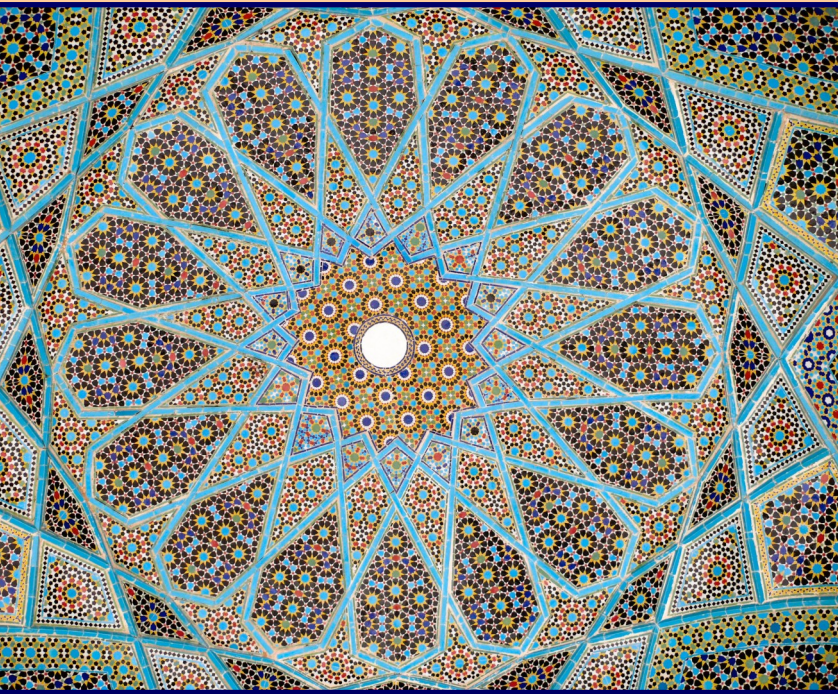


WHY IRAN MATTERS: GEOPOLITICS IN THE MIDDLE EAST



A Resource Packet for Educators

COMPILED BY:

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WHY IRAN MATTERS: GEOPOLITICS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

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USING THIS RESOURCE GUIDE

NOTE: Many of these descriptions were excerpted directly from the source website.



RECOMMENDED RESOURCE



VISUAL MEDIA



LESSON PLAN



STEM RESOURCE



AUDIO



ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS



CHARTS AND GRAPHS

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INTRODUCING THE SPEAKERS



Kristian Coates Ulrichsen

Kristian Coates Ulrichsen is an affiliate faculty member at the Jackson School of International Studies who specializes in the history and politics of the modern Middle East, with particular emphasis on the Persian Gulf region. Working across the disciplines of political science, international relations, and international political economy, his research examines the repositioning of the Persian Gulf states in the global order and the emergence of long-term, nontraditional challenges to regional security. Coates Ulrichsen also serves as a research fellow at Rice University's Baker Institute for Public Policy and as an associate fellow at Chatham House in London. He is the author of the books *Insecure Gulf: The End of Certainty and the Transition to the Post-Oil Era*, *The First World War in the Middle East*, and *Qatar and the Arab Spring* and is the editor of *The Transformation of the Gulf: Politics, Economics, and the Global Order* and *The Political Economy of Arab Gulf States*. He previously directed a research program on the Gulf States at the London School of Economics.



Bookda Gheisar

Bookda Gheisar joined Mona Foundation in June of 2014. She has twenty years experience as an executive and policy advocate at high-profile organizations advocating for systemic policy change to protect the rights of communities. Bookda was the founding Executive Director of Global Washington (2008-2014). Global Washington is a Seattle-based nonprofit membership association whose mission is to promote international development by coordinating the efforts of other globally-minded philanthropic, research and business organizations in Washington state. She was Executive Director of the Social Justice Fund (2000-2008). Her work there was dedicated to addressing the root causes of social, economic, and environmental inequities—through strategic grantmaking efforts to community-based organizations in the Northwest. Before this, Bookda was the Executive Director of Cross Cultural Health Care Program (1993-2000) whose mission is to help ensure underserved communities full access to quality health care that is culturally and linguistically appropriate. Between 1995 and 2000 Bookda taught at University of Washington School of Social Work, Antioch University, and Bastyr University as adjunct faculty. In 2007 Bookda received the Bill Grace Leadership Legacy Award from The Center for Ethical Leadership. In 2006, she was recognized by the YWCA and ACT Theater of Seattle in the list of "Seattle Women to Celebrate," as well as by *Seattle Weekly News* in their Best of Seattle Edition as a 'Best Grassroots Philanthropist.'

OVERVIEW OF IRAN



CAPITAL: Tehran

GOVERNMENT: Islamic Republic

BORDER COUNTRIES: Afghanistan, Armenia, Iraq, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, Pakistan, Turkey

POPULATION: 80,840,713 (July 2014 est.)

AREA: 636,372 square miles (slightly smaller than Alaska)

ETHNIC GROUPS: Persian (61%), Azeri (16%), Kurd (10%), Lor (6%), Baluch (2%), Arab (2%), Turkoman, Turkic tribes (2%), Other (1%)

RELIGION: Muslim (99%) - Shia (90%), Sunni (10%); Other (includes Zoroastrian, Jewish, and Christian) (1%)

LANGUAGE: Persian (53%), Azeri Turkic and Turkic dialects (18%), Kurdish (10%), Gilaki and Mazandarani (7%), Luri (6%), Balochi (2%), Arabic (2%), Other (2%)

FUN FACTS

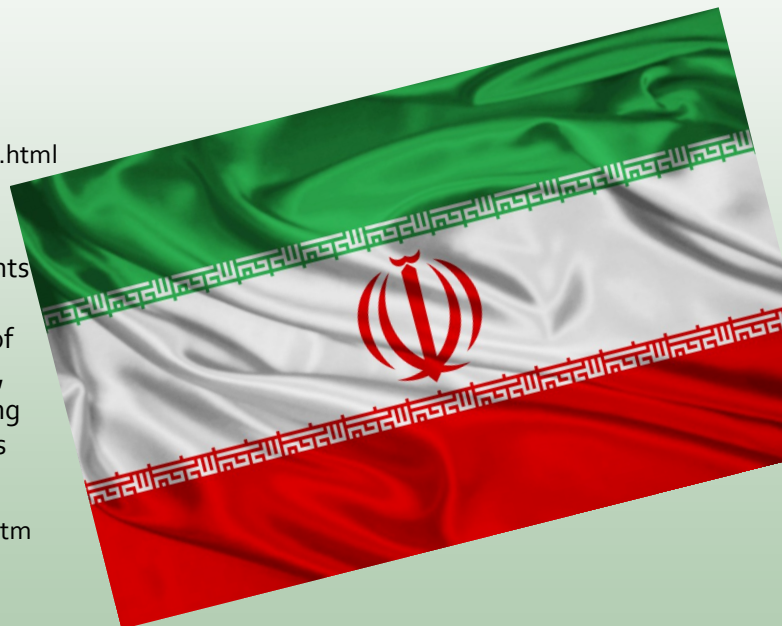
- ⇒ The Persian Gulf holds 60% of the world's oil reserves. Iran alone has 10% of the world's oil reserves and pumps nearly 4 million barrels of oil each day.
- ⇒ Iran is the second largest economy in the Middle East and North Africa
- ⇒ Iran is one of the world's largest producers of caviar, pistachios, and saffron.
- ⇒ Exports: petroleum (80%), chemical and petrochemical products, fruits and nuts, carpets, cement, ore
- ⇒ Imports: industrial supplies, capital goods, foodstuffs and other consumer goods, technical services.

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ir.html>

The flag of Iran was officially adopted on July 29, 1980. The colors of the flag date to the mid-18th century; green represents Islam; white represents peace, and red means courage. The centered symbol is said to symbolize the five principles of Islam. The white stylized script on the red and green panels, repeated 22 times, is the Islamic phrase Allahu Akbar, meaning "God is greater than to be described." The centered sword is representative of the country's strength.

<http://www.worldatlas.com/webimage/flags/countrys/mideast/iran.htm>

DID YOU KNOW? More than half of Iran's international border is coastline, including 740km along the Caspian Sea in the north and 1,700km along the Persian Gulf and Oman Sea in the south.



KEY POLITICAL FIGURES



Hassan Rouhani is the seventh President of Iran, in office since 2013. He is also a former lawmaker, academic, and former diplomat. He has been a member of Iran's Assembly of Experts since 1999. Rouhani said that if elected he would prepare a civil rights charter, restore the economy, and improve rocky relations with Western nations. Rouhani is viewed as politically moderate. *TIME Magazine* named him ninth on its list of the Most Influential People in the World.



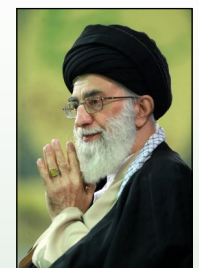
Mahmoud Ahmadinejad is an Iranian politician who was the sixth President of Iran from 2005 to 2013. He was also the main political leader of the Alliance of Builders of Islamic Iran, a coalition of conservative political groups in the country. An engineer and teacher from a poor background, Ahmadinejad joined the Office for Strengthening Unity after the Iranian Revolution. Appointed a provincial governor, he was removed after the election of President Mohammad Khatami and returned to teaching.



Seyyed Mohammad Khatami is an Iranian scholar, Shia theologian, and Reformist politician. He served as the fifth President of Iran from 2 August 1997 to 3 August 2005. He also served as Iran's Minister of Culture from 1982 to 1992. Khatami attracted global attention during his first election to the presidency when he captured almost 70% of the vote. During his two terms as president, Khatami advocated freedom of expression, tolerance and civil society, constructive diplomatic relations with other states including those in the Asia and European Union, and an economic policy that supported a free market and foreign investment.



Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani is an influential Iranian politician and writer, who was the fourth president of Iran from 1989 to 1997. He was the head of the Assembly of Experts from 2007 till 2011 when he decided not to nominate himself for the post. During the Iran-Iraq War, Rafsanjani was the de facto commander-in-chief of the Iranian military. He played an important role in the choice of Ali Khamenei as Supreme Leader.



Ayatollah Ali Khamenei is the second and current Supreme Leader of Iran and a Muslim cleric. Ali Khamenei succeeded Ruhollah Khomeini, the leader of the Iranian Revolution, after Khomeini's death, being elected as the new Supreme Leader in June 1989. He had also served as the president of Iran from 1981 to 1989. Khamenei is head of state and is considered the most powerful political authority in Iran. In 2012, *Forbes* selected him 21st on the list of The World's Most Powerful People.

