Interview with Jeffrey Frankel.  *Seda* magazine, Iran, April 2019.

1. Inside Iran, there is a view that Iran's global relations have become tense. Did Iran's policies create such tensions or US withdrawal from JCPOA? With the continuation of US engagement in the nuclear deal and supporting it, would we have seen Iran's better relations with the world?

Answer -- Iran has some valid historical grievances against US past behavior toward it, and the US has some valid grievances against Iran.  But the JCPOA was an important breakthrough that should have greatly reduced tensions.   Instead -- and even though Iran has abided by the agreement -- US President Donald Trump has withdrawn the US from it.  It is the US withdrawal that is to blame for current tensions.

2. Is Iran in need of detente in the current situation? Can the unilateralist approaches of Mr. Trump that, despite the economic needs of Europe, have made the Europeans to accompany him, have an impact on Iran's global relations?

Answer -- I am afraid that the best strategy for Iran is to wait it out, planning for the end of Donald Trump's term as US president.  That is the best strategy for many countries and many people.

3. Some believe that the election of Mr. Takht Ravanchi as Iran's ambassador to the United Nations indicates that Iran is still seeking to maintain JCPOA and engage with the world. Takht Ravanchi has also emphasized this issue. Can choosing him as Iran’s ambassador send this clear message that Islamic Republic wants to interact with the world?

Answer -- I certainly hope that Iran still seeks to maintain the JCPOA and to engage with the world, and that it continues to send signals to this effect.

4. Iranian Foreign Minister Zarif will have a trip to New York on Tuesday, and he will try to criticize Mr. Trump's unilateralist policies on the occasion of "the International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace". Can this stance make others to pay attention to Trump's unilateral policies and hurt these policies and gain the support from other countries?

Answer --  My suggestion would be to "take the moral high ground," to remind everyone of the usefulness in international relations of abiding by agreements, and to point out that Iran is abiding by its commitment while the US under President Trump is not.

5. Since coming to office, Iranian president Hassan Rouhani has been trying to pursue the discussion of reconciliation with the world, and this issue was well presented at the time of signing the nuclear deal in 2015. Why did not this approach persist and was not welcomed by other countries?

Answer --  It seems to me that this approach was welcomed by the US under President Barack Obama, by the European Union, and by other countries.  The main problem was the election of Donald Trump in 2016.  This was a random “fluke” in so many ways, beginning with the fact that he did not get a majority of the popular vote.  But history is full of such chance events.