



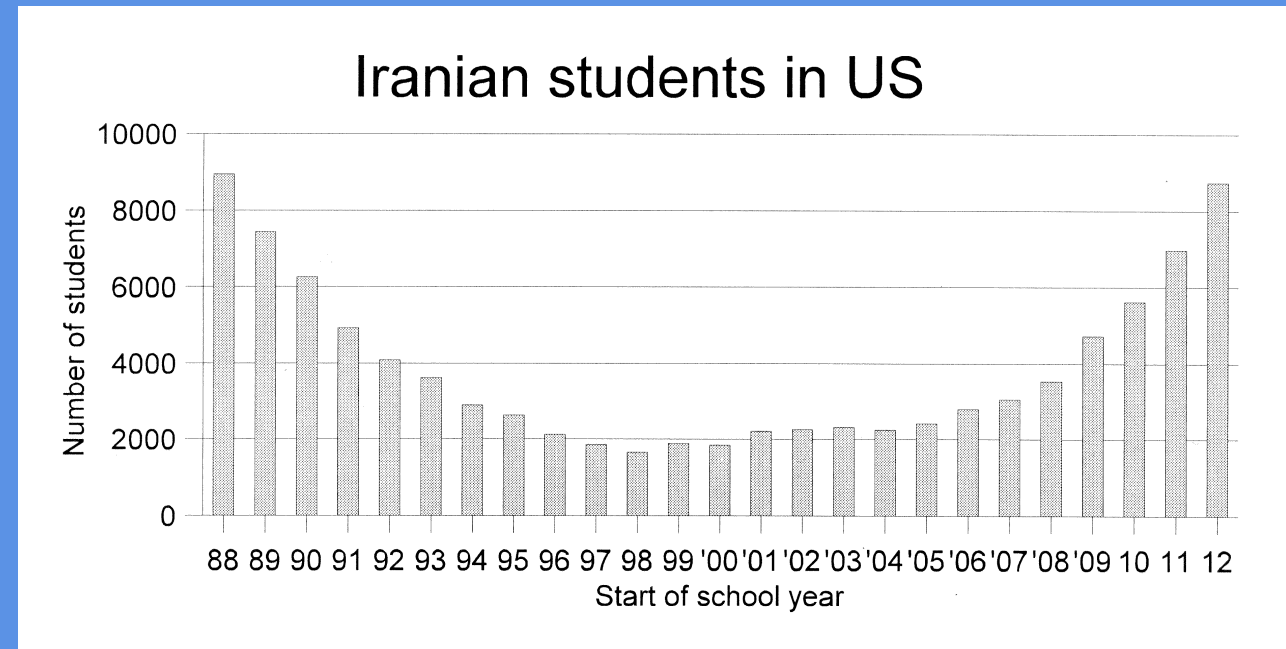
Issues facing the Iranian State

Governmental Issues

- Progressive governmental practices at odds with traditional beliefs of clergy
 - Clergy are overseers of policy
 - Created a gridlock politically between those wanting to move Iran forward and clergy who are protecting traditional beliefs
- Political marginalization of religious minorities
 - Very little political representation for religious groups
 - Movement for secularization of Iran

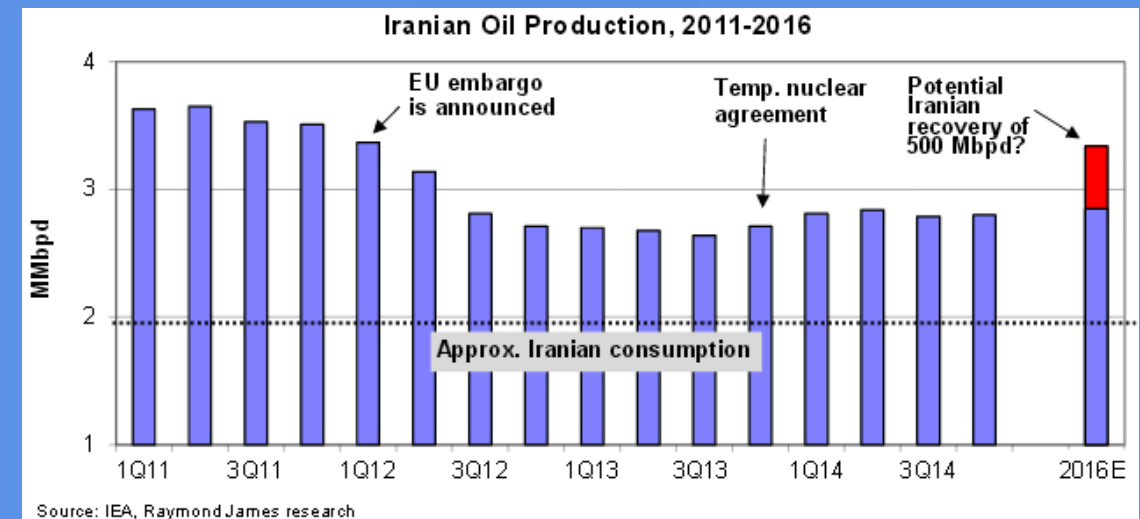
Economic Issues of the 1980s and 1990s

- Very unstable economy
 - Rising debt
 - High levels of unemployment
 - Rapid inflation
 - Market vulnerability to oil prices
 - Limited public sector jobs
- 1990s economic program
 - Goal to increase influence of western educated technocrats