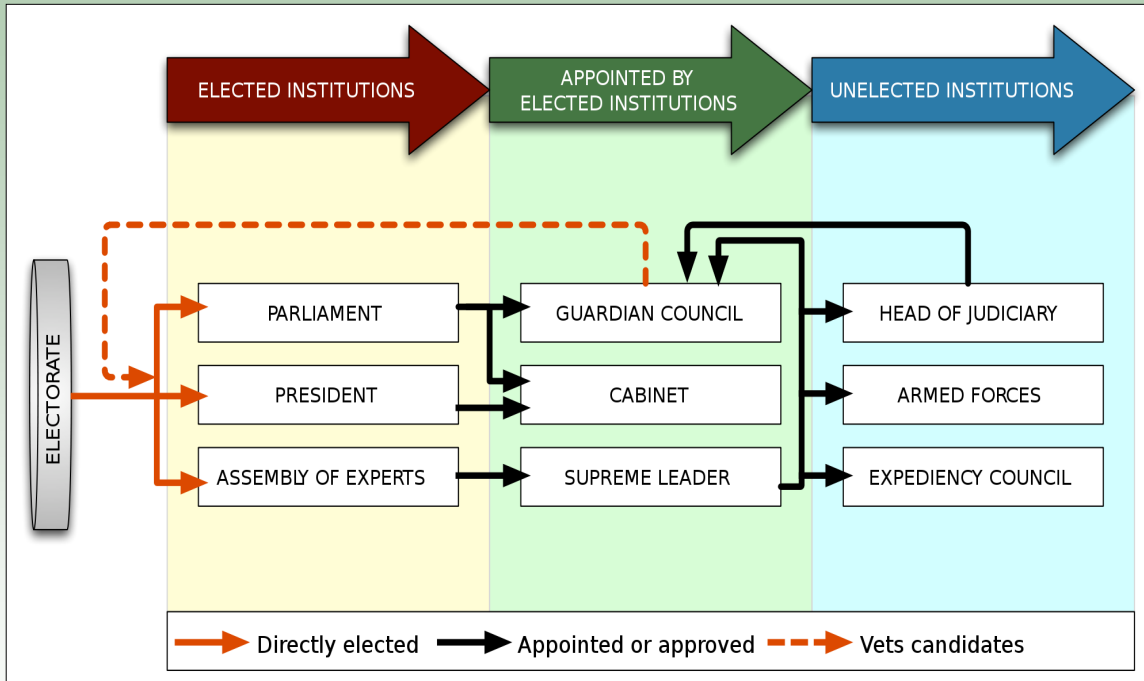


Reza Shah Pahlavi was the Shah of Iran from December 1925 until he was forced to abdicate by the Anglo-Soviet invasion of Iran in September 1941. He founded the Pahlavi dynasty in 1925 and established a constitutional monarchy that lasted until overthrown in 1979 during the Iranian Revolution. Reza Shah introduced many social, economic, and political reforms during his reign, ultimately laying the foundation of the modern Iranian state.



Mohammad Javad Zarif is an Iranian diplomat, academic, and Iran's current Minister of Foreign Affairs. He has held various diplomatic and cabinet posts since the 1990s. Zarif is also a visiting professor at the School of International Relations and University of Tehran. He was the Permanent Representative of Iran to the United Nations from 2002 to 2007. Zarif played an important role in the recent Joint Plan of Action on Iran's nuclear program with the P5+1.

IRANIAN GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Politics_of_Iran



(1) Ask students to compare and contrast Iran's government structure with the government of the United States. Are their checks and balances similar to the U.S. government?

(2) Have students research other global systems of governance and compare and contrast those to that of Iran's.



Politics in Iran

<http://iranmatters.belfercenter.org/politics-iran>

Explains Iran's power structure, who's who in Iran's political system, who's who on Iran's nuclear negotiating team, and the impact of Rouhani's election to office.

Iran: Who Holds the Power?

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/shared/spl/hi/middle_east/03/iran_power/html/

Iran's complex and unusual political system combines elements of a modern Islamic theocracy with democracy. A network of unelected institutions controlled by the highly powerful conservative Supreme Leader is countered by a president and parliament elected by the people.

Frenemies Forever: The Real Meaning of Iran's "Heroic Flexibility" (09/24/2013)

<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/middle-east/2013-09-24/frenemies-forever>

Politics surrounding Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's desire for rapprochement with the West without abandoning Iran's resistance to western hegemony.

Iran Then and 33 Years after the Revolution (02/01/2012)

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/tehranbureau/2012/02/comment-iran-then-and-33-years-after-the-revolution.html>

How has Iranian society changed over the 33 years since the revolution? Visitors to Iran are often struck by the society's many dichotomies: Female education and literacy rates have increased dramatically since 1979, but women's rights have been curtailed. The median age of Iranian society is 27, but the median age of the country's powerful political players—including the Supreme Leader, Guardian Council and Assembly of Experts—is well over 70.



Use Google Constiute to compare Iran's constitution with the constitutions of other countries

<https://www.constituteproject.org/>



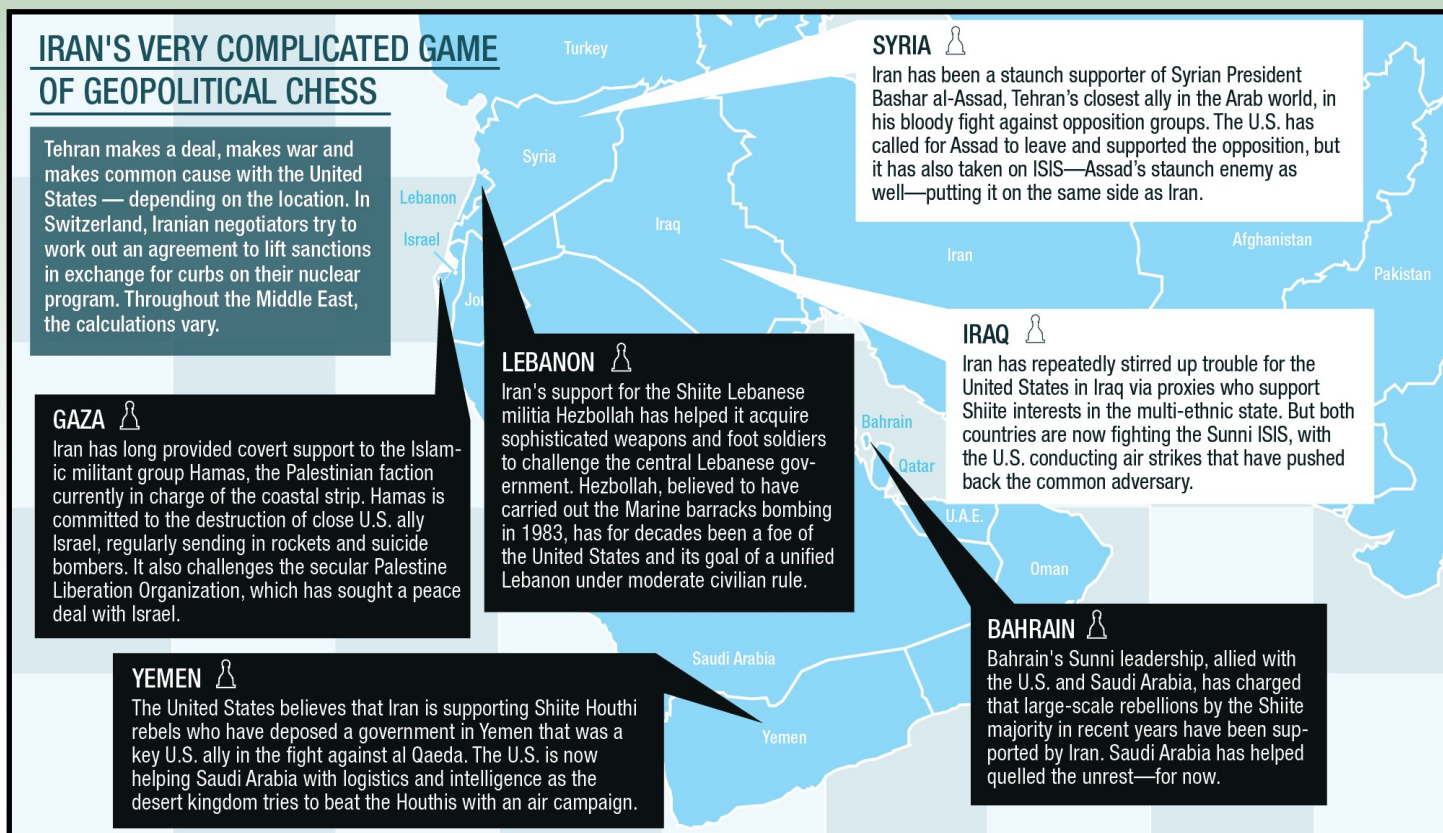
GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS



Iran's power rises, with or without deal (03/31/2015)

<http://www.cnn.com/2015/03/31/politics/irans-influence-nuclear-deal/>

See infographic below:



Lesson/Discussion Plan: The Middle East

by Great Decisions, Foreign Policy Association (2007)

http://www.fpa.org/usr_doc/GDLP_2007_MiddleEast.pdf

In this lesson series, students will become aware of the history of the Middle East, including U.S. policy interests in the region, the history of colonialism and military conflict, and the current issues that impact the political, social, cultural, religious, economic, and diplomatic landscapes. Students will be encouraged to discuss their views on these topics, to think outside the box—and even to formulate their own policy solutions to some of the ongoing conflicts involved. Particular attention will be paid to Iraq, Iran, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the Sunni/Shiite divide, Lebanon, Hezbollah, and Israel, the role of Saudi Arabia in the region, and other key players such as Syria, Egypt, the Arab League, and OPEC.

Any discussion of the Middle East should include the ongoing world interest in the region's natural resources (especially oil and natural gas), recent diplomatic moves in Washington and at the United Nations that impact the Middle East (especially the ongoing diplomacy with Iran over its nuclear program), Israel and its formation in the wake of the holocaust during World War II and its history through the present day, and the critical role media and public information plays in this region (Note: the "Great Decisions 2006" DVD from the Foreign Policy Association does a great job of addressing this issue in particular).

There should be some discussion about the role of Islam in the Middle East and around the world, security and terrorism concerns, changes in the world's view since 9/11 and the terror attacks against transportation systems in Madrid and London – and the impact this has had on Muslim populations in the US, Europe, Africa, and Asia.

ECONOMY

5 Ways the Nuclear Deal will Revive Iran's Economy (07/16/2015)

<http://time.com/3961650/iran-nuclear-deal-economy/>

While the attention inside the U.S. on the proposed Iran nuclear deal has been on its weapons capability, there is another story. As part of the deal, Tehran will get relief from international sanctions, which could lead to a resurgence in its economy. Here are five statistics to understand the winners and losers from an Iranian economic revival.

International Sanctions on Iran (06/17/2015)

<http://www.cfr.org/iran/international-sanctions-iran/p20258>

The United States, United Nations, and European Union have levied multiple sanctions on Iran for its nuclear program since the International Atomic Energy Association (IAEA), the UN's nuclear watchdog, found in September 2005 that Tehran was not compliant with its international obligations. The United States spearheaded international efforts to financially isolate Tehran and block its oil exports to raise the cost of Iran's efforts to develop a potential nuclear-weapons capability and to bring its government to the negotiating table.

