

Video

# Announcements

- International Festival this Saturday, 9am to 6pm, Charger Fitness Center
- International Interview Assignment
- Midterm: 9/29/2016
  - Identification Terms
  - Essay

# September 15, 2016

- Agenda:
  - Brief discussion of religion and tensions of “cultural modernity”
  - Brief background on Iran
  - Begin discussion of *Persepolis I: A Story of a Childhood*

# Perpetual tensions

- “Mythos” and “Logos”
- Why both have been needed over time:

*Logos* had its limitations too. It could not assuage human pain or sorrow. Rational arguments could make no sense of tragedy. *Logos* could not answer questions about the ultimate value of human life. A scientist could make things work more efficiently and discover wonderful new facts about the physical universe, but he could not explain the meaning of life.<sup>9</sup> That was the preserve of myth and cult.

By the nineteenth century, however, the two approaches had merged.

# Pressure and Desire to “Believe”

- [P]reacher and polemicist want us to accept just one, mutually exclusive set of stories, one vision, which we must believe is true. And many people are happy to do this. Once they've signed up to a Christian, Muslim, Buddhist, or even liberal pluralist narrative it's unlikely they'll go out of their way to research competing accounts of the world. People tend to use stories of whatever kind to bolster their beliefs, not question them.” Tim Parks.

# The “Story” of the “West”

- Perceptions of past events serve as “foundational elements” of “modern western civilization”
  - Reformation; Scientific Revolution; Enlightenment
    - The myth and logic of the “self”
    - Tim Parks: “consolidation of western individualism”
- Intrinsic merging of mythic and logos elements with positive and negative consequences

# “Story” of Modernization

- Modernization theory\* as “story” combining mythos and logos
- “Foundational myth”
  - How things got started
- Logic of modern development
  - “Forward thinking”
  - With a “happy ending “ of happy consumers

\*Modernization Theory = theory of economic development based on progressive steps towards outcome of “mass consumption society” (we will discuss later in semester)

# Institutional Modernity



- “Globalization” of the institutional dimensions of modernity
  - Nation-state
  - Other modern institutions
  - Science and Technology

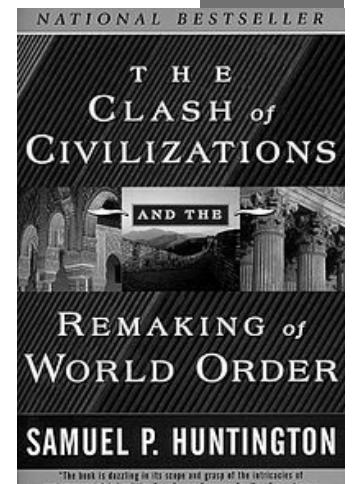
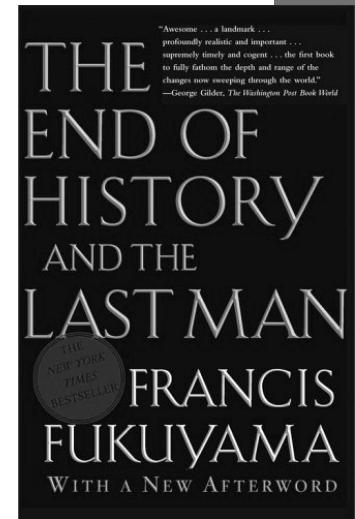


# Globalization of “Cultural Modernity”

- Associated with the “West”
- Norms and values as sources of tension:
  - Principle of subjectivity
    - Autonomy of the individual
  - “Human rights”
    - “Inalienable and natural rights of the individual”
    - Civil rights
  - **Secularization**
  - Increasing “rationalization” and “speed” of life
  - Materiality of life. Acquisition of stuff = happiness
- CHANGE for change’s sake – focus on the future

