

AP Comparative Government Unit Guide

Iran

From Simple Studies, <https://simplestudies.edublogs.org> & @simplestudiesinc on Instagram

Clerics

→ In Iran, the concept of jurist guardianship states that **senior clerics have authority over the entire community.**

Theocracy

→ **A state dominated by the clergy**, who rule on the grounds that they are the only interpreters of God's will and law.

Sharia

→ **Islamic law derived mostly from the Qur'an (Koran)** and the examples set by the Prophet Muhammad.

Mahmoud Ahmadinejad

→ President of Iran from 2005-2013. **Not a cleric.** Confrontation with the West. Holocaust denier.

Assembly of Experts

- **Elected body of 86 members** that chooses the supreme leader (men/Islamic scholars) (8 yr terms)
- Difficult to say how powerful a role this body will play once Khamenei passes away

Ayatollah

→ In Shiite Islam, a **title in the religious hierarchy achieved by scholars** who have

demonstrated highly advanced knowledge of Islamic law and religion.

Basij

→ "People's militia," which serves as a public moral police.

Bonyads

→ **Parastatal foundations** made in part from assets nationalized after the Iranian Revolution.

Expediency Council

→ Appointed body that mediates **between the Majlis and the Guardian Council** over legislative disputes.

Farsi

→ **Language of Iran**

Guardian Council

→ **Appointed body that vets candidates for office** and can veto legislation (limits Majlis) (12 members/6yr terms) (6 lawyers nominated by chief justice and approved by Majlis, and 6 clerics appointed by supreme leader).

Islamic Republic of Iran

→ Name for **post-revolutionary** Iran.

Khamenei, Ali

→ **Current supreme leader** of Iran since 1989.

Majlis

→ **Legislature of Iran**

Pahlavi, Reza Shah

→ **Monarch** of Iran from 1925 to 1941

Persia

→ **Name for Iran** before 1935

Revolutionary Guard

→ **Paramilitary force** charged with defending the regime from domestic and internal enemies.

Shiism

→ **Minority sect of Islam that differs with Sunnism** over the proper descendants of the prophet Muhammad.

Supreme leader

→ Chief spiritual and political leader of Iran.

Supreme court

→ **Chief judicial body**



Chief justice

→ The apex of the judiciary: a single figure qualified in Sharia law (cleric) and appointed by the supreme leader. **Appoints/removes judges.**

Directly elected institutions

→ **President, Majles, Assembly of Religious Experts**

Green Revolution

→ 2009 dispute over validity of election results. **Supporters of Mousavi the reformist.**

1979 Revolution

→ **Led by Khomeini.** People were upset because their leader (the shah) was not chosen by them; backed up by Europe and the US. They believed their resources were being abused and wanted change. Revolution was intended to turn Iran into a purely Islamic state. The new government followed the sharia and all western culture was banned.

Sources:

- <https://quizlet.com/78334570/ap-comparative-government-iran-flash-cards>
- <https://quizlet.com/gb/495842667/sociology-religion-and-social-change-flash-cards/>

