

# political map of iran

**\*\*Exploring the Political Map of Iran: A Detailed Overview\*\***

**political map of iran** offers a fascinating glimpse into the country's administrative divisions, geographical boundaries, and the intricate layout of its provinces and neighboring nations. Understanding this map is essential for grasping Iran's political structure, regional dynamics, and its place in the Middle East. Whether you're a student, traveler, or simply curious about global geopolitics, diving into the political map of Iran reveals much about its governance, cultural diversity, and geopolitical significance.

## The Basics of the Political Map of Iran

Iran, officially known as the Islamic Republic of Iran, is a country located in Western Asia, forming a crucial bridge between the Middle East and Central Asia. The political map of Iran delineates its borders with seven countries: Iraq, Turkey, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. It also highlights its extensive coastline along the Persian Gulf and the Caspian Sea, both strategic locations that influence Iran's economic and political relationships.

Unlike a physical map that focuses on natural features such as mountains and rivers, the political map of Iran emphasizes human-made boundaries and administrative divisions. This map showcases the country's 31 provinces (ostans), each governed by local officials but under the broader authority of the central government in Tehran.

## Provinces and Administrative Divisions

Each province in Iran is unique, with distinct cultural, linguistic, and historical characteristics. The political map of Iran clearly marks these provinces, which range widely in size and population. For example, Tehran Province, home to the capital city Tehran, is densely populated and serves as the political and economic hub of the country. In contrast, provinces like Sistan and Baluchestan in the southeast are more sparsely populated and have a different ethnic composition.

Here are some key provinces often highlighted on the political map of Iran:

- **\*\*Tehran\*\***: Capital province and the political center.
- **\*\*Isfahan\*\***: Known for its rich cultural heritage and historic architecture.
- **\*\*Fars\*\***: The birthplace of the ancient Persian Empire, with Shiraz as its capital.

- **Khorasan Razavi**: A northeastern province with Mashhad, a major religious city.
- **Khuzestan**: Rich in oil resources and ethnically diverse.

Understanding these provincial divisions helps in appreciating Iran's internal political landscape and the distribution of power.

## **Geopolitical Significance of Iran's Political Boundaries**

The political map of Iran is not just a static representation of borders; it reflects complex geopolitical realities. Iran's location makes it a pivotal player in regional politics, especially considering its proximity to volatile areas such as Iraq and Afghanistan.

## **Neighboring Countries and Border Dynamics**

Iran shares long and sometimes contentious borders with its neighbors, many of which are highlighted on the political map of Iran. The western border with Iraq has been a site of conflict and cooperation over decades, while the northeastern border with Turkmenistan is more peaceful but strategically important for trade.

The borders with Afghanistan and Pakistan to the east are significant for security reasons, especially concerning cross-border movements and the fight against terrorism and drug trafficking. These geopolitical factors make the political map of Iran an essential tool for analysts and policymakers.

## **Maritime Boundaries**

Iran's coastline along the Persian Gulf and the Caspian Sea plays a critical role in its foreign relations and economic activities. The Persian Gulf is a vital artery for global oil shipments, and Iran's control over key straits, like the Strait of Hormuz, gives it considerable leverage in international politics. The political map of Iran often includes maritime boundaries to show territorial waters and exclusive economic zones, which are crucial for understanding Iran's naval strategy and economic potential.

## **Historical Evolution of Iran's Political Map**

The current political map of Iran is the result of centuries of historical developments, invasions, treaties, and internal reforms. From the ancient

Persian empires to the modern nation-state, Iran's boundaries have shifted dramatically.

## **From Ancient Persia to Modern Iran**

Historically, the Persian Empire encompassed vast territories across the Middle East and beyond. However, the political map of Iran today is much smaller, reflecting the legacy of colonial interventions and regional conflicts. The Treaty of Turkmenchay in the 19th century, for example, forced Persia (Iran's former name) to cede territories to Russia, shaping the northern borders seen on the political map.

## **20th Century Changes and Modernization**

The 20th century brought further changes, with the rise of the Pahlavi dynasty and the eventual establishment of the Islamic Republic in 1979. These political shifts were accompanied by administrative reorganizations, dividing Iran into the provinces we recognize today. The political map of Iran as we know it is a snapshot of these historical transformations and ongoing administrative adjustments.

