



# Iran Strategy Brief No. 1: Understanding Ahmadinejad

May 31, 2006 **Ilan I. Berman**

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Who is Mahmoud Ahmadinejad? Before his meteoric rise to power in the summer of 2005, Iran's ultra-conservative president was a relative political unknown. Since taking office in August 2005, however, the 50-year-old Ahmadinejad has done much to demonstrate his radical credentials. He has ratcheted up the Islamic Republic's hostile rhetoric toward Israel and the United States. His government has systematically rolled back domestic freedoms and deepened its control over Iranian society. And, under his direction, the Islamic Republic has accelerated its very public march toward an atomic capability.

Read the full Iran Strategy Brief, in PDF form, by clicking on the link below.