

Other Functions of Government

On a word document, summarize how your chosen country accomplishes the "other functions of government" as described in the "What are Governments" presentation. Submit your completed assignment when finished.

Other functions of government:

1. Community and nation building
 - a) Teaching common language, heritage, values, symbols, myths, identity
2. Security and Order
 - a) Internal and External Security
3. Protecting Property and Other Rights
 - a) Without protections of property, people won't work to create sustained economic growth
4. Promoting economic efficiency and growth to prevent economic failure
 - a) Provide public goods (national defense, clean air, parks)
 - b) Externalities---natural monopolies
5. Social Justice
 - a) Create level playing field through redistribution
6. Protect the Weak
 - a) Children, aged, disabled, animals, environment

The Islamic Republic of Iran addresses all of the "other functions of government". As it pertains to community and nation building, the Iranian government has made direct reference to culture, ethnicity, and religion in its Constitution. Under the Iranian Constitution, all Iranians are subject to being equal despite differences in ethnicity and cultural background; all must obey the word of the Iranian government and the principles of Islam. Law is derived from Shari'a. While this may appear disconcerting in the world of human rights, it has successfully built upon Iranian cultural heritage to form a unified Iranian identity, save for some exceptions such as the Kurdish minority. Persian, or Farsi, the official lingua franca of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and under the Language Policy as delineated by the Iranian Constitution, it is a necessity that all Iranians are capable of communicating coherently and ably in Farsi. Their unique identity as Shi'ites, as well as the Persian history of Empires, has been built upon by the Iranian government to establish Iran as somewhat unique in the Muslim World. Most definitely are Iranians made uniquely Iranian by the types of policies their government implements.

Iran is also well known by this point for their internal and external security measures that provide security and order to the country. It is controversial, indeed, the development of the Iranian military and police forces, but they are nonetheless effective in their duties. Security in Iran is divided between the Armed Forces (further subdivided into the Revolutionary Guard and the Army) and the Law Enforcement Force. These together form the external and internal security components of the state, respectively. Iran is perhaps the most capable Middle Eastern, Muslim military force. Iranian-backed militias have seen success in Iraq in recent conflicts. The Ministry of Intelligence is another key component of Iran's internal security

doctrine, identifying threats before they can be carried out. Once again, despite alleged violations of human rights, the Iranian government is successful in keeping their state stable and intact.

Property rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, according to the International Property Rights index, is quite low in both the context of the Middle East and the Globe. What one can do with one's property in Iran may appear to be restricted, but what property rights existed are protected quite harshly by the government due to the derivation of the laws from Shari'a. Theft of property, for example, results in amputation of the four right fingers, as well as other digits for repeat offenses.

The economy is largely centrally planned in Iran. This means that the government is directly responsible for much of the economic happenings of the country; it has seen some success, such as in avoiding the 2008 financial crisis-induced recessions, but recent economic sanctions resulting from combativeness with Western states has led to some economic downturn. The Iranian government has oriented the economy, so far, primarily around oil and natural gas exports. A lack of concrete policy pertaining to handling of monopolies, restrictions on foreign business and investment, and no policies directly pertaining to ensuring a 'level playing field' has made many foreign investors wary of placing their money into the Iranian economy. On this front, Iran's government does not do so great.

As of late, however, Iran has worked more to combat environmental issues. The Iranian government has also implemented some protections for Children; women, however, under Shi'ite fundamentalist derived law, remain limited in their rights.

Overall, the Iranian government is successful in implementing harsh policy to maintain security, uniformity, and stability. They have direct control over much of the economy and civilian behavior through their strong government and strong religious institutions. This, however, has led to many failings on the part of the Iranian government in meeting a proper government's duties in the areas of economics and civilian protections.