

Iranian history sketch shows long list of struggles

By Cindy Coglianese

Editor's note: The following is the last of a four-part series on the events of Iran written by Alice Hrnicek and Cindy Coglianese.

An outline of Iranian history shows struggles over the mid-eastern land for control were political and religious.

Between 550 and 331 B.C., the Achaemenids ruled Iran. This was the time when Persia was at its height of power and under the control of Cyrus the Great.

During the years 331 to 129 B.C., the control switched to Greek hands and Alexander the Great's rule from 330 to 305 B.C. This was the same time as the Age of Pericles and the ruination of Carthage by the Romans.

From 129 B.C. to 224 A.D., the Parthians occupied Iranian lands. Then in 224-641 came the Golden Age of the Iranians under the Sassanians, which was the same time as the powerful Roman Empire.

At the time Charlemagne was being

crowned, Harun al-Rashid and the Muslim Caliphs controlled Iran. Local Iranian successors filled voids from 641 to 1050.

The period of 1050 to 1500 has been referred to as the Waves of Invaders as Turks and Mongols waged wars in Iran for control. From 1395 to 1405, Tamerlane ruled in Iran as the Turks raided Constantinople. This came after Hulagu Khan's rule from 1256 to 1265.

The Safavid Renaissance: Another Age of Greatness stood as a period of about 200 years in Iran. From 1500 to 1736 Shah Abbas ruled the country. As the French Revolution began, Iranian rule went to Nadir Shah. This time period is known as Nadir Shah and the Qajars and lasted from 1736 to 1926.

In 1926, the Pahlavi's dynasty came into rule, the family of Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi. This was a time when Iran was to come between Russia and the United States. The current shah's father, Reza Shah, was the first to rule during this stage of Iranian history.

Similar to U.S.

The form of government under the Pahlavi

dynasty in Iran ran along similar lines as the United States with executive, legislative and judicial branches of government.

However, the chief of state was known as the His Imperial Majesty the Shahinshah (shah). The manner of selection for the rulers was hereditary monarchy. The term of office was lifetime or whenever the shah wanted to leave.

His powers included supreme command of all military and naval forces, approval of all bills, exemption from all responsibilities, convening and dissolving parliament and appointment and dismissal of all ministers.

In addition, the shah could introduce legislation, issue decrees and orders implementing laws, declare war and conclude peace.

As with the presidential cabinet in the United States, the shah also had an executive cabinet.

Legislative system

In the legislative branch of government, Iran had a Senate and a Majlis with members either appointed or elected by the nation. There were 60 members in the Senate and 136 members in the Majlis (a lower house).

The judicial system had a supreme court, court of appeals, court of first instances, police magistrate courts and justices of the peace. Religious courts, advisory courts, military courts and commercial courts were special courts under the governmental structure under the shah.

In October, 1967, the shah decided to dispense with democracy in favor of rule by decree. At the time, he said he was exasperated from his attempts to bring about land reform in Iran.

According to Margaret Laing, author of *The Shah* (The Anchor Press Ltd., 1977), the shah's attitude towards democracy had been steadily declining since the 1950s. He was convinced that democracy as he understood it would not serve the purposes of Iran.

Brief overthrow

After his return to power in 1953 (after briefly being overthrown by Dr. Mohammed Mossadeq), the shah replaced autonomous parties with the Melliyun (Nationalist) and Mardom (People's) parties, both created by the shah and led by two of his followers.

In 1963 a new party was created under Hassan Ali Mansur. Within two months 150 deputies had joined the new party. In March, 1964, Mansur created a new government from the party as requested by the shah, and was known as the Iran Novin or the New Iran Party. Mansur then announced that the shah would assume overall leadership of the party.

From that time until the recent overthrow of the shah's government, he ruled in an authoritarian system believing that reform in Iran could only be accomplished through his strict authority.

Rabin...

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But the Palestinians should not be represented at the negotiations by the Palestinian Liberation Organization, he said.

"Let's let the majority of people decide it," he said, drawing from the Camp David agreement.

There are three and one-half million Jews and one and one-half million Palestinians in Israel, he said.

Two million Jews would have to be expelled to let PLO leader Yasser Arafat have his way, he said.

"We have not accepted the philosophy of national suicide... at least with Egypt we have no difference of opinion that the PLO is not a partner on the negotiations and the same applies to the United States."

Rabin said that from 1948 to 1967 the West Bank and Gaza Strip were Arab lands.

Camp David negotiations

"How did it happen that no demands, no attempt, was made for 19 years to create a Palestinian state?" he asked.

"For the same simple reason that the purpose was not a Palestinian state in a part of Palestine. The purpose was the dismantling of Israel as an independent state."

In a half-hour press conference preceding the speech, Rabin commented on the Israeli cabinet's refusal to allow Prime Minister Menachem Begin to attend a new

Camp David Summit unless Egyptian President Anwar Sadat is present.

"We thought it would not be advantageous to have a meeting with someone who doesn't have the authority on the other side."

Begin and Sadat are the chief executive officers of the two countries.

No comment

Rabin would not comment on remarks made by Begin Thursday upon arrival at Andrews Air Force base in Washington D.C. which called the Egyptian-Israeli peace effort "a deep crisis" and the Egyptian peace proposal "a sham document."

Rabin also spoke to a group of political science students Thursday afternoon and appeared at Creighton University Saturday night. He also made an appearance in Wichita, Kan.

He received \$2,500 for the appearance, most of which came from discretionary funds from the University of Nebraska Foundation donated by Chancellor Roy Young.

The faculty convocations committee also contributed to funding the talk. No tax or fee money went to sponsor him.

Rabin was not accompanied by security personnel.

Rabin is on a short United States tour by permission of the Israeli Embassy. Lincoln was his last appearance.



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