Nuclear deal could unleash Iran's economy (04/27/2015)

<http://america.aljazeera.com/opinions/2015/4/nuclear-deal-could-unleash-irans-economy.html>

If Rouhani can keep the nuclear deal on course and implement new economic policies, Iran may soon be recognized as one of the world's most promising economies of the 21st century.



Iran's Economy: Fading Hope (03/07/2015)

<http://www.economist.com/news/middle-east-and-africa/21645738-foreign-businesses-are-looking-beyond-falling-oil-prices-and-limping>

With a population close to 80m and the world's 18th-largest economy, Iran could be an attractive market. Hassan Rouhani, its outward-looking moderate president, argues the case for foreign investment and the jobs it could create. Yet his hopes of opening up the economy are stymied not just by sanctions and the elusive hope of a deal that would lift them. He also faces strong opposition from hardliners in Tehran, many of whom bridle at the notion of foreign companies on their turf.

Iran Overview—World Bank

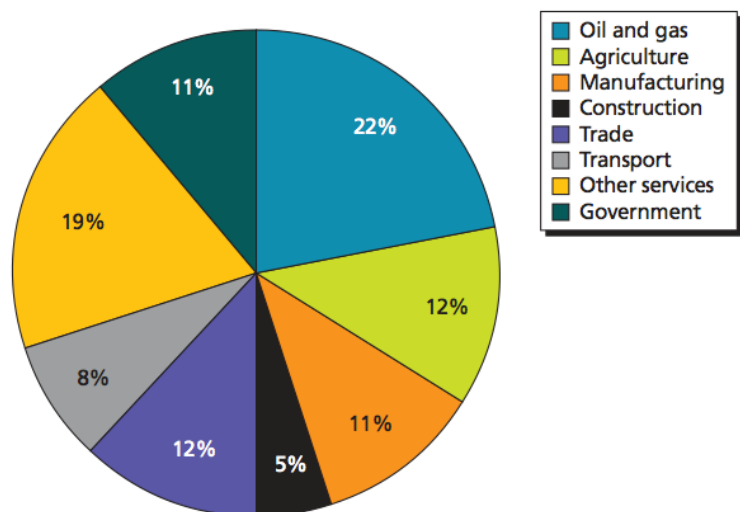
<http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/iran/overview>

Iran is the second largest economy in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region after Saudi Arabia, with an estimated Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of US\$D 406.3 billion in 2014. It also has the second largest population of the region after Egypt, with an estimated 80.0 million people as of July 2014.



Ask students: How do you think various sectors of Iran's GDP have been affected by economic sanctions?

Figure 5.6
Composition of Iran's GDP



SOURCE: Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran, 2006a.

RAND MG693-5.6

ECONOMY

What ending sanctions on Iran will mean for the country's economy (08/12/2015)

http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/economy/what-ending-sanctions-on-iran-will-mean-for-the-countrys-economy/2015/08/12/2c3a9942-3d17-11e5-b3ac-8a79bc44e5e2_story.html

The end of economic sanctions on Iran would mean a 14 percent drop in world oil prices and a \$15 billion boost in Iranian oil revenue, according to a World Bank report. The report indicates that lifting sanctions — which would give Iran access to frozen assets that the Obama administration estimates at roughly \$56 billion — would create a “windfall” that Iran could use to resurrect its oil fields, revive domestic industries such as auto and pharmaceutical manufacturing, and reduce widespread unemployment.

Iran: Lifting of Sanctions will Lower Oil Prices and Boost Domestic Economy if Managed Well (08/10/2015)

<http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2015/08/10/iran-lifting-sanctions-will-lower-oil-prices-and-boost-domestic-economy-if-managed-well>

Lifting sanctions related to Iran's nuclear program will have a significant impact on the world oil market, the Iranian economy and Iran's trading partners. Iran's full return to the global market will eventually add about a million barrels of oil a day, lowering oil prices by US\$10 per barrel next year, according to the World Bank, which also expects economic growth in the country to surge to about 5% in 2016 from 3% this year.

Oil rises as Iran exports seen slow to resume after deal (07/14/2015) (2:05)

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/07/14/us-markets-oil-idUSKCN0PO01N20150714>



Oil rose on Tuesday, reversing early losses and settling higher after it became apparent that a nuclear deal between Tehran and six global powers will not immediately remove sanctions placed on Iranian crude exports. "Oil from Iran will take time to return, and will not be before next year, most likely the second half of 2016," said Amrita Sen, chief oil analyst at London-based consultancy Energy Aspects.

FUN FACT: Iran is the biggest country to rejoin the global economy since post-communist eastern Europe in the early 1990's.



Watch the video from *Oil Rises as Iran exports seen slow to resume after deal* and ask students the following questions:

- 1) What is expected to happen with Iran oil production after the lifting of economic sanctions?
- 2) How will the slow increase in Iranian oil exports affect prices? How does this impact consumers vs. producers?
- 3) How do Iran's current oil exports compare to the time before sanctions?
- 4) How do you think an increase in oil exports over time will affect Iranian domestic society?

Iran's Economy—Fast Facts

GDP (purchasing power parity): \$1.334 trillion (2014 est.)

GDP composition by sector: agriculture (9.1%), industry (40.7%), services (50.3%)

Industries: petroleum, petrochemicals, gas, fertilizers, caustic soda, textiles, cement and other construction materials, food processing (particularly sugar refining and vegetable oil production), ferrous and nonferrous metal fabrication, armaments

Labor force: 28.4 million

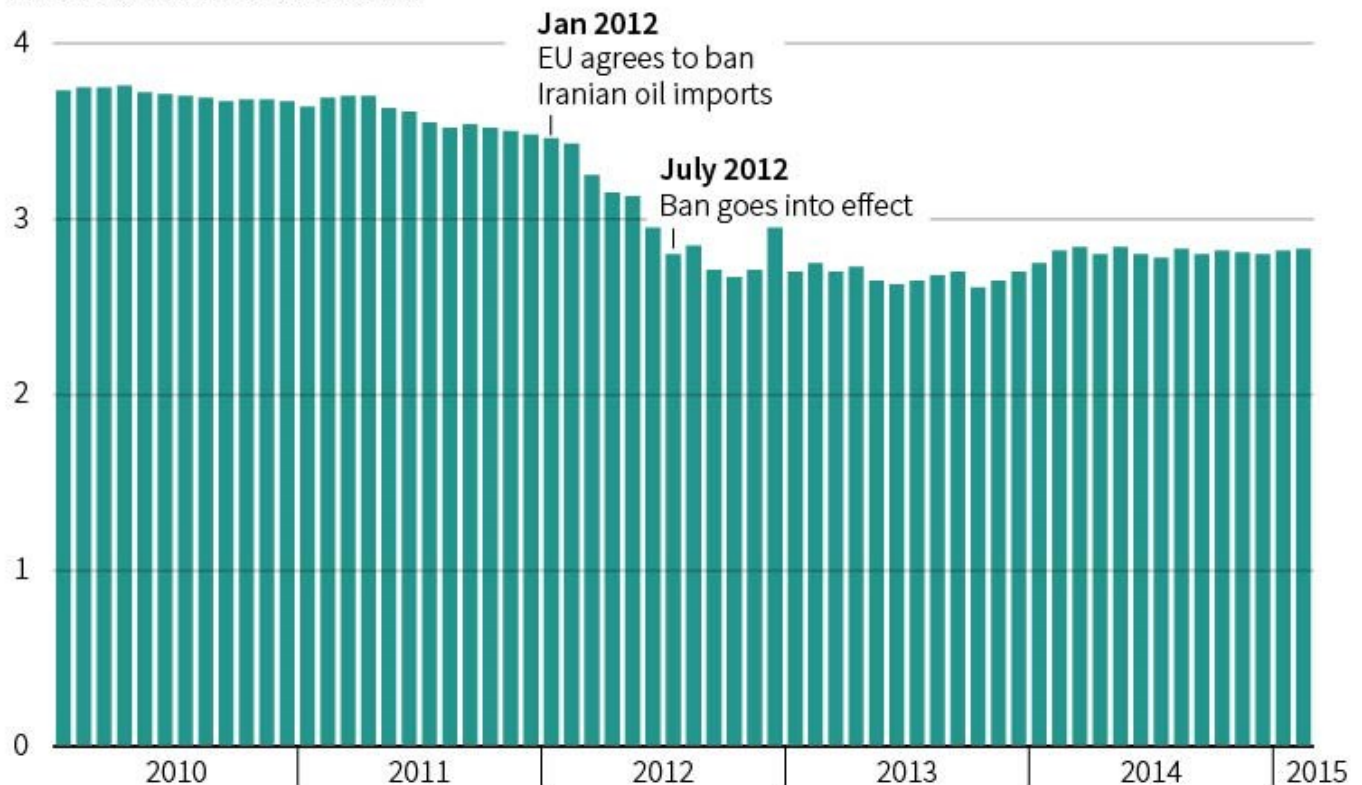
Exports—commodities: petroleum (80%), chemical and petrochemical products, fruits and nuts, carpets, cement, ore

Exports—partners: China (26.8%), Turkey (11%), India (10.6%), Japan (7.3%), South Korea (5.9%) (2013)

NATURAL RESOURCE: OIL

Iran's crude oil production

MILLION BARRELS PER DAY



Source: Reuters OPEC Survey

C. Chan, 02/04/2015

REUTERS

<http://images.financialexpress.com/2015/04/crude-oil-production-Re-gra.jpg>



KCTS Global Connections: What role have natural resources played in the politics and economy of the Middle East?

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/globalconnections/mideast/questions/resource/>

The Middle East has always had a rich abundance of natural resources, although which resources are coveted and valued has changed over time. Today, abundant petroleum fields dominate the area's economy. The Middle East is similarly disproportionately rich in natural gas (32 percent of the world's known natural gas reserves are in the region) and phosphate (Morocco alone has more than half of the world's reserves).



Persia Land of Black Gold (2012)

<http://www.geoexpro.com/articles/2012/04/persia-land-of-black-gold>

This article provides an overview of Iran's oil and reserves. The article discusses new discoveries of oil in the country as well as future explorations.

