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# Trends. Danger for the New Capitalists: Russian Ballistic Missile Aid to Iran

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Certainly, by the late 1800's, various advocates of Marxism often advocated that capitalists would sell anything regardless of consequences--even if anything included the rope with which they'd later be hung. Now that more citizens of regimes that formerly espoused Marxist ideologies are becoming capitalists, the dictum can still apply. For example, Russian material and technological aid towards Iranian ballistic missile development is generating profits for scientists, technicians, and related institutes that otherwise would be subject to the vagaries of the struggling Russian economy. Yet the aid--informally tolerated by Russian political authorities (some of whom benefit financially as well)--also is facilitating an Iranian military capability that could be employed not only to attack Mideast adversaries but Russia as well. Given Iranian-Russian political fault lines concerning--as but one example--the former Soviet republics with large Islamic populations, this growing military capability should be a concern. From a Marxist perspective, it seems as if the new capitalists have learned their lessons well. (See Cooper, H.F. (1996.) The rising threat of missile proliferation. *Journal of Social, Political, and Economic Studies*, 21, 371-382; Erlanger, S. (August 22, 1997.) U.S. tells Moscow to halt ballistic missile aid to Iran. *The New York Times*, <http://www.nytimes.com>; Rashid, A. (April 10, 1997.) The new great game: Battle for Central Asia's oil. *Far Eastern Economic Review*, 160; Timmerman, K.R. (1996.) Does Iran have the bomb? *American Spectator*, 29, 28-30.) (Keywords: Russia, Iran, Marxism, Ideology, Capitalism, Aid)