Economic Issues

- Rentier State
 - Oil still dominates Iran's economy
 - 85% of exports
 - 66% of country's earnings
 - 45-50% of government revenue
- Economic Sanctions
 - Strained ties with west have led to much of the "developed" world to sanction Iranian products
 - Also restricts the importing of western goods into Iran
 - Has allowed Iran's economy to develop a level of self-sufficiency



Iran's Position in Central Asia

- Iran's status as the largest Shia Islamic state has led them to take on the role of protectors of the faith
 - Many interventions in the affairs of other countries
 - Currently Yemen and Syria
 - Led to conflict with other states because of sectarian differences
 - Iraq and Saudi Arabia primarily
 - Very controversial stance to Israel
 - Pledged to wipe Israel off the map



Mahmoud Ahmadinejad

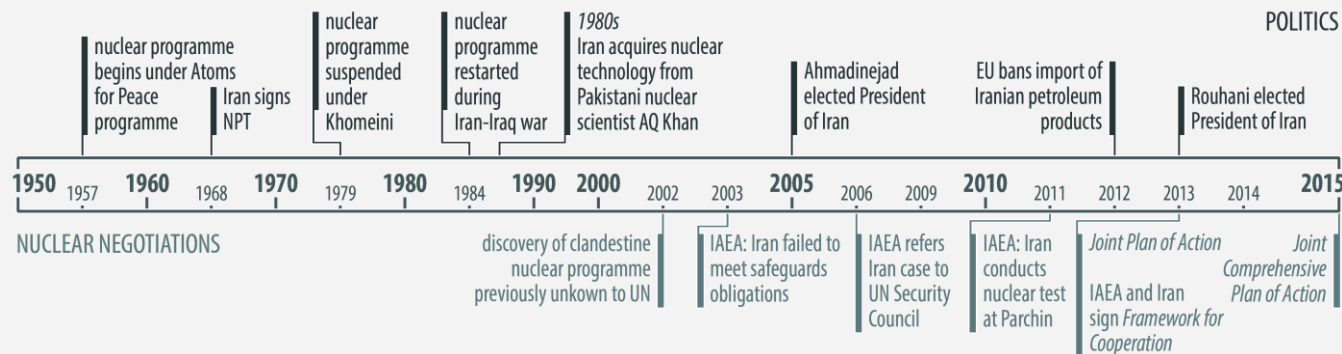
- President of Iran from 2005-2013
- Supported by Alliance of Builders of Islamic Iran
 - Considered a religious hard-liner
- Controversial term in office
 - Accused of corruption
 - Strained relationship with west
 - Noted Holocaust denier
 - Contested election results



Iran's Nuclear Program

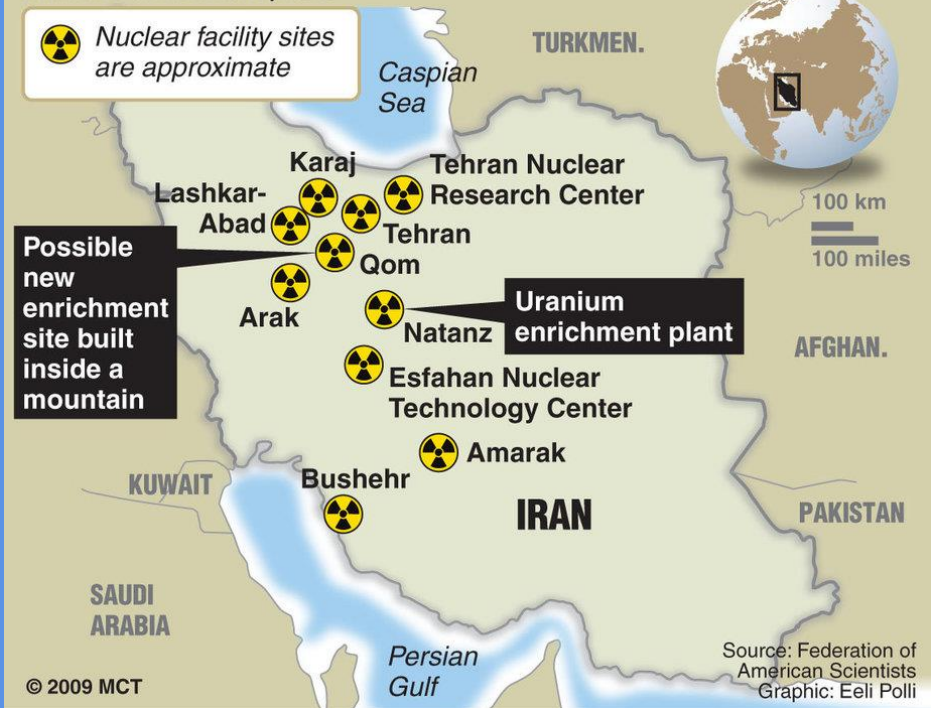
- Iran insistent upon developing a nuclear energy system
 - Western states worried similar processes for nuclear energy could be used to develop nuclear weapons

CONTEXT: TIMELINE - THE IRANIAN NUCLEAR PROGRAMME



Iran's nuclear facilities

Iran has revealed to the U.N. nuclear watchdog the existence of a second uranium enrichment plant.



Civil Rights Issues in Iran

- Many educated elites and western connected professionals were forced to flee after 1979 revolution
 - Iran's healthcare ranked 93rd
 - Introduced policies to encourage opportunities for women
 - Traditional roles and dress still enforced
- Questionable human rights record
 - Used war as opportunity to suppress opposition
 - Monarchists, ethnic groups, leftists
 - Encouragement of pro-government vigilantes
 - Torture and death penalty still in use
 - Lack of independent judiciary
 - Restrictions on telecommunications