

A Descriptive Study on Islamic Revolution in Iran

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Abstract: The Iranian Revolution or Islamic Revolution, was the revolution that converted Iran from a monarchy under Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi to an Islamic republic under Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. Islamic Revolution has been called "the third great revolution in history," following the French and Bolshevik the leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic, The reasons behind how Islamic Revolution has been formed, have been discussing from 40 decade to recent years. So it has been argued differently by political groups and each of them has different conclusion and analysis, In this study the researcher investigated different perspectives about the process of Islamic Revolution. At first, the history of Iran from Reza Shah period has been discussed, then various aspects of Islamic Revolution analyzed step by step and main character especially Ruhollah Khomeini in this process has been mentioned. The method which has been used in this study was descriptive.

Key words: Islamic Revolution • Ruhollah Khomeini • Islamic Republic • Iranian people.

INTRODUCTION

The Islamic Revolution was the overthrow of Iran's monarchy and the establishment of an Islamic Republic in 1979. The revolution established religious leaders as the main character and stabilized fundamentalist Islamic law into all aspects of country such as government and military. So, Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi was replaced by the cleric Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. The revolution occurred when a modernizing democracy was replaced by a theocracy.

The Iranian Revolution had a number of unique and significant characteristics. It produced profound change at great speed [1]. In 1925, Reza Shah Pahlavi, established the Pahlavi dynasty. In this period Iran had close relationship with the United States. On the other hand, Britain and Soviet Union occupied areas of Iran to protect the oil fields from German seizure. Mohammad Reza Shah Pahlavi the son of Reza Shah, was installed and succeeded to the throne and in next year, Muhammad Mossadegh became prime minister. In the 1950s, an important political disaster developed over control of the oil industry. In 1953, Mohammad Reza Shah Pahlavi had struggle with Muhammad Mossadegh, so he fled the country. In this

process, foreign powers were involved in protection of Mohammad Reza Shah. In other word, religious groups attacked his government because of violating Iranian constitution. The shah had increasing control over the government in 1960.

In 1963, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini came to political prominence. He was the leader of the Iranian revolution. By arresting Khomeini on June 5, 1963, about 15000 people who supported Khomeini were killed by police fire. After 8 months, Khomeini released and continued his disagreement to the Shah. In 1964, Khomeini sent to exile for 14 years when the revolution occurred. In early 1979 popular opposition forced the shah to leave the country. In February 1979, Khomeini, who had returned to Iran in triumph, established Islamic Republic. Mohammad Reza Shah had left Iran and went to United states during this period and he died on 27 July 1980.

Statement of Problem: The Shah died in July 1980, but the hostages, held for 444 days, were not released until the moment Reagan took the oath of office, on Jan. 20, 1981. Khomeini's death in 1989 did nothing to ease the enmity between Iran and the U.S., at least on an official

level. As Iranians-particularly the Westward-looking middle class-grew more frustrated with the oppressiveness of the revolution, they began to view America more favorably. Today, Iran may be the only Mideast nation with a government-now led by Ayatollah Ali Khamenei (hah-mehn-a-EE) and President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad (ah-ma-DIH-nee-jahd)-that is more anti-American than its people.

There Were Several Events in the 1970s Which Cause to Set the Stage for the 1979 Revolution: 1-In October 1971, the 2,500th anniversary of the founding of the Persian Empire was held at the site of Persepolis [2].

2-By late 1974,the oil boom had begun to produce not "the Great Civilization" promised by the Shah, but an "alarming" increase in inflation and waste and an "accelerating gap" between the rich and poor, the city and the country. 3-The next year the *Rastakhiz* party was created. It became not only the only party Iranians were permitted to belong to, but one the "whole adult population" was required to belong and pay dues to.

4-In 1976, the Shah's government angered pious Iranian Muslims by changing the first year of the Iranian solar calendar from the Islamic *hijri* to the ascension to the throne by Cyrus the Great. "Iran jumped overnight from the Muslim year 1355 to the royalist year 2535, [3,4,5,6].

Shah's regime *was replaced to velayat-e faqih* by Khomeini. Establishing Islamic revolution by Leader of revolution and obeying Islamic government was *an expression of obedience to God*. So Khomeini focused on different problems in society such as socio-economic problems which had existed in the shah's regime. Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini published many books and some of them distributed in religious matters. Some efficient network developed such as mosque sermons, smuggled cassette speeches by him.

Some groups were opposed to the Shah which were consisted of:Constitutionalist, Marxist and Islamist groups. So the first signs of opposition in 1977 came from Iranian constitutionalist liberals. They wanted to the Shah to adhere to the Iranian Constitution of 1906 rather than religious rule.

On the other hand, the clergy were divided, with the liberals, Marxists and Islamists. Speeches by the leaders of these groups were placed on audio cassettes to be smuggled into Iran. In this period Khomeini, who was in exile in Iraq, worked to unite clerical and secular, liberal and radical opposition.

Islamists were divided into several groups. 1-*The Freedom Movement of Iran*.2-The People's Mujahedin of Iran.3- Fought Khomeini's Islamic government.4-A quasi-Marxist armed organization

Marxists groups included the communist Tudeh Party of Iran; two armed organizations, the Organization of Iranian People's Fedai Guerrillas (OIPFG) and the breakaway Iranian People's Fedai Guerrillas (IPFG); and some minor groups

Ayatollah Khomeini was supported by the Islamic group. Amongst them were some minor armed Islamist groups which joined together after the revolution in the Mojahedin of the Islamic Revolution Organization. Opposition groups abroad, were important to the revolution such as the Confederation of Iranian students, the foreign branch of Freedom Movement of Iran and the Islamic association of students, because of internal repression.

CONCLUSION

The Islamic Revolution occurred in 1979, in Iran and new government turned Iran into a republic, where no one becomes ruler just because their parents were important and a theocracy, where religious officials held power. The leader of the revolution was Ayatollah Khomeini. Shortly after the revolution, Iraq, which bordered Iran on the west, invaded, because the governments disliked each other. This war ended in 1988. Today, Iran is called the Islamic *Ulema*, have had a significant role in process of revolution, on the majority of Iranians, who have tended to be religious, traditional and alienated from any process of Westernization. The clergy first showed themselves to be a powerful political force in opposition to Iran's monarch with the 1891 Tobacco Protest boycott that effectively destroyed an unpopular concession granted by the shah giving a British company a monopoly over buying and selling Tobacco in Iran. To some the incident demonstrated that the Shia ulama were "Iran's first line of defense" against colonialism.

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