



# CHRONOLOGY OF IRANIAN HISTORY PART 4

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**1974** The *Encyclopaedia Iranica* is founded by Ehsan Yāršāter; the first volume is published in 1982.

**1974** Kōsrow Golsorkī (b. 1941), poet, art critic, and leftist political activist is executed.

**1974** Moḥammad Hejāzi (b. 1901), novelist, short story writer admired for his prose style, conservative senator, author of *Āyineh* (1959) and *Zibā* (1961), dies.

**1974** Henrik Samuel Nyberg (b. 1889), eminent Swedish scholar of Semitic and Iranian studies, professor at Uppsala University, author of *Hilfsbuch des Pehlevi* (2 vols., 1928-31; English revised version as *A Manual of Pahlavi*, 2 vols., 1964-74), and *Die Religionen des alten Iran* (1938), dies.

**1974** Robert Charles Zaehner (b. 1913), British scholar of Zoroastrianism and Indian religions, diplomat, professor at the University of Oxford, author of *Teachings of the Magi: a compendium of Zoroastrian beliefs* (1956), *Hindu and Muslim Mysticism* (1960), *Dawn and Twilight of Zoroastrianism* (1961), and *Zurvan, a Zoroastrian Dilemma* (1955), dies.

**1975** Establishment of *Ḥezb-e Rastākiz* (Resurrection Party) by the Shah, reducing the country to a single party system, membership in which was viewed as every citizen's civic duty.



**1975** The dispute between Iran and Iraq over the Shaṭṭ-al-Arab waterway is settled by the Algiers Agreement, whereby the deepest level of water in the Shaṭṭ-al-Arab is to constitute the international boundary between the two countries.

**1975** Sayyed Moḥammad Kāẓem ‘Aṣṣār (b. 1885), professor of Islamic philosophy at the University of Tehran, dies; he had been forced to retire from his job at the University of Tehran on account of his refusal to abandon clerical dress in violation of express government orders; he was elected the dean of the Faculty of Theology after Reżā Shah’s abdication.

**1975** Murder of Marxist theoretician Bijan Jazani (b. 1937), in Evin prison.

**1975** A military tribunal condemns 10 members of the *Mojāhedīn-e k̄alq* to death, having been found guilty of the assassination of Brigadier General Zandipur and three American colonels.

**1976** An Amnesty International Conference at The Hague criticizes Iran’s alleged human rights violations and its treatment of political prisoners.

**1976** A new Persian calendar is adopted, calculated on the basis of the founding of the Persian Empire in 6th century B.C. As of March 21, 1976, the new year is dated 2535 of the šāhanšāhi era, with the change lauded by nationalists and resented by the clergy; on the eve of the 1979 Islamic Revolution, Persia reverts back to the previous calendar.

**1976** In a heavy and organized security forces operation, the *Fedā’iān-e k̄alq*, a leftist guerilla group, suffer heavy losses of their top leadership and are significantly weakened as a force.

**1976** Jimmy Carter is elected President of the United States. His harsh criticism of the Shah’s record on human rights in Iran is cause for alarm in the Iranian regime and leads to a liberalization policy that enables opposition groups in Iran to mobilize their resources against the regime.

**1976** Emil Benveniste (b. 1902), eminent French Indo-Europeanist and Iranist, one of the foremost linguists of his era, the author of numerous works on Old and Middle Iranian languages including a revised and enlarged edition of Meillet’s *Grammaire du vieux-perse* (1931), author of *Le vocabulaire des institutions indo-européennes* (1969), and *Études sogdiennes* (1979), dies.



**1977** 40 poets and writers sign a declaration demanding freedom of expression and an end to censorship. This marks the beginning of a campaign of open letters by writers, artists, professionals, and intellectuals, addressed to the prime minister in a harsh, critical tone.

**1977** 53 judges and lawyers sign an open letter to the Royal Court demanding human rights guarantees.

**1977** Mojtabā Minovi (b. 1903), noted scholar of Persian literature and history who began his career with the BBC Persian radio service, editor of an excellent edition of *Kalila o Demna* (1964), and author of *Ferdowsi o šer-e u* (1967), dies, and his library is donated to the public.