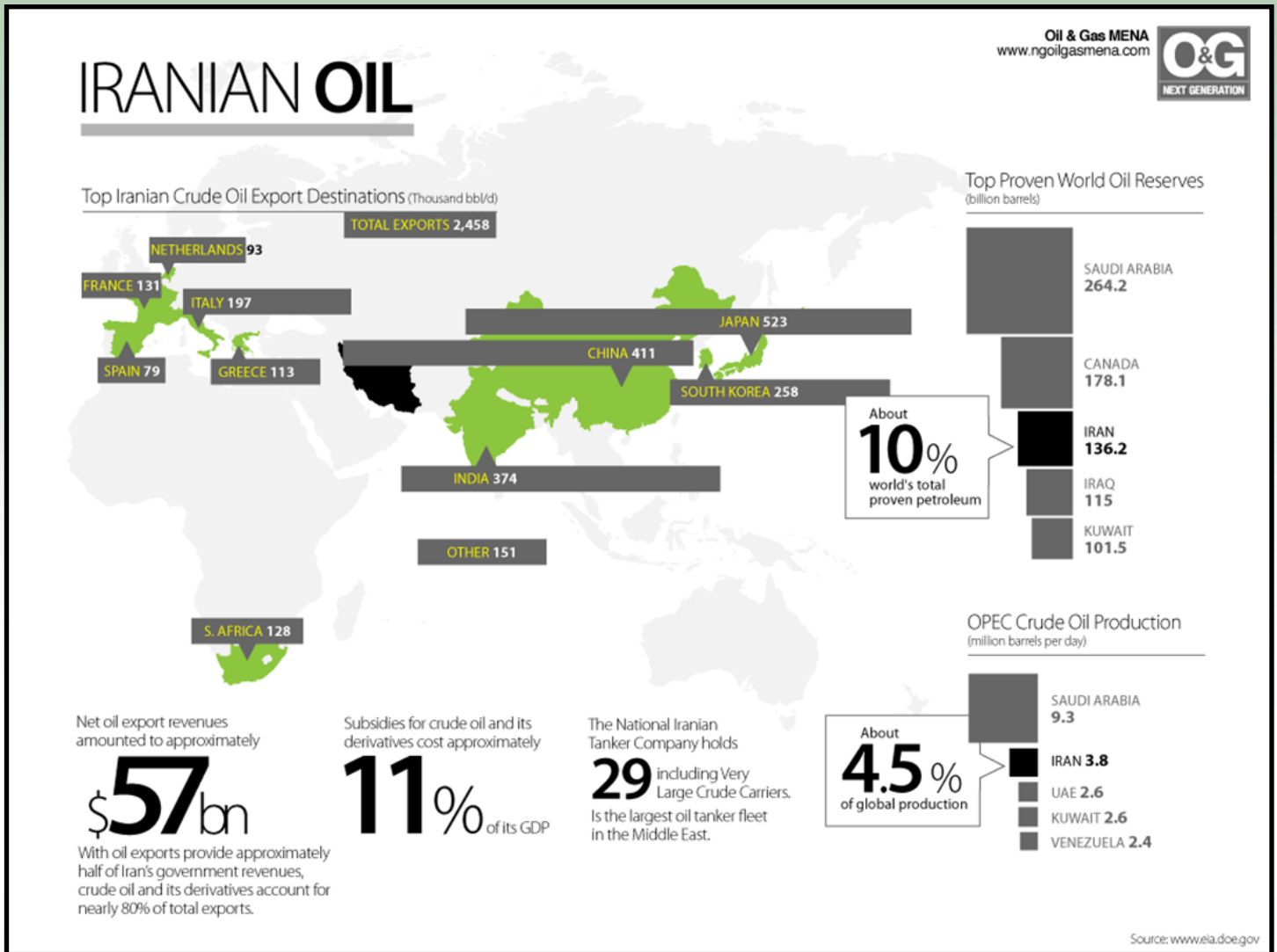


OPEC: Iran

http://www.opec.org/opec_web/en/about_us/163.htm

Apart from petroleum, the country's other natural resources include natural gas, coal, chromium, copper, iron ore, lead, manganese, zinc and sulphur. The national currency is the Rial.

NATURAL RESOURCE: OIL



<http://images.financialexpress.com/2015/04/crude-oil-production-Re-gra.jpg>

Iran Deal Boosts Fears of Global Oil Glut (07/15/2015)

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/money/markets/2015/07/14/iran-oil-deal-wall-street/30152829/>

A historic deal to curb Iran's nuclear ambitions has fanned fresh fears on Wall Street of an oil glut.

Iranian Oil Could Hurt Russia and the U.S. (07/23/2015)

<http://www.bloombergview.com/articles/2015-07-23/iranian-oil-could-hurt-russia-and-the-u-s->

The Iranian nuclear deal threatens the US's and Russia's oil industry. Now Iran will have the opportunity to grow production.



You've Got Oil or Maybe You Don't (Grades 9-12)

<http://education.nationalgeographic.com/archive/xpeditions/lessons/11/g912/gotoil.html>

In this lesson, students will be called upon to role-play in an international oil summit. This lesson will provide students with an opportunity to learn about the production, distribution, and consumption of oil, particularly in Asia. Curriculum connections to geography, economics, history, science.

FOREIGN RELATIONS

The United States and Iran: A Troubled History <https://shafr.org/teaching/united-states-and-iran-troubled-history>



Students will:

- ⇒ Analyze and describe the causes and effects of historical events associated with American-Iranian relations
- ⇒ Compare and contrast primary source materials to evaluate past and present relations between the US and Iran
- ⇒ Make predictions about the nature of future relations between the US and Iran

This lesson can be used as part of a larger unit related to 20th century issues and conflicts in the Middle East. The lesson can also be relevant for sociological and/or psychological examination of propaganda techniques and their impact. Additionally, aspects of the lesson can be connected to a broader analysis of human rights issues in the Middle East and globally.

Timeline of Iran's Foreign Relations—1979 to 2015

<http://iranprimer.usip.org/resource/timeline-irans-foreign-relations>

Five Things Your Class Needs to Know About the Iran Nuclear Deal



<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/2015/07/five-things-your-class-needs-to-know-about-the-iran-nuclear-deal/>

A Brief History of US—Iran Relations (12:05) (06/29/2015)

***We recommend previewing, some graphic images**

<http://abcnews.go.com/International/watch-history-us-iran-relations/story?id=32099410>

The United States and Iran have been at odds ever since a CIA-backed coup reshaped Iranian politics more than half a century ago. Brutal secret police, the infamous hostage crises and the fatal downing of an Iranian civilian airliner are just a few of the seminal events to chill relations in the decades since. But the ice between the two nations may be thawing as an historic nuclear deal was recently reached. Watch the video above to experience the gripping events both sides must overcome to find consensus, in ABC News' "A Brief History of U.S.-Iran Relations," narrated by George Stephanopoulos.

US-Iran Relations: A Brief Guide (10/24/2014)

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-24316661>

From the CIA-orchestrated overthrow of Iran's prime minister in 1953 to a phone call between Presidents Obama and Rouhani and possible direct talks on Iraq's security, BBC News looks at more than 60 years of tricky relations between Iran and the US.



Lesson Plan: The U.S. and Iran: Confronting Policy Alternatives

http://www.choices.edu/resources/twtn_iran.php

Detailed outline of a lesson plan (which could last multiple days) on US policy towards Iran. Includes breakdown of possible policy decisions and their pros/cons. Also included are handouts, videos, online survey and additional resources.



Lesson Plan and Simulation: Iranian Hostage Crisis

<http://cmes.arizona.edu/outreach/lessons>

<http://cmes.arizona.edu/sites/cmes.arizona.edu/files/Lesson%20Plan%20Title.pdf>

In this lesson, after students gain a background understanding of the Iranian Hostage Crisis, students use their research to advise the President on how to deal with the crisis and the future in US/Iranian foreign policy. Lesson based off of a simulated case assignment in which students pretend they are CIA analysts.

U.S.— IRAN TIMELINE SINCE 1979

Sources: <http://iranprimer.usip.org/blog/2013/nov/17/us-iran-timeline-1979>
<http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2015/7/14/timeline-iran-nuclear-agreement.html>

Nov. 4, 1979 – Students belonging to the Students Following the Imam's Line seized the U.S. Embassy in Tehran. The hostage crisis lasted 444 days.

Apr. 1, 1985 – Washington warned Iran it would be held responsible if American hostages were harmed. By mid-summer, Washington had begun behind-the-scene diplomatic efforts that led to the arms-for-hostage swap.

June 19, 1988 – The *USS Vincennes* shot down an Iranian passenger plane, killing 290 passengers and crew on board.

May 6, 1995 – President Clinton issued a total embargo of U.S.-Iran trade and investment over the country's alleged sponsorship of "terrorism," nuclear ambitions, and hostility to the Middle East peace process.

Jan. 29, 2002 – In his State of the Union address, President George W. Bush referred to Iran, Iraq and North Korea as an "axis of evil."

Feb. 10, 2009 – In a speech marking the 30th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution, President Ahmadinejad welcomed talks with the United States based on "mutual respect and in a fair atmosphere."

Dec. 6-7, 2010 – Iran met in Geneva with members of the U.N. Security Council and Germany for negotiations over Iran's nuclear program. The group agreed to meet again in January 2011 in Istanbul.

Sept. 27, 2013 – President Barack Obama called Iranian President Hassan Rouhani in what was the first direct communication between a U.S. and Iranian president since the 1979 revolution.

July 2014 – Talks miss the deadline for a final pact. A four-month extension is agreed upon.

November 2014 – The final pact remains elusive. Talks are extended a further seven months.

July 14, 2015 – World powers and Iran announce a long-term, comprehensive nuclear agreement.

April 7, 1980 – The United States cut off diplomatic relations with Iran.

Nov. 22, 1985 – A shipment of HAWK anti-aircraft missiles was sent to Tehran from Israel as the second phase of an arms-for-hostage swap, but the deal fell far short of what was promised and Iran ordered a refund of payment and a resupply.

Nov. 3, 1989 – The United States returned \$567 million of frozen Iranian assets, in accordance with the Algiers Accord of 1981. American officials denied the deal was linked to Iranian President Rafsanjani's offer to help in the release of hostages in Beirut.

October-December 2001 – After the U.S. intervention in Afghanistan ousted the Taliban, Iran cooperated with the United States, Russia and India in providing support for the Northern Alliance opposition to bring down the Taliban.

May 28, 2007 – Iran and the United States held the first official high-level talks in 27 years. The talks were on Iraq's security and were followed by two more rounds in July and November. The United States urged Tehran to stop supporting Shiite militias in Iraq. The talks ultimately did not lead anywhere and stopped after three meetings.

Jan. 21-22, 2011 – Nuclear negotiations held in Istanbul between P5+1 countries and Iran failed after Tehran refused to discuss transparent limits on its uranium enrichment program.

March 6, 2012 – The P5+1 countries agreed to resume talks with Iran over its nuclear program.

Nov. 24, 2013 – Iran and the P5+1 reached an interim agreement that would significantly constrain Tehran's nuclear program for six months in exchange for modest sanctions relief.

April 2015 – A framework deal is announced, outlining the long-term restrictions on Iran's nuclear program and the removal of many international sanctions. However, much remains unsolved.

U.S.—IRAN RELATIONS INFOGRAPHIC

U.S.—IRAN RELATIONS

What you may not have known about the countries' tumultuous past



DID YOU KNOW?

The U.S. backed Iran's nuclear program from 1957 to 1979.

