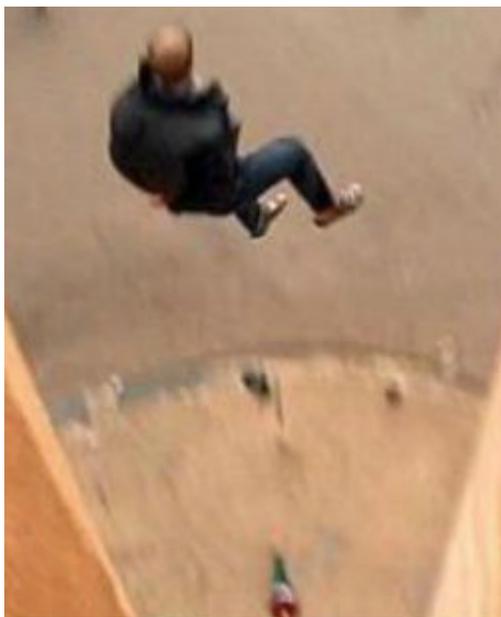
"ISIL is backed by no nation." ISIL has no NFL team either. But neither fact seems to have blunted its bloody onslaught absent any meaningful military opposition, save the Kurds in places.

"Its unrestrained brutality often alienates those under its rule, creating new enemies." Although those folks tend to end up dead, either without heads or with a large hole in the back of them.

"We're intensifying our efforts against ISIL's base in Syria." What does that even mean? That's pol-speak for "Trust me I'm doing something."

"More Sunni volunteers are coming forward. Some are already being trained." Already? Wow! Only four years after Obama pulled all U.S. troops out of Iraq and a year after Iraqi troops mass-fled ISIS, gifting its forces with tons of modern U.S. military gear.

"We continue to ramp up our training and support of local forces that are fighting ISIL on the ground...This aspect of our strategy was moving too slowly. But the fall of Ramadi has galvanized the Iraqi government." Yeh, those Iraqi slowpokes.



*ISIS executes a suspected homosexual.*

As opposed to the man who called ISIS a JV team, taking only seven months and an American's video beheading to galvanize himself into action. To prove his new-found determination [Obama has ordered in more U.S military trainers than there are trainees](#).

Obama's talking points do not include the words "Islamic extremists" nor "defeat." Losses instead are "setbacks."

"As with any military effort," Obama said, "there will be periods of progress. But there are also going to be some setbacks -- as we've seen with ISIL's gains in Ramadi in Iraq." And Mosul. And Falluja. Oh, and also central Syria. And don't forget southern Syria.

"And a glimmer of good news is I think an increasing recognition on the part of all the players in the region that given [the extraordinary threat that ISIL poses](#) it is important for us to work together." Yeh, for sure. Ask any American what word leaps to mind if they hear "Middle East." No doubt "unity."

Obviously, defeating ISIS will take time. "This will not be quick," Obama told patient Americans still awaiting hundreds of thousands of shovel-ready stimulus jobs from 2010.

## National Review

### [I Fear the Greeks Even When They Bring Gifts](#)

by Jim Geraghty

I see the Greeks gave their answer to their creditors Sunday:



Take a good look, young people. This is where quasi-socialism, with unaffordably generous pension programs and early retirement, runaway borrowing and spending, and a kleptocratic unenforced system of tax collection leaves you: [helpless, penniless, and crying in the streets.](#)



*Retiree Giorgos Chatzifotiadis had queued up at three banks in Greece's second city of Thessaloniki on Friday in the hope of withdrawing a pension on behalf of his wife, but all in vain.*

The 77-year-old told AFP that he had broken down because he “cannot stand to see my country in this distress”.

“That’s why I feel so beaten, more than for my own personal problems,” Chatzifotiadis said.

The image of him sitting outside the bank, openly crying in despair with his savings book and identity card on the floor, was captured by an AFP photographer illustrating how ordinary Greeks are suffering during the country’s debt crisis.

Athens had imposed capital controls and shut all banks since Monday to stem a haemorrhage of cash, but on Wednesday allowed some branches to reopen for three days so retirees who have no bank cards could withdraw their pensions — capped at 120 euros.

That’s about \$132. Imagine being told you’re only allowed to take that out, and God only knows when the banks will reopen.

[You've got money in a safe deposit box?](#) Tough luck, the left-wing Greek government declares:

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This may seem harsh to the Greeks. But they willingly and knowingly tried to build a society where everyone was allowed to retire early – really early:

[Early](#): “Trombone players and pastry chefs get to retire as early as 50 on grounds their work causes them late-career breathing problems. Hairdressers enjoy the same perk thanks to the dyes and other chemicals they rub into people's hair.

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[Really, really early](#): “In the public sector, 7.91 percent of pensioners retire between the ages of 26 and 50, 23.64 percent between 51 and 55, and 43.53 percent between 56 and 61.”

Yes, in the past years, they raised the retirement age, trimmed pensions, and tried to raise taxes – although because they have a deep-rooted culture of not paying taxes, it didn't do nearly enough good. Once a people get a taste of unbelievably generous entitlement spending, they begin to feel . . . well, *entitled* to it. In the case of Greece, they will demand that they keep getting those benefits long after the money runs out, even as it grows clearer and clearer no one will loan them any more money. They'll vote, overwhelmingly, “no” to bailout offers they deem insufficiently generous . . . ignoring that the alternative is unknown, and probably worse.

