



# IRAN meets the West



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Empire of Timur (Tamerlane), 1370 – 1405 AD

## Today:

- Safavid (good) and Qajar (bad) dynasties
- Russian invasions of Iran
- British takeover of Iran's oil and assets
- Iran in World Wars I and II
- The Shahs and the U.S.
- The Iranian Revolution

### Suggested reading:

#### Books:

- Polk, William R. *Understanding Iran: Everything You Need to Know, From Persia to the Islamic Republic, From Cyrus to Ahmadinejad.*
- Xenophon. *Cyropaedia: the Education of Cyrus.* (An early biography of Cyrus the Great.)
- Herodotus. *The Histories.* (Story of the wars between the Greek city-states and Cyrus' Persian Empire. Herodotus is sometimes referred to as the "father of history," but he wrote what he heard about without doing much research related to accuracy. Some of what he says is reflective of the times, but not true.)
- Xenophon. *Anabasis of Cyrus* (i.e., *The Persian Expedition*). (First-person account of a failed Greek mercenary expedition into Persia in support of Cyrus the Younger, son of Darius II.)
- Harasta, Jesse. *The History of the Sunni-Shia Split: Understanding the Divisions Within Islam.*
- Shuster, William Morgan, *The Strangling of Persia.*
- Fromkin, David. *A Peace to End All Peace.* (The legacy of World War I)
- Kinzer, Stephen. *All the Shah's Men: An American Coup and the Roots of Middle East Terror.* (Excellent analysis of the Mossadegh Affair.)
- Roosevelt, Kermit. *Countercoup: The Struggle for Control of Iran.* (the Mossadegh Affair straight from the horse's mouth)
- United States Army Command and General Staff College. *After the Countercoup: Advising the Imperial Armed Forces of Iran.*
- Ram, Haggai. *Iranophobia: The Logic of an Israeli Obsession.*
- Eltahawy, Mona. *Headscarves & Hymens: Why the Middle East Needs a Sexual Revolution.*

#### Movies:

- *Coup 53.* Documentary on British involvement in the Mossadegh Affair.
- *Evolution of a Revolution: Live from Tehran.* Peter Jennings covers the Iranian Revolution. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3aFnGhr\\_JD8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3aFnGhr_JD8).
- *Rosewater.* Movie by Jon Stewart, based on the book *Then They Came for Me* by Maziar Bahan. Story of a journalist arrested for covering the 2009 Iranian elections.

#### News sources:

- Al Monitor. An independent Middle East news service based in Washington, D.C. Go to [www.al-monitor.com](http://www.al-monitor.com). Click on the blue box labeled "Sign Up for our Newsletters" to the right of the headlines. Click "Daily Briefing," enter your e-mail address and click "Subscribe." They will send you an e-mail. In the e-mail, click "Yes, subscribe me to this list."
- Press TV. The official Iranian news agency broadcasts on some U.S. cable channels. Good examples of the one-sided news coverage which Iranians are allowed to watch--although somewhat toned-down for U.S. consumption.

<https://www.pri.org/stories/2004-10-25/us-and-iran-part-i-1953-coup>



## The US and Iran part I - the 1953 coup

[The World](#)

October 25, 2004 · 1:15 PM EDT

Reporter [Jeb Sharp](#)



Tanks in the streets of Tehran, 1953.

Credit: Wikipedia

In 1979 the political scientist Mark Gasiorowski was a young graduate student. He was transfixed by the revolution in Iran, and he was blown away by its anti-American flavor.

"I was really drawn to this phenomenon and wondered why did the Iranians hate us so much? What is it that we've done that created this tremendous animosity?" he says.

Review







Cyrus--Empire



Husayn—bravery and self-sacrifice.  
Stand up for what is right.



Ali—do not give up  
what is rightfully yours



Ali and Aisha—forgiveness



Al Abbas bin Ali—when you have  
an important mission, stick to it.  
(Children are important.)

# Iran

## The good times

Cyrus the Great  
550 BC – 330 BC

The Parthians and Sassanids  
63 BC – 650 AD

The Abbasid Caliphate  
750 AD – 1258 AD

## Not so much

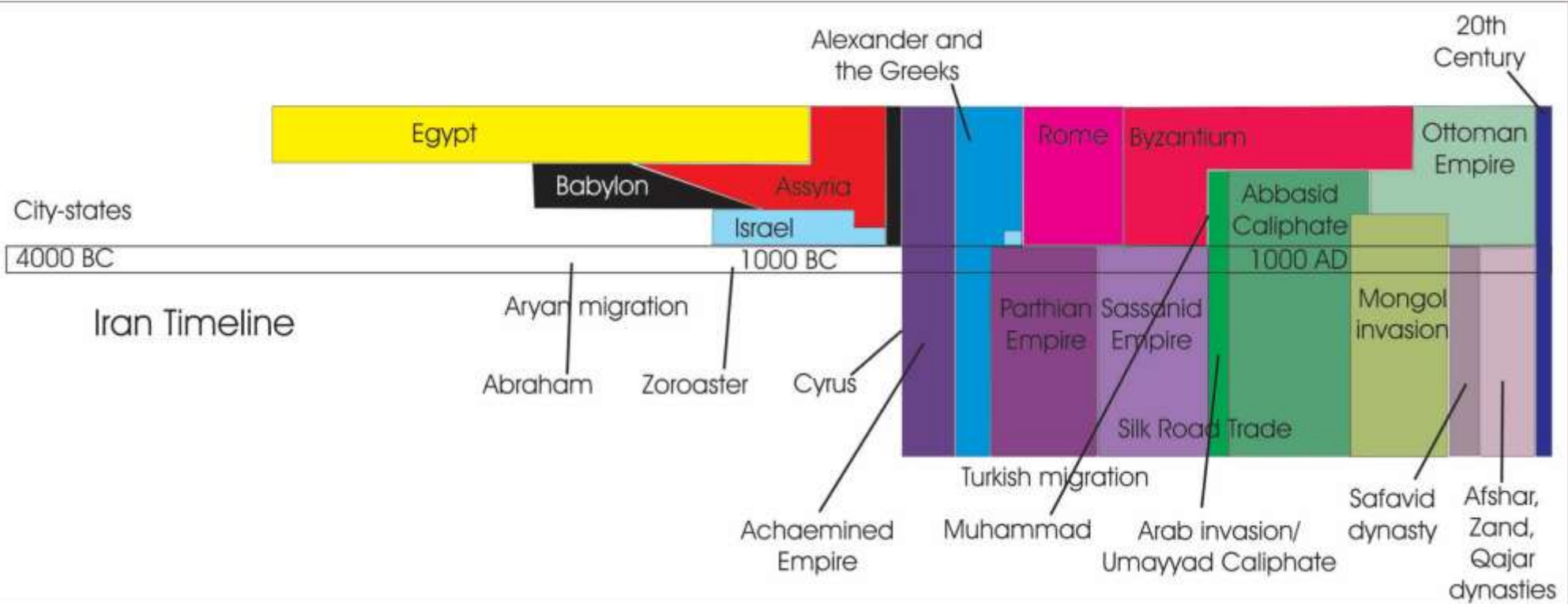
Alexander and the Greeks  
330 BC – 63 BC

