

RESOURCE GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS



GLOBAL CLASSROOM
BOOK CLUB | FALL 2021



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How to Use This Guide



Visual Media



Audio / Podcast



Charts and Graphs



Lesson Plans

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Outlining Standards

A Note on Learning Standards Presented in this Guide

Three sets of standards have been linked to each of the learning objectives in this packet. The **Washington State K-12 Social Studies Learning Standards** and the accompanying Grade Level Requirements are the social studies standards for WA State.

The **College, Career, & Civic Life C3 Framework for Social Studies State Standards** are the standards published by the National Council for the Social Studies. Guiding the packet as a whole is the Framework for Global Learning created by the Asia Society and the Council of Chief State School Officers titled *Educating for Global Competence: Preparing Our Youth to Engage the World* (2011).

Cross-objective standards are listed at the beginning of the packet, and content-specific standards can be found after each learning objective.

The standards provided have been selected for relevance, but are not exclusive: many other standards, such as Common Core, may be applicable to the resources and learning objectives identified in this packet. The intention for this packet's organization is to provide educators with an idea of resources available and possible uses for resources. Users should feel free to create their own learning objectives and to select resources according to the specific needs of their classrooms.

The student understands and applies reasoning skills to conduct research, deliberate, and form and evaluate positions through the processes of reading, writing, and communicating.

WASHINGTON STATE K-12 SOCIAL STUDIES LEARNING STANDARDS

There are five EALRs in Social Studies, one for each of the discipline areas: civics, economics, geography, and history, and a fifth for social studies skills.

(1) Social Studies EALR 1: CIVICS

The student understands and applies knowledge of government, law, politics, and the nation's fundamental documents to make decisions about local, national, and international issues and to demonstrate thoughtful, participatory citizenship.

(2) Social Studies EALR 2: ECONOMICS

The student applies understanding of economic concepts and systems to analyze decision-making and the interactions between individuals, households, businesses, governments, and societies.

(3) Social Studies EALR 3: GEOGRAPHY

The student uses a spatial perspective to make reasoned decisions by applying the concepts of location, region, and movement and demonstrating knowledge of how geographic features and human cultures impact environments.

(4) Social Studies EALR 4: HISTORY

The student understands and applies knowledge of historical thinking, chronology, eras, turning points, major ideas, individuals, and themes on local, Washington State, tribal, United States, and world history in order to evaluate how history shapes the present and future.

(5) Social Studies EALR 5: SOCIAL STUDIES SKILLS

The student understands and applies reasoning skills to conduct research, deliberate, and form and evaluate positions through the processes of reading, writing, and communicating.

COLLEGE, CAREER, & CIVIC LIFE C₃ FRAMEWORK FOR SOCIAL STUDIES STATE STANDARDS

The C₃ Framework is organized into the four Dimensions, which support a robust social studies program rooted in inquiry.

The four Dimensions are as follows:

- (1) Developing questions and planning inquiries;
- (2) Applying disciplinary concepts and tools;
- (3) Evaluating sources and using evidence;
- (4) Communicating conclusions and taking informed action

DIMENSION 1: DEVELOPING QUESTIONS AND PLANNING INQUIRES	DIMENSION 2: APPLYING DISCIPLINARY TOOLS AND CONCEPTS	DIMENSION 3: EVALUATING SOURCES AND USING EVIDENCE	DIMENSION 4: COMMUNICATING CONCLU- SIONS AND TAKING INFORMED ACTION
Developing Questions and Planning Inquiries	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Civics• Economics• Geography• History	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gathering and Evaluating Sources• Developing Claims and Using Evidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Communicating and Critiquing Conclusions• Taking Informed Action

Dimension 2 has four disciplinary subsections: **(1) Civics; (2) Economics; (3) Geography; (4) History**. Each disciplinary subsection has three to four additional categories, which provide an organizing mechanism for the foundational content and skills within each discipline.

C₃ Framework Organization

CIVICS	ECONOMICS	GEOGRPAHY	HISTORY
Civic and Political Institutions	Economic Decision Making	Geographic Representations: Special Views of the World	Change, Continuity, and Context
Participation and Deliberation: Applying Civic Virtues and Democratic Principles	Exchange and Markets	Human-Environment Interaction: Place, Religions, and Culture	Perspective
Processes, Rules, and Laws	The National Economy	Human Populations: Spatial Patterns and Movements	Historical Sources and Evidence
	The Global Economy	Global Interconnections: Changing Spatial Patterns	Causation and Argumentation