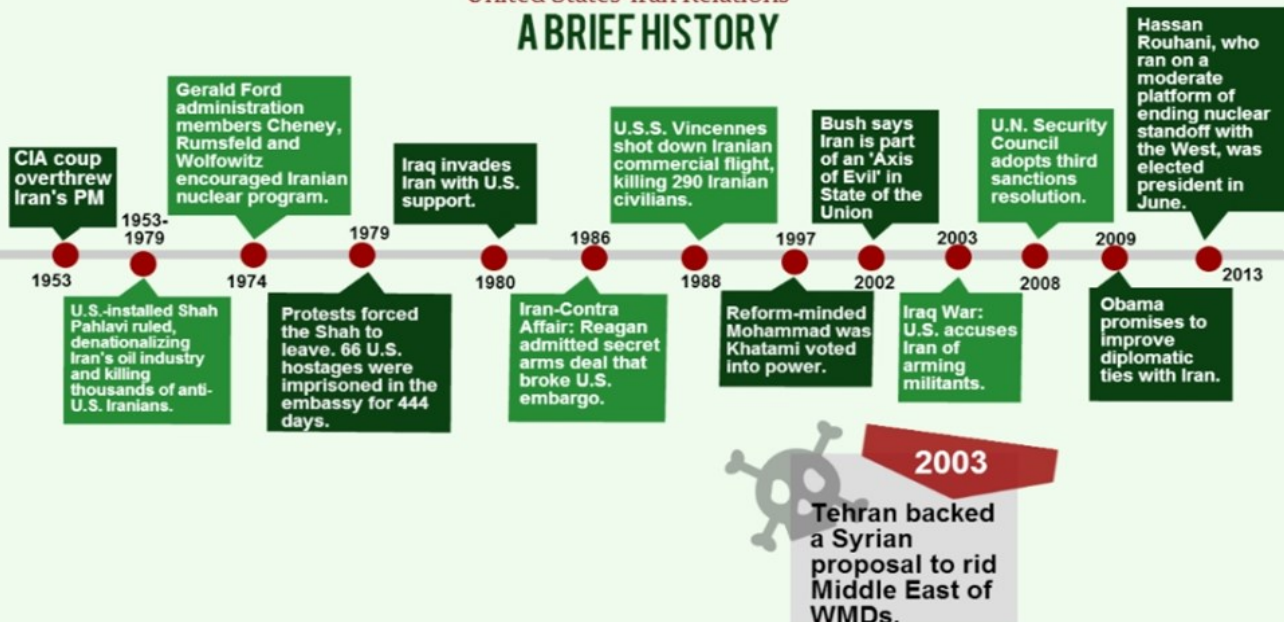
1957 The United States began to provide technical assistance and lease enriched uranium to Iran.

1974–1979 Presidents Ford and Carter openly supported Iranian plans to develop nuclear power reactors, provided the United States could participate in the project.



United States-Iran Relations

A BRIEF HISTORY



THE
STREAM

Sources: thinkbeyond.org, USIP, U.S. Census

<http://america.aljazeera.com/watch/shows/the-stream/the-stream-multimedia/2013/9/19/iran-u-s-relationsabriefhistoryinfographic.html>



Decoding US Foreign Policy: The Iran-Contra Affair

<http://teachinghistory.org/teaching-materials/lesson-plan-reviews/25491>

This lesson plan challenges students to read internal official documents and personal accounts about the Iran-Contra Affair to learn more about it and U.S. foreign policy during the Cold War.

FOREIGN RELATIONS

IRAQ



Iran, Iraq: What's the Difference?

<http://cmes.arizona.edu/sites/cmes.arizona.edu/files/4a.%20Powerpoint%20-%20main%20presentation.pdf>

A 29-page PowerPoint illustrating various similarities and difference between Iran and Iraq, with pictures, maps, and infographics. Images of cultural sites and landscapes in both places are especially interesting.



Iran and Iraq: A History of Tension and Conflict (timeline)

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2011/jul/28/iran-and-iraq-tension-conflict>

Timeline includes history of war, diplomatic reconciliation, politics, and influence.

Rouhani deepens Iran's ties with Iraq (03/04/2014)

<http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2014/03/rouhani-deepens-iran-iraq-ties.html#>

Article discusses Iraq's vital role in Iran's economy and the relationships role in a regional strategy to have good relations with its neighbors. Their relationship is bolstered by security concerns, religious and cultural ties, energy cooperation, trade, investment, and collaboration on regional issues.

Iran Gets Close to Iraq (01/24/2012)

<http://thedi diplomat.com/2012/01/iran-gets-close-to-iraq/>

Article includes a comprehensive look into Iran and Iraq's relationship in modern times, such as past wars, conflicts, leadership, and political disagreements and how the past helped shape their relationship today

The United States and Iran-Iraq War 1980-1988

http://www.iranchamber.com/history/articles/united_states_iran_iraq_war1.php

The war between Iran and Iraq was one of the great human tragedies of recent Middle Eastern history. Perhaps as many as a million people died, many more were wounded, and millions were made refugees. The resources wasted on the war exceeded what the entire Third World spent on public health in a decade.

ISLAMIC STATE

'ISIS will benefit' from the Iran nuclear deal (07/15/2015)

<http://www.businessinsider.com/isis-will-benefit-from-the-iran-nuclear-deal-2015-7>

The US and other world powers recently struck a landmark deal with Iran over its nuclear program, and the agreement might benefit one group that the US hadn't counted on — the Islamic State.

Hassan Hassan, an associate fellow at the think tank Chatham House and coauthor of the recent book "ISIS: Inside The Army of Terror," told The Wall Street Journal that the nuclear deal could make already-disaffected Sunnis feel even more like the US and Iran are conspiring against them.

Iran will do what it takes to Fight ISIS (01/03/2015)

<http://www.cnn.com/2015/01/03/opinion/bazzi-iran-iraq/>

After working closely with Iraq in regards to their policy and Shiite government, Iraq does not want ISIS to threaten the presence they have established. Iran is trying to hold tight to the Shiite-led government from the advancing Sunni ISIS threat.

ISIS is the Best Thing to Happen to Iran-U.S. Relations in Years (05/19/2014)

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/posteverything/wp/2014/06/19/isis-is-the-best-thing-to-happen-to-iran-u-s-relations-in-years/>

The US and Iran share a feeling of discontent towards Iraq's decline, helping unite the two nations as allies against terrorism. Already, the question both here and in Washington is not "if" Tehran and Washington should work together to combat the advance of the Islamist insurgency ISIS, but "how."

FOREIGN RELATIONS

TURKEY

Turkey-Iran Relations

<http://www.mfa.gov.tr/turkey-iran-relations.en.mfa>

Iran is an important neighbor with which Turkey shares 560 km's long border, unchanged for almost 400 years. Efforts are made to further enhance the political dialogue both on bilateral and regional issues, particularly through reciprocal visits and various meetings that have been increased recently.

Iran deal and Turkey: time for a soft-power reset (07/19/2015)

<http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/2015/07/iran-deal-turkey-time-soft-power-reset-150716094947608.html>

As sanctions are lifted, both Turkey and Iran get a chance to radically expand positive aspects of their relationship.



<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2014/01/turkish-pm-iran-amid-improving-relations-2014129165815244183.html>

Turkish President Seeks Closer Economic Ties on State Visit to Iran (04/07/2015)

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/turkish-president-on-state-visit-to-iran-seeking-closer-economic-ties-1428411176>

Turkey's president sought deeper economic ties and common ground on Middle East conflicts during a visit to Iran on Tuesday, even as the longtime rivals compete to influence the outcome of wars in Yemen, Syria and Iraq.



What Unites Turkey's and Iran's Youth (07/02/2013)

<http://www.theglobalist.com/what-unites-turkeys-and-irans-youth/>

For all the attention that has been paid to parallels between the street protests in Turkey and Brazil, the even more intriguing comparison concerns Turkey and Iran. Focusing on young people, we see six dimensions that are critical to understand for the global public.

RUSSIA/EURASIA



Iran and Russia use nuclear deal to boost military ties (08/17/2015)

<http://www.foxnews.com/world/2015/08/17/iran-and-russia-use-nuclear-deal-to-boost-military-ties/>

Monday's meeting between Russian and Iranian foreign ministers is fueling new speculation that both countries are forging closer ties after July's nuclear agreement.

Iran-Russia relations after nuclear deal (07/15/2015)

<http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2015/07/iran-russia-nuclear-sanctions-economy-gas-oil.html#>

There has been a lot of speculation about how the lifting of sanctions and the re-engagement of Western companies in Iran would influence Iran's relations with Russia. The simplistic view is that a resurgent Iran would compete with Russia as a major exporter of oil and gas, hence compelling Moscow to stand in the way of Iran developing its oil and gas potential. However, the reality is more complex and any projection of Tehran-Moscow ties will need to take into account the larger picture, especially the role that Iran can play in Moscow's emerging strategy to focus more intensely on Asia.

Iran: Assessing Geopolitical dynamics and U.S. Policy Options

<http://www.cfr.org/iran/iran-assessing-geopolitical-dynamics-us-policy-options/p10882>

Overview of Iran relations in terms of geography, trade, politics, and nuclear capabilities.

FOREIGN RELATIONS

SAUDI ARABIA

Saudi Arabia and Iran's Uneasy Friendship: The Middle East's New Balance of Power (01/28/2015)

<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/iran/2015-01-28/saudi-arabia-and-irans-uneasy-friendship>

This might be the year that changes everything in the Middle East. The reason: a possible thaw in Saudi Arabian–Iranian relations.



US-Saudi Relations Seen to Remain Strained Over Iran

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/videos/2015-05-15/u-s-saudi-relations-seen-to-remain-strained-over-iran>

Torbjorn Soltvedt, analyst at Verisk Maplecroft, discusses U.S.-Saudi relations forming the backdrop to a summit at Camp David. He talks with Caroline Hyde, Mark Barton and Manus Cranny on Bloomberg Television's "Countdown."

Iran-Saudi Arabia relations: Diplomatic Ties Could Resume Despite Yemen Conflict, Iranian Official Says (08/03/2015)

<http://www.ibtimes.com/iran-saudi-arabia-relations-diplomatic-ties-could-resume-despite-yemen-conflict-2036236>

Iran hopes to resume diplomatic ties with Saudi Arabia despite the conflict in Yemen.

Iran is Winning the War for Dominance in the Middle East (04/14/2015)

<http://foreignpolicy.com/2015/04/14/yemen-iran-saudi-arabia-middle-east/>

The war in Yemen and the breakthrough nuclear agreement between Iran and the United States have sent the already frenzied Middle East analysis machine into meltdown mode. We are witnessing a struggle for regional dominance between two loose and shifting coalitions — one roughly grouped around Saudi Arabia and one around Iran.

YEMEN

Iran's Proxy War in Yemen, a Nightmare for Saudi (04/21/2015)

<http://archive.theoslotimes.com/irans-proxy-war-in-yemen-a-nightmare-for-saudi/>

Impoverished but strategically important, the tussle for power in Yemen has serious implications for the region and the security of the West. Yemen is in the grip of its most severe crisis in years, as competing forces fight for control of the country.