## **How to Read and Use the Political Map of Iran**

For travelers, students, or anyone interested in Iran, understanding how to interpret the political map of Iran can enhance your knowledge and experience.

## **Tips for Navigating the Map**

- **\*\*Identify Provincial Capitals\*\***: Each province has a capital city, often marked prominently. Knowing these helps in understanding regional centers of power.
- **\*\*Understand Ethnic and Linguistic Diversity\*\***: Provinces on the map may correspond to different ethnic groups such as Persians, Azeris, Kurds, Baluchis, and Arabs, influencing local politics.
- **\*\*Note Strategic Locations\*\***: Pay attention to provinces bordering neighboring countries or coastal areas, as they tend to have heightened geopolitical importance.
- **\*\*Use Layers\*\***: Many modern political maps come with layers showing infrastructure like highways, railroads, and airports, helping to contextualize economic activity.

## **Educational and Practical Applications**

The political map of Iran is widely used in education to teach geography, history, and political science. It also serves practical purposes in fields such as international relations, business, and tourism. Understanding administrative boundaries is crucial for governmental planning, resource allocation, and diplomatic negotiations.

## **The Role of the Political Map in Iran's Internal Politics**

The political map of Iran shapes much of the country's internal governance and political dynamics. Iran's centralized government in Tehran exerts control over provincial administrations, but local identities and politics remain influential.

## **Provincial Governance**

Each province is headed by a governor-general appointed by the Ministry of Interior, reflecting the centralized nature of Iranian politics. However, local councils and elected officials also play roles in managing municipal affairs. The political map of Iran thus reflects a balance between central authority and regional diversity.

## **Ethnic and Regional Considerations**

Some provinces have significant ethnic minorities, and their representation on the political map of Iran is tied to broader issues of cultural rights and political inclusion. For instance, Kurdistan Province and West Azerbaijan are home to Kurdish populations, while Khuzestan hosts a considerable Arab minority. The political map provides a framework for understanding these complex social dynamics.

## **Digital Political Maps and Modern Tools**

With advances in technology, political maps of Iran are no longer confined to paper. Interactive digital maps provide up-to-date information on boundaries, administrative changes, and geopolitical developments.

## Benefits of Digital Political Maps

- **Real-Time Updates**: Changes in administrative boundaries or political developments can be quickly reflected.
- **Interactive Features**: Users can zoom in and out, click on provinces for detailed information, and overlay other data such as population density or economic indicators.
- **Integration with GPS and Navigation**: Useful for travelers and businesses operating in Iran.

## Popular Platforms Featuring Political Maps of Iran

Many global platforms like Google Maps, Bing Maps, and specialized geopolitical databases offer detailed political maps of Iran. These resources are invaluable for researchers, diplomats, and anyone interested in contemporary Iranian affairs.

Exploring the political map of Iran reveals a country rich in history, diversity, and strategic importance. Whether viewed through the lens of geography, politics, or culture, this map is a key to unlocking a deeper understanding of one of the Middle East's most significant nations.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What are the major provinces shown on the political map of Iran?

The major provinces shown on the political map of Iran include Tehran, Isfahan, Fars, Khorasan Razavi, East Azerbaijan, West Azerbaijan, Khuzestan, and Mazandaran, among others.

### How is Iran politically divided on its map?

Iran is politically divided into 31 provinces, each governed by an appointed governor-general. These provinces are further subdivided into counties, districts, and rural districts.

### What neighboring countries are visible on the political map of Iran?

The neighboring countries visible on the political map of Iran include Iraq, Turkey, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, and Pakistan.

## Does the political map of Iran show disputed territories?

The standard political map of Iran does not typically show disputed territories within Iran itself, but it may indicate borders that are subject to regional disputes, such as areas near the Iran-Iraq border.

## How does the political map of Iran reflect its administrative organization?

The political map of Iran reflects its administrative organization by clearly delineating provincial boundaries, highlighting provincial capitals, and marking major cities and towns, which helps in understanding the country's governance structure.