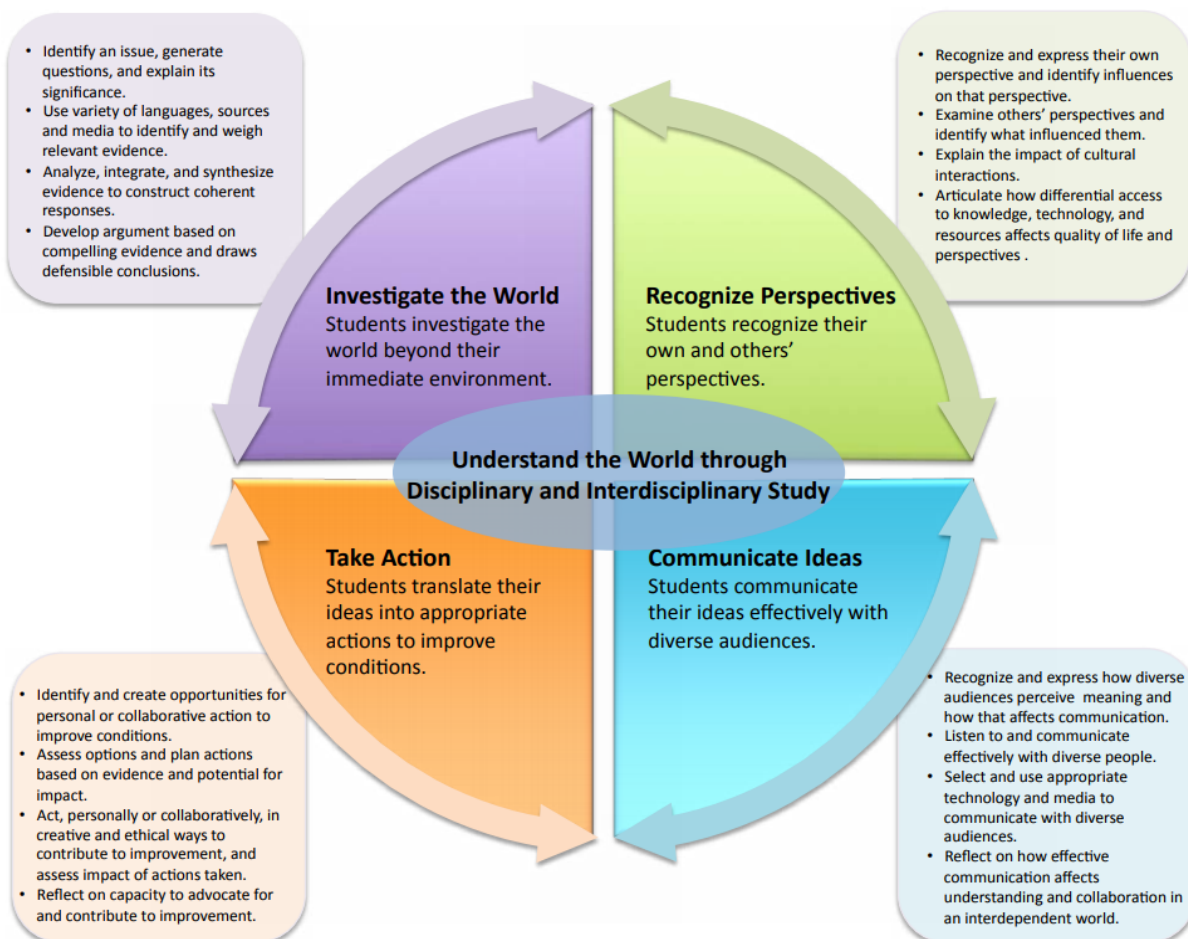
Educating for Global Competence

Frameworks taken from *Educating for Global Competence: Preparing Our Youth to Engage the World* (Asia Society and the Council of Chief State School Officers 2011).

"Global competence is the capacity and disposition to understand and act on issues of global significance" (Chapter 2).

Globally competent students are able to perform the following four competences:

1. **Investigate the world** beyond their immediate environment, framing significant problems and conducting well-crafted and age-appropriate research.
2. **Recognize perspectives** others' and their own, articulating and explaining such perspectives thoughtfully and respectfully.
3. **Communicate ideas** effectively with diverse audiences, bridging geographic, linguistic, ideological, and cultural barriers.
4. **Take action** to improve conditions, viewing themselves as players in the world and



Key Terms

Achaemenid: a member of the ruling house of ancient Persia generally considered historically important from the assumption of power by Cyrus the Great (559 b.c.) to the overthrow of Darius III (330 b.c.)

Arab: a member of an Arabic-speaking people; a member of the Semitic people of the Arabian Peninsula

Kurd: a member of a pastoral and agricultural people who inhabit a plateau region in adjoining parts of Turkey, Iran, Iraq, Syria, Armenia, and Azerbaijan

Middle East: the countries of southwestern Asia and northern Africa —usually considered to include the countries extending from Libya on the west to Afghanistan on the east

Mohammad Reza Pahlavi: 1919–1980 shah of Iran (1941–79)

Persian: one of the ancient Iranians who under Cyrus and his successors founded an empire in southwest Asia; a member of one of the peoples forming the modern Iranian nationality

Rial: the basic monetary unit of Iran, Oman, and Yemen

Sanctions: an economic or military coercive measure adopted usually by several nations in concert for forcing a nation violating international law to desist or yield to adjudication

Shah: a sovereign of Iran

Shi'a Islam: the Muslims of the branch of Islam comprising sects believing in Ali and the Imams as the only rightful successors of Muhammad and in the concealment and messianic return of the last recognized Imam

Stereotype: a standardized mental picture that is held in common by members of a group and that represents an oversimplified opinion, prejudiced attitude, or uncritical judgment

Theocracy: government of a state by immediate divine guidance or by officials who are regarded as divinely guided

UNESCO World Heritage Site: the designation for places on Earth that are of outstanding universal value to humanity and as such, have been inscribed on the World Heritage List to be protected for future generations to appreciate and enjoy.

Learning Objectives

1. Students will be able to identify the geographic features of Iran and analyze how these characteristics shape/ impact local and national decision-making.
2. Students will be able to identify key events (and leaders) in Iran's history and discuss how they have impacted Iran's past and present.
3. Students will be able to define theocracy and explain how it functions as a political system in Iran.
4. Students will be able to identify, analyze, and discuss the social and cultural diversity of Iran.
5. Students will be able to identify, analyze, and discuss current challenges (political, economic, social, environmental, etc) facing Iran. In addition, students will analyze potential policy options for addressing these challenges.
6. Students will be able to discuss political, economic, and social change in Iran, including the empowerment of women and social justice issues.
7. Students will be able to identify, evaluate, and discuss misconceptions that Americans or others may have of Iranian society. In addition, students will discuss why these misconceptions exist and what can be done to address them
8. Students will be able to analyze and discuss Iran's role in the Middle East, including relations with other regional neighbors. In addition, students will identify Iranian national interests and discuss how they shape Iranian decision-making.
9. Students will be able to analyze and discuss U.S - Iranian relations from both historical and contemporary perspectives. In addition, students will identify, evaluate, and discuss effective strategies for improving U.S.- Iranian relations.