Iran-Yemen Relations

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/topic/iran-yemen-relations/>

This site is continually updated with the Times of Israel's news regarding Iran-Yemen relations.

What Does Iran Really Want in Yemen? (04/13/2015)

<https://www.aei.org/publication/what-does-iran-really-want-in-yemen/>

Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei and other senior leaders loudly condemned Riyadh's ongoing Operation Decisive Storm against the al Houthi rebels last week, and the shape of Iran's counter-narrative is now emerging. Iranian Foreign Minister announced a peace plan calling for a ceasefire and dialogue. But what does Iran really want?

The Iranian Sphere of Influence Expands into Yemen (10/08/2014)

<http://foreignpolicy.com/2014/10/08/the-iranian-sphere-of-influence-expands-into-yemen/>

Above all else, the latest developments in Sanaa represent a huge victory for Iran. But the Houthis' decision to tie their fate to Tehran's regional machinations risks tearing Yemen apart and throwing the country into chaos.

FOREIGN RELATIONS

ISRAEL

Iran's Khamenei: Israel won't exist in 25 years

(10/09/2015)

<http://www.bicom.org.uk/news-article/26815/>

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei yesterday threatened that Israel "will not see" the next 25 years. His comments came just days after it became clear that US Congress will not be able to prevent July's nuclear accord.



https://files.foreignaffairs.com/styles/large-crop-landscape/s3/legacy/images/Waltz_411_0.png?itok=pXXfmNjO



Israel's Cartoon Diplomacy Equates Iran and Islamic State (06/30/2015)

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/07/01/world/middleeast/israels-cartoon-diplomacy-equates-iran-and-islamic-state.html>

Apparently undeterred by the backlash over its last venture into cartoon diplomacy, Israel's government released an animated video on Tuesday that equates the threat from Islamic State militants to that of a nuclear-armed Iran.

Why can't Iran and Israel be friends? (02/20/2014)

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/iran-blog/2014/feb/20/why-cant-iran-and-israel-be-friends>

Clearly, there is a track record of Iranian-Israeli cooperation regardless of the politics and rhetoric that have weighed against it. Although Binyamin Netanyahu has been vociferous in addressing the perceived Iranian threat to Israel, during his first term as prime minister in the late 1990s he evidently sent signals that he was interested in dialogue with Tehran.

Iran and Israel (2010)

<http://iranprimer.usip.org/resource/iran-and-israel>

This article outlines history of Israel-Iran relations including interaction with Iranian proxy group Hezbollah, and the current issue of the nuclear threat. It gives a historical perspective on current Israel-Iran tensions.

LEBANON

The Hezbollah Connection in Syria and Iran (02/15/2013)

<http://www.cfr.org/iran/hezbollah-connection-syria-iran/p30005>

In recent days, U.S. and Mideast officials have reported that Iran and Hezbollah, the Lebanese Shiite group, are making military preparations for the sectarian chaos likely to engulf a post-Assad Syria.

Iran's President Praises Hezbollah (10/14/2010)

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/10/15/world/middleeast/15lebanon.html>

Article reports on the former President of Iran's speech in Lebanon in support of Hezbollah. First part of article analyzes Iran's relationship with Hezbollah, as well as touches on relations with Israel.



Recommended Reading:

Distant Relations: Iran and Lebanon in the last 500 years
(Edited by H.E. Chehabi).

Lebanon Residents Divided Over Iran Nuclear Deal

<http://www.npr.org/2015/07/15/423263269/lebanon-residents-divided-over-iran-nuclear-deal>

Residents across Lebanon share conflicting impressions of the nuclear agreement reached in July. Exploring people's views reveals how closely opinions are tied to the potential the deal has for Lebanon's regional neighbors, Syria and Israel.

Iran and Lebanon

<http://iranprimer.usip.org/resource/iran-and-lebanon>

This resource summarizes relations between Iran and Lebanon, with special focus on the Iran-Hezbollah alliance.



FOREIGN RELATIONS

SYRIA

What Does the Iran Deal Mean for Syria? (07/14/2015)

<http://carnegieendowment.org/syriaincrisis/?fa=60707>

The Iranian arms trade matters a great deal to Syria. While Khamenei's top priority is of course to improve Iran's own defenses, recent years have proved that Iran sees its own security as inextricably tied to the network of regional allies and proxies it has cultivated in Syria, Iraq, and Lebanon over the past decades.

Obama: Iran must play a role in ending Syria's civil war (07/15/2015)

<http://www.businessinsider.com/obama-iran-syria-2015-7>

President Barack Obama asserted that Iran should play a role in any political solution to Syria's ongoing civil war, signaling a significant shift in US policy with respect to Syria.

Iran-Syria ties backbone of Mideast relations: Velayati (08/18/2015)

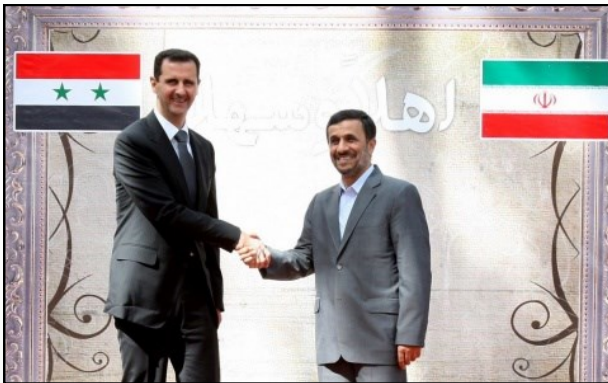
<http://www.iran-daily.com/News/124812.html>

A senior Iranian official says the Islamic Republic's ties with Syria constitute the cornerstone of Tehran's relations with other states in the Middle East.

Who are Syria's Friends and Why are They Supporting Assad? (08/28/2013)

<http://www.npr.org/sections/parallels/2013/08/28/21638513/who-are-syrias-friends-and-why-are-they-supporting-assad>

Iran has few allies in the Arab world and its most important one is Syria. Their relationship dates back to the years after the 1979 Islamic revolution in Iran.



http://www.novinite.com/media/images/2012-09/photo_verybig_142874.jpg

Why Iran is trying to save the Syrian regime (04/24/2013)

<http://www.usnews.com/opinion/blogs/world-report/2013/04/24/iran-syria-civil-war>

- What opinion is the author expressing in this article?
- Who is the audience?
- What evidence does the author use to support his argument?
- Do you agree or disagree? Why?

Lesson Plan: Position Paper



The Iranian and Syrian government have been longstanding allies and have pledged their allegiance continuously since the start of the Syrian Civil War.

- "The Iranian nation and government will remain at the side of the Syrian nation and government until the end of the road...Tehran...will continue to provide help and support on its own terms to the government and nation of Syria." —Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, June 2, 2015
- "The axis of resistance has been formed in the region and no one can break it...we will witness growing victories, and of course, these victories [would not be] possible without the Islamic Republic of Iran's support." —Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, May 19, 2015

And yet, in spite of such professed commitments, the feasibility of this alliance being maintained in the future has been debated. Ask students to research how and why Iran's support for the Assad regime might not last, and what Iran has to gain (or lose) from ending relations.

IRAN NUCLEAR AGREEMENT



Podcast: Iran's Midlife Crisis (09/08/2015)

<http://asiasociety.org/blog/asia/podcast-irans-political-midlife-crisis?>

July's nuclear deal between the United States and Iran was more than just a breakthrough in international diplomacy — it also signaled a shift in Iranian domestic politics. In this Asia Society Podcast, a group of experts including Frank G. Wisner, Robin Wright, and Karim Sadjadpour explore the political climate of Iran and how it will influence the country's future.

OPINION: The High Price of Rejecting the Iran Deal (08/13/2015)

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/08/14/opinion/the-high-price-of-rejecting-the-iran-deal.html>

The major importers of Iranian oil — China, India, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and Turkey — together account for nearly one fifth of the US's goods exports and own 47 percent of foreign-held American treasuries. These countries will not agree to indefinite economic sacrifices in the name of an illusory better deal. We should think very seriously before threatening to cripple the largest banks and companies in these countries.

The Iran Deal and Its Consequences (04/07/2015)

<http://www.henryakissinger.com/articles/wsjo40715.html>

Henry Kissinger's take on the recent Iranian nuclear negotiations. Reflection on the results of negotiations and his general impressions of Iran, including US/Iranian relationship and the regional order.



Timeline on Iran's Nuclear Program (04/02/2015)

http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2014/11/20/world/middleeast/iran-nuclear-timeline.html#/#time243_7170

Timeline includes detailed video and written description of nuclear talks and politics with Iran since the 1950s. Highlights include the United States' participation in providing enriched uranium to the country until 1979.



Is a Nuclear Iran a Threat or a Distraction? (03/24/2015)

<http://foreignpolicy.com/2015/03/24/is-a-nuclear-iran-a-threat-or-a-distraction/>

Discusses overall implications of nuclear weapon possession and threat of triggering an arms race in addition to what Iranian possession of a nuclear weapon capabilities might entail.

The Iran Deal in 200 Words

<http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2015/07/15/world/middleeast/iran-deal-qa.html>



Interactive graphics paired with summary of the nuclear negotiations with Iran

<http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2015/03/31/world/middleeast/simple-guide-nuclear-talks-iran-us.html>



<http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/iran-nuclear-deal-announcement-expected/story?id=29952510>



THE NUCLEAR ISSUE: LESSON PLANS

Good Atom or Bad Atoms? Iran and the Nuclear Issue

<http://www.choices.edu/resources/twtn/twtn-iran-nuclear-issues.php>

In this lesson, students will gather information from videos of leading experts on nuclear weapons and US-Iran relations, Analyze the issues that frame the current debate on US policy towards Iran, work cooperatively with groups to integrate evidence from various sources with the arguments and beliefs of the options to create a persuasive, coherent presentation, and explore, debate, and evaluate multiple perspectives on US policy towards Iran.

US, Iran Reach Historic Nuclear Framework Agreement

<http://www.curriculet.com/blog/current-events-lesson-plan-elementary-middle-high-school-students/>

Nuclear weapons have historically been the symbol of one country's ability to destroy another. From World War II to the Cold War, this weapon has caused immense fear for governments and citizens. In this lesson, your students will learn about this history of the nuclear bomb and why the United Nations is so adamant that Iran does not create one of their own.

NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY

Deal's impact on Iran's nuclear infrastructure

A tentative diplomatic agreement would hamper Iran's ability to produce nuclear weapons by changing the function of key facilities and demanding greater transparency. A look at Iran's known assets:



SOURCES: maps4news/HERE; AP reports

AP

<http://www.wideasleepinamerica.com/2015/04/ap-iran-iaea-inspections.html>

Everything you want to know about Nuclear Power

<http://nuclearinfo.net/Nuclearpower/WebHomeNuclearWeaponsProliferation>

Learn about the fissile material used in nuclear reactions (Uranium-233, Uranium-235, and Plutonium-239), and how they work to produce nuclear weapons

Nuclear Energy Institute

<http://www.nei.org/>

Nuclear Energy—National Geographic

<http://education.nationalgeographic.com/encyclopedia/nuclear-energy/>

Nuclear energy can be used to create electricity, but it must first be released from the atom. In nuclear fission, atoms are split to release the energy.