## Additional Resources

Political Map of Iran: A Detailed Exploration of Its Administrative and Geopolitical Landscape

**political map of iran** serves as a crucial visual and analytical tool for understanding the country's complex administrative divisions and geopolitical significance. As one of the Middle East's pivotal nations, Iran's political boundaries not only delineate internal governance structures but also reflect historical, ethnic, and strategic considerations. This article delves into the nuances of Iran's political map, examining its provincial divisions, border dynamics, and the implications for both domestic policy and international relations.

## Understanding the Political Map of Iran

The political map of Iran is characterized by its division into 31 provinces (ostans), each governed by an appointed governor-general. These provinces vary widely in terms of population density, ethnic composition, economic resources, and strategic importance. The administrative framework is designed to facilitate centralized governance while accommodating the country's diverse socio-cultural landscape.

Iran's provinces are further subdivided into counties (shahrestans), districts (bakhshs), and rural districts (dehestans), creating a multi-tiered governance system. This hierarchy is carefully reflected in the political map, which visually distinguishes these divisions through varying boundary delineations and labels. For analysts and policymakers, the political map of Iran is indispensable for understanding regional governance and resource distribution.

## **Provincial Overview and Regional Disparities**

Among the 31 provinces, Tehran stands out as the political and economic hub, hosting the capital city and central government institutions. Other significant provinces include Isfahan, Fars, and Khuzestan, each with distinct economic strengths such as industry, agriculture, and oil production respectively.

The political map of Iran also highlights regional disparities. Provinces in the west and northwest, like Kurdistan and West Azerbaijan, have substantial Kurdish and Azeri populations, which influence local governance and cultural policies. The southeast provinces, such as Sistan and Baluchestan, face developmental challenges and have strategic importance due to proximity to Pakistan and the Gulf of Oman.

## **Geopolitical Boundaries and Neighboring Countries**

Iran shares land borders with seven countries: Iraq, Turkey, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. The political map of Iran distinctly marks these international boundaries, which are vital in understanding Iran's foreign policy and security concerns.

The western border with Iraq has historically been a zone of conflict and cooperation, notably during the Iran-Iraq War in the 1980s. Meanwhile, northern borders with Armenia and Azerbaijan are significant in regional power dynamics, especially considering the Caucasus' geopolitical landscape.

The eastern borders with Afghanistan and Pakistan are porous and present security challenges related to cross-border militancy and smuggling. The political map of Iran, by highlighting these borders, underscores the strategic importance of border security and international diplomacy.

## **Features and Significance of Iran's Political Boundaries**

The political map of Iran is not merely a static representation of administrative units; it encapsulates the country's ethno-linguistic diversity, resource allocation, and strategic priorities. Understanding these features is essential for comprehending Iran's internal cohesion and external posture.

## **Ethnic and Cultural Dimensions**

Iran is a mosaic of ethnic groups, including Persians, Azeris, Kurds, Arabs,

Baluchis, and Turkmens. These groups are often concentrated in specific provinces, a fact clearly depicted in the political map of Iran. For example:

- **Azeris** predominantly inhabit the northwest provinces such as East and West Azerbaijan.
- **Kurds** are concentrated in Kurdistan and Kermanshah provinces.
- **Baluchis** mainly reside in Sistan and Baluchestan province.
- **Arabs** are primarily found in Khuzestan in the southwest.

This ethnic distribution has implications for governance, cultural rights, and sometimes regional autonomy movements. The political divisions, therefore, often intersect with ethnic identities, influencing policy decisions and national integration efforts.

## Economic and Resource Considerations

Iran's provinces differ significantly in their economic contributions and resource endowments. The political map of Iran highlights provinces rich in natural resources and industrial capacity:

- **Khuzestan:** Known as Iran's oil heartland, this province contributes a large share of the country's hydrocarbon exports.
- **Isfahan:** An industrial powerhouse with significant manufacturing and steel production facilities.
- **Tehran:** Beyond being the capital, it is the economic center with diverse sectors including finance, technology, and services.
- **Kerman:** Noted for mineral resources such as copper.

The political map, by delineating these provinces, aids in understanding how economic planning and infrastructure development are geographically distributed.

## Strategic and Military Importance

Iran's political map also reflects areas of strategic military importance. Border provinces often host military installations and checkpoints to



safeguard against external threats and to control illicit activities.