# Culture Clashes?

- The “End of History”? The End of ideological conflict?:
  - Early 1990s; post Cold War
  - New theories for world politics and international relations
    - Key Example: Francis Fukuyama:
      - *The End of History* (1992)
      - End of “ideological struggles” and victory of Western liberal democratic model
- Samuel Huntington: Cultural battles will lead to continuing conflicts (thus, no end of history)
  - Focus on “civilizations” as competing forces



# Iconography of the Tensions

- The veil in Muslim societies

**Khimar & Chador**



**Al-Amira & Shayla**



**Niqab & Burqa**



**Hijab**



# Varieties of Covering



# Transition

- Background on recent Iranian history
- Discussion: Marjane Satrapi, *Persepolis: Story of a Childhood* and *Persepolis II: The Story of a Return*

# Fast facts: Iran

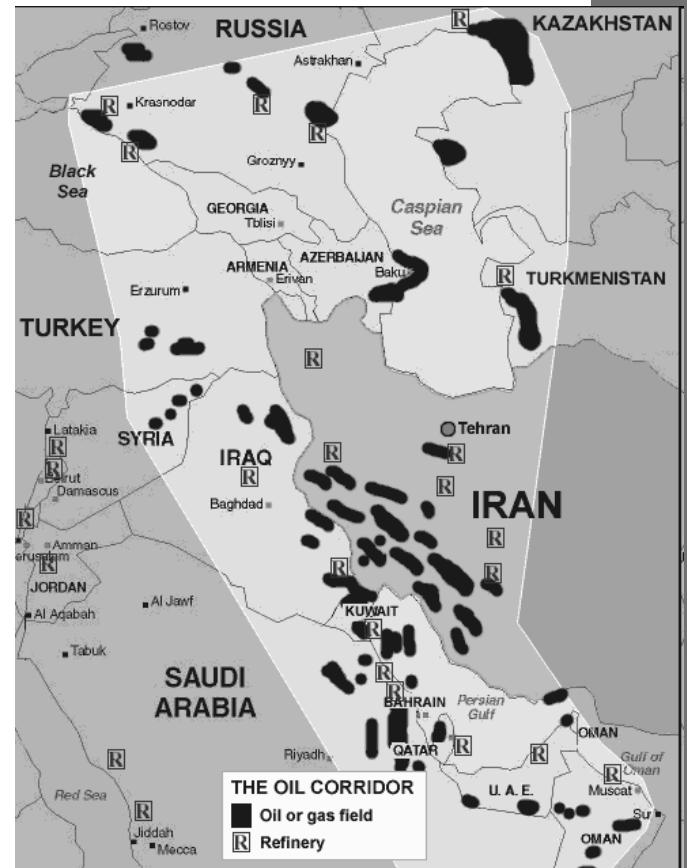


## Iran: “Islamic Republic”

- Population: 74 million (2008)
  - Main ethnic groups: Persians (51%), Azeris (24%), Gilaki and Mazandarani (7%), Kurds (7%), Arabs (3%), Turkens (2%), etc.
- Religion: 98% Moslem (of which 89% are Shia)

# Iran: A Short History

- Never formally colonized...
- Oil discovered in 1908
- Iranian kings sold “concessions” to foreign companies
  - Anglo-Iranian Oil Company (predecessor of British Petroleum – “BP”)
    - British gov’t = 51%
    - Iran = 16%
    - Harsh labor conditions



# Post World War II

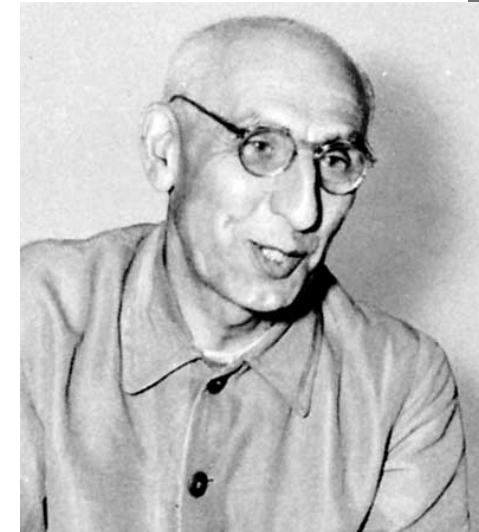
- Mohammad Reza Shah Pahlavi, king of Iran (1941-1979)
  - “the Shah”
- Very friendly relations with the British, cooperation with British oil interests
- Secularization
  - Atatürk in Turkey as model