Introduction to Session Speaker

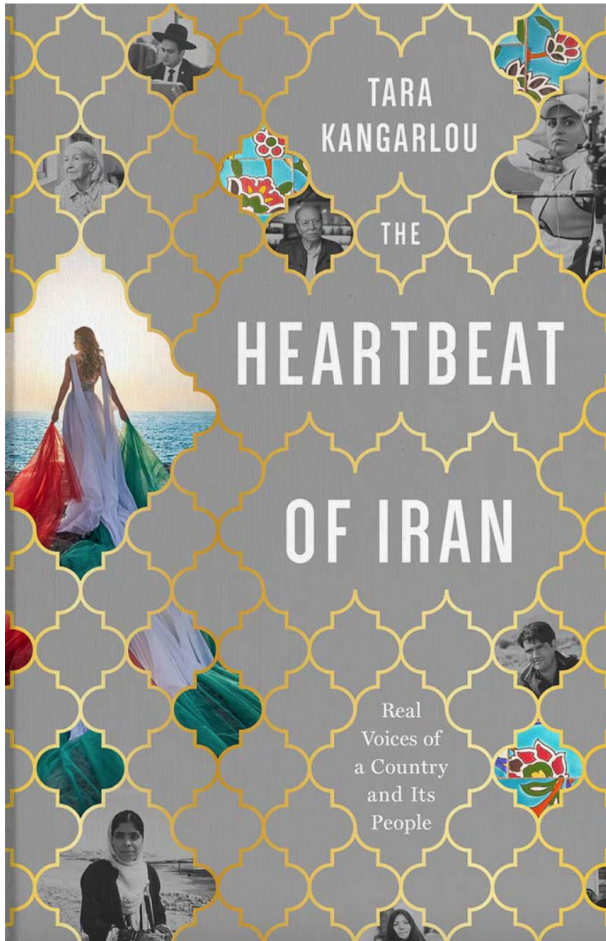


Tara Kangarlou is an award-winning journalist who reports and produces breaking news reports, investigative pieces, and magazine-style print and broadcast stories on both domestic and international issues. Over the years she has reported, written and produced for CNN, CNN International, NBC, Huffington Post, Al Monitor, and Al Jazeera America. She has previously served as a Fellow at the East West Institute and is a frequent on-air contributor on various news outlets worldwide covering international affairs, humanitarian issues, and the Middle East. In her debut book, *The Heartbeat Of Iran*, she captures some of the most nuanced and complex realities of life in today's Iran through intimate and personal stories of everyday Iranians.

In April 2021, the Women's Foreign Policy Group hosted Kangarlou and New York Times reporter Farnaz Fassihi to discuss Kangarlou's *The Heartbeat of Iran*. Her unique perspective of US-Iran relations sheds light on the impact of people-to-people diplomacy and the importance of looking beyond charged political rhetoric. See that conversation [here](#).

The Heartbeat of Iran

"These are frozen moments of life in the schisms of the contemporary Iranian society—stories of love, loss, fear, hope, dreams, and dissolved ambitions and battle royals—true stories about the people who make this country breathe. This is the heartbeat of Iran."



"No, this is not a story about Iran, it is a story about its people—stories told through intimate moments and intricate windows of their lives; stories filled with intimacy and irony; stories filled with juxtaposing narratives that guide you through the nuances of life in the Islamic Republic of Iran. As you read these stories, you'll find an intriguing familiarity, yet so distant—tucked away in an isolated country that's rarely seen through the reality of life in its complex society.

These are real stories of ordinary Iranian people who live thousands of miles away in a country that's often synonymous with rogue behavior on the world stage. These stories are slices of life—of Iranians who want to be heard, be seen, and belong to an international community that often sees them through a blur of a political fog.

Iran is a country of 80 million, with a young population that has been living in an isolated and peak-a-boo thrusting society since the 1979 Islamic Revolution. This is a country where 60 percent of

its population are under the age of 30; a country that is home to the largest population of Jews outside of Israel in the Middle East; a country that has the largest population of Internet users in the region; a country with the most transsexual surgeries in the Middle East; and an Islamic Republic that is an ambiguous question mark for millions of people in the United States and beyond.

As you flip through each story, you'll feel the defiance of a transgender woman whose salvation was in the hands of a prostitute, learn from a young rabbi who is training the future generation of Jewish rabbis in Israel's enemy state, and walk along side a Muslim cleric who spends his money saving animals and defying religious bigotry - it is then that you will realize that each experience can belong to any one of us. Despite national, ethnic, religious and political divides, these are real people whose fears and dreams mirror that of millions of others worldwide."

The Heartbeat of Iran—A Closer Look

[The Secret History of the World's Priciest Spice](#)

Saffron has a long and colorful history, rooted both literally and culturally in Iran. It is known today as the world's most expensive spice, but its intrigue extends beyond its use in cuisine. It is cherished for its various health benefits, and its use can be traced back to Cleopatra. National Geographic provides an analysis of the value of saffron to Iran and the world.

[Saffron – Why Iran's 'Red Gold' Is So Prized](#)



In this 2016 segment, Boston's WBUR interviewed genetics professor Pat Heslop-Harrison about the trade of saffron. Not only is saffron sometimes diluted or tampered with prior to commercial trade, but international sanctions on Iran impact its use around the world.



[Naqqali, Iranian Dramatic Story-telling](#)



Naqqali dramatic performance has long played an important role in Iranian society, from the courts to the villages. The performer - the Naqqal - recounts stories in verse or prose accompanied by gestures and movements, and sometimes instrumental music and painted scrolls. Both entertainers and bearers of Persian literature and culture, Naqqals need to be acquainted with local cultural expressions, languages and dialects, and traditional music.

[Tell Us a Tale: Teaching Students to Be Storytellers](#)



Throughout history, storytellers handed oral tales down from person to person, generation to generation. This lesson borrows from that tradition by helping students take an existing story and make it their own. Students will read and choose a folktale or short story that they want to retell, map the story's sequence of events with a graphic organizer, identify and summarize story elements, write a script that elaborates upon or interprets parts of the story, and build confidence and practice creative expression as they tell their story to the class.

The Heartbeat of Iran—A Closer Look

[A Thousand Years of the Persian Book—Classical Persian Poetry](#)

Created as highly illustrated manuscripts, these masterpieces of Persian poetry demonstrate the important place of literature, poetry, and book-making in the Persian-speaking world. From the tenth century to the sixteenth century Persian classical poetry developed as a literary language by adapting the meter and rhyme scheme of the Arabic poetic tradition.

[Ten Great Persian Poets](#)

Persian literature derives from a long oral tradition of poetic storytelling. These poets created the written literature of their culture by combining their traditions, myths, and religious beliefs with those of the Muslim Arabs who had conquered the region in 651 CE and imposed the new religion of Islam on the people. In time, the two cultures entwined, and the poetry of the Persians would come to express the highest concepts of Islamic belief.