For instance, the provinces bordering Iraq and the Persian Gulf are critical for Iran's defense posture and regional influence. The Strait of Hormuz, located near Hormozgan province, is a vital maritime chokepoint for global oil shipments, making its political and security status a focal point of international concern.

## **Comparative Analysis with Other Middle Eastern Political Maps**

When compared to political maps of neighboring countries such as Iraq, Turkey, and Afghanistan, Iran's political map reveals a relatively stable internal administrative structure. While countries like Iraq experience frequent boundary disputes and shifting provincial alignments, Iran maintains consistent provincial borders, reflecting a more centralized and enduring governance model.

However, the ethnic mosaic in Iran is somewhat comparable to the multi-ethnic compositions in Turkey and Iraq, where political maps also become instruments in managing diversity and regional autonomy claims. Iran's approach, as seen through its political map, emphasizes strong state control while allowing limited cultural and administrative decentralization.

## **Challenges and Prospects**

Despite the clarity of its political map, Iran faces challenges related to regional disparities, ethnic tensions, and border security. Provinces like Sistan and Baluchestan continue to experience underdevelopment and sporadic unrest, highlighting gaps between political boundaries and effective governance.

Moreover, the geopolitical tensions surrounding Iran's borders, especially with the United States' presence in the Persian Gulf and ongoing conflicts in neighboring countries, render the political map a dynamic and sometimes contested space.

The ongoing infrastructural projects and administrative reforms promise to reshape certain aspects of Iran's political landscape. Enhanced connectivity between provinces and increased local governance capacities may alter how the political map of Iran is interpreted in the future.

Exploring the political map of Iran offers invaluable insights into the country's internal dynamics and external relations. It remains a critical reference for scholars, policymakers, and observers seeking to navigate the complexities of one of the Middle East's most influential states.

## Political Map Of Iran

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**political map of iran:** *Iraq's New Political Map* Phebe Marr, 2022

**political map of iran:** *Maritime Political Geography* Pirouz Mojtahed-Zadeh, 2015-04-16 This book magnifies only one instance of Iran's geopolitical role in the Persian Gulf in the interim period between the British withdrawal of forces from, and the American arrival in that region. Two centuries of Pax-Britannica was the period of territorial organization of the region, which resulted in the creation of a number of small states or emirates defining territories and boundaries for which caused huge territorial complications with the older states of the region. Pax-Britannica was removed at the end of 1971 without settling these difficult issues. Yet, immediately after their departure from the Persian Gulf, Iran began the initiative of settling territorial differences among the littoral states. Negotiations for the delimitation of maritime boundaries in the Persian Gulf which started in 1968 with Saudi Arabia continued with each and every Arab state of the region and by the mid-1970s all maritime boundaries of Iran with her Arab neighbours were settled, including legal settlement of the issue of the islands extensively examined in this book. In 1975, the age-old Iran-Iraq territorial and boundary disputes were settled in Shatt al Arab, and in the same year Iran's initiative of settling territorial disputes went beyond the region of the Persian Gulf and the Shah quelled the fire of separatist movements in Dhufar of Oman as well as intervening in Egyptian Israeli disputes and settle their differences over the Sinai Peninsula. Israeli author, Samuel Segev admits in his 1981 publications on Israeli secret relations in the Middle East that The Shah was the originator of the idea to mediate between Anwar Sadat and Golda Meir. Another instance of the Iranian endeavour to safeguard Arab territorial integrity was Iran's undertaking in eradication of threats to Oman's territorial integrity in the early 1970s. Within three years Iranian soldiers defended with their lives Oman's territorial integrity in Dhufar Province in the face of a fierce communist separatist movement that British forces could not eradicate in twelve years.

**political map of iran: The Dynamics of Iranian Borders** Mansoureh Ebrahimi, Masoumeh Rad Goudarzi, Kamaruzaman Yusoff, 2018-06-15 This book is on Iran's geopolitical importance representing a continuum of international competition for political gains and economic benefit, due to the country's unique geographical location that has always been a cause of contention. Iran's massive borders and evolving political weakness, along with influences from the kings of Qajar that maintained and strengthened Great Britain's hegemony in the region, were major factors affecting ongoing regional conflicts. Additional roles played by other world powers such as France, Russia and the United States are also noted. Conflicts, unrest and regional wars were all consequences arising from power struggles that led to treaties and international agreements between Iran, Britain and Russia that caused the eventual loss of traditional Iranian territories. Hence, extrinsic impositions on Iran are the subject of this study as authors examine the turbulent climate that altered Iranian borders during the Qajar Dynasty.