**1977** ‘Ali Šari‘ati (b. 1933), religious thinker, writer, and activist with popular appeal whose work combined Islamic and Western thought into a radical analysis of Islam and Shi‘ism, dies.

**1977** In response to popular discontent, the Shah dismisses Amir-Abbās Hoveydā after 13 years as prime minister.

**1977** Jamšid Āmuzegār, a former minister of health, minister of labor, and minister of finance, with a reputation for rectitude, assumes the premiership.

**1977** Āmuzegār approves the release of 343 political prisoners.

**1977** The National Front (*Jebha-ye melli*) and Freedom Movement (*Nežhat-e āzādi*) resume their political activities having been dormant for more than a decade.

**1977** The militant ulema, under Ayatollah Khomeini’s leadership, distribute thousands of copies of cassette tapes of a speech given by Ayatollah Khomeini on the occasion of the 40th day of his son’s death, calling for the people to mobilize a revolution against the Shah’s regime.

**1977** The Iranian Writers Guild, emboldened by the promise of human rights reforms, sponsor ten nights of poetry reading at the German-Iranian Cultural Institute, with thousands of students and intellectuals in attendance; the proceedings are published as *Dah šab-e šer* (1978).

**1977** President Carter welcomes the Shah to the White House; clashes between the Shah’s supporters and opponents outside the gates lead to the release of



tear gas on the demonstrators by police.

**1977** On New Year's Eve, 1978, President Carter visits the Shah in Tehran and refers to Iran as "an island of stability in a turbulent corner of the world." Reassured that he enjoys Carter's support, the Shah orders the publication of a harsh and humiliating newspaper article in the daily *Eṭṭelā'āt* about Ayatollah Khomeini.

**1977** Iosif Mikhailovich Oranskiĭ (b. 1923), prominent Russian linguist, expert in Iranian languages, author of *Iranskie yazyki* (1963; French tr. by Joyce Blau as *Les langues iraniennes*, 1977), dies.

**1977** Bābājān (Bobodzhan) Gafurovich Gafurov (b. 1908), one time head of the Communist Party of Tajikistan, a promoter of Tajik history, literature, and interests, and a member of *Encyclopaedia Iranica's* International Advisory Board, dies.

## 1978

**January 9** : Police open fire into a crowd in Qom protesting against a humiliating article published about Ayatollah Khomeini in the daily *Eṭṭelā'āt*.

**February 18-19** : Anti-government demonstrations in Tabriz commemorate the 40th day of mourning for those martyred in Qom and signal the beginning of cyclical riots every 40 days in other cities that continue until the fall of the regime.

**June 5** : A general strike is called by the Freedom Movement (*Nahzat-e āzādi*), to commemorate the 15th anniversary of the 1963 religious uprising.

**August 20** : A fire at the Rex theater in Abadan results in over 400 fatalities; at the time the fire is largely blamed on SAVAK, the government's intelligence bureau, leading to a snowballing of protest against the regime, but after the Revolution it was proved to have been started by a religious group.

**August 27** : Following serious urban riots in Mashad, Isfahan, and Shiraz in July and August, Ja'far Šarif-Emāmi, former speaker of the Senate, prime minister, and head of the Pahlavi Foundation, whose father was a cleric, is appointed prime minister of a reconciliation government.

**September 4** : Some 100,000 demonstrators calling for the return of Ayatollah



Khomeini march in Tehran to mark the end of the holy month of Ramaẓān.

**September8** : In Tehran several thousand demonstrators clash with troops. The death toll, in what comes to be known as “Black Friday,” is estimated at 164 people. The revolutionary propaganda at the time put the number at 8,000.

**October1-8** : Strikes are stepped up in major industrial and service sectors, including the oil industry, hospitals, radio and television, power plants, postal services, public transport, steel industries, schools, and civil service offices.

**October6** : Ayatollah Khomeini leaves Iraq and arrives in France where he receives vast media coverage; he uses the media spotlight to incite the revolution.

**November5** : Following several riots throughout Tehran as demonstrators ransack and burn government buildings, banks, and stores, Šarif-Emāmi and his civilian Cabinet resign and are replaced by a military government headed by General Ġolām-Reẓā Azhāri, the armed forces Chief of Staff; martial law and censorship of the press are imposed by the new military government.