Geography of Iran



The Geopolitics of Iran: Holding the Center of a Mountain Fortress

The 17th largest country in the world and the 16th most populous, Iran is a geographical marvel, particularly regarding its mountainous frontier, its border along the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman, and its desert plateaus that mark the center of the country.

Iran: Country Profile

Iran's geography is not its only significant quality; the country has a vibrant political history, a diverse natural ecosystem, and a rich culture based in Islam. This source lists facts related to each of these subjects, as well as evaluates the importance of Iran's relation to its neighbors and provides maps and images that help build a comprehensive understanding of the state.

Myth vs. Fact: Geography of Iran

Many myths help perpetuate false narratives about Iranian geography, particularly the notion that like other countries of the Middle East, Iran's landscape is an "arid, lifeless desert". However, the myth about Iran as a desert is certainly becoming closer to reality due to climate change and its impact on Iran's rich environment.



Iran's Geographic Challenge

Iran's location at the heart of the Islamic world has made it an important geopolitical actor, though it must find a balance between the benefits and risks of its geographic position.



Ethnic Geography of Iran



Iran's Religious and Ethnic Diversity

Iran is most associated with the Persians — the largest ethnic group and the progenitors of the ancient Persian empires — but it's much more diverse than that. This map shows the larger minorities, which includes Arabs in the south, Kurds in the west, and Azeris in the north (Iran used to control all Azeri territory, but much of now belongs to the Azeri-majority country Azerbaijan). The Baloch, in the southeast, are also a large minority group in Pakistan. There is significant unrest and government oppression in the "Baluchistan" region of both countries.

Iran's Political and Cultural History



[History of Islamic Iran explained in 10 minutes](#)

This ten minute video provides details about the history of Iran beginning in the sixth century BCE and ending in the present day. It compares the influence of each empire; discusses the role of regional, cultural, and ethnic groups; and examines the way that foreign influences impacted Iranian politics, especially in the twentieth century.



[Entire History of the Persian Achaemenid Empire \(550-330 BC\) / Ancient History Documentary](#)

The culture and values of modern Iran are largely a result of its ancient history, with the Persian Achaemenid Empire leaving the greatest influence on the region. This documentary explores the leadership and events of this empire, with a primary focus on the years 550-330 BCE.



[The Significance Of Iran's Cultural, Historic Sites](#)

Iran is home to two dozen UNESCO World Heritage Sites, all representing important cultural events or peoples from the country's past. The rising global tensions in recent years have brought greater significance and renewed value to the sites.

[A Timeline of Iran's History](#)

BBC has created a timeline of Iran's history, spanning from its ancient past during the Achaemenid dynasty to Iran's current parliamentary election situation. Also included in the timeline is the role of sanctions on Iran, student protests during the late 1990s, and the exile of Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi with the rise of Ayatollah Khomeini.



[The Islam Project: Lesson Plans](#)

Charged political rhetoric surrounding Islam and theocracies in the Middle East can make it difficult for students to understand the values of the religion and its significance in sociopolitical affairs. The Islam Project has created dozens of curriculum resources that reduce religious stereotyping and simplify the teaching process.





[The Iranian Revolution— A Timeline of Events](#)

To spotlight a single part of Iran's complex history, Brookings Institute created a timeline that reflects the events of the 1979 Iranian Revolution, in which Iran saw the fall of the Pahlavi dynasty and the rise of the Islamic Republic.

[Revolution in Iran: History Begins Again](#)

Forty years after the 1979 Iranian Revolution, Iran has completely shifted from its previous monarchical government to its current Islamic Republic. The Associated Press is revisiting the stories and the reports of journalists who were on the ground at the time of the revolution, complete with photos and videos.



[C-Span: The Iran Hostage Crisis](#)

On November 4, 1979, Iranian students in Tehran seized the U.S. Embassy in Iran and took 52 Americans hostage. The Iran Hostage Crisis lasted for 444 days and ended minutes after President Jimmy Carter left office in 1981. This lesson looks at the causes of the crisis, the events during those 444 days and the impacts of this event. Students will view archival video and hear from experts and eyewitnesses to learn about this event.



[A Brief History of 20th Century Iran](#)

The Grey Art Gallery at New York University has highlighted various events of Iran during the 19th century, including the rise of the Pahlavi Dynasty and its respective Shahs, as well as the 1979 revolution.

Iranian Tradition and Culture



[Iran: Lifting the Veil on Tehran's Cultural Life](#)

French broadcasting service France24 gives insight into Iranian culture by exploring contemporary music, theater, style, and food in Tehran. It describes the way that Iranians are challenging the stereotypes held by Western communities; although culture and art in Iran was suppressed during the mid twentieth century, recent years have been a tipping point for creative expression.



[Breaking the Stereotypes of Persia and Iran](#)

This PBS commentary essay discusses the opposing stereotypes of Persia and Iran-- the former being an acclaimed source of culture and beauty, the latter being a dangerous place of rebellion and war. Only recently have Westerners begun to deconstruct the negative perception of the modern state, noting that Iran has a rich cultural history and a deep connection to Islam that warrant reconsideration of judgement.

[Best Facts and Analysis on Shi'a Politics](#)

The religious pillars of the Iranian state are based on Shi'a Islam--the second largest religious denomination within Islam. The Belfer Center examines the role of religion on Iran's politics and provides research about contemporary Iran.



[Portland State University: Art of Iran](#)

This art unit is intended to be taught collaboratively with a concurrent social studies unit, so that students are gaining understandings of Iranian history and culture as they explore works made by artists of Iranian descent. Lessons 1-3 will introduce students Iranian visual art, and in lessons 4-5, students will use words and images to succinctly communicate about their own culture and/or values.

[FAST FACT:](#)

Iran is not an Arab country. It is historically part of Persia and was later conquered by the Arabs. Still, Persian culture lives on in modern day Iran; Ethnic Persians make up 60 percent of modern Iran, and modern Persian is the official language.

Iran's Role in the Middle East



[Iran's Networks of Influence in the Middle East \(Introduction\)](#)

The International Institute for Strategic Studies has conducted research on Iran's missile and nuclear programs, attempting to get a better understanding of Iranian strategic capabilities and its significance in potential future conflicts. The study also considers Iran's strategic intent and its regional and global status.