Arab invasion, Umayyad Caliphate  
650 AD – 750 AD

Mongols and Tamerlane  
1221 AD - 1405 AD

# The Safavid Dynasty

# Iran Timeline





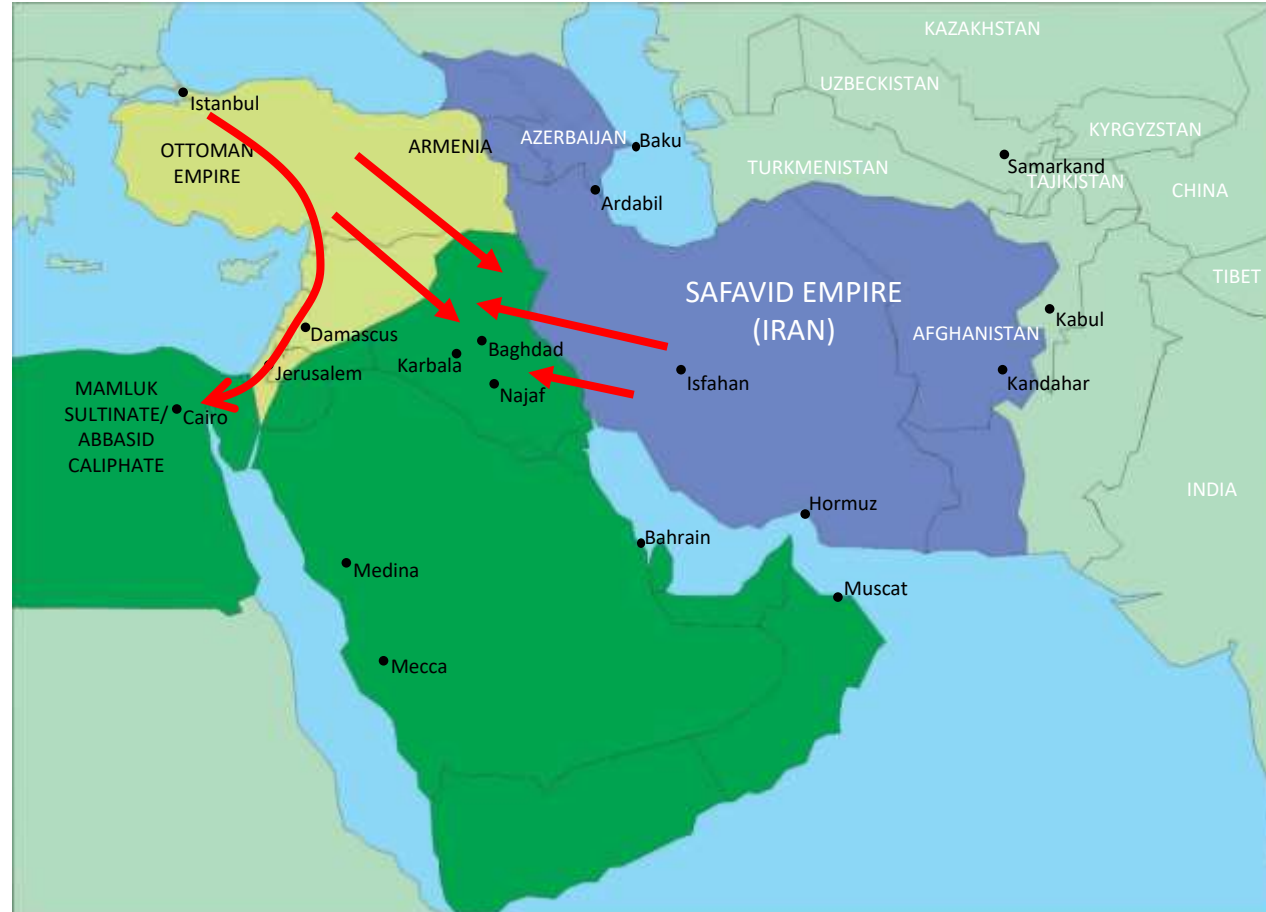
1453—Ottoman Turks defeat the Byzantine Empire, capture Constantinople.



1500—Europeans begin colonizing the rest of the world.



Sheikh Safi ad-Din



Early 1500s--Safavids and Ottomans fight over Mesopotamia.  
1517--Selim the Grim attacks Egypt, moves the Caliphate to Istanbul.



Armenia

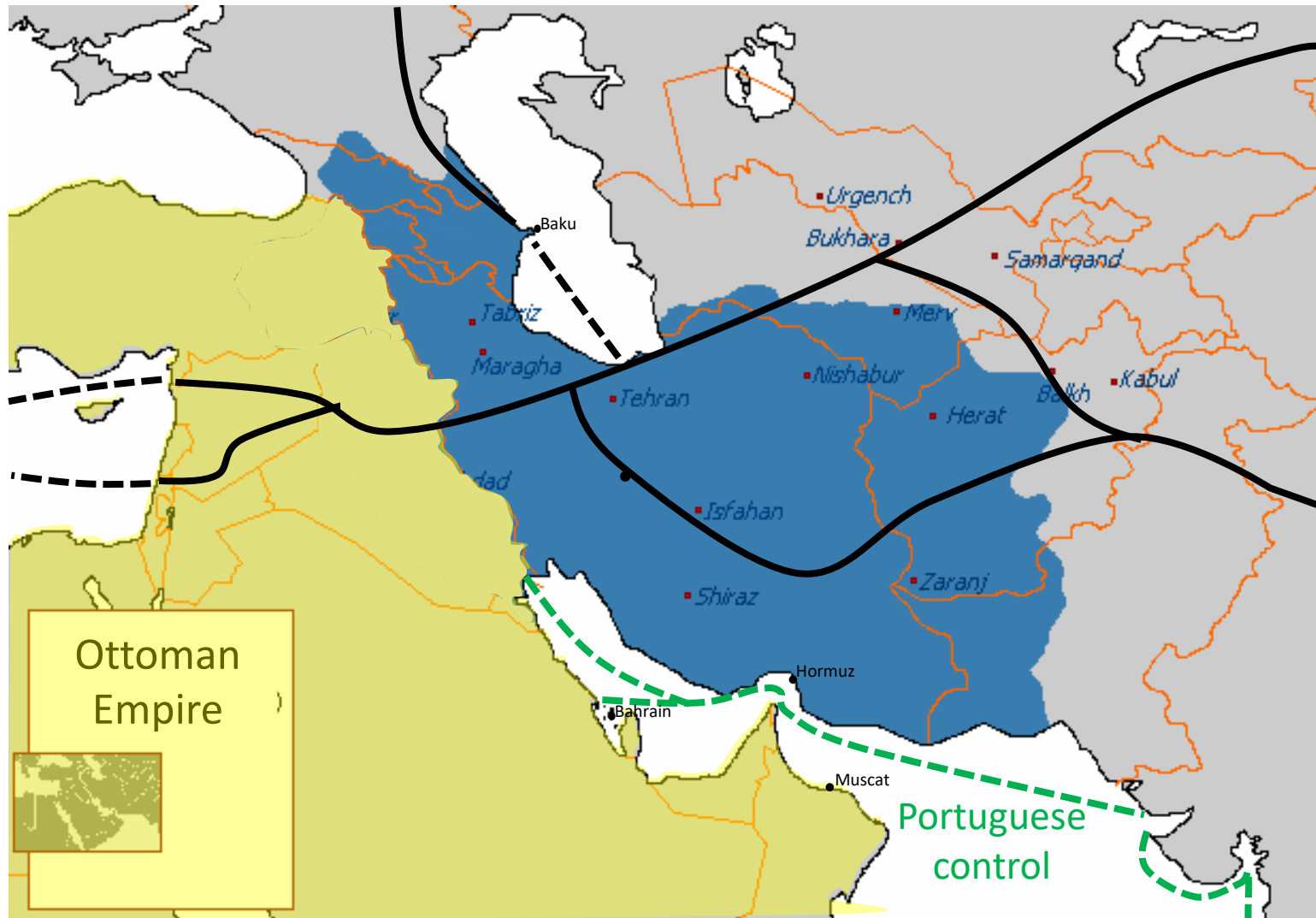


Shah Abbas I imports Armenian craftsmen to rebuild Isfahan



Shah Abbas builds the Maidan





1600—Isfahan becomes capital of Iran,  
and a center of world trade.









