

Presentation by Diane D. Jacobsen, Ph.D.
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Iran - Axis of Evil or Friend?

Seventy million Iranians live in an Islamic theocracy under the firm hand of their Supreme Leader Ali Hoseini-Khamenei. Since the 1979 revolution, when American embassy employees at the Tehran Embassy were taken hostage, not to be released for 444 days, the Iranian religious government has tightened its Islamic grip on their educated but helpless population and blamed western society for all its problems. The former Bush administration called it the "Axis of Evil." The current administration is reaching out the hand of friendship. Is Iran friend or foe? Are nuclear enrichment facilities for peaceful or military purposes? Do sanctions work or enrich the pockets of the Revolutionary Guard? Which US foreign policy alternative will help this land located in the rough neighborhood between Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan? These and other questions will be addressed on January 19 at 6:30 PM at the WJCT studios by Diane Jacobsen, World Affairs Council board member. Dr. Jacobsen holds a Ph.D. in International Affairs from Washington University in St. Louis and is a Middle East scholar specializing in conflict resolution. She recently made an extended visit to Iran.