[The Middle East's cold war, explained](#)

Vox discusses the "cold war" over influence in the Middle East, with a specific focus on the political history of Iran and Saudi Arabia. The video describes the split between Sunni and Shia Muslims, the Islamic Revolution of Iran, the Iran-Iraq War, the Arab Spring, and the shifting control in civil wars around the Middle East.

[Teaching the Middle East](#)

Teaching the Middle East: A Resource for Educators presents scholarly perspectives, downloadable imagery, related links from across the Internet, textual resources, as well as selections from the Oriental Institute Museum's own collection of Middle Eastern art and artifacts in a clear and logical online format.

[University of Arizona Center for Middle Eastern Studies: Clone of Lesson Plans](#)

The University of Arizona provides a number of potential lesson plans for teaching students (from multiple grade levels) about various subjects related to Iran and the Middle East. Some examples of lesson plans found at this site include "Day in the Life of an Iranian Child"; "Iranian Hostage Crisis"; "Iran, Iraq - What's the Difference?"; and "Kurds: People without a Country."

[Arab Perspectives on Iran's Role in a Changing Middle East \(2013\)](#)

Professor Shibley Telhami conducted a public opinion poll in the Middle East to gauge the way Arab communities perceive Iran's regional position. The poll found that people are generally intimidated by Iran's "projection of power," though the country's support for the Assad regime in Syria may play a greater role in public opinion than other political issues.

Current Events

[What Is the Iran Nuclear Deal?](#)

The fate of the arms control agreement is in doubt following the United States' withdrawal and Iran's noncompliance, but newly elected leaders in both countries in 2021 have signaled a willingness to mend the deal.



[Lesson Plan: The Iran Nuclear Deal](#)

Understanding the role of the United States in the Iran Nuclear Deal is a complex but important process. The Choices Program at Brown University has a comprehensive lesson plan to teach students about this aspect of the relationship between the US and Iran, complete with videos, handouts, and supplementary resources.



[Qasem Soleimani: US kills top Iranian general in Baghdad air strike](#)

Iran's most powerful military commander, Gen Qasem Soleimani, was killed by a US airstrike in Iraq in January 2020. BBC describes the situation and links to helpful contextual resources to better understand the implications of the assassination.

['Caught in a geopolitical struggle': US-Iran tug of war in Iraq](#)

Al Jazeera describes the situation that President Biden currently faces in Iraq, as ISIL's presence has diminished and Iran attempts to influence Iraq's political rebuilding process.



[Iranian Hard-Liner Ebrahim Raisi Wins Presidential Vote](#)

The New York Times gives a brief introduction of Iran's newly elected president, Ebrahim Raisi. The article also considers questions regarding the validity of the electoral process and evaluates what this election means for Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei and the future of Iran.

[What to know about Iran's president-elect, Ebrahim Raisi](#)

Ebrahim Raisi, known for his allegiance to Iran's clerical power structure, is Iran's new president. The ultraconservative judge's win consolidated the power of Iran's hard-liners. Here's what you need to know about Raisi and Iran's presidential election.

US - Iran Relations



[A Brief History of US-Iran Relations](#)

Iran's relationship with the US is marked by several major events, which are all outlined in this Brief History of US-Iran Relations. The summary includes discussion around Iran's decision to nationalize its oil, Jimmy Carter's support for the Shah during the Iranian Hostage Crisis, increasing pressure to pick a side during the Iran-Iraq War and the Iran Contra Scandal, and the more recent concerns over Iranian nuclear facilities.



[40 in 80: 40 years of U.S.-Iran relations in 80 seconds](#)

It has been 39 years since US President Carter broke diplomatic relations with Iran. This video timeline shows how US policy sought to contain, confront, and at times engage with Iran over the last 40 years.



[Ohio State University: The Iran-U.S. History of Turmoil](#)

This lesson plan examines the tense history between Iran and the United States. Primary source images and articles will examine how the United States got involved in Middle Eastern affairs and explore the setting and historical context for the current hostility. Students will use these sources to decide whether the conflict between the U.S. and Iran was avoidable or unavoidable.



[Coup to Revolution: U.S. Foreign Policy in Iran](#)

PBS has compiled readings and discussion questions for its suggested lesson plan on US foreign policy in Iran. It explores subjects like the role of oil in US foreign policy, the Shah, and the Soviet influence.

[A Guide to the United States' History of Recognition, Diplomatic, and Consular Relations, by Country, since 1776: Iran](#)

The formal political relationship between the United States and Iran is marked by mutual recognition as established states in 1850, the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1883, and the severing of these diplomatic relations in 1980. The State Department gives a brief overview of this series of events.

[U.S.-Iran Conflict and Implications for U.S. Policy](#)

Since May 2019, U.S.-Iran tensions have heightened significantly, and evolved into conflict after U.S. military forces killed Qasem Soleimani in a U.S. airstrike in Baghdad on January 3, 2020. The United States and Iran have appeared to be on the brink of additional hostilities since, as attacks by Iran-backed groups on bases in Iraq inhabited by U.S. forces have continued.

