Iranian Foreign Relations
Foreign Involvement in Iran’s Politics

• British and American involvement in 1953 coup to keep a pro-western monarch in power
• Revolution of 1979 largely in response to influence of Americans in Iranian government
  • Iranians upset at perceived status of Iran as a puppet of the US
The Israel Issue

• Iran and Israel had maintained close ties prior to 1979

• Ayatollah Khomeini declared Israel to be the enemy of Islam and Little Satan
  • Iran began program of supporting anti-Israel groups including Hezbollah
  • Possible clandestine actions against Iran’s nuclear program by Mossad

• Very strong rhetoric against Israel
  • Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has referred to Israel as a cancerous tumor
  • President Ahmadinejad has vowed to “wipe Israel off the map”

• Iran upset with Western support of Israel
Relations with the United States

• After 1979 revolution United States has closed official relations with the country of Iran
  • Enforced Trade Embargo against country
    • Limited Iran’s access to foreign investment, trade, and expertise
  • Many in Iran in favor of normalizing relations between two countries

• The Iran Deal
  • In 2016 President Obama attempted to create a deal that could severely limit Iran’s ability to produce nuclear weapons
    • In exchange for the United States releasing frozen Iranian assets
    • Lifting of some sanctions against Iran
Skepticism towards Global Institutions

• Iran as a questionable force in Global politics
  • Difficult due to Iran’s status as protector for Shi’ite Muslims, but also highly hesitant to participate in institutions it sees as “western controlled”
    • Ex. The United Nations
  • Heavily influential in OPEC
    • Supporter of keeping oil prices high in order to get as much money as possible for more limited stocks