**November19** : The government frees 210 political prisoners as the Shah renews his pledge to end martial law and schedule free elections.

**December10-11** : Massive demonstrations are mobilized in Tehran and across the country; in Isfahan, demonstrators attack the offices of the SAVAK and set fire to banks, stores, movie theaters, and police stations.

**December18** : Oil and other industrial workers stage a general strike in response to a call by Ayatollah Khomeini and the National Front.

**December29** : Šāpur Baḳtiār, a prominent member of the National Front, is appointed prime minister after Ġolām-Ḥosayn Sadiqi, a close collaborator of Moḥammad Mošaddeq, declines the offer due to the Shah’s refusal to agree to remain in the country.

**1978** Iran participates in its first Soccer World Cup in Argentina but fails to win a game and is eliminated in the first round.

**1978** Georg Valentin Morgenstierne (b. 1892), eminent Norwegian philologist, expert on Iranian languages and Eastern Iranian dialects, professor at the University of Oslo, a member of the International Advisory Committee



of *Encyclopaedia Iranica*, author of *Indo-Iranian Frontier Languages* (3 vols., 1929-67), and *Irano-Dardica* (1973), dies.

**1978** John Andrew Boyle (b. 1916), British Orientalist, historian of Iran, translator of a section of Rašid-al-Din's *Jāme' al-tawāriḡ*, and an editor of Volume V of *Cambridge History of Iran*, dies.

**1978** Henry Corbin (b. 1903), prominent French Iranist, philosopher, editor of a number of Persian texts, best known as a major interpreter of the Persian role in the development of Islamic thought, author of *Avicenne et le récit visionnaire* (1954), and *L'homme de lumière dans le soufisme iranien* (1971), dies.

**1979**

**January 1-2:** Demonstrations and unrest continue throughout the country in opposition to the new government of Šāpur Baḡtiār.

**January 13:** The formation of nine-member Regency Council sets the stage for the Shah's departure.

**January 16:** The Shah, together with Queen Farah and their children, leave Iran, ostensibly for an extended vacation in Egypt, handing power to prime minister Šāpur Baḡtiār.

**January 25:** As some 150,000 people demonstrate in Tehran in support of premier Baḡtiār they are attacked by opposition forces.

**January 26-29:** Mass demonstrations take place in Tehran and major provincial towns against the Baḡtiār government.

**February 1:** Ayatollah Khomeini returns to Iran and is welcomed by a huge crowd in Tehran amidst scenes of great jubilation.

**February 5:** Mehdi Bāzargān, a liberal devout Muslim, professor of engineering at the University of Tehran, a former member of the National Front and the leader of the Freedom Movement (*Nahzat-e āzādi*), is appointed prime minister of the provisional government by Ayatollah Khomeini.

**February 11:** The Army's Supreme Council orders the troops back to their barracks. Military installations are occupied by revolutionary militia of various groups and army commanders are arrested.



**February 16:** General Ne‘mat-Allāh Naşiri, former head of SAVAK, along with three other high-ranking generals, are executed.

**February 28:** Premier Bāzargān threatens to resign if the Revolutionary Committees continue to interfere in governmental affairs.

**March 30-31:** The establishment of an Islamic Republic is approved in a nationwide referendum.

**May 5:** Ayatollah Khomeini orders the formation of the Revolutionary Guards (*Sepāh-e pāsdārān*).

**April 7:** Amir ‘Abbās Hoveydā (b. 1919), Iran’s longest serving prime minister (1965-1977), who had voluntarily surrendered himself to the authorities in the hope of receiving a trial, is executed on the order of Ayatollah Khomeini.

**May 1:** Assassination of a leading Islamic theologian, Mortazā Moṭahhari (b. 1920).

**May 19:** More than 100,000 people participate in a Tehran demonstration protesting the government’s censorship of the press and the closing down of *Āyandagān* daily newspaper.

**June 7:** The government nationalizes 37 private banks.

**July 5:** Virtually all of Iran’s large-scale industries are nationalized.

**August 20:** Ayatollah Khomeini orders the closing of 22 newspapers and magazines.

**September 9:** The government appropriates two large daily newspapers, *Eṭṭelā‘āt* and *Kayhān*.

**September 12:** The Assembly of Experts approves a clause in the new Constitution that grants supreme powers to the Supreme Leader (*wali-ye faqih*), Ayatollah Khomeini.