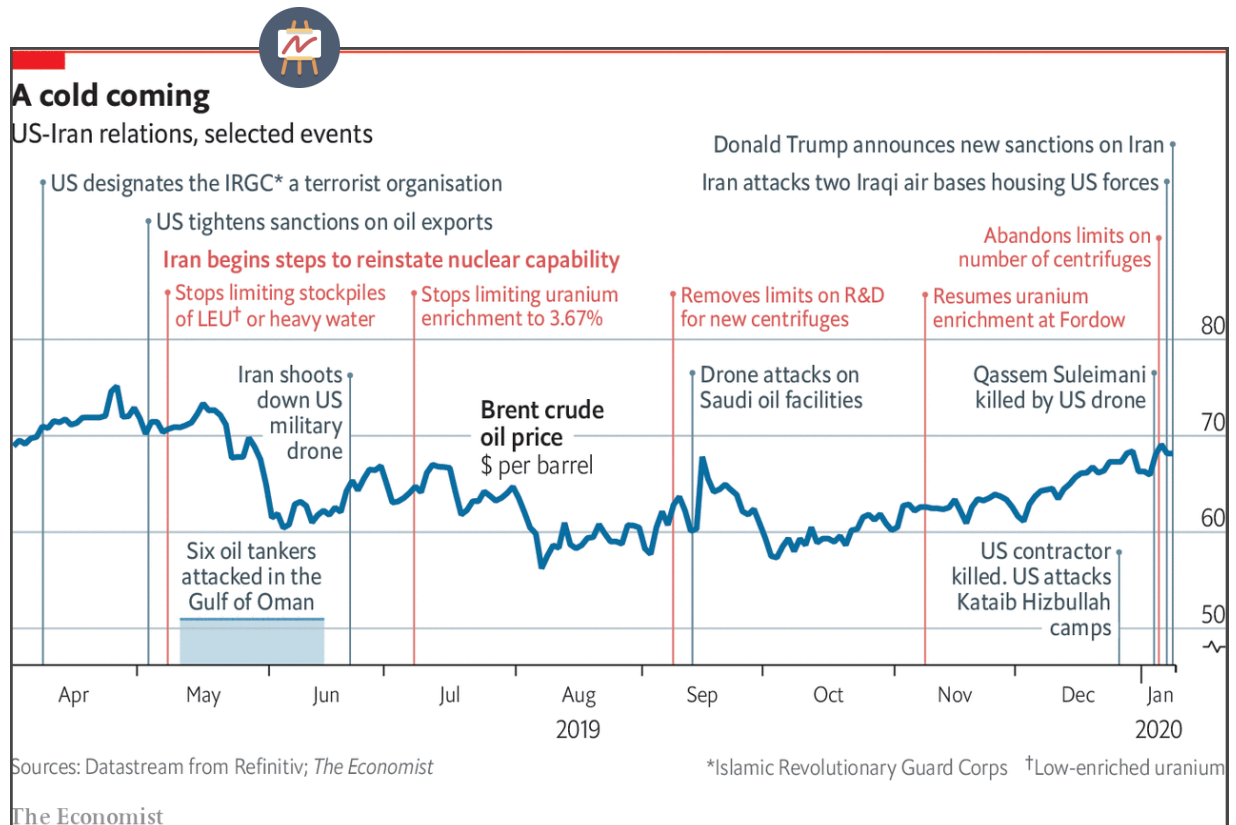
[U.S. Relations With Iran, 1953-2021](#)

The Council on Foreign Relations has created a timeline revealing key moments in US-Iran relations, such as the Iran Hostage Crisis and the JCPOA.



[The United States and Iran: A Troubled History](#)

This lesson plan from the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations has students analyze primary sources related to the long history of US involvement in Iran, then use their findings to make predictions about the future of US-Iran relations.



Economy of Iran

[World Bank - Iran Overview](#)

Iran ranks second in the world for natural gas reserves and fourth for proven crude oil reserves and, while relatively diversified for an oil exporting country, economic activity and government revenues still rely on oil revenues and have, therefore, been volatile. With



the COVID-19 crisis and foreign pressures, economic uncertainty is an even greater concern moving forward.

[How US sanctions are paralyzing the Iranian economy](#)

The US imposed new sanctions against Iran following the 2020 US killing of Iranian commander, adding to the existing sanctions imposed by the Trump administration in 2018. Since 2018, Iran has seen major injurious impacts to its economy: the cost of goods has doubled, oil exports have largely declined, the Iranian rial lost value against the dollar, and Iran's real GDP has plummeted.

[As Iran prepares to vote, its battered economy a major worry](#)

Western nations consider Iran's most critical issue to be its nuclear program, but Iranians feel that the current unlivable economic conditions are the top priority. People have been priced out of the housing market, oil sales cannot be improved without further inflation, and the pandemic has worsened the already increasing unemployment rate.

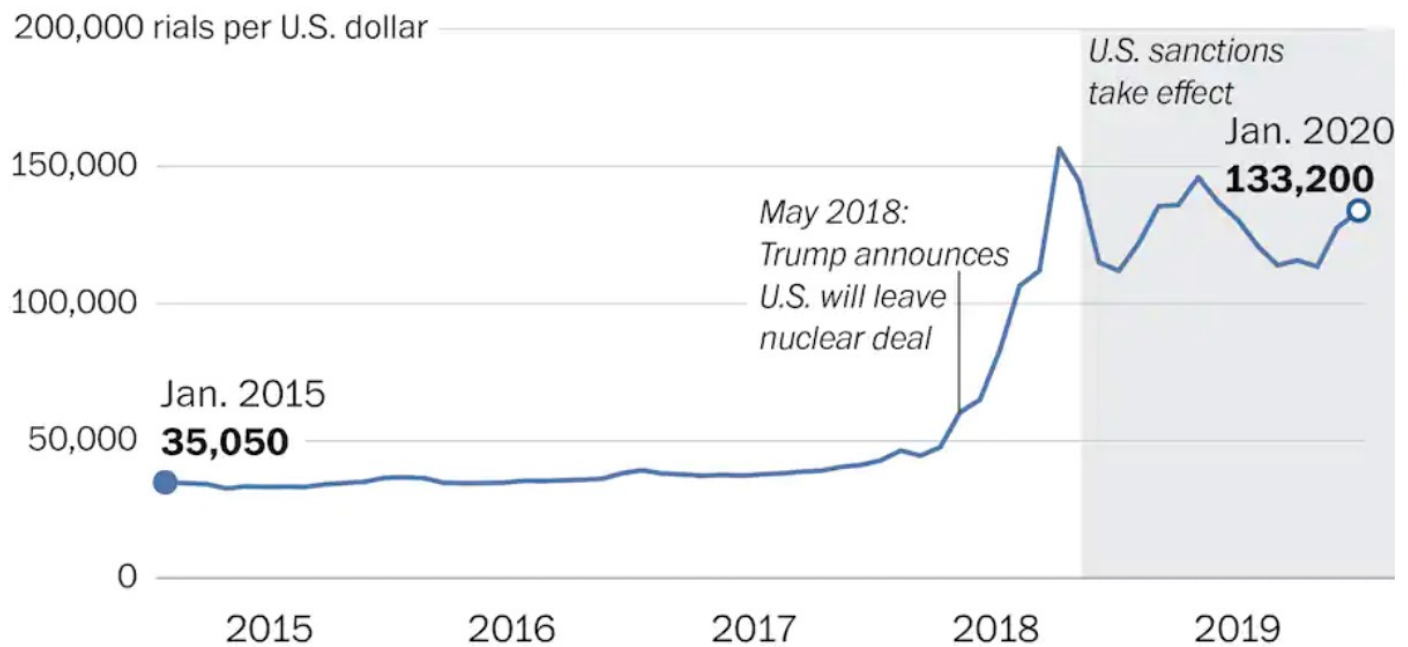


[Iran's economy 40 years after the Islamic Revolution](#)

