Reading

The Islamic Revolution of Iran

(1978 - 1979)



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[1] The Islamic Revolution of Iran is a series of events that took place between 1978 – 1979 resulting in the toppling of the monarchy and establishment of the Islamic Republic of Iran that we know today. The Iranian revolution which overthrew the Pahlavi rule brought together Iranians across many different social groups including the clergy, intellectuals and merchants has its roots deep down in the Iranian history.

[2] Speaking of the Pahlavi monarchy, it started with Reza Shah Pahlavi in 1921 under the direct influence of the United Kingdom. Yet in 1941, the United Kingdom and Soviet Union (Russia now) managed to push Reza Shah into exile to which his son Mohammed Reza Shah Pahlavi took the throne. In 1953 however, amid tensions between Mohammed Reza Shah and the prime minister Mohammad Mosaddegh, a coup against Mosaddegh's government was **orchestrated**. Years later, Mohammed Reza managed to dismiss the parliament and launch what he named the "White Revolution"- a set of regulations that were opposed by so many scholars including Ruhollah Khomeini who called for actions against the American and Israeli links to the monarchy. In his efforts, Ruhollah Khomeini was aided by Students of the seminary in Qom city especially during the events of June.5.1963.

[3] Going forward, protests **escalated** through which thousands were killed and Ruhollah Khomeini was imprisoned. Upon that, scholars of Iran called for promoting Ruhollah Khomeini to a rank that gives him immunity against imprisonment. Ruhollah Khomeini's role got even more effective in the Iranian society as a defendant of human rights. His status got even stronger as he pushed demonstrations against the monarchy until succeeding at toppling it in 1979.

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[4] As in 1964, the Shah's monarchy exiled Ruhollah Khomeini from Iran to Turkey which he immediately left to Najaf city in Iraq where he spent the next 14 years. Later on, he had to leave Iraq to France (Oct.06.1978) under political pressure practiced by the Iranian Shah against the Iraqi Baath Party at that time. From France, he managed to keep up with the revolution's progress as a leader until it successfully met its objectives. Ruhollah Khomeini came back to Iran in Feb.01.1979.

[5] While in France, Ruhollah Khomeini moved the public against the monarchy by his cassettes that were distributed secretly into the country. He called for peace and urged revolutionists not to **provoke** police forces under whatsoever condition. He believed that military members were an integral part of the community despite the military uniform they wear.

[6] Ruhollah Khomeini said to his supporters "don't target the military's chest but heart and feelings. You need to speak to their hearts even if they fired bullets on you. And if they did pull their triggers, meet their bullets with bare chests for every martyr's blood is nothing but a bell that awakens a thousand of the living. So, let's let them take out five or ten thousand of us as we will show the world that blood is more superior than the sword". Ruhollah Khomeini even used to call military members "Allah's vulnerable soldiers".



Figure 1. A protester giving flowers to an army officer. Source "hawatehran"

[7] Meanwhile during its early years post to the revolution, the Islamic Republic of Iran had to deal with world issues such as the American hostage crisis in November 1979 and the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in December 2024 in addition to its own war with Iraq (1980 - 1988).

Questions

1. **According to the article, one of these countries had a direct role in the establishment of the Pahlavi monarchy in 1921**
    a) France
    b) The Soviet Union
    c) Turkey
    d) United Kingdom

2. **According to the article, one of these has had a positive impact on the Iranian Revolution's success:**
    a) The Iraqi Baath Party
    b) The seminary students of Qom city
    c) Mohammad Mosaddegh's government

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d) United Kingdom

3. **According to the article, Ruhollah Khomeini had to leave Iraq to France because:**
   a) The Iranian Shah's government put pressure on the Iraqi government
   b) Ruhollah Khomeini received a formal invitation from the French government
   c) Ruhollah Khomeini wanted to join his fellow revolutionists in France
   d) It wasn't safe for him to stay in Iraq

4. **According to the article, how did Ruhollah Khomeini communicate with the revolutionists in Iran during his time in France??**
   a) Through mailbox
   b) Through the revolutionary ambassadors
   c) Written letters distributed secretly by leaders of the revolution
   d) Secretly distributed cassettes

5. **According to the article, who called for promoting Ruhollah Khomeini??**
   a) University academics
   b) Muslim scholars
   c) Students of Qom seminary
   d) Military generals
6. **According to the article, Ruhollah Khomeini was exiled from Iran to Turkey in**
   a) The sixties
   b) In the seventies
   c) In the eighties
   d) In the nighties

7. **According to the article, what did Ruhollah Khomeini use to call the Iranian army??**
   a) Allah's vulnerable soldiers
   b) Enemies of the revolution
   c) Monarchy military
   d) Not mentioned
8. **According to the article, the Islamic Revolution of Iran had to deal with one of the following issues after succeeding in 1979**
   a) The French crisis
   b) The military crisis
   c) The American hostages crisis
   d) The Great Depression crisis
9. **The word "orchestrated" in paragraph 2 is closer in meaning to**
   a) Organized
   b) Expected

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c) Prohibited
d) stopped

10. The word "escalated" in article 3 could possibly mean

a) Decreased
b) Increased
c) Moved
d) Started

11. The word provoke in article 5 is closer in meaning to

a) Fight
b) Ignore
c) Make happy
d) Make angry

Answer Keys:

1. d
2. b
3. a
4. d
5. b
6. a
7. a
8. c
9. a
10. b
11. d

Sources:

hawatehran.com

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