**political map of iran:** *Power, Islam, and Political Elite in Iran* Eva Rakel, 2008-11-30 The Iranian Islamic revolution brought about a political system based on a combination of state institutions that derive their legitimacy from Islamic law and republican institutions legitimized by the people. As there are no legal political parties in the Islamic Republic of Iran, political factions represent the varying ideological and material interests of members of the political elite and their supporters. This book analyzes the rivalries between the political factions and their related state institutions and the impact of the dynamics of factionalism on domestic (economic and

socio-cultural) and foreign policy formulation. It shows that tensions inherent to the structure of state institutions and factional rivalries slow down the process of democratization and economic reforms in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

**political map of iran: Understanding Iran's National Security Doctrine** Manshour Varasteh, 2013-06-01 This new academic and analytical book tackles the strategy of Iran's security since the new millennium, when their national security policy was reviewed to secure Iran's position. This was implemented by the newly elected President Mohammad Khatami and modified during the presidency of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. The importance of the period from Khatami to Ahmadinejad is that the clerical establishment of the Iranian regime, in order to maintain stability of the system, chose two strategic doctrines: firstly, they supported Khatami's 'Policy of Appeasement' - Detente - towards the West and tried to conduct reform within the system. Secondly, hard-line conservative Ahmadinejad was brought to power based on the 'Policy of Confrontation' and advocated conservative ideology, which resulted in more clashes with Western governments. This book explains the doctrine of Iran's national security in the 21st century, examining the factors related to the formulation of their national security strategy. It aims to provide a clear understanding of the nature of the clerical system's goals, their behavior patterns in a domestic environment, and the international community. This can only be made by taking into account their particular aim and the circumstances that prevailed when decisions were made and policies were formed. There are many books written on Iran which analyses the different aspects of the mullah's regime, but there are currently no books that focus on its national security doctrine. Manshour Varasteh has written Understanding Iran's National Security Doctrine to give a better understanding of the clerical regime's ambitious politics. On this basis, it is hoped this book will shed some light on the politics of Iran. It will appeal to those interested in Iran's politics.

**political map of iran: National Geographic Treasures ,**

**political map of iran: World Mapping Today** Bob Parry, Chris Perkins, 2011-12-22 No detailed description available for World Mapping Today.

**political map of iran: Political Participation in Iran from Khatami to the Green Movement** Paola Rivetti, 2019-12-26 This book examines the unintended consequences of top-down reforms in Iran, analysing how the Iranian reformist governments (1997-2005) sought to utilise gradual reforms to control independent activism, and how citizens responded to such a disciplinary action. While the governments successfully 'set the field' of permitted political participation, part of the civil society that took shape was unexpectedly independent. Despite being a minority, independent activists were not marginal: without them, in fact, the Green Movement of 2009 would not have taken shape. Building on in-depth empirical analysis, the author explains how autonomous activism forms and survives in a semi-authoritarian country. The book contributes to the debate about the implications of elite-led reforms for social reproduction, offering an innovative interpretation and an original analysis of social movements from a political science perspective.

**political map of iran: The Great Powers, and Iran's Social and Political Evolution** Shireen T. Hunter, 2024-12-23 This book is a personal narrative chronicling the life and experiences of Shireen Hunter, an Iranian woman who came of age during a transformative era in Iran's history. It begins by spanning the tumultuous aftermath of World War II to the pivotal 1979 revolution, providing a poignant account of the profound impact of these historical events on the author's life. The book delves into the multifaceted consequences of the reformist period that began in the 1960s. They enabled Shireen to enter the diplomatic service, but also cast a shadow of adversity over her family. Ultimately, the reforms contributed to internal divisions that ignited the 1979 revolution. The book then explores Shireen's immigrant experience in the USA, where she assumed the role of an "ethnic expert" in the volatile arena of Middle East politics. It candidly recounts challenges she faced in maintaining intellectual integrity while earning a livelihood, highlighting the precariousness of being on the right side of controversial issues. The book does not offer definitive solutions to specific problems. Yet it resonates with contemporary international security and developmental challenges and offers insights that remain relevant in today's complex global landscape. With its

multifaceted narrative encompassing Iran's social and political history, women's studies, immigrant experiences, and a personal perspective on critical junctures in U.S.-Iranian relations, this book appeals to a diverse readership. It provides a unique window into "lived" experiences and analytical reflections of an individual who has traversed the intersections of history, identity, and diplomacy, offering invaluable insights into both past and present.