The Islamic Revolution marked a shift in the economic ideologies of Iranian leaders, including Iran's pro-market rhetoric in the 1990s. Moreover, as a result of the revolution's prioritization of the rural-urban divide, Iran experienced an accelerated expansion of services like electricity and clean water. Post-revolutionary Iran is still dependent on oil exports and it struggles to produce educational opportunities, but it has made several accomplishments in the last four decades.



Iranian rial loses value against the dollar



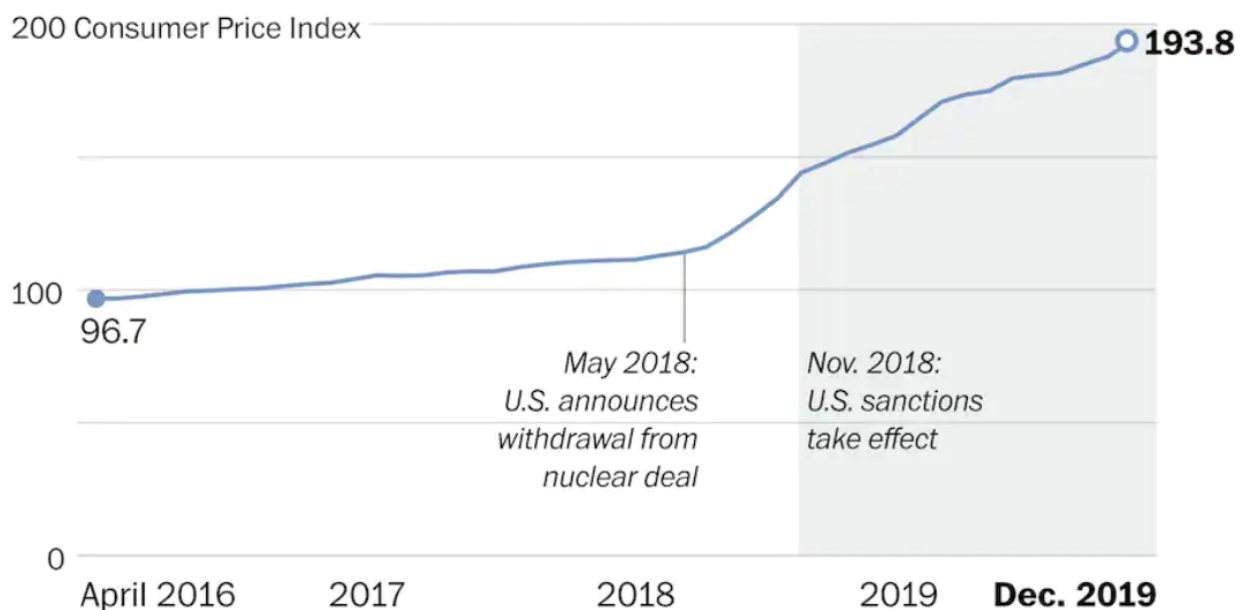
Source: Bonbast.com, U.S. Department of the Treasury

THE WASHINGTON POST



The cost of basic goods in Iran has doubled since 2016

The consumer price index is a measure of the average cost of goods and services purchased by households compared to a certain date. An index of 100 would equal average prices from March 2016 through March 2017.

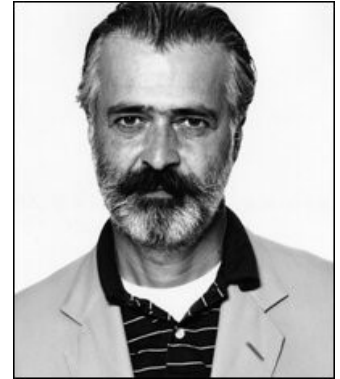


Breaking Stereotypes



[Challenging The Stereotypes Of Modern Iran](#)

NPR's Book Tour spotlights Iranian author Hooman Majd, whose book *The Ayatollah Begs To Differ: The Paradox of Modern Iran* attempts to demystify the history and politics of Iran. The conversation touches on the female experience in Iran, Iran's Supreme Leader, general misconceptions about the country, and much more.

