

Section #6

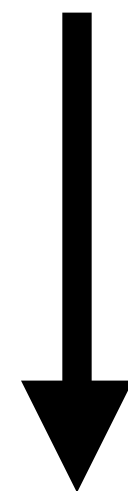
Indivisible issues

March 9, 2023

**An issue is *indivisible* if actors
represent the issue in ways that
eliminate any possible division**

~ Goddard 2006, 37

**An issue is indivisible if
actors treat the issue as a
sacred value.**



**(A value of such “transcendental
significance” that it generates a
taboo tradeoff)**

**Why are some tradeoffs
thinkable yet others
unthinkable?**

Relational theory

4 models of social relations

- Communal sharing
- Authority ranking
- Equality matching
- Market pricing

Which 2 models are “in conflict”?

Scenario 1: Responsibility to Protect

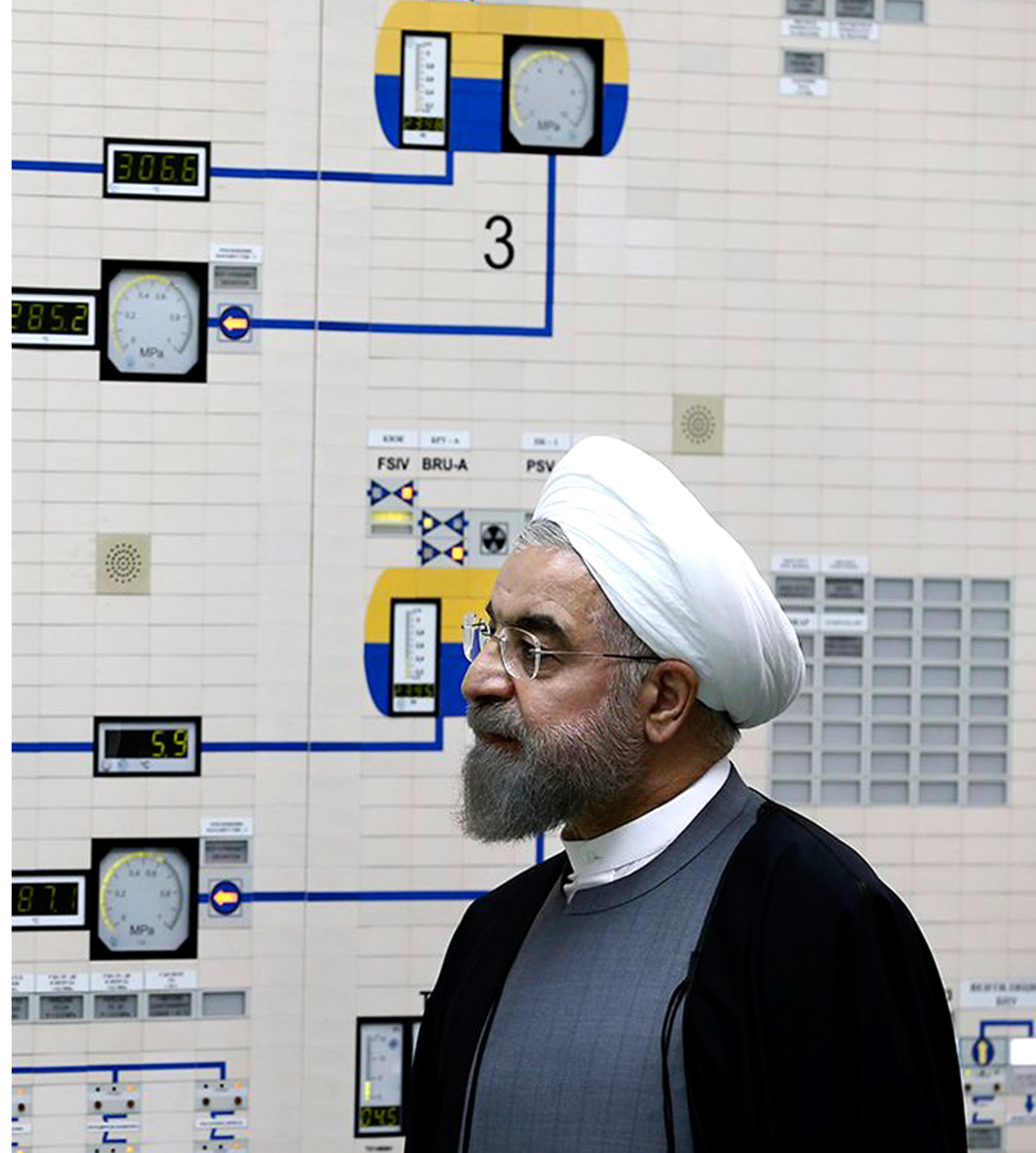
- In 2005, states adopted R2P:
 - i. States protect their own populations
 - ii. IC assists states in protecting their populations
 - iii. IC protects populations when states fail to do so
- Pillar iii is controversial among BRICS states, especially post-2011



Which 2 models are “in conflict”?

Scenario 2: Iran’s nuclear program

- Dehgani et al. (2009) found that some Iranians viewed Iran’s nuclear program in terms of a sacred value.
- They also found that financial carrots backfired among Iranians who treated the program as a sacred value.



**Why does tension between
2 relational models prompt
moral outrage?**

Value pluralism model

3 implications

- *Cognitive*: it is inconceivable that someone might adopt an alternate model
- *Emotional*: norm violators threaten the order, inspiring emotions from anxiety to rage
- *Behavioral*: punishment reduces the cognitive & emotional stress

Bonus questions

Do some relational model conflicts inspire more moral outrage than others?

How might leaders “cope” with conflictual pressures?