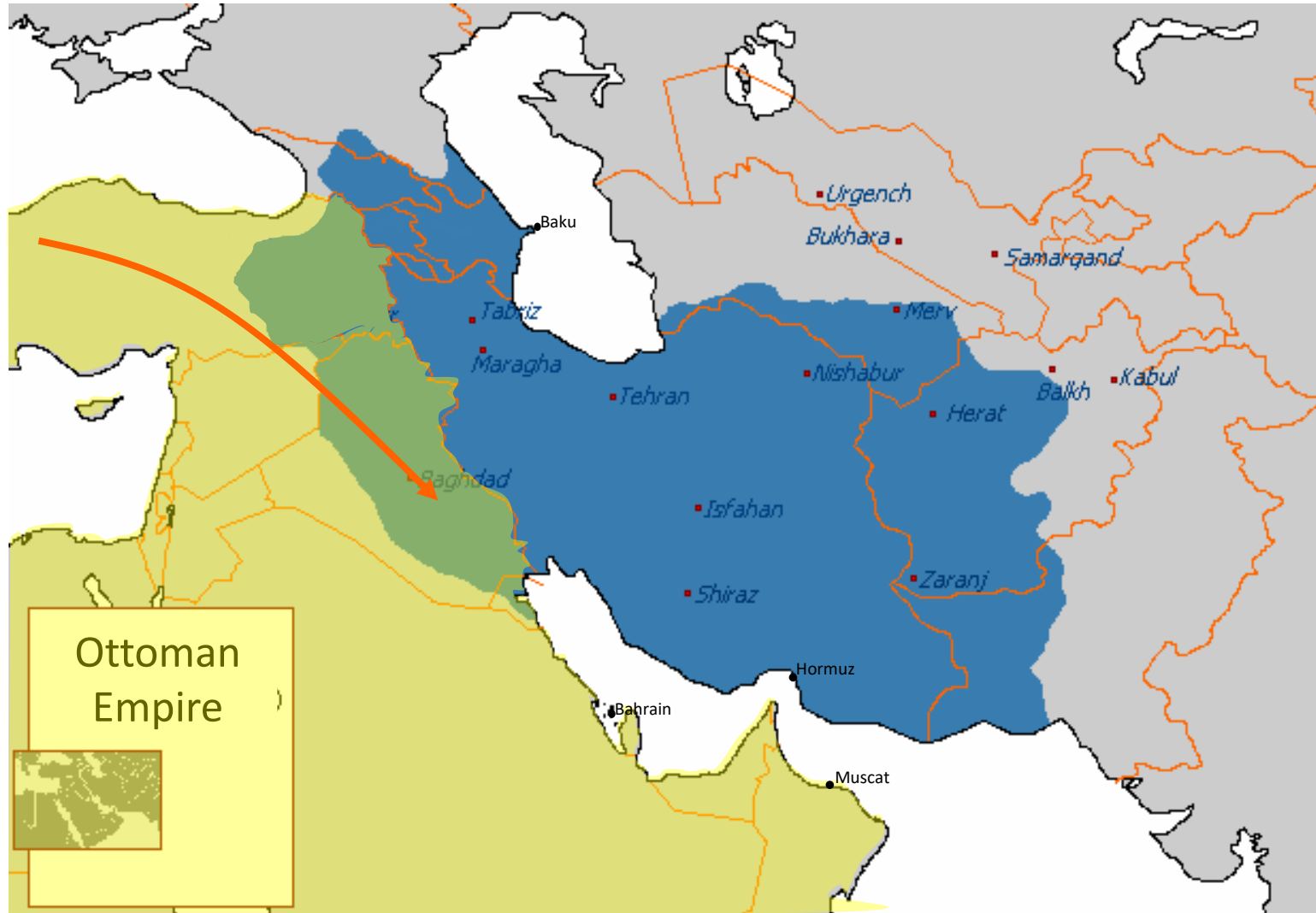




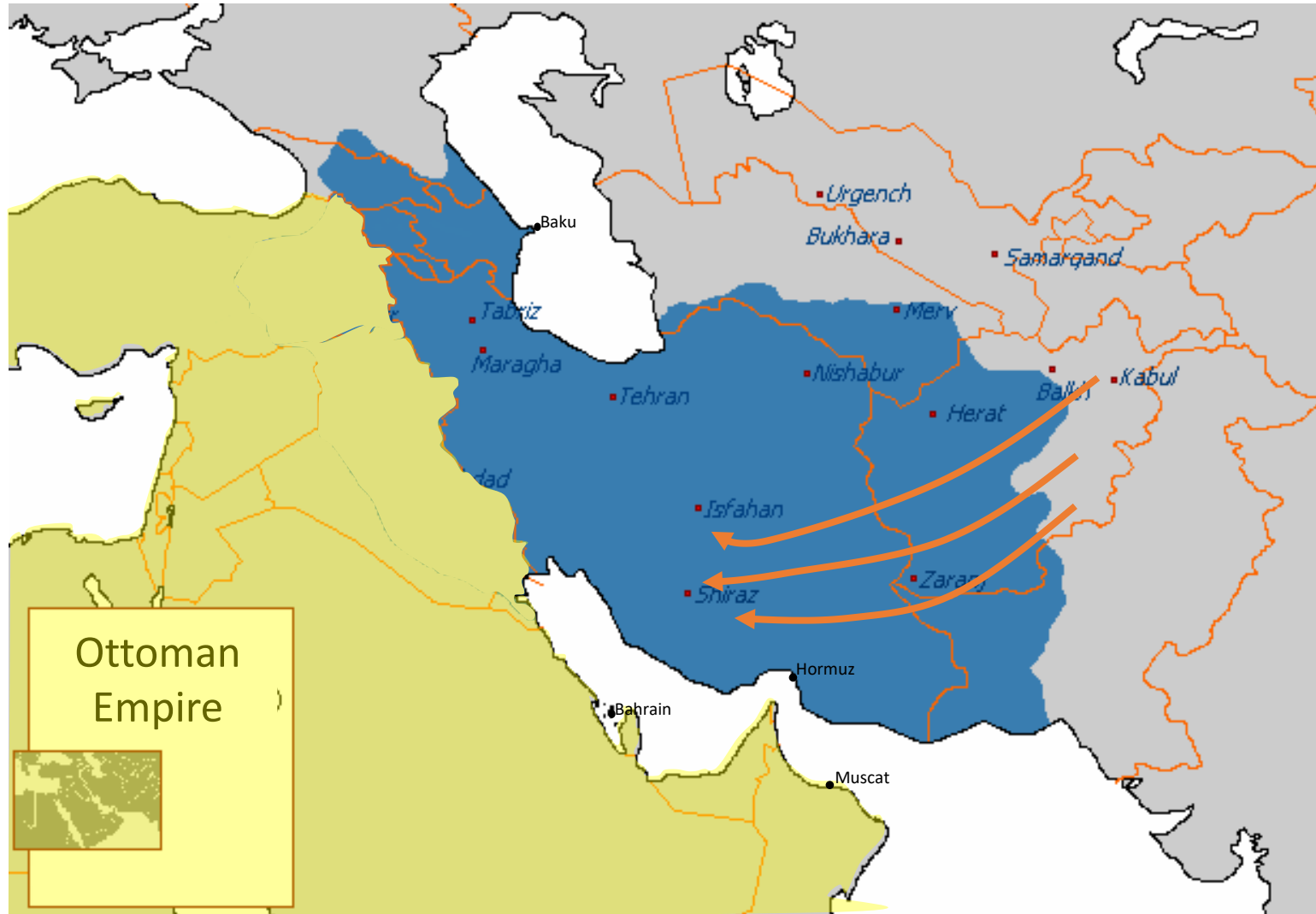




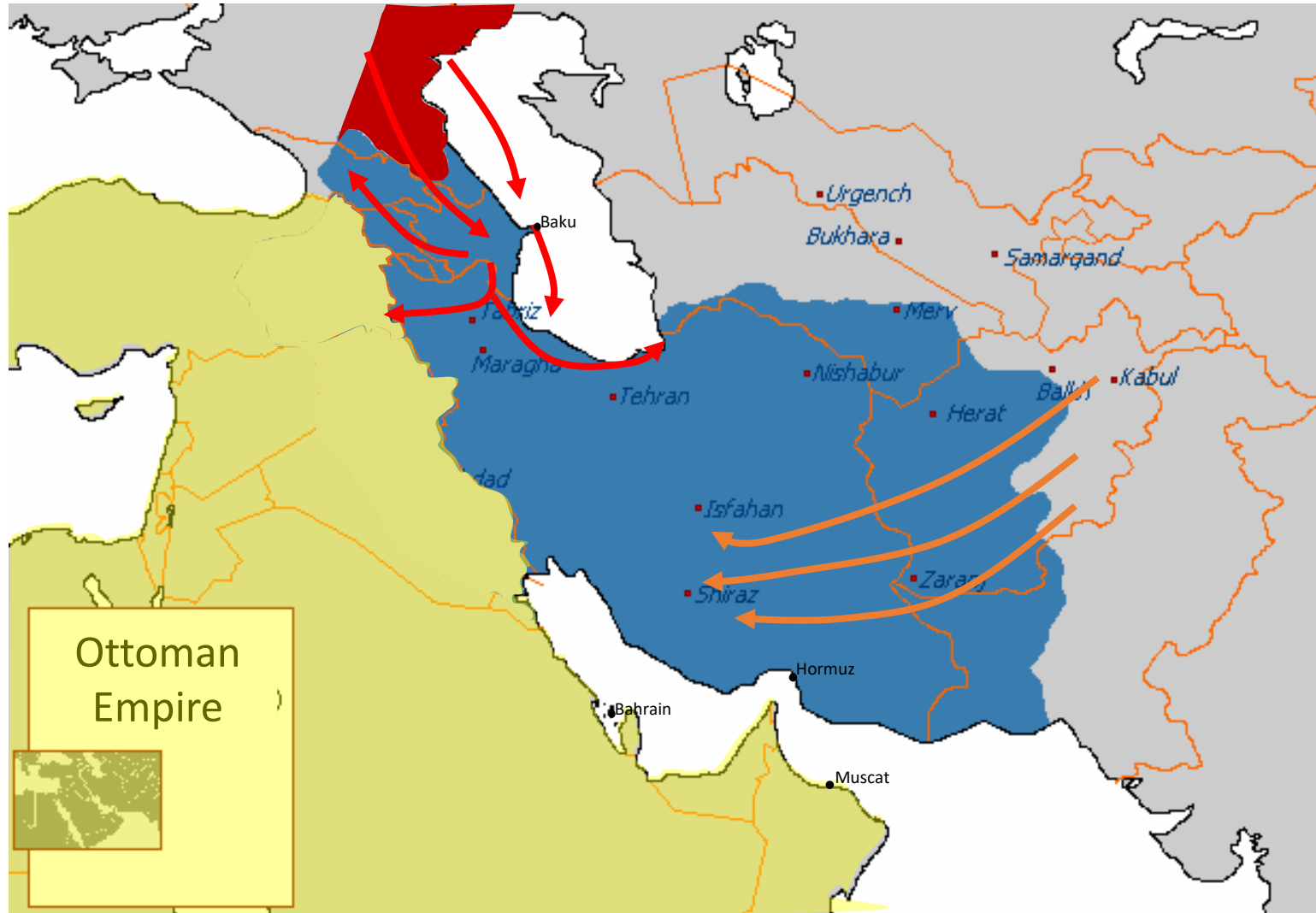
1624—Shah Abbas I takes Mesopotamia back from the Ottomans.



1639—Ottoman Sultan/Caliph Murad V re-takes Mesopotamia.



1719—Afghans overrun southern Iran, sack Isfahan and massacre its residents.