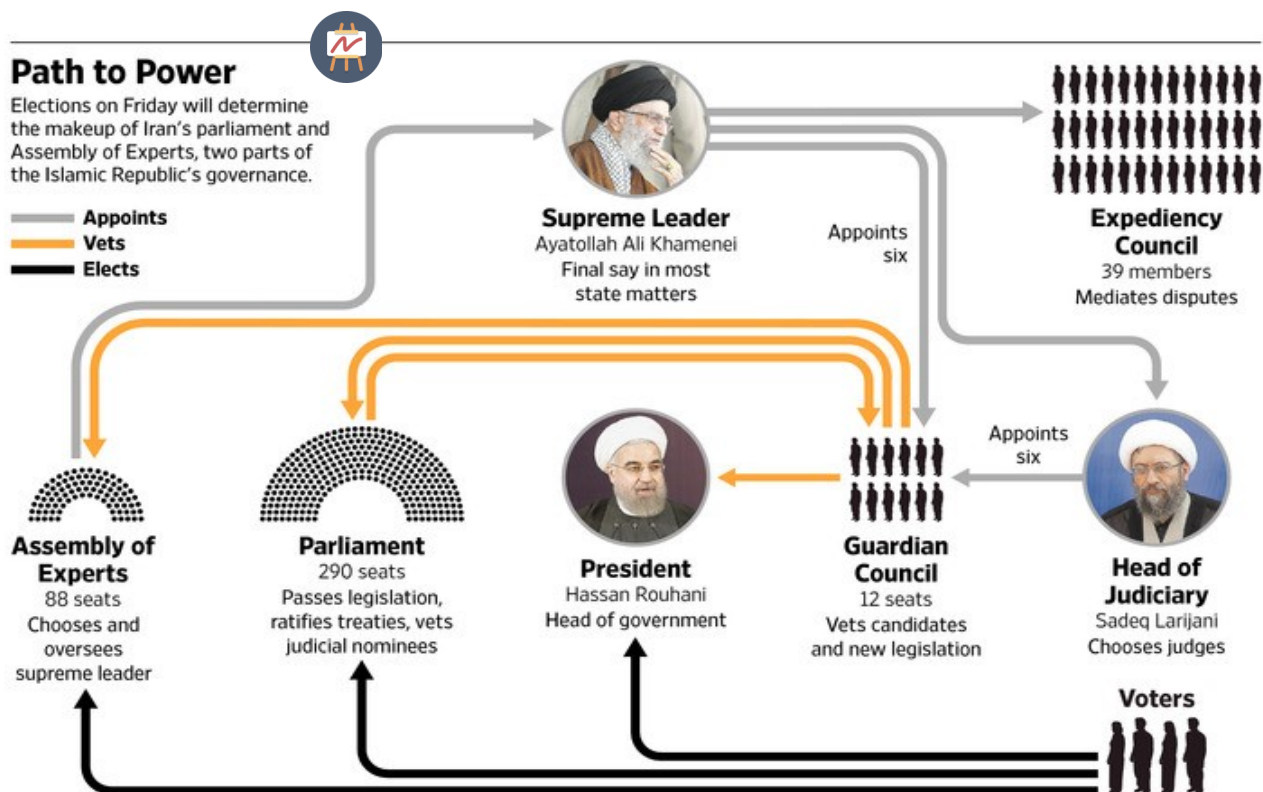


[PBS: Stereotypes - More Than Meets the Eye](#)

Students will develop a better understanding of the concept of stereotyping. They will think critically about images and media that portray the Middle East and its inhabitants, make determinations about the impact of the images on their perceptions, and consider ways to overcome these stereotypes.

[The Structure of Power in Iran](#)

PBS Frontline gives an overview of the political structure of Iran's theocratic government. It makes comparisons to the structure of the United States government and details the different branches and agencies that make up Iran's institutions.



Photos: Agence France-Presse/Getty Images (Rouhani, Larijani); Associated Press (Khamenei)
Sources: Iranian government, Iranian state news agencies.

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

Empowering Iranian Women

[Meet These Inspiring Women Breaking Stereotypes in Iran](#)

A common misconception held by people in the West is that women in Iran are not entitled to adequate rights. However, this profile of eight Iranian women show that women in Iran are capable of greatness in their personal and professional lives, even in comparison to women in the West.

[Shattering Stereotypes of Iranian Women Through Art](#)

Parisa Ghaderi feels that artistic portrayals of Iranian women tend to show the most radical perspectives, and she wants to use her own art to challenge that narrative. Her exhibit at (SCENE) MetroSpace represents Iranian women as they are in reality, rather than what is often shown on Western news channels.

[Profiles of Women Politicians, Activists](#)

Women have played a major role in Iranian politics before, during and after the 1979 revolution. During the four decades after the revolution, dozens of women from across the political spectrum were elected to parliament.

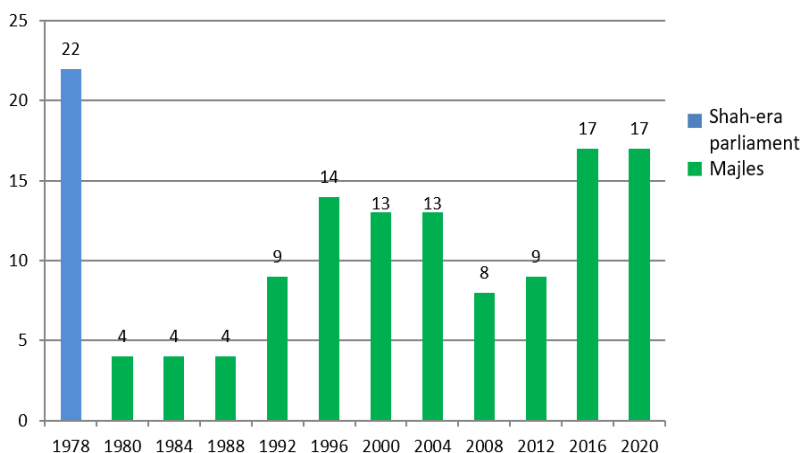


[Oxford Islamic Studies: Perspectives on Women and Gender in the Muslim World](#)

Students may begin class with negative stereotypes about women in Islam, viewing Muslim women as a monolithic group trapped by an oppressive, normative, and unchanging legal code. This lesson plan takes a modular approach, focusing on four important issues related to women and gender in the modern world: the status of women in Islamic religious texts, polygamy, the veil (*ḥijāb*), and women and politics. Through critically reading, analyzing, and comparing primary sources, students should become familiar with a variety of perspectives and learn how to contextualize diverse points of view.



Female Seats in Parliament



Social Justice in Iran

Four decades later, did the Iranian revolution fulfill its promises?

The Iranian Revolution sought to eliminate the stark divide between urban and rural populations, but the rising unemployment rate suggests that the class character of Iran has not changed for most demographics in the last few decades. Brookings emphasizes that the greatest adverse effects since the revolution are seen in jobless youth populations and the lack of political freedoms.

The Islamic Revolution and social justice

Social justice was a major priority for the Shah's opposition during the Islamic Revolution, but the following four decades saw little social improvement due to economic failures. The Iran Human Rights Review considers a number of potential policy suggestions, including strategies for the Iranian government, foreign states and international organizations, and non-governmental organizations.



World Report 2019: Iran

Human Rights Watch looks into the Iranian government response to protests in 2018 and reports concerns over human rights abuses. More specifically, the government has violated the freedom of assembly, the right of due process, and civil rights relating to women, religious minorities, and people with disabilities.

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