**November 4:** The U.S. embassy is seized by radical students and 66 Americans are taken hostage. The seizure is in response to perceived U.S. interference in Iran’s internal affairs and its decision in October to admit the Shah for medical treatment in New York. The captors demand the Shah’s return in exchange for the release of hostages.



**November 14:** President Carter freezes some \$10 billion in Iranian assets held in the United States.

**December 3:** Ratification of the new Islamic Constitution after a final endorsement from the Assembly of Experts (*Majles-e kōbragān*).

**1979** Ayatollah Maḥmud Tāleqāni (b. 1911), a leading political cleric, dies.

**1979** *Asghar Agha* (*Aṣḡar-āqā*), a satirical and humorous anti-Islamic regime periodical, edited by Hādi Ḳorsandi, begins publication in London.

**1979** Richard Ettinghausen (b. 1906), outstanding German expert of Islamic and Iranian art, professor of Islamic Art at New York University, Consultative Chairman of the Islamic Department at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, author of *From Byzantium to Sasanian Iran and the Islamic World: Three Modes of Artistic Influence* (1972), and editor, with E. Yarshater, of *Highlights of Persian Art* (1979), dies.

**1979** Cecil John Edmonds (b. 1889), British diplomat whose papers relating to his service in Iraq and Iran contain personal correspondence and notes on the tribes of Kurdistan spanning over 60 years (1913-77), and author of *Kurds, Turks, and Arabs* (1957), dies.

**1979** George Glenn Cameron (b. 1905), American philologist and historian, founder of the Department of Near Eastern Studies at the University of Michigan, and author of *Persepolis Treasury Tablets* (1948), dies.

**1979** Roman Ghirshman (b. 1895), outstanding French archeologist and historian of pre-Islamic Iran and its art and architecture, head of the French Archeological Mission to Iran (1931-72), excavator at Susa and elsewhere, author of numerous works on pre-Islamic Iranian art including *Iran, des origines á l'Islam* (1951), *Parthes et Sassanides* (1962), and *Perses. Proto-iraniens. Mèdes-Achéménides* (1963), dies.

**1980** Abu'l-Ḥasan Baniṣadr is elected the first president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, with 75% of the vote.

**1980** Iran and the United States sever diplomatic relations.

**1980** The so-called “Cultural Revolution” begins to purge a large number of secular faculty and radical students; all institutions of higher education are



closed down for two years and Islamic committees are formed to run the universities.

**1980** Mohammad-Rezā Shah Pahlavi (b. 1919), dies. After seeking refuge in several countries and refused entry into the United States, President Anwar Sadat of Egypt invites him to Cairo. Suffering from non-Hodgkin's lymphoma that he had kept secret from the Iranian people, he is eventually granted entry into the United States for medical treatment and hospitalized in New York. The United States' admission of the Shah is extremely unpopular in Iran, and the Shah is urged to leave the country as soon as his treatment is complete in order to avoid further controversy. He lives for a short time in Panama before returning to Egypt, where he dies on July 27 and is buried in Cairo.

**1980** Saddam Hussein announces that Iraq is unilaterally abrogating the 1975 Algiers Agreement.

**1980** Iraqi divisions cross into Iran and the Iraqi air force bombard Tehran airports and other targets. Invading Iran from three fronts, Iraqi forces quickly occupy large areas of the provinces of Khuzestan, Kermnashah, and Ilam; the Abadan oil refinery is destroyed.

**1980** A US attempt to rescue the embassy hostages in a clandestine mission fails when a rescue helicopters collides with a refueling plane in the Iranian desert, killing eight US servicemen.

**1980** Sohrāb Sepehri (b. 1928), noted modernist poet and admired painter, author of *Hajm-e sabz* (1967), and *Hašt ketāb* (1976), dies.

**1980** Richard Treadwell Hallock (b. 1906), Elamologist and Assyriologist, professor at the University of Chicago, researcher at the Oriental Institute who read the bulk of the Persepolis Elamite tablets, and author of *Persepolis Fortification Tablets* (1969), dies.