1722-1723—100,000 Russians under Peter the Great take Dagestan, Georgia, Azerbaijan, and the Caspian coast of Iran.



1736—Afshar leader Nadar Shah defeats the Safavids and drives the Afghans and Russians back. He signs treaties with Russia to protect Iran from the Ottoman Empire.

# Qajars, Russians and Brits





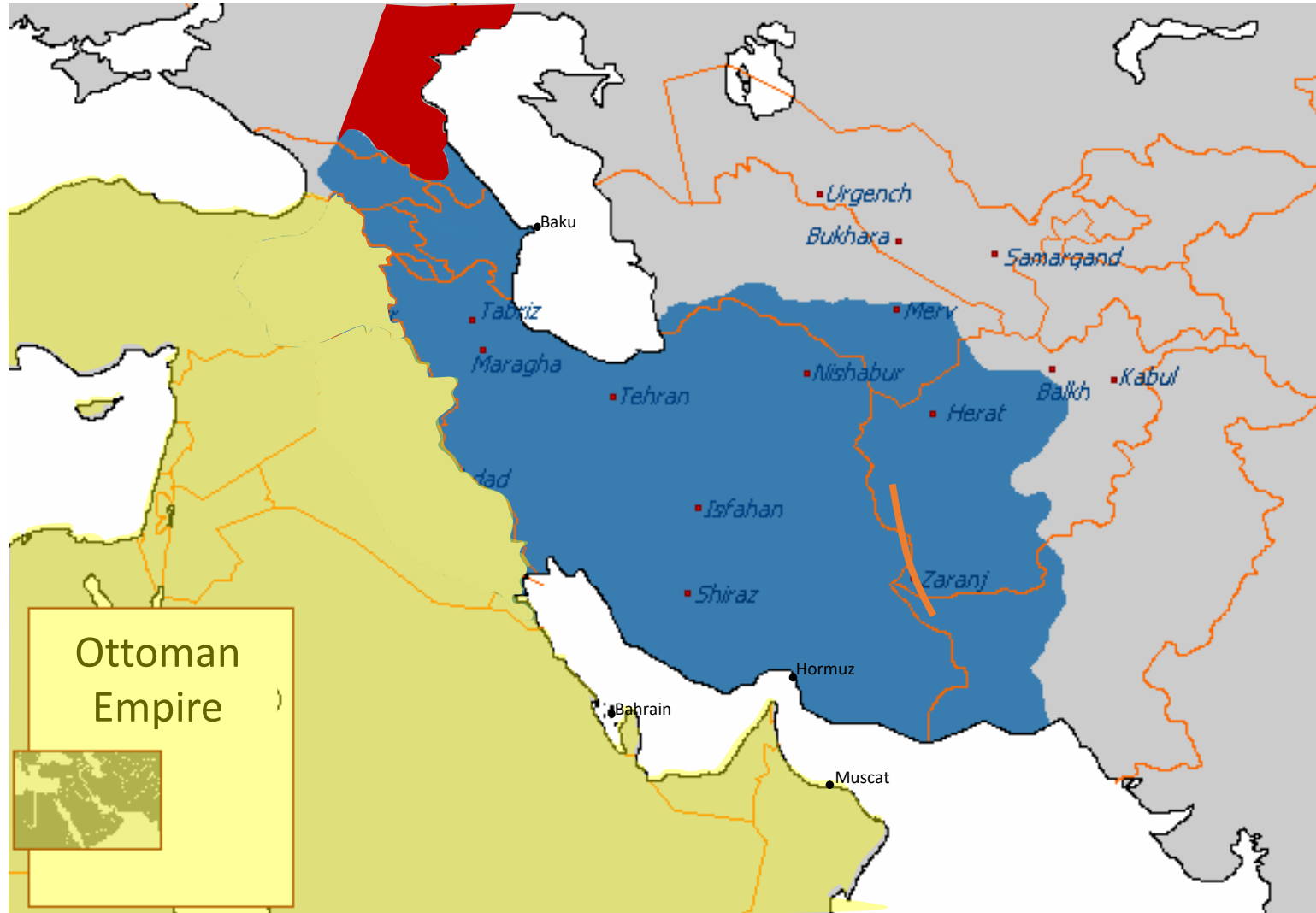
Agha Mohammad Khan Qajar and Golestan Palace, Tehran









