

## Key Events in Iran since 1925

- 1925: Reza Kahn is elected Shah
- 1935: Persia changes its name to Iran
- 1941: Allies invade & occupy Iran  
Reza Shah goes into exile and is succeeded by his son Mohammed Reza Pahlavi
- 1951: Prime Minister Mohammed Mossadeq nationalizes Iran's oil industry  
Great Britain organizes an embargo
- 1953: CIA & British Intelligence organize a coup to overthrow Mossadeq, Shah returns to power
- 1971: Iraq breaks all diplomatic connections with Iran
- 1978: Iran comes close to civil war amidst strong Shi'I opposition to Shah. Opposition is led by Ayatollah Khomeini who lives in exile in France
- 1979 (January): Shah leaves Iran
- 1979 (February): Ayatollah returns to Iran from France. Processes against supporters of the Shah begin, hundreds are executed  
Many demonstrations are held in protest to new rules (i.e. extreme regulations on women's dress)
- 1979 (March): referendum on new Iranian constitution is held, Islamic republic is chosen
- 1979 (November): Iranian students storm the US embassy, taking 70 hostages (majority of which are American)
- 1980: Abolhassan Beni Sadr is elected president. Iraq invades Iran claiming territories occupied by Arabs as well as territories occupied by Iran since 1971
- 1981 (January): US embassy hostages are released
- 1981 (June): Beni Sadr is removed from power by Khomeini and flees to France
- 1982: Iraqi forces are driven out of Iran
- 1989: Khomeini dies
- 1989 (July): Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani is elected president
- 1995: US imposes total ban on trade with Iran
- 2004: Elections for Majlis (parliament) take place with low turnout-a large number of candidates had been disqualified from running by religious leadership of country.
- 2005: Mahmoud Ahmadinejad is elected president