World Nuclear Association

<http://www.world-nuclear.org/info/Current-and-Future-Generation/Nuclear-Power-in-the-World-Today/>

In the 1950s attention turned to the peaceful purposes of nuclear fission, notably for power generation. Today, the world produces as much electricity from nuclear energy as it did from all sources combined in the early years of nuclear power.



Teach Nuclear

<http://teachnuclear.ca/>

On the right homepage of this site, teachers are able to find school and student-specific resources from within Teach Nuclear's lesson database.

The tab 'All Things Nuclear' also includes links to resources for how nuclear reactors work, other uses for nuclear energy, and present and future energy sources.

DEBATING HUMAN RIGHTS

Though the United Nations adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights after the end of the Second World War in 1948, any understanding of 'universality' has the potential to be problematic. Iran's history is complex; its cultural, religious, social, and political relations, unsurprisingly, inspire different understandings of what it means to be 'human' and what rights the world's humans deserve. In 2006 and again in 2012, Iran's former President, Dr. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, addressed the United Nations General Assembly, and outlined some of his own understandings of human rights.

Dr. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad addresses the U.N. General assembly on 19 September, 2006:

<http://www.un.org/webcast/ga/61/pdfs/iran-e.pdf>

"It is essential that spirituality and ethics find their rightful place in international relations. Without ethics and spirituality, attained in light of the teachings of Divine prophets, justice, freedom and human rights cannot be guaranteed." (7)

Dr. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad addresses the U.N. General assembly on 26 September, 2012:

http://gadebate.un.org/sites/default/files/gastatements/67/IR_en.pdf

"Human beings do not deserve to be under continued sufferings of the present situation. God of wisdom and compassion who loves all human beings has not ordained such a destiny for mankind. He has ordered human, as the Supreme Creature, to make the best and most beautiful life on Earth along with justice, love, and dignity" (5).

Ways to Reflect



Discuss what Ahmadinejad meant when he said that, "Nations are not equal in exercising their rights recognized by international law. Enjoying these rights is dependent on the whim of certain major powers" 2006: 5).

*Think about this statement in terms of the debates surrounding the Iran Nuclear Deal, the role that the P5+1 played in negotiations, and the effect of economic sanctions on Iranian civilians

How does Ahmadinejad's religious orientation influence his understanding of justice and humanity?

*Review especially the final 4 paragraphs of the 2006 speech, and pages 6 and 7 of his 2012 speech. Consider the implications of stressing a monotheistic worldview as a framework for universal rights.



More Ways to Engage

Read Articles 1-30 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights:
<http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/>

Compare and contrast the ideals and freedoms outlined in the UDHR to those outlined by Ahmadinejad in pages 7 and 8 of his 2006 speech. What types of rights are stressed by Ahmadinejad that are not stressed in the UDHR, and vice versa?

CULTURE



An Iranian Journey (THUMB) : Slideshow of 77 pictures around Iran

<http://www.panos.co.uk/stories/2-13-1629-2123/Hossein-Fatemi/An-Iranian-Journey/>



Music and Race Politics in the Iranian Persian Gulf: Shanbehzadeh and “Bandari” Music

<http://ajamc.com/2013/02/08/music-and-race-politics-in-the-persian-gulf-shanbehzadeh-and-bandari-music/>

Persian art music is a major part of the Iranian musical tradition, but, often times, it seems to be the only musical tradition in the country worthy of mention. In the few Iranian-fusion projects that gain some space in the American musical sphere, mainstream Persian projects like the Rumi Symphony are most likely to gain outside attention.



A View Inside Iran (01/06/2012)

<http://www.theatlantic.com/photo/2012/01/a-view-inside-iran/100219/>

At a time when military and political images seem to dominate the news about Iran, I thought it would be interesting to take a recent look inside the country, to see its people through the lenses of agency photographers. Keep in mind that foreign media are still subject to Iranian restrictions on reporting.

‘Slices of Life in Iran’: A slideshow highlighting everyday life in Iran

<http://www.nbcnews.com/slideshow/news/slices-of-life-in-iran-46078132/>



Education in Iran

<http://wenr.wes.org/2013/04/wenr-april-2013-an-overview-of-education-in-iran/>

An introduction to the system of education in Iran, including statistics about students and schools, and facts about compulsory education, examinations, grading, subject taught, and post-secondary degree options. Also includes information on Iranians studying abroad in the US and elsewhere

Ask students to review the curriculum and course requirements for Upper Secondary and Pre-University Iranian high school students and to compare course subjects with those offered in your own school.



Culture of Iran

<http://www.cultureofiran.com/>

Includes information on Persian Cuisine, Religion, National Celebrations, Rituals and Ceremonies, Ideals for Health and Beauty Codes of Behavior, and Gender Relations.

Art & Culture of Iran – Iran Chamber Society

http://www.iranchamber.com/index/art_culture.php

Resources on Recipes and Cuisine, Language and Literature, Cinema and Theater, People and Tribes, Religions and Faiths, Visual Arts, Culture and Ceremonies



Lesson Plan: Educational and Cultural Perspectives on Iran and Iranians in the U.S.

http://www.middleeastpdx.org/resources/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/Educational-and-Cultural-Perspectives-on-Iran_Lesson-Plan.pdf

At the end of this workshop, students will be able to:

- ⇒ Investigate how stereotypes, generalizations, and core values impact culture learning and communication
- ⇒ Develop a framework for understanding cultural identity development
- ⇒ Develop strategies for recognizing and supporting multicultural Persian-American students in your classrooms.

WOMEN IN IRAN

One Woman Stands Against the Iranian Government (06/16/2015)

<http://foreignpolicy.com/2015/06/16/one-womans-stand-against-the-state-in-tehran-iran-nasrin-sotoudeh/>

Every weekday for the past seven months, from 9:30 to 12:00 p.m., Sotoudeh, a former political prisoner, has been picketing the headquarters of the Bar Association in protest of its decision to ban her from practicing as a lawyer for three years. On this particular morning, she brought along several signs proclaiming, in English and Persian, the principles for which she fights: the right to work and the right to dissent.

Iran President Rouhani urges equal rights for women (04/20/2014)

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-27099151>

In a speech marking Women's Day, Mr. Rouhani criticized "those who consider women's presence society as a threat" and said Iran still had "a long way to go" to ensure gender equality.

Who Wears a Veil?

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/globalconnections/mideast/educators/women/lesson1.html>

Students will define stereotypes and learn how common misperceptions foster visual stereotypes about Muslim women. Students will identify famous women and learn about the significance of the veil in different cultures.



Iranian Women Make a Push for Greater Opportunities (NPR) (03/05/2014)

<http://www.npr.org/sections/parallels/2014/03/05/285785498/iranian-women-make-a-push-for-greater-opportunities>

After the decisive vote for Rouhani, a surge of hope in Iran has attracted activists back to the political arena. Iranian women, in particular, are seizing the opportunity.

Iranian University Bans on Women Causes Consternation (09/22/2012)

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-19665615>

Women in Iran now outnumber men in Universities; despite this in 2012 restrictions were introduced to women to their access of field of study. Most restrictions were centered in STEM fields where women were banned from almost 80 different degree courses.

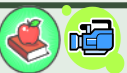
Hijab: A woman's rite of passage in Iran (12/19/2013)

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/iran-blog/2013/dec/19/iran-hijab-islamic-veil>

Despite the official hard line, the scale of covering up in Iran varies by region and neighborhood, and many women agree that in terms of their rights, hijab is low on the list of their immediate worries. Nevertheless, it remains a universal topic of public discourse among the secularizing middle class that helped elect the moderate President Hassan Rouhani into office this summer.

Timeline of Iran's Women's Movement

<http://iml.jou.ufl.edu/projects/fallo6/sanam/timeline.html>



Women in Iran Lesson Plan

http://www.choices.edu/resources/activities/ir/lesson_womeniniran.php

In this lesson, students will:

- ◇ Explore their perceptions of women in Iran.
- ◇ Gather information from scholarly videos about women living in Iran.
- ◇ Practice note-taking skills.
- ◇ Consider the possible effects of perceptions on international relations.

Students will watch short clips of videos that explore the questions "Do women and men have the same opportunities in Iran?" "What role do women play in politics in Iran?" "Why do women in Iran wear the hijab or chador?"

IRANIAN YOUTH

United States Institute of Peace (USIP) – The Iran Primer

<http://iranprimer.usip.org/resource/youth>

Young Activist Sentenced to 12.5 Years in Prison for Facebook Posts

<http://www.iranhumanrights.org/2015/06/atena-faraghdani-2/>

A Revolutionary Court in Tehran has sentenced artist and civil rights activist Atena Faraghdani to a total of 12.5 years in prison for drawings and content critical of the government that the young activist posted on her Facebook page.

An 'Iranian Spring': How Iran's Youth Are Seeking Reform In a New Way (02/23/2015)

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/nazila-fathi/iranian-spring-irans-youth_b_6664786.html



Ask students to think about freedom of speech; how people express their political views, individuality, and frustrations, and in what way the media facilitates free expression.



Youth in Iran: Inside and Out (01/16/2014)

<http://lens.blogs.nytimes.com/2014/01/16/youth-in-iran-inside-and-out/>

What the Rich Kids of Tehran Instagram Tell Us About Iranian Youth Culture (06/03/2015)

<http://www.vice.com/read/meet-the-rich-kids-of-tehran>

While public culture in Iran is still sternly regulated by religious decrees, many Iranian youth have found space to express themselves more freely online. For Iran's young urban elites especially, Instagram has been a platform to show off high fashion, fast cars, and a more liberal, modern Iran that they feel a part of.



The double lives of Iranian youth

<http://cnnphotos.blogs.cnn.com/2014/03/11/the-double-lives-of-iranian-youth/>

Much of Iran's youth are living a double life today, caught between Eastern and Western cultural values and interests

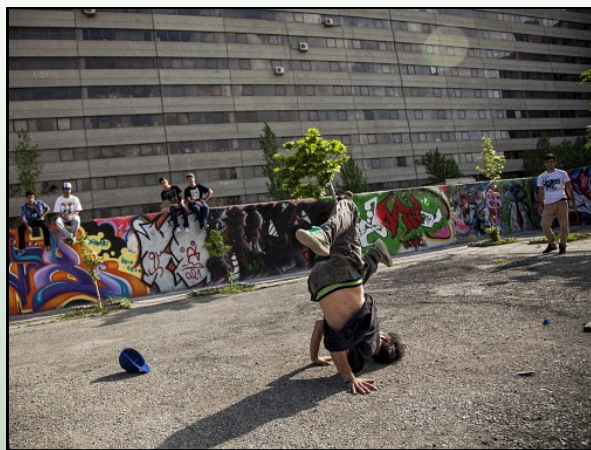


Iranian Films About Children and Young People (08/2010)

<http://www.middleeastpdx.org/resources/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/Iranian-Films-about-Children-and-Youth.pdf>



These films are available on DVD from many mainstream rental stores but also can be bought at reasonably prices at iranianmoveis.com. All are in Farsi with English subtitles.