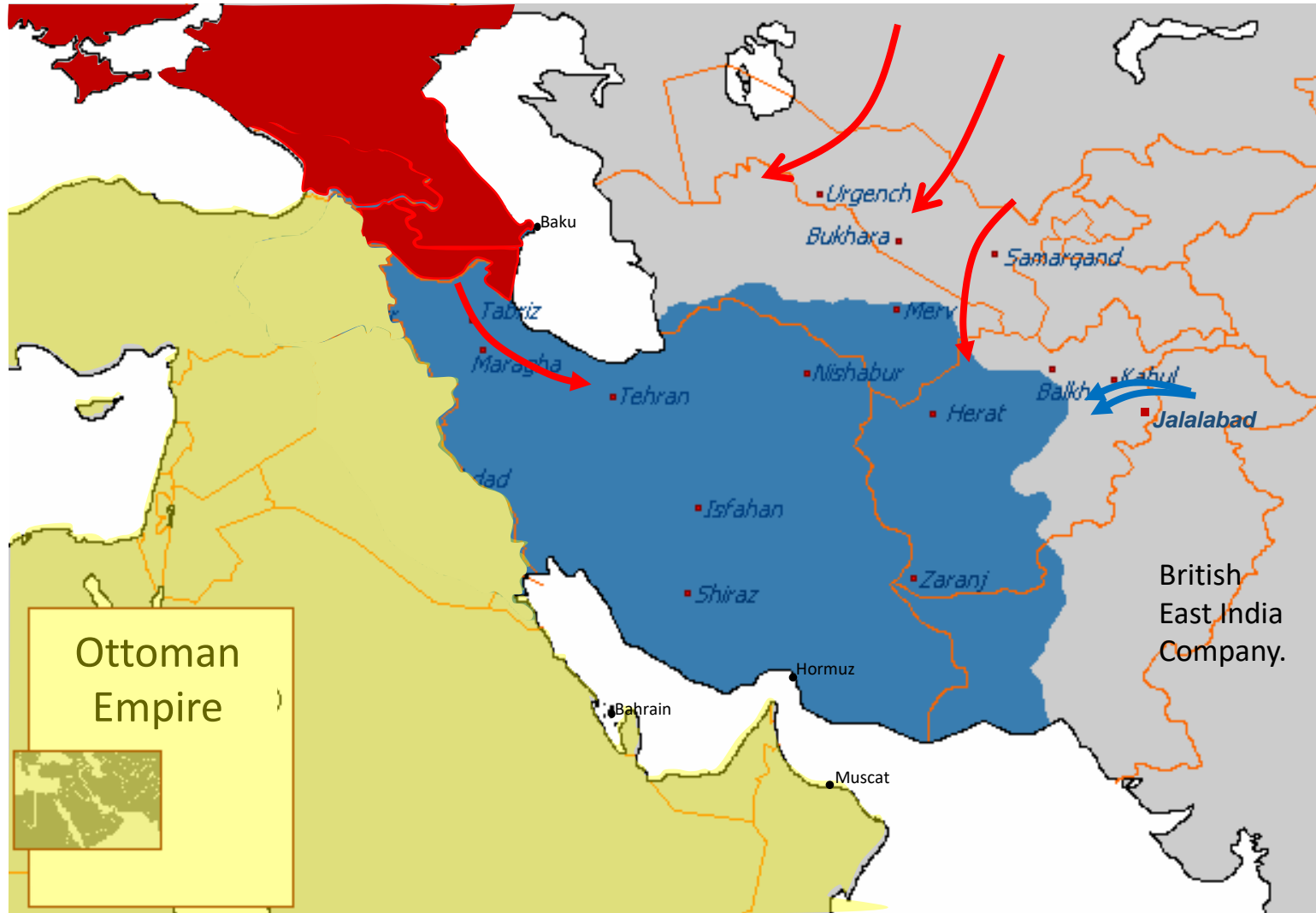


Iran before the Russian invasion of 1804.



1804-1813—Russia takes Georgia and most of Azerbaijan.

1826-1828—Russia takes eastern Armenia and the rest of Azerbaijan, occupies Tehran.



1839—British invade Afghanistan to keep it from falling to the Russians.





Remnant of an Army



Russians take control of northwest Afghanistan  
1857—Sepoy Rebellion in India. British invade Iran.



1857--British force Iran to recognize  
Afghanistan independence.



Nasir-al-Din Shah Qajar



Constitutional protestors  
and Persian Cossack soldiers.



1881—Russians occupied Transoxiana (Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan)  
1907--Russians and British split Iran.



Nasir-al-Din Shah Qajar



Nasir-al-Din Shah Qajar





Nasir-al-Din Shah Qajar

# Iran and Oil



5/16/1908 William D'Arcy strikes a gusher at Masjid-i-Suleiman.  
His Anglo-Iranian Oil Company builds a refinery at Abadan.

