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 **INTERNATIONAL  
AGREEMENTS:  
DIFFICULTY  
ENDURING**

By Steve Bakke  Feb 3, 2019



International agreements are prominent in the news and will continue to be as long as Trump is president. NAFTA, the Iran nuclear agreement, the Paris Climate Accord are examples, and now something new is on stage. The U.S. announced suspension of its compliance with the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF) with Russia. It's generally agreed in all U.S. political corners that Russia has continually been dodging compliance with the agreement for several years.

Even though virtually all agree on Russia's non-compliance, critics believe this action could create a nuclear arms race. It seems to me, however, that Russia's non-compliance is proof the arms race is indeed back on, whether or not the U.S. takes this action. There's nothing wrong with making an objective decision to try to "start over" when something important isn't working.

It's tough and risky to recover from a poorly enforced and "giveaway" agreement such as the Iran agreement. but it would be riskier not to. In this age of constantly churning international agreements – defense, weapons, and trade – we must remember three things: agreements aren't perfect, they have difficulty enduring, and it's worthwhile to keep trying to get it right. Support Trump in this attempt to renegotiate.