

Teacher Overview Objectives: *The Iranian Revolution*

NYS Social Studies Framework Alignment:

Key Idea	Conceptual Understanding	Content Specification	Objectives
<p>10.8 TENSIONS BETWEEN TRADITIONAL CULTURES AND MODERNIZATION: Tensions exist between traditional cultures and agents of modernization. Reactions for and against modernization depend on perspective and context. (Standards: 2, 3, 4, 5; Themes: ID, TCC, SOC, GOV, CIV, TECH)</p>	<p>10.8b Tensions between agents of modernization and traditional cultures have resulted in ongoing debates within affected societies regarding social norms, gender roles, and the role of authorities and institutions.</p>	<p>Students will investigate, compare, and contrast tensions between modernization and traditional culture in Turkey under the rule of Kemal Atatürk and in Iran under the Pahlavis and the Ayatollahs.</p>	<p>1. Explain the effects of the Iranian Revolution on the country of Iran.</p>

A note to teachers:

Because of copyright rules, we are unable to copy and paste Roger Cohen's article from the *New York Times Upfront Magazine* used in this resource. [Please go to the website linked here](#) and print the first two sections of the article.

If you are not sure how to modify these resources, follow the directions below:

1. Make sure you are signed into a Google account when you are on the resource.
2. Go to the "File" pull down menu in the upper left hand corner and select "Make a Copy." This will give you a version of the document that you own and can modify.

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What effects did the Iranian Revolution in 1979 have on Iran?

Objectives: Explain the effects of the Iranian Revolution on the country of Iran.

Introduction: Review of Forms of Government

Directions: Describe each form of government below, then match it to a historical example on the right by drawing a line between the two.

Form of Government

Democracy
Description:
Republic
Description:
Monarchy
Description:
Totalitarianism
Description:
Communism
Description:
Fascism
Description:

Historical Examples

Note: More than one type of government may apply to each example.

Louis XIV's France

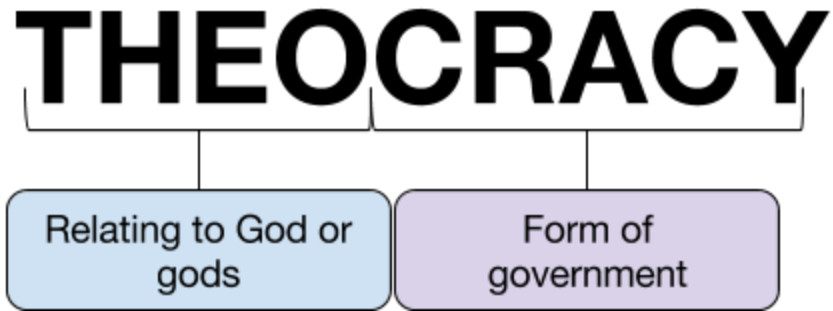
Hitler's Germany

Ancient Athens

Rome
(before it was an empire)

Stalin's Soviet Union

What is a theocracy?



As a result of the Iranian Revolution in 1979, Iran's government changed from a **monarchy** to a **theocracy**. A theocracy is a type of government that is based on a religion. It is run by religious figures and its laws are based in religious laws.

In Iran, since 1979, the government's laws have been based on **Islamic law**, called **Sharia**. Though there are elected positions in Iran's government, the ultimate power is held by religious leaders who ensure that all government actions are in line with their interpretation of the Quran and Sharia Law.

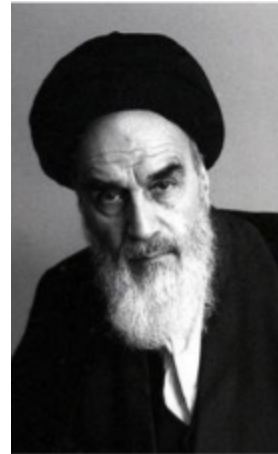
1. What is a theocracy? How is it different from other forms of government?	2. How might your life be different if you lived in a theocracy instead of a democratic republic like we have in the United States?

The Iranian Revolution of 1979

Directions: Read through the **first two sections** of the excerpt from “[1979: Iran’s Islamic Revolution](#)” by Roger Cohen, from the *New York Times Upfront Magazine*, examine the images below, and answer the questions that follow.

