

# Decolonization Notes on Iran and Egypt

Post Decolonization some Islamic countries wanted:

### Islamic Revivalism

Want to bring back the good old days

- in terms of Muslim identity and values
- get rid of Western Values

More recently we think about  
this as Fundamentalism

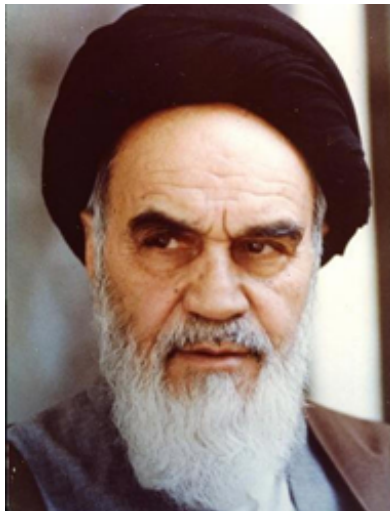
## Why we can't get along with Iran

1935 Pahlavi dynasty turns Persia into Iran

Iran is our chief ally in Middle East in 50s and 60s

Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi

Gets rich off oil revenues post-WWII



Ayatollah Khomeini and devout Muslims oppose the Shah

Shah's regime collapses in 1979

Replaces by an Islamic Republic

## The Iranian Hostage Crisis

Carter allows the Shah into America for life-saving care

1979 Militants invade the U.S. embassy in Tehran

52 Americans taken hostage for over a year

1989 More moderate govt loosens Muslim control over freedoms in Iran





U.S. Embassy seen from Taleghani Avenue in 2005. Banner reads at bottom, "Death to America."

## Gamal Abdel Nasser

Rises to power in 1956  
2nd President of Egypt  
Helped over throw monarchy  
Ushered in Modernization



Biggest Success: Nationalization of Suez Canal

Biggest Failure: Lost War of Attrition with Israel in 1956



Oh yeah, Nasser was a Socialist.  
We should probably talk about that...

- He promoted pan-Arabism
- 1958 Officially united with Syria:  
Forming United Arab Republic
- Hoped to build a union of all Arab  
States
- Some are skeptical, why that might be?
- Good News: Suffrage for Women comes  
during this period



## Anwar Sadat



"Open-Door" Policy: increased western capitalist investment in Egypt, such as tourism, baking and fast food industries among others

Gets the Sinai Peninsula back from Israel & sets up diplomatic relations

1981 - Killed by Islamic Fundamentalists

1982 - Hosni Mubarak takes over  
Takes Iraq's side in Iran-Iraq War