Two Iranian warships recently steamed around the southern tip of Africa into the Atlantic, most likely *en route* to Venezuela. The story is one that has largely been ignored by both the media and the White House, which has minimized the impending maritime lash-up by opining that “buying armament [from Iran] won’t put food on the table for Venezuelans.” Yet the expeditionary voyage represents an important strategic development, both for what it tells us about Iran’s burgeoning blue-water naval capabilities and because it reflects Tehran’s enduring focus on securing a strategic military foothold in the Western Hemisphere.

Read the complete article by Joseph M. Humire and Ilan Berman in The National Interest