## **Jewish World Review**

### **[A Legacy of Cliches](#)**

by Thomas Sowell

Discussions of racial problems almost invariably bring out the cliché of “a legacy of slavery.” But anyone who is being serious, as distinguished from being political, would surely want to know if whatever he is talking about — whether fatherless children, crime or whatever — is in fact a legacy of slavery or of some of the many other things that have been done in the century and a half since slavery ended.

Another cliché that has come into vogue is that slavery is “America's original sin.” The great Supreme Court justice Oliver Wendell Holmes said that a good catch phrase could stop thinking for fifty years. Catch phrases about slavery have stopped people from thinking, even longer than that.

Today the moral horror of slavery is so widely condemned that it is hard to realize that there were thousands of years when slavery was practiced around the world by people of virtually

every race. Even the leading moral and religious thinkers in different societies accepted slavery as just a fact of life.

No one wanted to be a slave. But their rejection of slavery as a fate for themselves in no way meant that they were unwilling to enslave others. It was just not an issue — until the 18th century, and then it became an issue only in Western civilization.

Neither Africans, Asians, Polynesians nor the indigenous peoples of the Western Hemisphere saw anything wrong with slavery, even after small segments of British and American societies began to condemn slavery as morally wrong in the 18th century.

What was special about America was not that it had slavery, which existed all over the world, but that Americans were among the very few peoples who began to question the morality of holding human beings in bondage. That was not yet a majority view among Americans in the 18th century, but it was not even a serious minority view in non-Western societies at that time.

Then how did slavery end? We know how it ended in the United States — at a cost of one life lost in the Civil War for every six slaves freed. But that is not how it ended elsewhere.

What happened in the rest of the world was that all of Western civilization eventually turned against slavery in the 19th century. This meant the end of slavery in European empires around the world, usually over the bitter opposition of non-Western peoples. But the West happened to be militarily dominant at the time.

Turning back to the "legacy of slavery" as an explanation of social problems in black American communities today, anyone who was serious about the truth — as distinguished from talking points — would want to check out the facts.

Were children raised with only one parent as common at any time during the first 100 years after slavery as in the first 30 years after the great expansion of the welfare state in the 1960s?

As of 1960, 22 percent of black children were raised with only one parent, usually the mother. Thirty years later, two-thirds of black children were being raised without a father present.

What about ghetto riots, crimes in general and murder in particular? What about low levels of labor force participation and high levels of welfare dependency? None of those things was as bad in the first 100 years after slavery as they became in the wake of the policies and notions of the 1960s.

To many on the left, the 1960s were the glory days of their movements, and for some the days of their youth as well. They have a heavy emotional investment and ego investment in the ideas, aspirations and policies of the 1960s.

It might never occur to many of them to check their beliefs against some hard facts about what actually happened after their ideas and policies were put into effect. It certainly would not be pleasant to admit, even to yourself, that after promising progress toward "social justice," what you actually delivered was a retrogression toward barbarism.

The principal victims of these retrogressions are the decent, law-abiding members of black communities across the country who are prey to hoodlums and criminals.

Back in the 19th century Frederick Douglass saw the dangers from well-meaning whites. He said: "Everybody has asked the question, 'What shall we do with the Negro?' I have had but one answer from the beginning. Do nothing with us! Your doing with us has already played the mischief with us." Amen.

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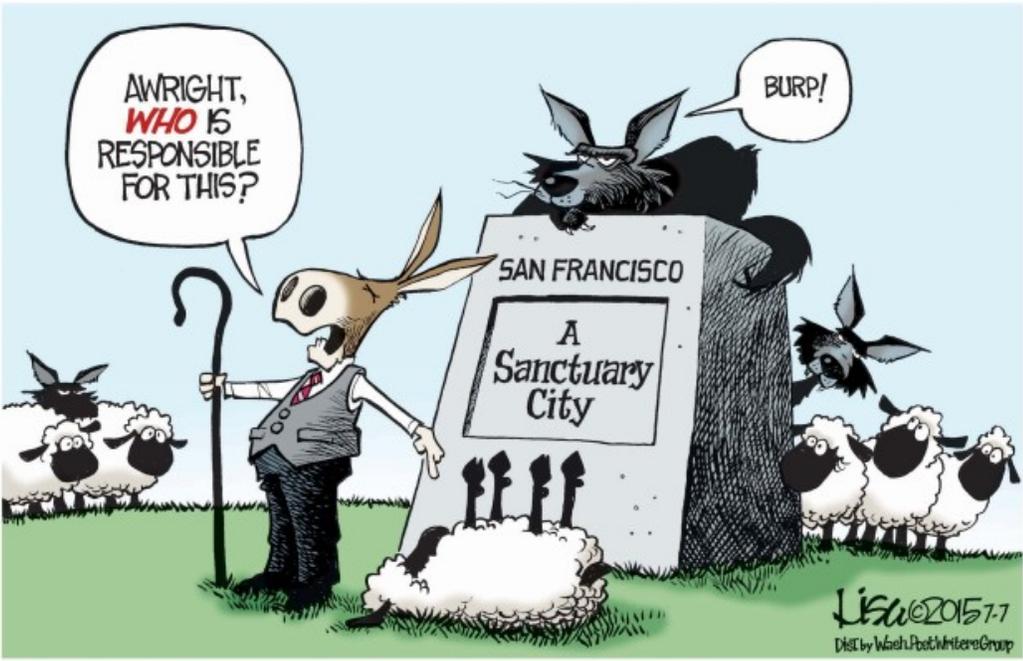
UNITED KINGDOM: 64 MILLION

FRANCE: 67 MILLION

ITALY: 61 MILLION

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Another Traffic Jam

