

THE RISE AND FALL OF THE PERSIAN EMPIRE

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ABSTRACT

Over 2500 years ago, Cyrus the Great showed great respect towards cultural traditions and religious beliefs of other nations by declaring the First Charter of Human Rights known to humanity. He conquered Babylon to cheers from the Jewish community who welcomed him as a liberator.

Over 25 years ago, a religious extremist establishment replaced the Shah of Iran ending 2500 years of monarchy. It abolished the most elementary Human Rights, and condemned the dissenters to jail or execution on a vague charge of "Corruptor of The Earth." In part, this has been due to lack of existence of separation of church and state, compounded by substandard leadership.

Since the overthrow of the Shah, US administrations have had to deal with the Rapid Deployment Force, the Hostage Crisis, Iran-Iraq war, Iran-Contra Affair, and nuclear build up. The Shah's relationships with eight US presidents spanned over 37 years, starting with the initial WW-II conference amongst the Big Three in 1943.

Major events of this period include a partial takeover of Iran by the Soviets after 1945 and the U.S. intervention, Nationalization of the Oil and the CIA coup of 1954 that returned the Shah to power. The White Revolution, a land/social reform that was dictated to the Shah by President Kennedy in 1961-62, followed this period. Finally, it consists of implementing a Human Rights policy that in part, triggered the 1979 revolution, and resulted in overthrow of the Shah.

The Shah's military build up (conventional and nuclear), the Nixon Doctrine, the Soviet threat, and the Persian Gulf Oil were all intertwined in the US strategic defense in that part of the world prior to 1979.

This is a brief overview of the major events in Iran during the 20th Century, with emphasis on US-Iranian relationship after WW-II. It includes some personal experiences.