# WWI: The Great War

France

German Empire

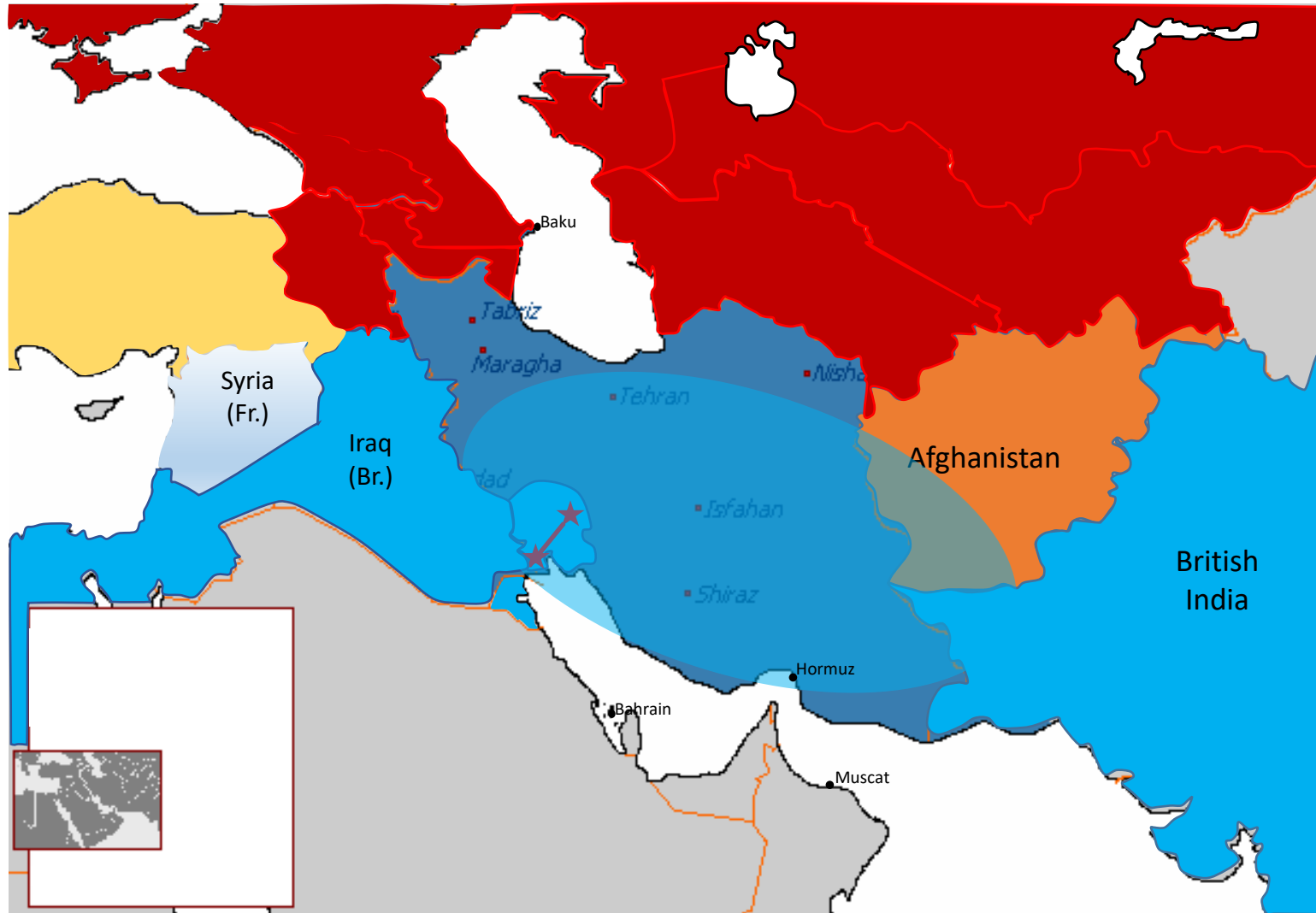
British Empire

Austro-Hungarian Empire

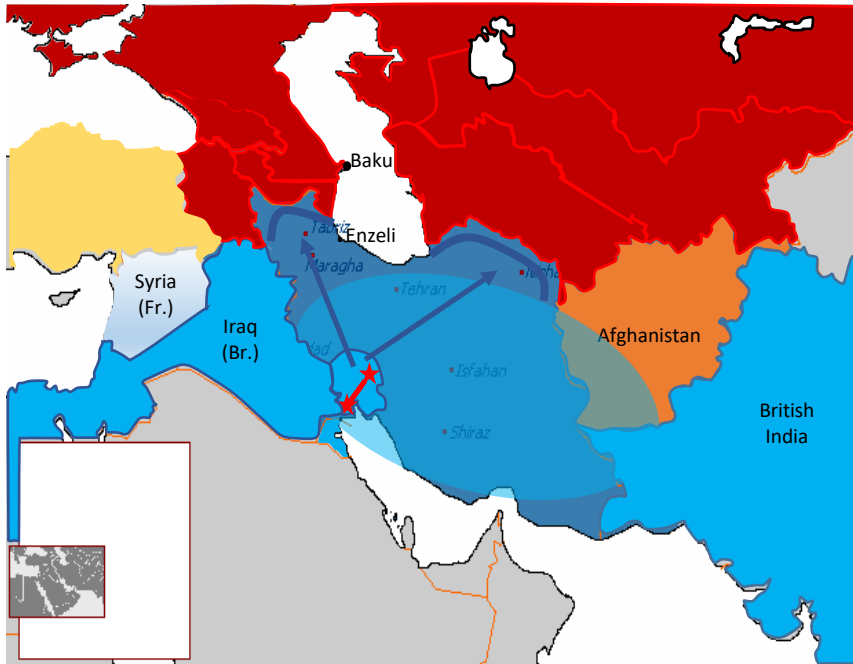
Russian Empire

Ottoman Empire

Iran neutral



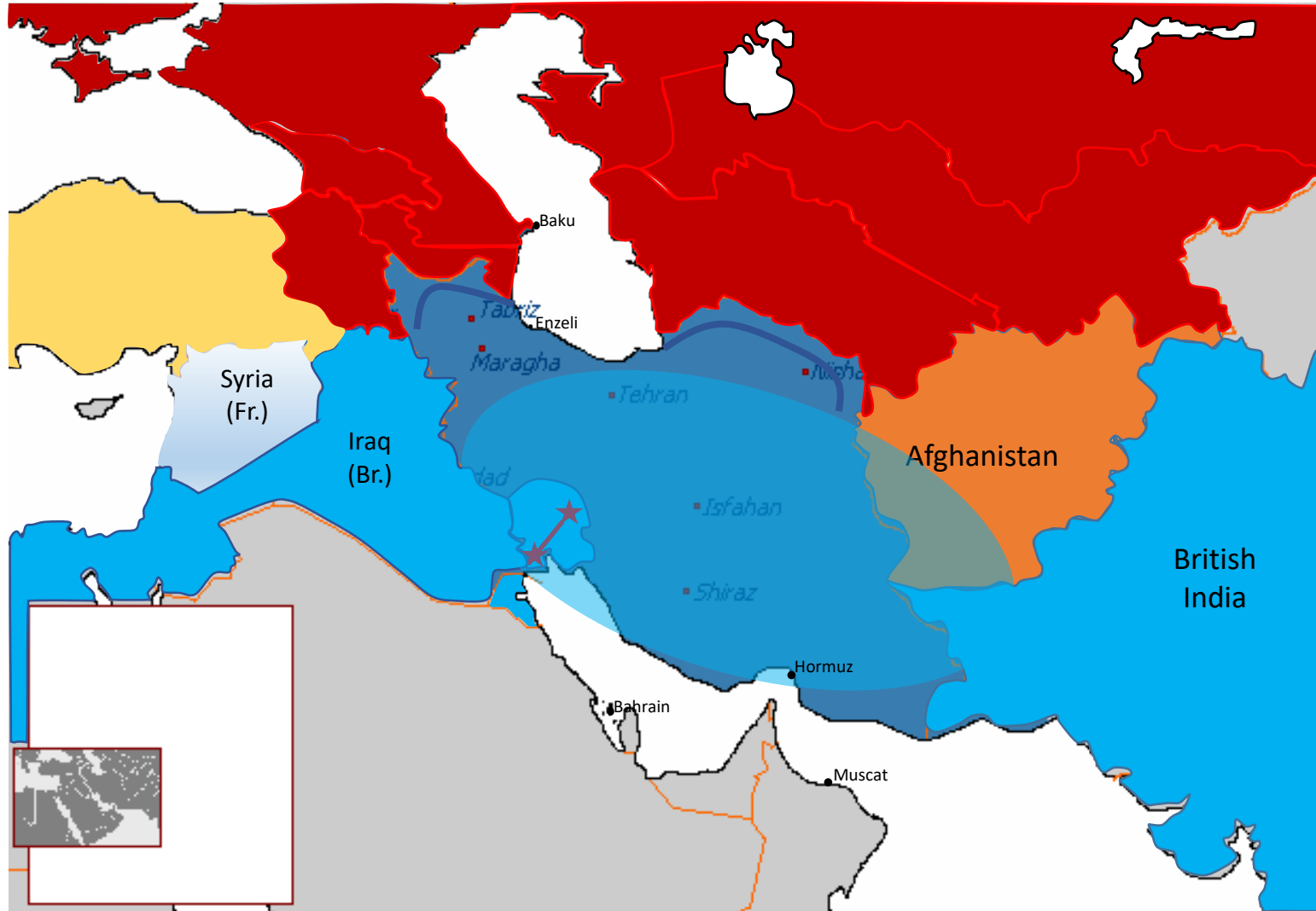
1919 WW I ends, Russians have withdrawn from Iran.  
British and French divide the Ottoman Empire (Sykes-Picot Agreement).



1920 British have to defend Iran.

### Anglo-Persian Agreement:

- British will protect Iran from the Russians
- British will build a railroad network in Iran
- British will administer Iran's finances
- British will take control of Iran's customs
- British will administer the Iranian military



Colonel Reza Kahn given command of the northern Cossack Brigade at Tabriz.







Sadabaad Palace complex





Reza Shah Pahlavi's Palace



White Palace  
(Palace of Muhammad Shah Pahlavi)