<http://www.panos.co.uk/stories/2-13-1629-2123/Hossein-Fatemi/An-Iranian-Journey/#>



http://lollitop.magicgate.eu/media/LollitopMagicgate_004/lollitop_042_daily_life_may_201294785692462745345.jpg

IRANIAN NEWS SOURCES

Iran Daily

<http://www.iran-daily.com/Service/2.html>

Iran News Daily

<http://www.irannewsdaily.com/?lng=en>

Iran Republic News Agency

<http://www.irna.ir/en/>

This is the official news agency of the Islamic Republic of Iran. It is government-funded and controlled under the Iranian Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance.

Tehran Times

<http://www.tehrantimes.com/>

After the victory of the Islamic Revolution of Iran in 1979, there was a need for an international media outlet to export the ideas of the revolution. Ayatollah Seyyed Mohammad Beheshti realized the need and the English-language Tehran Times was born concurrently with the revolution. The daily's general policy was based on Ayatollah Beheshti's statement: "The Tehran Times is not the newspaper of the government; it must be a loud voice of the Islamic Revolution and the loudspeaker of the oppressed people of the world."

Press TV

<http://www.presstv.com/>

Press TV takes revolutionary steps as the first Iranian international news network, broadcasting in English on a round-the-clock basis. Our global Tehran-based headquarters is staffed with outstanding Iranian and foreign media professionals. Press TV is extensively networked with bureaus located in the world's most strategic cities.

Payvand.com

<http://www.payvand.com/news/index.html>

Payvand.com was established in Silicon Valley (San Francisco Bay Area) in late 1995 as one of the first web sites dedicated to Iranian issues. Payvand in Persian means joining together. Our mission is to create a site that brings the Iranians and those interested in Iran together.

Iranian Students' News Agency

<http://www.isna.ir/en>

Iranian Students News Agency was established in December 1999 in order to report on news from Iranian universities. It now covers a variety of national and international topics. Editors and correspondents are themselves students in a variety of subjects, many of them are volunteers (nearly 1000). ISNA is considered by Western media to be one of the most independent and moderate media organizations in Iran, and is often quoted. "While taking a reformist view of events, ISNA has managed to remain politically independent. It has, however, maintained its loyalty to the former president and carries a section devoted to "Khatami's perspectives".



Have students read a selection of pieces from the above news sources and compare the sources' voice. Did any sources present any biases or political leanings?

READING LIST

Persepolis (Marjane Satrapi)



Lesson Plan on *Persepolis*:



http://www.getgraphic.org/GG_Kits/Persepolis/Persepolis%20Lesson%20Plans.pdf

Three lesson plans created in order to engage deeply with the book, including questions for students to answer as they read, and final essay questions for critical reflection.

The Last Great Revolution: Turmoil and Transformation in Iran (Robin Wright)

The Iran Primer: Power, Politics and U.S Policy (Robin Wright)

The Ayatollah Begs to Differ: The Paradox of Modern Iran (Hooman Majd)

Lipstick Jihad: A Memoir of Growing up Iranian in America and American in Iran (Azadeh Moaveni)

Persian Girls: A Memoir (Nahid Rachlin)

Funny in Farsi: A Memoir of Growing Up Iranian in America (Firoozeh Dumas)

My Sister, Guard Your Veil; My Brother, Guard Your Eyes: Uncensored Iranian Voices (Lila Azam Zanganeh)

Iran Awakening: A Memoir of Revolution and Hope (Shirin Ebadi and Azadeh Moaveni)

The Soul of Iran: A Nation's Journey to Freedom (Afshin Molavi)

Women and Politics in Iran: Veiling, Unveiling, and Reveiling (Hamideh Sedghi)

Let Me Tell You Where I've Been: New Writing by Women of the Iranian Diaspora (Persis M. Karim, editor)

Women without Men: A Novel of Modern Iran (Shahmush Parsipur and Persis Karim)

The Lonely War: One Woman's Account of the Struggle for Modern Iran (Nazila Fathi)

Strange Times, My Dear: The PEN Anthology of Contemporary Iranian Literature (Nahid Mozaffari, Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak)

On Two Feet and Wings (Abbas Kazerooni)

The Septembers of Shiraz (Dalia Sofer)

Tehran Blues: Youth Culture in Iran (Kaveh Basmenji)

Reading Lolita in Tehran (Azar Nafisi)

Zahra's Paradise (Top Ten Graphic Novels for Teens) (Amir & Khalil)

Iran and the United States: An Insider's View on the Failed Past and the Road to Peace (Seyed Hossein Mousavian)

Persian Poet Hafez

<http://www.poetryfoundation.org/bio/hafez#poet>

Persian lyric poet Hafiz (born Khwāja Šamsu d-Dīn Muḥammad Hāfez-e Šīrāzī) grew up in Shiraz. Hafiz became a poet at the court of Abu Ishak and also taught at a religious college. He is one of the most celebrated of the Persian poets, and his influence can be felt to this day. As the author of numerous ghazals expressing love, spirituality, and protest, he and his work continue to be important to Iranians, and many of his poems are used as proverbs or sayings.

FILM



***Persepolis* (2007) (PG-13)**

Based on Satrapi's graphic novel about her life in pre and post-revolutionary Iran and then in Europe. The film traces Satrapi's growth from child to rebellious, punk-loving teenager in Iran. In the background are the growing tensions of the political climate in Iran in the 70s and 80s, with members of her liberal-leaning family detained and then executed and the background of the disastrous Iran/Iraq War.

***Turtles Can Fly* (2004) (PG-13)**

In a Kurdish refugee camp in 2003, residents await the US invasion of Iraq, hoping for Sadaam's defeat but fearing violent aftermath. Satellite organizes children into work gangs, disarming and selling land mines to arms dealers. Satellite falls for Agrin who comes to the camp with one-armed brother Hengov and baby brother Riga. As the invasion starts, Satellite looks for a satellite dish so the camp can watch the war.

***Children of Heaven* (1997) (PG)**

When young Ali accidentally loses the only pair of shoes his little sister Zahra own, the siblings attempt to hide the bad news from their poverty-stricken father and ill mother. They devise a scheme to share Ali's own pair of worn sneakers until they can find a new pair of shoes for Zahra. This documentary-like film was shot on location in some of Tehran's poorest areas.

Supplementary Lesson Plan for *Children of Heaven*: An Interdisciplinary Guide for Teachers: <http://journeysinfilm.org/download/children-of-heaven/>



Argo* (2012) (R) - *We suggest showing clips from the film, but not the entire movie due to language

On November 4, 1979, militants storm the US embassy in Tehran, Iran, taking 66 American hostages. Amid the chaos, six Americans manage to slip away and find refuge with the Canadian ambassador. Knowing that it's just a matter of time before the refugees are found and likely executed, the US government calls on extractor Tony Mendez to rescue them. Mendez's plan is to pose as a Hollywood producer scouting locations in Iran and train the refugees to act as his "film" crew. *Lesson Plan on *Argo*: <http://www.teachwithmovies.org/guides/argo.html>



***Rick Steves' Iran: Yesterday and Today* (55:45)**

<https://www.ricksteves.com/tv-programmers/specials/iran>

Join Rick as he explores the most surprising and fascinating land he's ever visited: Iran. In a one-hour, ground-breaking travel special on public television, you'll discover the splendid monuments of Iran's rich and glorious past, learn more about the 20th-century story of this perplexing nation, and experience Iranian life today in its historic capital and in a countryside village. Most important, you'll meet the people of this nation whose government so exasperates our own.



TEACHING WITH FILM

<http://journeysinfilm.org/for-educators/teaching-with-film/>

In today's age of mobile devices, Internet and video games, youth are constantly stimulated visually while they are out of school. For these visual learners, film can often convey a message better than printed or spoken words. Films, television and other media platforms can provide an immediate and immersive window to a better understanding of the world and the issues impacting all of us. Films have long been overlooked as an educational tool. We teach our students literature that originated from all around the world, but we tend to forget that what often spurs the imagination is both visual and auditory. Films can liven up the classroom and bring energy to a course. We believe in the power of films to open our minds, inspire us to learn more, provide a bridge to better understanding major issues of 21st century concern, and compel us to make a difference. When properly used, film can be a powerful educational tool in developing critical thinking skills and exposure to different perspectives.

Check out Journeys in Film: Educating for Global Understanding here: <http://journeysinfilm.org/>

LOCAL IRANIAN CULTURE

Local Eats

Persepolis Grill

5517 University Way NE, Seattle WA 98105
Serves a variety of meat skewers and café-style vegetarian Mediterranean options

Caspian Bellevue

1806 136th Place NE, Bellevue WA 98005
Persian Cooking and Cultural Shows with Belly Dancing on weekends

Rumi

11729 124th Ave NE, Kirkland WA 98034
Persian cooking with Live Belly dancing show every Saturday at 7:30

Farvahar Persian Cafe

1530 Post Alley, Seattle WA 98101

Mamnoon

1508 Melrose Ave Seattle WA 98122

Padria Mediterranean Café

9708 NE 119th Way, Kirkland WA 98034



Organization of Iranian American Communities

<http://www.oiac.org/home/>

The Organization of Iranian-American communities (OIAC-US) works to promote human rights and democratic freedoms for the people of Iran. This includes advocating for a democratic secular government in Iran, founded on respect for human rights, religious tolerance, and equality among all citizens. Our goal is to organize Iranian-American communities in the United States to promote these values.

Seattle Persian

<http://seattlepersian.com/>

Announces upcoming Iranian cultural events in the Seattle area, including concerts, visiting speakers, and cultural festivals.

Iranian-American Community Alliance

<https://weareoneamerica.org/resources/iranian-american-community-alliance-iaca>

IACA works to foster a vibrant, active, and unified Iranian American community in Seattle by creating opportunities for community service, organizing cultural and educational programs, and providing an avenue for the Iranian and Iranian American community to dialogue and communicate our concerns about civic issues.

University of Washington Persian Circle

<http://students.washington.edu/persian/>

The Persian Circle is a cultural student organization with the mission of promoting unity among the Persian community at the University of Washington and the Seattle area, as well as promoting Persian heritage and culture by organizing various events and social gatherings. Members will have a unique opportunity to meet new people, practice their Persian language skills, learn more about Persian culture, and be an interactive part of a Persian community.

Iranian Festival—Seattle Center



Each August, Seattle Center Festal presents Iranian Festival. Explore and experience the cultural roots and contemporary influences of Iran through live performances, visual arts, hands-on activities, foods, games, and a marketplace. Partake in an Iranian tea house and join in an evening dance party. Rumi poetry, puppet shows, and face painting provide a glimpse into this culturally opulent culture.