Vocabulary

The Shah	the name used to refer to Shah Reza Pahlavi; <i>shah</i> was the title given to him to show that he was the king of Iran
Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini	Muslim religious leader who became the leader of the Iranian government as a result of the Iranian Revolution in 1979
Shiite	a religious sect in Islam; Khomeini was Shiite
cleric	a religious leader
secular	nonreligious
Autocratic regime	a government who has complete control of those it rules
mullah	the Persian word for a Muslim religious leader



Ruhollah Khomeini
Source: <https://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/ruhollah-khomeini>



Mohammad Reza Shah Pahlavi
Shahanshah Aryamehr 1941 - 1979.
Source: <https://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/mohammad-reza-shah-pahlavi>

Questions

1. Why did the United States interfere in Iran in the 1950s? What was the result of their interference?	3. Why did some oppose the Shah?
2. Why did some Iranians support the Shah?	4. What was the result of the Iranian Revolution of 1979? Who was removed from power? Who gained power?

5. For each of the terms below, check off if it applies to the policies of **Shah Reza Pahlavi** or **Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini** and explain why you identify the terms with the rulers.

Term	The Shah or Khomeini?	Explanation
modern	<input type="checkbox"/> Shah <input type="checkbox"/> Khomeini	
traditional	<input type="checkbox"/> Shah <input type="checkbox"/> Khomeini	
secular	<input type="checkbox"/> Shah <input type="checkbox"/> Khomeini	
religious	<input type="checkbox"/> Shah <input type="checkbox"/> Khomeini	
theocratic	<input type="checkbox"/> Shah <input type="checkbox"/> Khomeini	
western	<input type="checkbox"/> Shah <input type="checkbox"/> Khomeini	

4. In the article, Roger Cohen writes, “Revolutions, Islamic and otherwise, seldom deliver on all of their promises, and a clear external enemy can serve as a useful diversion from internal problems.” Identify at least one other revolution from your study of history that supports Cohen’s claim and explain it is an example.



Regents Multiple Choice Check for Understanding

1. A major cause of the Islamic Revolution in Iran in 1979 was the concern by Islamic leaders that
 - (1) traditional values were being undermined by Western ideas
 - (2) women were being denied political rights
 - (3) Israel had lost its influence in the Middle East
 - (4) religious leaders were becoming too powerful
2. The 1979 Islamic Revolution in Iran was a reaction to the failure of Shah Reza Pahlevi to
 - (1) modernize the nation's economy
 - (2) meet the social and political needs of the people
 - (3) establish political ties with Western nations
 - (4) supply the military with advanced weapons technology
3. "We advocate a government based on legal principles established in the Koran (Qur'an)." Which political event would most likely be associated with this statement?
 - (1) Chinese Communist Revolution of 1949
 - (2) overthrow of the Shah of Iran in 1979
 - (3) unification of Germany in 1990
 - (4) election of Nelson Mandela as President of South Africa in 1994
4. The Sepoy Mutiny in India, the Boxer Rebellion in China, and the Islamic Revolution in Iran were similar in that they
 - (1) restored power to the hereditary monarchies
 - (2) attempted to reject the traditional cultures in these countries
 - (3) resisted foreign influence in these countries
 - (4) reestablished the power of religious leaders
5. In the 1970s, when Iran was ruled by the Shah, the Ayatollah Khomeini's major criticism was of the
 - (1) Shah's friendship with the Soviet Union
 - (2) return to traditional Islamic law
 - (3) lack of political and social rights for women
 - (4) non-Islamic influences on the culture and economy
6. In Iran, both the Revolution of 1979 and the rise of Islamic fundamentalism have caused
 - (1) an increase in women's rights
 - (2) tension between traditionalism and modernization to continue
 - (3) foreign control of natural resources to expand
 - (4) the introduction of a communist form of government

Base your answer to the following question on the passage below and on your knowledge of social studies.

". . . The grim statutes [laws] that I would spend the rest of my life fighting stared back at me from the page: the value of a woman's life was half that of a man (for instance, if a car hit both on the street, the cash compensation due to the woman's family was half that due the man's); a woman's testimony in court as a witness to a crime counted only half as much as a man's; a woman had to ask her husband's permission for divorce. The drafters of the penal code had apparently consulted the seventh century for legal advice. The laws, in short, turned the clock back fourteen hundred years, to the early days of Islam's spread, the days when stoning women for adultery and chopping off the hands of thieves were considered appropriate sentences" - Shirin Ebadi, *Iran Awakening*

7. Based on this passage, which statement is a valid conclusion about Iran following the revolution in 1979?
 - (1) Men were often penalized for their treatment of women.
 - (2) Laws were changed to reflect Western legal principles.
 - (3) The legal system discriminated against women.
 - (4) Legal decisions were based on economic values.