

IRANIAN REVOLUTION



LECTURE NOTES/GUIDE

- Use note taking guide to follow along with lecture.
- Briefly write what/who the term is and why it is significant.

IRANIAN REVOLUTION



WWII Iran was occupied by the UK and USSR due to their need for oil.

The Shah at the time was forced to abdicate and his son, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi took over.

The UK and USSR left in 1946.

-Iran became independent in 1948.

IRANIAN REVOLUTION

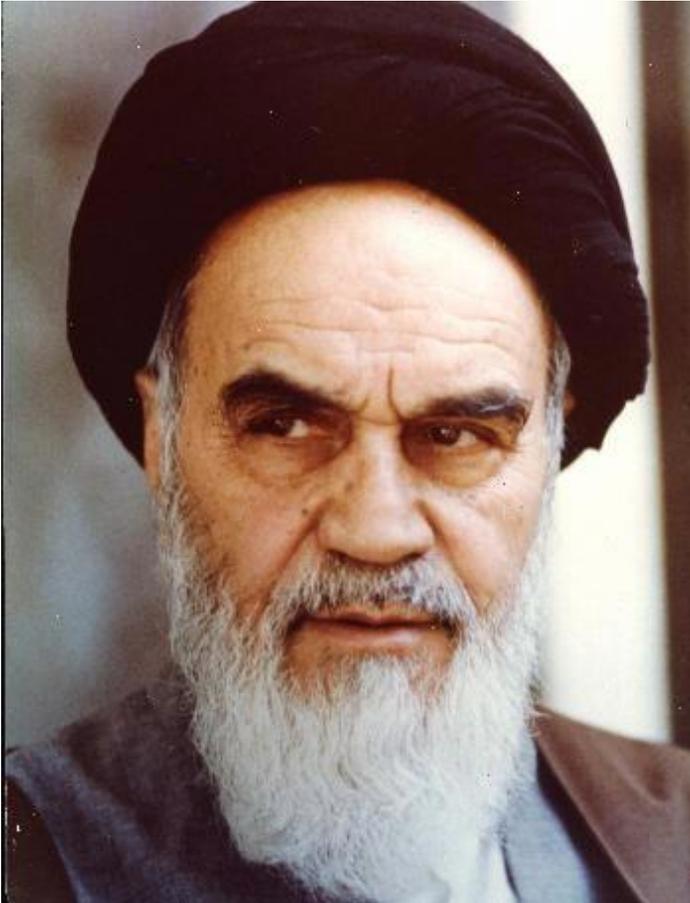
-During the 60's the Shah reigned.

-Western thought and reforms (“White Revolution”)

-Iran quickly moved from rural to urban



IRANIAN REVOLUTION



-In 1964 the shah exiled an out spoken opponent, **Ayatollah Khomeini**, (leader for the Shiites) to Paris until his return in 1979.

-Wanted more traditional Iran (Theocracy)

IRAN IN THE 1970'S

-Oil \$\$\$



-Major political and military force in the Gulf region as the Shah spent increasing amounts on armaments – becoming the 'policeman' of the Gulf

with the blessing of the USA

-Lots of foreign workers

-Western influence



| BUT...

-99% of country is Muslim - don't like the secularization of country.

-Religious leaders called for Islamic Laws = ignored

-Too much "Westernization" and urbanization

TENSION WITH THE WEST



- Iranian nationalists resented the Shah's apparent willingness to serve American Interests.
- Resentment of America's part in the overthrow of Mohammad Mosaddeq in 1953 and of the monarchy's debt of gratitude toward the US remained.
- Thus, the Shah and his supporters became increasingly isolated, facing lots of opposition

ATTEMPTS TO STOP DISSENT

-By 1975 the Shah created his secret police, SAVAK, to repress the people.



-The brutality of SAVAK alienated many who sought wider political freedoms.

SINGLE-PARTY STATE



- Only one political party-
Rastakhiz or the Resurrection
Party of People of Iran

- Everyone had to join and pay
dues

- Other parties are disbanded
and upset at Shah

1978 - THINGS GET UGLY

-January, religious dissenters were fired upon in the important religious city of Qom.

-February riots occurred in Tabriz and small towns.

