**A New Era of Partnership: Iran and Russia's Shared Vision for the Future**

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The signing of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership Treaty between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Russian Federation on January 17, 2025 was a landmark event marking the transition of bilateral relations to a new level. The treaty, which had been under preparation since 2019 and was finally approved by Iran's fourteenth government, signals a profound change in the geopolitical architecture and the formation of a new model of international cooperation. In the face of pressure from the West, Moscow and Tehran demonstrate strategic resilience and aspiration for a multipolar world order [3].

Despite the coincidence of Russia's and Iran's strategic interests, their interaction over the centuries has been accompanied by challenges and mutual distrust. The historical wounds left by the signing of the Treaties of Golestan (1813) and Turkmenchay (1828) have created a certain level of skepticism in Iranian society toward Russian foreign policy. Contemporary Western information campaigns reinforce these sentiments by presenting Iranian-Russian rapprochement in a negative light [5]. However, given the new geopolitical realities, sanctions pressure and the need to diversify foreign economic ties, the two countries are moving to deepen their partnership based on pragmatic cooperation and strategic interests.

The study of this topic is based on the approach Historical-political method - analyzing the evolution of Iranian-Russian relations taking into account historical factors.

A key factor in the rapprochement between Iran and Russia has been the changing global order and the need to overcome Western sanctions. The U.S. and its allies since 2018 have tightened pressure on Iran after its withdrawal from the JCPOA, while the anti-Russian sanctions imposed in 2014 and 2022 accelerated Moscow's reorientation to the East [4]. Under these circumstances, Iran and Russia have adapted their foreign policy strategies, with Moscow pursuing a “Pivot to the East” policy and Tehran pursuing a “Look East” policy. The 2025 Treaty has become a logical continuation of Iran-Russia interaction laid down back in the 2001 Treaty on the Foundations of Mutual Relations and Principles of Cooperation [7].

The main provisions of the new agreement include:

Strategic Vision (Articles 1-3): These articles emphasize the rejection of unipolarity, external interference, and Western hegemony. Article 3 prohibits the use of either nation’s territory for actions against the other and commits both parties to non-assistance to aggressors. It means in case of attack of any aggressor to Iran or Russia, the other side promise to not help the aggressor but on time, not promising will help the other party [1]. That is exactly according to values of Islamic Republic of Iran. It showed that Iran not member of any block and still follows the revolution values and slogan: “Neither East nor West—Only the Islamic Republic”.

Defense and Security Cooperation (Articles 4, 5, 7): Both nations commit to enhanced collaboration in military, counter-terrorism, and cybersecurity domains. This reflects their shared interest in promoting regional stability and tackling mutual security threats.

Economic and Energy Integration (Articles 18, 22): These articles highlight efforts to bypass Western-dominated financial systems through initiatives such as the North-South Corridor and the development of modern payment mechanisms [6]. While specific details of energy cooperation remain outside the treaty text, officials have indicated plans for a gas supply agreement, potentially delivering up to 55 billion cubic meters annually in the future. This could pave the way for creating a “Shanghai hub,” an idea previously proposed by Iran at the SCO summit in 2023.

Peaceful Nuclear Cooperation (Article 23): This article underscores both nations' commitment to advancing joint projects in the peaceful use of atomic energy. The planned expansion of the Bushehr power plant—under contracts spanning 10 and 8 years—illustrates the strategic depth of this collaboration, which remains a contentious issue for the West [2].

Cultural and Societal Exchange (Articles 30, 32, 34, 35, 37): These articles focus on addressing societal mistrust and fostering mutual understanding through cultural cooperation. Key initiatives include cultural festivals, artist exchanges, and collaboration in media to counter negative narratives. Such measures aim to bridge historical divides and promote deeper connections between the two societies [2].

These provisions demonstrate not only the strengthening of bilateral ties, but also the contribution of both countries to the formation of a new world order focused on multipolarity and regional stability.

The signing of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership Treaty between Iran and Russia is not only symbolic but also a strategically significant step. It strengthens Iran's position in the region, reducing international pressure, and strengthens Russia's influence in the Middle East, reducing dependence on Western markets. Amid growing rivalry with the West, the agreement lays the foundation for further economic, military and energy cooperation, contributing to the construction of a multipolar world order.

As the leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran noted, “the United States will be isolated, and Asia will become a center of knowledge, economy and political power.” In this context, the Iran-Russia partnership not only meets the national interests of the two countries, but also forms a new geopolitical balance centered on sovereignty, multilateralism and regional cooperation.

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