

## **IRAN AND THE DECADENT EMPIRE**

Luiz Carlos Bresser-Pereira

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A while ago, the world establishment reacted with a mixture of annoyance and disbelief to the news that President Lula was willing to mediate the Iranian issue. Last week the Brazilian diplomacy achieved a historic triumph in Tehran, when it succeeded in making the Islamic nationalist government of Iran accept the agreement on swapping low-enriched uranium with uranium enriched by 20% under the same terms that the major powers and the IAEA (the UN atomic agency) had proposed six months ago. Nevertheless, the United States has managed to convince the other major powers to submit to the United Nations Security Council a draft of new sanctions against Iran, claiming that the agreement does not prevent Iran from using its remaining uranium to become a nuclear power. And added another ‘reason’: thus, the US restrains its ally Israel from bombing Iran. Does this mean that the Tehran agreement has failed?

The reasons for ignoring the well-planned and well-performed deal are groundless. The refusal of the United States to continue with the negotiation made it once again clear that its main purpose is not to keep Iran from having the bomb, but rather to destabilize its government. The United States has been trying to overthrow the Iranian nationalist government since the 1979 Islamic revolution. First, because the regime was fundamentalist; secondly, because it threatened Israel. Accordingly, the US has not been engaged solely in soft power and diplomacy, but also in military operations. In 1981, it financed a deadly war of Saddam Hussein’s Iraq against Iran, which lasted almost ten years and ended with the defeat of the American-Iraqi coalition. Now, after having invaded and subjugated its former ally, the US turns once again against the regime of the ayatollahs and its loudmouth and authoritarian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, displaying consistency with its imperial policy of military and political control of the Middle East.

Does the fact that China has agreed to sign on to a new set of sanctions mean that it will not use its veto power in the Security Council? It is possible, but not probable. China has agreed on the draft resolution so as not to increase its current contention with the United States, which is serious enough. Therefore, it is quite likely that the Tehran agreement and the reactions to it would lead the Chinese to refuse to vote for the sanctions after all, since they do not want the United States and Europe to boost their power in the Middle East.

The United States is a decadent empire that seeks to be imperial in a period of world history when empires no longer make sense. The last two great empires were the British and the Soviet. Both failed for different reasons, but mainly because today even underdeveloped countries are full members of the United Nations and do not accept imperial domination. Yet the United States insists on having military bases scattered all over the world to “legitimate” the imposition of its will. We know, however, that peace among nations will not be achieved with weapons, but rather with good arguments and mutual concessions.