**political map of iran: *Iran, Israel, and the United States*** Jalil Roshandel, Nathan Chapman Lean, 2011-06-02 Providing an unbiased analysis of the past, present, and future of the hostile relationship between Iran, Israel, and the United States, this book presents an up-to-date discussion of the security implications for each of the two states as well as the entire region. Ongoing tensions between Iran and Israel are highly dangerous for the Middle East and have the potential to spark another major war in the region, perhaps on a much larger scale than prior conflicts. Such a confrontation between the two nations would jeopardize regional and international security, and is of immediate concern for the United States. In this new book noted scholar Jalil Roshandel provides an in-depth look at topics such as Iranian state support for terrorism, its pursuit of nuclear capability and weapons, the implications of this activity for Israel, and their relations with the Iraqi Kurdish region. The United States' role in this conflict is also detailed, including a history of its relations with Iran, policy with Israel, and position as potential mediator. This book offers valuable context that explains the evolution of these relationships rather than simply summarizing the past and present situations, and concludes with thought-provoking policy alternatives for decision makers.

**political map of iran: *Iran's Nuclear Program*** Farhad Rezaei, 2017-01-05 This book presents the first full and systematic account of Iran's nuclear program from 1979 to 2015. Throughout this time, foreign policy makers, intelligence experts, and scholars on the subject have repeatedly failed to understand the internal dynamics behind Iran's nuclear project and have underestimated the depth of the regime's commitment to develop nuclear weapons. The author presents an account of little-understood episodes in the history of the nuclear project, including an analysis of the decision making process of the "nuclear sanctum." A full account is given of the organizations that ran the project and a listing of the suppliers that made the project possible. Finally, the book offers a detailed analysis of the international sanctions placed on Iran, including the induced anomie and legitimacy crisis which expedited the decision to rollback.

**political map of iran: *Iran*** Ramin Jahanbegloo, 2004-01-01 The Iranian Revolution represented to intellectuals and professionals the potential of spiritual values to triumph over the great power of economic imperialism. Yet out of this revolution has emerged an identity crisis that touches Islamic ideological heights and reaches down to the very ground of Islamic practice. The contributors to this collection, experts on Iranian cultural and political history, analyze the 'fragmented self' of today's Iranian, refracted through that country's institutions, market forces, and modern thought. Each essay both deepens our understanding of contemporary Iran and adds to the broader discussion of the relationship between Islam and the West.

**political map of iran: *The Baluch, Sunnism and the State in Iran*** Stéphane A. Dudoignon, 2017 This fascinating study explores the emergence of a significant Sunni community on the margins of Shia Iran and delineates a 'Sunni arc' stretching from Central Asia southwards through the Iranian provinces of Khorasan and Baluchistan.

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**political map of iran: *Iran's Foreign Policy After the Nuclear Agreement*** Farhad Rezaei, 2018-05-22 The book offers the first systematic account of Iran's foreign policy following the nuclear agreement (JCPOA) of July 14, 2015. The author evaluates in what ways the JCPOA, in conjunction with the dramatic changes taking shape in the international order, have affected Iran's foreign policy. Known as Normalizers, the moderate leadership under President Hassan Rouhani had

planned to normalize Iran's foreign relations by curtailing terrorism and reintegrate Iran into the community of nations. Their hardline opponents, the Principalists, rejected the JCPOA as a tool of subjection to the West and insisted on exporting the Islamist revolution, a source of much destabilization and terror in the region and beyond. The project also analyzes the struggle between Normalizers and their hardline opponents with regards to global and regional issues and Iran's foreign policy towards global powers including the U.S., Russia, EU, and regional countries including Iraq, Syria, Israel, Saudi Arabia and Turkey.

