

Title of the Course:

Foreign Policy of Iran Since 1979

Optional Course

For

M.A. (International Relations-West Asian Studies)

Course No: MWAS-

Semester- III

Centre for West Asian Studies
Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi

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Course Description

Islamic revolution of Iran is indeed a great landmark not only in the history of Iran but also in the history of the region and the World. It made significant impact in every sphere of Iran from domestic to foreign policy domain. Foreign policy of Iran underwent drastic transformation in the post-revolutionary period. Islamic revolution of Iran restored the sovereignty and self-respect of the Iranian people. Iran, which was acting as subservient to the United States under the Shah, completely broke its relation with it. It began to pose a serious challenge to American hegemony in the region. Iran began to be viewed as the greatest threat by the US and its regional allies. Iran's relation with the GCC countries, Israel, European countries as well as with the then USSR also underwent changes. It has to face isolation and sanction. However, after the death of Imam Khomeini, the main architect of the revolution, the ideological fervor began to slowly dilute and pave for the pragmatism and reconciliation due to variety of factors. But the trajectory of reconciliation has not been smooth and despite every effort it has not been able to get due space in the community of nations. This course intends to familiarize students with the main contours of Iran's foreign policy in the post-revolutionary period. It would expose them with various facets of Iran's foreign policy and strategy to survive in a very hostile atmosphere.

Course Content

Unit I: Iran's Foreign Policy under Khomeini

- Historical Background
- Iran's relations with USA and Israel
- Iran and Europe/Russia
- Iran and Palestine Question
- Iran and Muslim/Arab World
- Iran -Iraq war

Unit II: Iran's Foreign policy from Rafsanjani to Khatami

- Pragmatism vs Ideology
- Iran and US/Europe
- Dialogue of Civilisation
- Iran and Muslim World
- Iran and Russia, China and India

Unit III: Iranian Foreign policy under Ahmadinejad

- Iran and the US/Europe & Israel
- Iran and Palestine Question
- Iran and the Muslim/Arab World
- Iran's Nuclear Programme

Unit IV: Iranian Foreign Policy under Rouhani

- Iran's Nuclear deal
- Iran and the US/Europe
- Iran and Arab Spring
- Iran and Syrian Crisis

Reading List:

- Ansari, Ali M (2006), *Confronting Iran*, (C Hurst and Co. & Foundation Books, Delhi)
- -----, ed. (2011), *politics of Modern Iran: Critical Issues in Modern politics*, (Routledge: London and New York)
- Ehteshami, Anoushirvan, & Zweiri, Mahjoob (2007), *Iran and the Rise of the neo-conservatives: the politics of Tehran silent revolution*, (I.B. Tauris: New York)

- Mattair, Thomas R. (2008), *Global Security Watch Iran*, Praeger Security International, (West port, USA)
- ArshinAdib-Moghaddam (2008), *Iran in World politics: The Question of the Islamic Republic*, (Columbia University press, New York)
- Nikki R. Keddie and Rudi Matthee (2002), *Iran and the Surrounding World: Interactions in Culture and Cultural politics*, (University of Washington Press, Seattle and London)
- Nikki R. Keddie (2003), *Modern Iran : Roots and results of Revolution*, (Yale university press: new haven and London)

- Keddie, Nikki R. *Iran, Religion, Politics and Society*, London, Frank Cass, 1980
- Andreeva, Elena (2007), *Russia and Iran in the Great Game: travelogues and orientalism*, Routledge: London and New York)
- Atabaki, Touraj, ed. (2006), *Iran and the First World War: battleground of the Great powers*, (I.B. Tauris: London and New York)
- Garver, John W. (2006), *China and Iran: ancient partners in a Post-Imperial World*, (University of Washington press: Seattle and London)
- Katouzian, Homa (2006), *state and society in Iran: the Eclipse of the Qajars and the Emergence of the pahlavis* (I.B. Tauris: London and New York)
- Alireza Jafarzadeh (2007) *the Iranian Threat: President Ahmadinejad and the coming Nuclear Crisis*, (Palgrave macmillan, New York)
- Saira Khan (2010), *Iran and Nuclear Weapons: Protracted Conflict and Proliferation*, (Routledge Global Security Studies, London and New York)
- Kinzer, Stephen. *All the Shah's Men: An American Coup and the Roots of Middle Eastern Terror*. John Wiley and Sons, Inc, 2004.
- Howard, Roger (2007), *Iran Oil: the New Middle east Challenge to America*, (I.B Tauris, London)
- Clawson, Patrick and Rubin, Michael (2005), *Eternal Iran: Continuity and Chaos*, (Palgrave macmillan, New York)
- Newman, Andrew, J (2006), *Safavid Iran, Rebirth of a Persian Empire*, (I.B. Tauris, London and new York)
- Ramazani, Rouhollah K. *The Persian Gulf : Iran's Role*. Charlottesville, VA, University Press of Virginia, 1972.
- ----- *The Foreign Policy of Iran 1500-1941*. University Press of Virginia, 1966.

Method of Instruction:

Lectures and Tutorials will be held on a weekly basis. Questions, Discussion and debate during classes will be strongly encouraged. Students are expected to keep informed of the current events in the West Asian Region.

Method of Assessment:

A mid-term exam would consist of essay questions based upon the topics covered up to that point. It will be of 25 marks and student must answer two question out of 4 of 12.5 marks each. The final exam would be conducted according to a schedule at the end of the semester will be of 75 marks. In the final exam, student must answer 5 out of 10 questions.