Reception Hall in White Palace



The royal kitchen

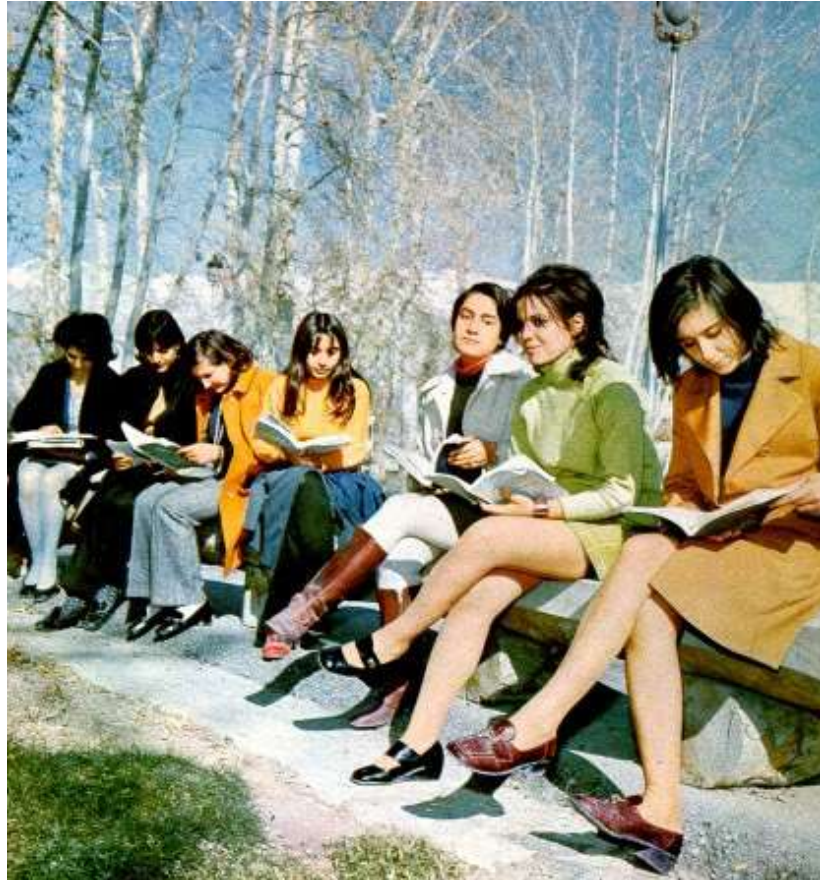


Pahlavi (Valiasr) Street, Tehran



Republic of Turkey





University of Tehran students, 1970

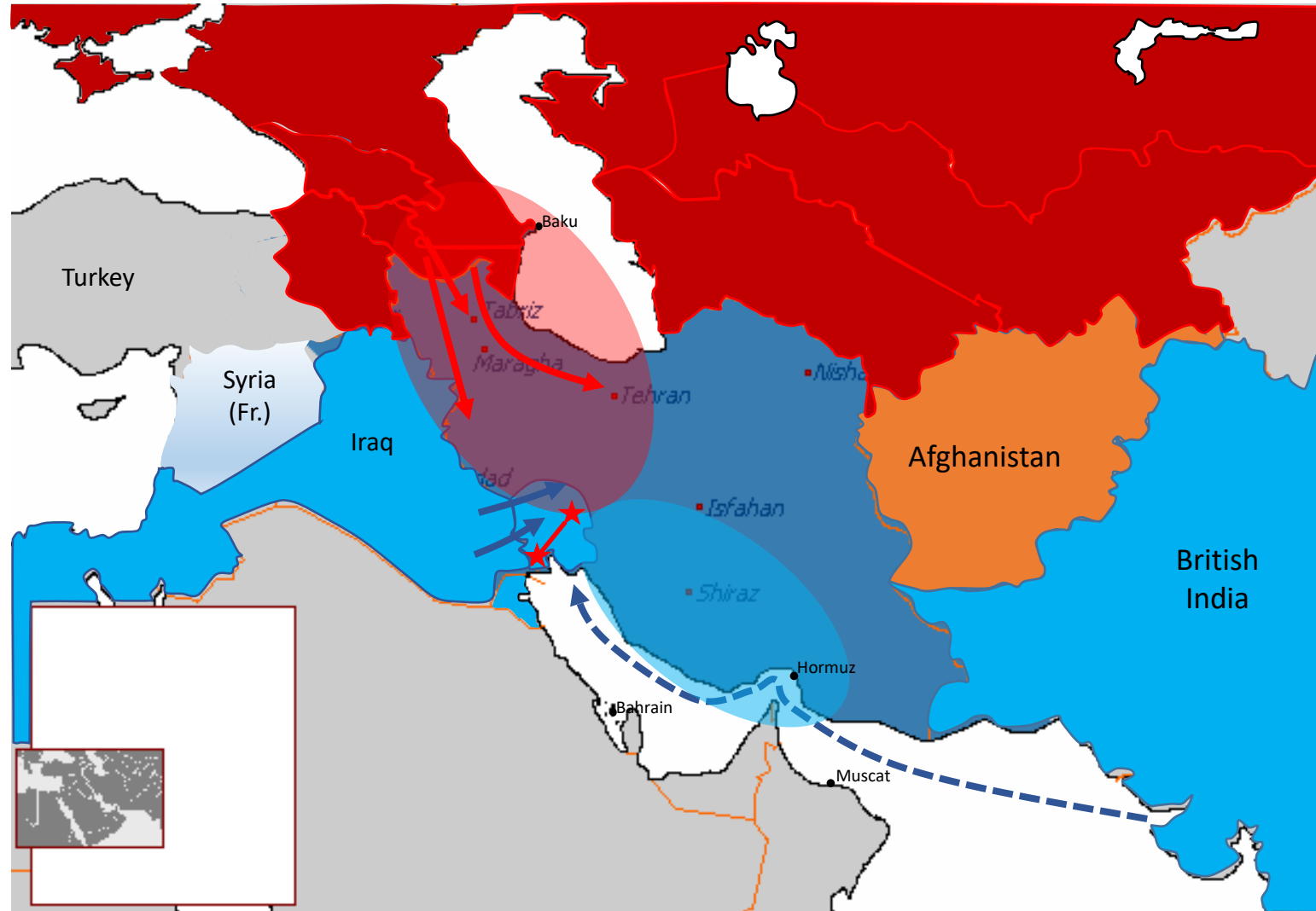
# World War II



WW II: Reza Shah Pahlavi declares Iran neutral.



August, 1941 British and Russian forces again occupy Iran.



British and Russians force Reza Shah Pahlavi to abdicate in favor of his son, 21-year old Muhammad Shah Pahlavi.



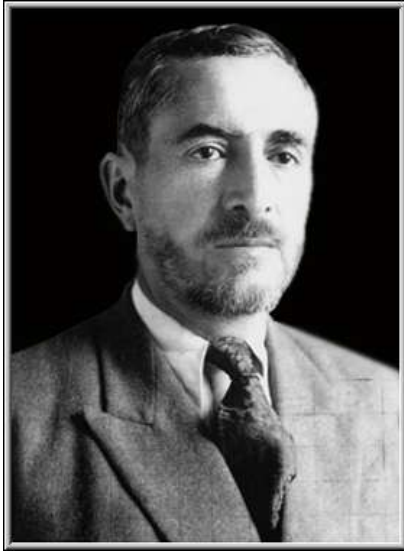
Allied railroad route in Iran during World War II