Princess Soraya Esfandiari Bakhtiari, third left, the second wife of the Mohammad Reza Shah of Iran, third right, are pictured with Britain's Queen Elizabeth II, right, and the Duke of Edinburgh at Buckingham Palace in London, Feb. 18, 1955.  
Idren in photo are Britain's Prince Charles, second left, and Princess Ann

# Iranian Nationalism / 1953 Coup

- ▶ Mohammad Mossadegh
  - ▶ Committed to Iranian national sovereignty
  - Oil: Iran's "birthright"
    - ▶ March 1951: Led Parliament to vote 96-0 to NATIONALIZE Iran's oil
  - Democratically elected Prime minister, May '51
  - ▶ Hero in Iran, inspiration for decolonization worldwide
  - ▶ Overthrown in coup in 1953
  - ▶ US CIA and British Intelligence



# U.S. and British Support of Shah



Shah with President Nixon

# Growing Iranian Dissatisfaction with Shah

- Dictator with U.S. and British support
- Lavish living
  - But widespread poverty
- Political corruption
- Secret Police (SAVAK)
  - Torture
- Opponents: students and intellectuals, communists, religious leaders
  - For different reasons



1967, crowned himself Emperor (King of Kings) and his wife Empress

Film scene

# Iranian Revolution, 1979

- Led by Islamist Ayatollah Khomeini, who returned from Paris
  - Living in exile since 1964
- Celebrated as national revolution via Islam
  - Strongly anti-U.S.
  - Shia Islam
- Created Islamic Republic



# Key Events in 1980s

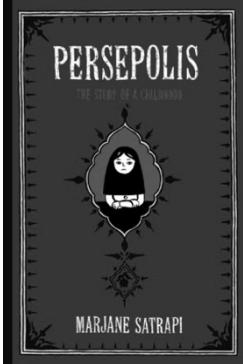
- “The Hostage Crisis”
  - Spontaneous act of students turns into means for consolidating power of Khomeini
  - 440 days (1979-1981)
- Iran-Iraq War (1980-1988)
  - Saddam Hussein (Iraq)
  - “The Martyrs”
- Death of Khomeini in 1989
  - Replacement: Ali Khamenei



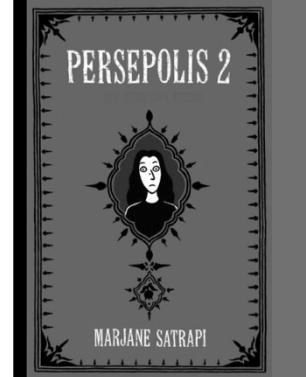
# Today

- Grand Ayatollah Ali Khamenei: Supreme Leader of Iran, 1989 – present
- Hassan Rouhani, President, 2013 – present
- Nuclear Deal with Iran, 2015
  - Signatories: Iran; United States; China; Russia; United Kingdom; France; Germany
- Domestic tensions between “reform” and maintenance of “revolutionary” spirit and power structures of Republic
- Culture? For home viewing:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vyr4tJzxpQE>





# *Persepolis I and II*



## *Persepolis I*

- “Judging a book by its cover”
  - The title
  - A comic book?
- The introduction
- The eyes of a child
- “The West”
  - Secularism
  - Autonomy of the individual
- Education
- Religion
- Power
- Gender

## *Persepolis II*

- Adolescence and growing up
- Religion and secularism
- Private and public spheres and lives
- Freedom of expression
  - “True to your self”
  - “True to your family”
- “The Veil”
- Gender roles and expectations
- Vienna, Teheran, and France
- Happiness?