

## The best is yet to come for Iran, perhaps.

By [Paul Blower](#)

Monday 10 March 2014



Photo credit: World Economic Forum

Hassan Rouhani has now been the president of Iran for six months, and his moderate and balanced approach is starting to bring change in Iranian policy and actions both at home and in the international community. When he campaigned for election, he promised to ensure both realism and the ideals of the Islamic Republic were upheld, and this promise has been held to as he now seeks to find an international settlement and agreement on Iran's nuclear programme that should eventually bring an end to the some of the economic sanctions imposed on the country that have so wrecked the Iranian economy.

Contrary to the hard-line conservatism of the previous incumbent Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, Mr Rouhani has been creating space to pragmatically change his country for the better and in particular to mend it's battered economy, ditching the foreign policy of confrontation and antagonism, and instead understanding the way our globalised world works and the need for international cooperation.

People under the age of 35 make up three-quarters of Iran's population, and the president is showing his understanding of how he must engage with this demographic, a group of people born after the 1979 Islamic Revolution and the creation of those founding Islamic Republican ideals. Many of these young people are detrimentally underemployed or unemployed, and they now find themselves looking towards a free, globalised world full of new jobs and prosperity and want to be a part of that. So this pressure is placed on the government, and it seems Mr Rouhani has seen these signals and intends to act accordingly on them.

But as Iran's previous 'most liberal' president Mohammad Khatami found, change is difficult in a country that is fundamentally governed by its Ayatollah, and the current Ayatollah Khamenei still sits far apart from liberal, reformist thinking. Conservative factions within the country also still hold notable power and the reformist movement associated with Mr Khatami and Mr Rouhani holds only a quarter of the seats in parliament.

Yet the change that has been ushered in around Iran's nuclear programme and its attitude towards transparency has been significant and could be the central key towards an end to the country's economic woes. The UN nuclear watchdog overseeing the process of settling Iran's nuclear ambitions to an acceptable and controllable level announced recently it feels Iran is living up to its commitments, and the end result of negotiations in Vienna between UN Security Council members, Germany and Iran seems to have the potential to be a point where the economic sanctions put on the country eight years ago as a

result of nuclear concerns could be lifted. This would start to make a significant difference to a country and economy that has for a long time been severely cut off from international trade and markets.

The easing of pressure in international ties as a result of this would be immense, and coupled with a more liberal tone towards international neighbours in general, Mr Rouhani can put behind the legacy of dreadful US-Iranian relations that has been damaging to both countries for too long. At the same time, the international community must become more receptive to Iran in commerce and trade, and take on the task of helping the 75 million people of Iran towards prosperity and success as if it were a glad burden.

It should be easy to expect that the best is yet to come for Iran under Mr Rouhani, but one must hope the international community and conservative factions within Iran do not spoil the future of great potential for this once great civilisation.



Most Read Discussed

1. [What is the difference between tax evasion and tax avoidance?](#)
2. [Review: Little Mix - LM5](#)
3. [Penalty for submitting work up to an hour late halved](#)
4. [UK government in contempt of Parliament ahead of key Brexit vote](#)
5. [How to depose a Conservative leader](#)
6. [Led Astray - The Case Against Greta Van Fleet](#)

### Write for Nouse Politics

[Get in touch with the editors](#)

[Join the Facebook group](#)

### More in Politics

[UK government in contempt of Parliament ahead of key Brexit vote](#)

[How to depose a Conservative leader](#)

[Aufwiedersehen: Merkel plans her departure](#)

[US turnout surges in Midterms](#)

[Trans-Atlantic spats overshadow Centenary](#)

[Up to a million Muslims imprisoned by China](#)

[About Nouse](#)  
[Who's Nouse](#)  
[Website Credits](#)

[Contact Us](#)  
[Advertising](#)  
[Archives](#)  
[Student Discounts](#)  
[Print Editions](#)  
[Mini-Sites](#)  
[Nouse on Twitter](#)  
[Nouse on Facebook](#)  
[Nouse on Google+](#)

© 1964–2018 Nouse

[Policies](#) |