**1980-81** Premiership of Moḥammad-ʿAli Rajāʿi.

**1981** The US Embassy hostages are released after 444 days in captivity, with the planes carrying the hostages to freedom taking off from Iranian soil less than one hour after Ronald Reagan's inauguration as the new President of the United States.

**1981** Ayatollah Khomeini removes Banišadr from power, allegedly because of



his sympathetic attitude towards the *Mojāhedīn-e ƙalq*; Moḥammad-‘Ali Rajā’i is named President and Banišadr flees to Paris where as a figurehead he joins the opposition movement The National Council of Resistance (*Šurā-ye melli-e moqāwemat*), established by Mojāhedīn.

**1981** A bomb at the Islamic Republican Party headquarters kills some 70 members of the ruling party including its leader, Ayatollah Sayyed-Moḥammad Behešti (b. 1928); the *Mojāhedīn-e ƙalq* claim responsibility for the attack.

**1981** Premiership of Moḥammad Jawād Bāhonar.

**1981** A second bombing by the *Mojāhedīn-e ƙalq* at the prime minister’s office kills both the President, Moḥammad ‘Ali Rajā’i and the prime minister, Moḥammad-Jawād Bāhonar.

**1981** Premiership of Moḥammad-Rezā Mahdawi-Kani.

**1981** Sayyed-‘Ali Ƙāmene’i is elected President.

**1981** Našr-Allāh Falsafi (b. 1901), historian of the Safavid period, professor of history at the University of Tehran, author of *Zendagāni-ye Šāh ‘Abbās-e Awwal* (4 vols., 1954-67), and translator of several works from French, dies.

**1981** The leading theologian, Moḥammad-Ḥosayn Ṭabāṭabā’i (b. 1903), dies.

**1981** ‘Ali-Ašġar Ḥekmat (b. 1893), scholar, statesman, former minister of education and minister of foreign affairs, among other Cabinet posts, a major agent of the drive towards the modernization of Persia, and for years head of the preservation of national monuments and Persian UNESCO Commission of Iran, dies.

**1981-89** Premiership of Mir-Ḥosayn Mousawi.

**1982** Musā Ƙiābāni, the leader of the *Mojāhedīn-e ƙalq*, is killed in a fierce clash with Iranian security forces.

**1982** During the course of the “Bayt al-Moqaddas” offensive, Iranian forces drive the Iraqis from large areas of Iranian territory.

**1982** Iran recaptures the strategic town of Khorramshahr from the Iraqis.



**1982** Iran rejects U.N. Security Council Resolution 514 appealing for a cease-fire and the withdrawal of both Iran and Iraq to internationally recognized borders.

**1982** Şādeq Qoţbzādeh, a former foreign minister of the Islamic Republic and head of the radio and television network, is executed, having been convicted of plotting a coup d'état against the regime.

**1982** 'Ali Daşti (b. 1895), writer, journalist, scholar, parliamentarian, and senator, author of the novels *Fetna* (1944), and *Jādu* (1952), author of *Bist o se sāl* (1983), on the life of the Prophet of Islam, which was banned in the Islamic Republic, and a number of literary criticism monographs on Sa'di, Ḥāfez, and Omar Khayyam, among others, dies.

**1983** A campaign of repression against the Tudeh Party, which had welcomed and collaborated with Ayatollah Khomeini and the Islamic Republic, leads to the arrest of the Party's leadership and 1,000 other active members. Later, some leaders of the military branch of the party who had committed espionage for the Soviet Union, are tried and executed; the connection was disclosed by the Soviet diplomat, Vladimir Kuzichkin, who had defected to Iran.

**1983** Soviet diplomats are expelled from Iran and the Tudeh Party is officially outlawed.

**1983** The first five-year development plan (1983-88) is approved with priority given to agriculture.

**1983** A law is passed requiring women to meet "Islamic standards of dress."

**1983** Universities are reopened for first time since 1980 under the strict supervision of Islamic authorities.

**1983** Iran rejects a fourth U.N. Security Council Resolution calling for an immediate ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war, insisting that the war cannot end without the identification and punishment of Iraq as the aggressor.

**1984** General Ġolām-'Ali Oveisi, a capable military commander of the Pahlavi Period who is considered to be a potential threat to the Islamic Republic, and his brother Ġolām-Ḥosayn, are assassinated in Paris.



