



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