**political map of iran: The Military in Post-Revolutionary Iran** Hesam Forozan, 2015-10-14 Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps, also known as the 'Sepah', has wielded considerable and increasing power in Iran in recent decades. Established in 1979 by Ayatollah Khomeini as a paramilitary organisation charged with protecting the nascent Islamic regime and countering the untrustworthy Imperial army (or 'Artesh'), the Sepah has evolved into one of the most powerful political, ideological, military and economic players in Iran over recent years. The Sepah is entrusted with a diverse set of indoctrination apparatus, training programmes and system welfare provisions intended to broaden support for the regime. Although established as a paramilitary organisation, the Sepah developed to have its own ministry, complex bureaucracy and diversified functions, alongside its own network and personnel. This book provides a comprehensive overview of the Sepah and its role. It examines the position of the Sepah in Iranian state and society, explores the nature of the Sepah's involvement in politics, and discusses the impact of the Sepah's political rise on Iran's economy and foreign policy. Contemporary Iran can only be fully understood by an awareness of the ongoing in-fighting among regime factions and increasing popular demands for social change - knowing about the Sepah is central to all this.

**political map of iran: Iran's Foreign Policy in the Post-Soviet Era** Shireen T. Hunter, 2010-05-20 A comprehensive exploration of postrevolution Iranian foreign policy analyzes the country's relations with key nations and regions and the impact of both Iran's domestic situation and the developing global system. *Iran's Foreign Policy in the Post-Soviet Era: Resisting the New International Order* provides the first truly comprehensive, in-depth survey of Iranian foreign policy, issue by issue and country by country, since the Islamic Revolution. To help readers understand both the what and the why of Iran's role in the world and formulate useful responses to that role, the author provides a detailed analysis of Iranian foreign policy in all its dimensions. The first part of the book places Iranian actions, particularly its relations with the United States and other key players, within the context of the emerging international system, while also showing how domestic developments impact foreign policy. The second part surveys Iranian relations with specific actors, notably the United States and Russia, and with key regions, including Europe, Central Asia, the Arab world, Latin America, and Africa. Providing an antidote to existing preconceptions, this incisive analysis lays an analytically sound basis for shaping policies toward Iran—policies with potentially high payoff in terms of regional security and stability.

**political map of iran: Music of a Thousand Years** Ann E. Lucas, 2019-10-22 A free open access ebook is available upon publication. Learn more at [www.luminosoa.org](http://www.luminosoa.org). Iran's particular system of traditional Persian art music has been long treated as the product of an ever-evolving, ancient Persian culture. In *Music of a Thousand Years*, Ann E. Lucas argues that this music is a modern phenomenon indelibly tied to changing notions of Iran's national history. Rather than considering a single Persian music history, Lucas demonstrates cultural dissimilarity and discontinuity over time, bringing to light two different notions of music-making in relation to premodern and modern musical norms. An important corrective to the history of Persian music, *Music of a Thousand Years* is the first work to align understandings of Middle Eastern music history with current understandings of the region's political history.

**political map of iran: Decolonizing the Map** James R. Akerman, 2017-06-16 Almost universally, newly independent states seek to affirm their independence and identity by making the production of new maps and atlases a top priority. For formerly colonized peoples, however, this process neither begins nor ends with independence, and it is rarely straightforward. Mapping their

own land is fraught with a fresh set of issues: how to define and administer their territories, develop their national identity, establish their role in the community of nations, and more. The contributors to *Decolonizing the Map* explore this complicated relationship between mapping and decolonization while engaging with recent theoretical debates about the nature of decolonization itself. These essays, originally delivered as the 2010 Kenneth Nebenzahl, Jr., Lectures in the History of Cartography at the Newberry Library, encompass more than two centuries and three continents—Latin America, Africa, and Asia. Ranging from the late eighteenth century through the mid-twentieth, contributors study topics from mapping and national identity in late colonial Mexico to the enduring complications created by the partition of British India and the racialized organization of space in apartheid and post-apartheid South Africa. A vital contribution to studies of both colonization and cartography, *Decolonizing the Map* is the first book to systematically and comprehensively examine the engagement of mapping in the long—and clearly unfinished—parallel processes of decolonization and nation building in the modern world.

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