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Missile Program, Elevated the Iranian Threat in the 1990's; Israeli Concerns About Iran Extend Beyond Military Capabilities to Balance of Power Considerations; Israelis Are Concerned About the Influence a Nuclear Weapon Would Give Iran; Israelis Nonetheless Take Iranian Ideology and Potential Nuclear Use Seriously

Domestic Differences Emerge over How to Discuss and Respond to the Iranian Challenge Some Debate Has Emerged About the Use of the "Existential Threat" Language; The Greatest Fissures Within the Security Establishment Emerge over Differing Cost-Benefit Assessments of a Military Strike Option; Views of the Effectiveness of Sanctions and Sabotage Efforts Such as Stuxnet, as Well as the U.S. Position, Could Affect the Israeli Debate on the Military Option; Israel and Iran in the Future; Military Doctrine and Policy Are Shifting in Ways That Suggest Some Preparation for a Nuclear Future with Iran

Israel's Own Nuclear Posture Could Also Shift with a Nuclear-Armed Iran Conclusion; CHAPTER FOUR - Iranian Perceptions of and Policies Toward Israel; Regime Ideology and Geostrategic Factors Shape Iranian Threat Perceptions of Israel; Iran Views U.S. and Israeli Interests as Nearly Identical; The Regime Views Israel as Undermining Its Stability; The U.S. "Threat" Determines Iran's Military Posture Against Israel; Iran Increasingly Views Israel as a Direct Geopolitical Threat; Domestic Politics Are a Strong Driver of Iranian Policies Toward Israel Different Factions Have Varying Views of Israel The Ascent of the Principlists Has Led to Greater Rivalry; A Future Regime May View Israel Differently; Conclusion; CHAPTER FIVE - Conclusion and Recommendations; U.S. Policies Toward Israel; U.S. Policies Toward Iran; Managing the Rivalry; Bibliography

#### Sommario/riassunto

Israel and Iran have come to view each other as direct regional rivals. The two countries are not natural rivals; they have shared geopolitical interests, which led to years of cooperation both before and after the 1979 Islamic revolution. But their rivalry has intensified recently, particularly with the rise of fundamentalist leaders in Iran and the prospect of a nuclear-armed Iran posing grave strategic and ideological challenges to Israel.