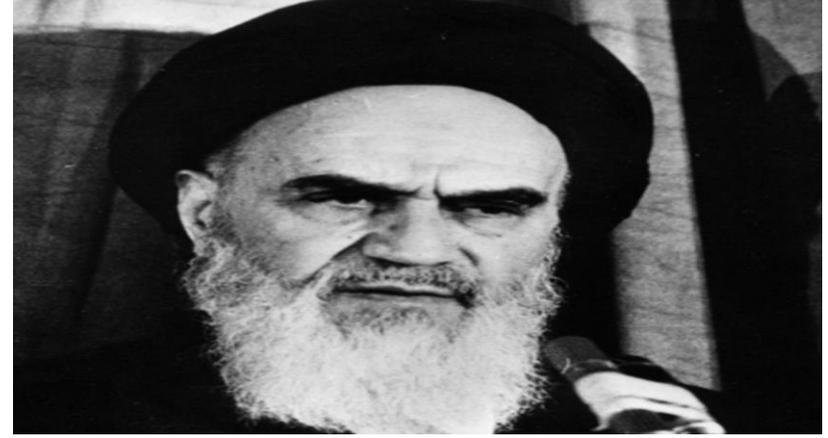
-In May the Universities were closed and protests and strikes became commonplace.



PROTEST CONTINUES



By summer there was a wave of violent attacks by Muslim extremists on government property and places of entertainment.



OPPOSITION LEADER

-In late 1978, the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, became the symbol of religious opposition to the Shah.

-The clerics refused to compromise with the government, calling for a return to Islamic principles and an end to westernization of Iran.

LATE 1978

- September 8, 100-200 demonstrators were gunned down by security forces.
- Clashes between demonstrators and police became increasingly violent.
- By November the armed forces were needed to back up the police. Soon the country was placed under military rule.
- Inflation occurs and adds to problem.

THE SHAH EXITS

-By early 1979, the Shah is sick and unable to stop widespread dissent.

-Names Shahpur Bakhtiar Prime Minister and goes on "vacation".



RETURN OF AYATOLLAH



- Ayatollah Khomeini returns to Tehran on February 1.
- Khomeini called for the establishment of an Islamic Republic, but Bakhtiar tried to hold onto existing constitutional government.
- Bakhtiar was forced out of office, into hiding and ultimately in to exile

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC

-March referendum decided on the adoption of an Islamic Republic

resulted in adoption of a new constitution.

-A president and representative assembly were to be elected by universal suffrage, but they had little power.

KHOMEINI PURGES

- Hundreds were executed by the revolutionary authorities.
- Shiite=those in power
- Sunni=victims of purges

ISLAMIC REVOLUTIONARY GUARD

- Police force created to protect/preserve “Islamic state”

- Protect from “foreign influence”

- Essentially force to maintain power.

IRAN'S NEW FOREIGN POLICY

-Anti-West

-Religion rather than political ideology came to inform Iranian Foreign policy.



DOMESTIC SITUATION

- The government took over most large enterprises, starting with private banks, then insurance companies, and finally, all major companies.
- Foreign enterprises withdraw their capital and their expertise as conditions worsened.
- Newspapers shut down

EFFECT ON ECONOMY

- Iran's economy has not thrived since the revolution.

- Dependence on petroleum exports is still strong.

- Per capita income fluctuates with the price of oil — reportedly falling at one point to 1/4 of what it was prior to the revolution

- Unemployment among Iran's population of young has steadily risen as job creation has failed to keep up,

EFFECT ON RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

- Official Religion is Islam
- Recognizes Judaism & Christianity
- All others are persecuted
- If you abandon Islam – punishment = death
- Everyone must obey Islamic law

SOCIAL CHANGES

- No drinking
- No pre-marital sex
- No Western Music or paraphernalia
- Gender segregation of schools
- Curfews
- Religious/moral police (Basiij)

SHARIA LAW

- "the clear, well-trodden path to water"
- Code for living that all Muslims should adhere to.
- In some cases (like Iran), the government will enforce this code



IRAN NOW

- President=Hassan Rouhani
- Supreme Leader=Ali Khamenei
- Human rights violations
- Nuclear weapons program



U.S./IRANIAN RELATIONS

-No formal diplomatic relations for decades.

-Hostility from both sides

-Starting in 2002, U.S. uses sanctions against Iran for development of Nuclear program.

-In 2015, U.S.-led coalition reached “nuclear deal” with Iran to limit the nuclear program



Current political climate.



IRANIAN NUCLEAR DEAL- FOREIGN POLICY SUCCESS?

1. What's good?

2. What's bad?



CONCLUSION: ISLAM AND NATIONALISM

- The Iranian Revolution provides an excellent example of the tensions between secular nationalism and the ideals of political Islam.
- The Shah had numerous opponents: clerics, democracy activists, the poor, and traditionalists who resented his secular reforms.
- The Shah's close ties with and support by the U.S. allowed the clerics to articulate opposition to him as an anticolonial jihad.