

Book Review
By
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**Ghani Jafar and Shams-uz-Zaman, *Iran and the Bomb, Nuclear Club Busted*
(Rawalpindi: Pindori Books, 2013), pp.258**

Iranian nuclear programme has been the focus of western policy makers for the last several years. Most of the commentaries and studies, on the Iranian programme, have also been written by western analysts and reflect the western perspective on the issue. These studies generally blame Iran for pursuing a clandestine nuclear weapon programme. *Iran and the Bomb, Nuclear Club Busted* has been written from a non-western view point. Despite its provocative title the book is a serious study of Iran's nuclear programme. Divided in eleven chapters the book covers Iranian nuclear programme from its inception to the latest developments, which include IAEA inspector's observations, concerns of regional states, and its impact on Pakistan's nuclear programme.

The book gives the history of Iran's nuclear programme since the 1950s and how western powers were, then, too willing to help Iran during Shah's rule with its peaceful nuclear programme, even though Iran had not even signed Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). The book draws attention to the Iranian Revolution (1979) and deteriorating Iran-US relations that marked a change in the attitude of the Western states towards Iranian nuclear programme. Iran's nuclear programme, which it claims, is for peaceful purposes, is viewed with suspicion by the Western countries, particularly the USA; they believe that Iran is secretly making nuclear weapons in violation of its NPT obligations. The fact that no evidence supports this assessment is often ignored. NPT being the only framework available for controlling proliferation of nuclear weapons, Ghani Jafar and Shams-uz-Zaman have analyzed Iranian nuclear program in the perspective of the NPT, which is also the theme of book's first chapter.

The authors discuss, in considerable detail Iran's nuclear programme in the prevailing international political environment and various diplomatic efforts for resolution of the issue. Besides providing useful information about Israel's nuclear and missile programmes, the book examines various diplomatic initiatives that presented opportunities to find a solution to the problem arising from Iranian nuclear programme. These opportunities were lost and the wide gap in the perception of US and the West and Iran's nuclear policy continued to mar the prospect of better relations between the

two countries. The authors have also discussed Israel's role in sabotaging efforts for reaching a solution to the Iranian nuclear programme issue. A solution of the problem would have removed a major hurdle in the way of better US-Iran relations, which did not suit Israel.

There is basic contradiction between the title and the theme of the book. The title refers to Iran and the bomb, but the book argues that Iran's nuclear program is for peaceful purposes. How can the two be reconciled?

The authors have discussed complex issues pertaining to US-Iran relations, Iran's nuclear program, its history, and political context as well as various efforts made at different times to find a solution to the complex problem of Iranian nuclear programme in simple and easy to read style. The book is well documented and gives detailed quotations from authentic sources. The book ***Iran and the Bomb, Nuclear Club Busted*** provides useful material for research on the subject of Iranian nuclear programme in particular, and politics of nuclearization in general.