Red Army supply train in Iran during World War II



Allied supply convoy in Iran during World War II



Qazi Muhammad



Jafar Pischevari

1945 Russians help establish the Azerbaijani People's Republic and the Kurdish Mahabad Republic.



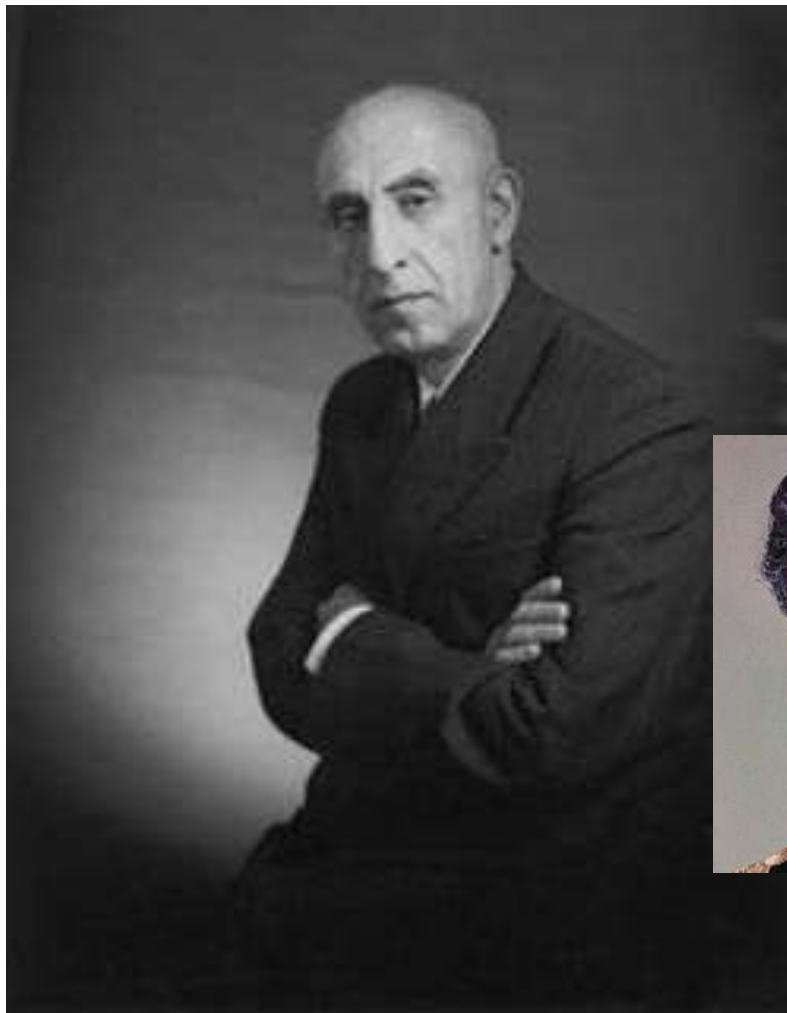




# The Mossadegh Affair



Iranian Prime Minister Mohammad Mossadegh



Shah endorses Mossadegh's plan



HMS Mauritius



Dr. Mohammad Mosaddeq



Kermit Roosevelt







Overthrow of PM Mosaddeq and the Iranian Parliament, August 19, 1953



**SAVAK**



Evin Prison, aka "Hotel Evin," Tehran



SAVAK execution of anti-Shah Tudeh communists

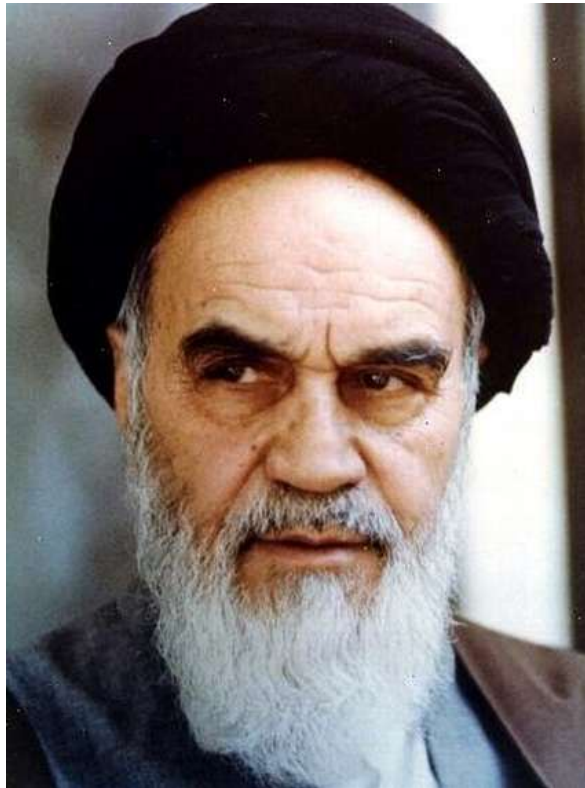


Mohammad Shah Pahlavi



Fatimah Masumeh Shrine, Qom, Iran





Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini

# THE IRANIAN REVOLUTION



Ayatollah Khomeini at the Shrine of Imam Ali, Najaf, Iraq.



“Black Friday,” Sept. 8, 1978. Hundreds of demonstrators are killed by the Shah’s troops in Jaleh Square in south Tehran.



January 13, 1979 demonstrations at Tehran University.



January 16, 1979 the Shah leaves Iran.



January 19, 1979 anti-Shah demonstrations.  
More than one million demonstrators gathered at the Shahyad monument.



February 1, 1979, Ayatollah Khomeini returns





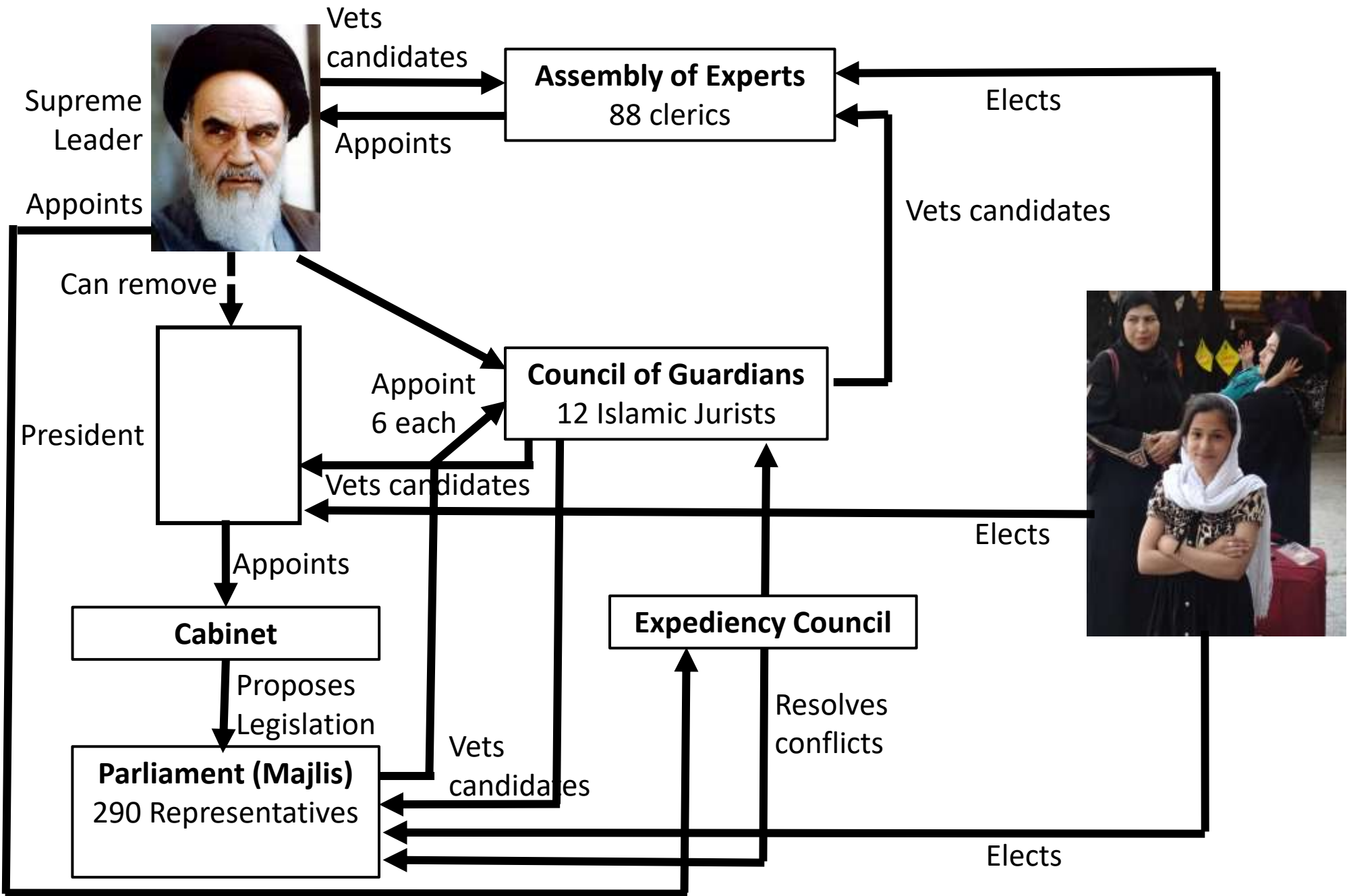
Shi'a clerics address the crowds in Tehran.



SAVAK suspects arrested by Revolutionary Guards.



Khomeini appoints his own government, headed by Mehdi Bazargan.





1979—The Islamic Republic of Iran is the first  
“Islamic state.”



Hamas



Al Queda



Islamic Jihad



Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade



Taliban



# IRAN



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