**1984** Iraq launches chemical weapon attacks against Iranian cities.

**1984** Laurence Paul Elwell-Sutton (b. 1912), British scholar of Iranian studies in the Islamic period, professor at Edinburgh University, author of *Modern Iran* (1944), *Persian Oil: a study in power politics* (1955), *The Persian Metres* (1976), *A Bibliographical Guide to Iran* (1983), and *Vafsi Folk Tales* (2004), dies.

**1984** Vladimir Grigoriyevich Lukonin (b. 1932), Russian scholar of pre-Islamic Iranian studies and former head of the Oriental Department at the State Hermitage Museum, co-author with Muhammad Dandamayev of *Culture and Social Institutions of Ancient Iran* (English. ed., 1989), and co-author with Anatoli Ivanov of *Lost Treasures of Persia: Persian art in the Hermitage Museum* (1st US ed., 1996), dies.

**1985** United States undertakes a clandestine attempt to exchange arms for hostages held in Lebanon, later to be known as the “Iran-Contra” affair.

**1985** Ġolām-Ĥosayn Sā'edi (b. 1935), writer and playwright, author of *'Azādārān-e bayal* (1965), *Ĉub be dasthā-ye Varazil* (1965), and *Ā-ye bā kolāh, Ā-ye bi kolāh* (1967), dies.

**1985** Ayatollah Moĥammad-Kāzem Šari'atmadāri (b. 1904), noted mojtahed who had been silenced for years on account of some unfavorable remarks made by him regarding the political theories of Ayatollah Khomeini, dies.

**1985** Karl Jahn (b. 1906), scholar of Iranian history, professor at the University of Leiden, translator of sections of Rašid-al-Din's *Jāme-al-tawāriĥ* on Ġāzān Khan and the Ġozz tribes as *Geschichte Gazan-Han's aus dem Ta'rih-i-mubarak-i-Gazani des Rashid al-Din* (1940), and author of *Die Geschichte der Oguzen des Rašid ad-Din* (1969), dies.

**1986** Iran launches the “Wa'l-Fajr 8” offensive against Iraq; 85,000 Iranian troops cross the Shatt-al-Arab waterway and occupy the Iraqi port of Fao, threatening Iraq's only access to the Persian Gulf.

**1986** U.N. Security Council Resolution 582 calls for an immediate cease-fire in the Iran-Iraq war; the lack of reference to Iraqi responsibility, however, leads to yet another Iranian rejection.

**1986** The U.N. Security Council issues a statement condemning Iraq for the use



of chemical weapons and condemning Iran for failing to agree to an end to hostilities.

**1986** The Fourth National Census of Population and Housing is conducted; the population of the country totals just under 50 million, with 54% living in urban areas.

**1986** The arms-for-hostages deals from August 1985 to November 1986, resulted in seven shipments of a total of 2,004 TOW and 18 HAWK missiles from the United States or Israel to Iran, and the release of three American hostages in Lebanon.

**1986** Charles Kyrle Wilkinson (b. 1897), scholar of Islamic and Iranian art, Curator at the Department of Ancient Near Eastern Art at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, excavator at Nišāpur, author of *Nishapur: pottery of the early Islamic period* (1973), and *Nishapur: some early Islamic buildings and their decoration* (1986), dies.

**1986** Mark Jan Dresden (b. 1911), American Iranist of Dutch origin, philologist, expert on Middle Iranian languages, and professor of Iranian studies at the University of Pennsylvania, and editor of *Denkart: a Pahlavi text* (1966), dies.

**1986** Georges Dumézil (b. 1898), prolific French philologist and historian of religion, proponent of the hypothesis of the tripartite religion of Indo-European nations and the tri-functional theory of their social classes, author of *Naissance d'archanges* (1945), which deals with the Aməša.Spəntas, who also wrote on Ossetic Nard saga, dies.

**1986** Maurice Sven Dimand (b. 1892), art historian, Curator of Near Eastern Art at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, and author of *A Handbook of Muhammadan Art* (1947), dies.

**1986** Otto Helmut Wolfgang Lentz (b. 1900), German Iranologist who specialized in Middle Iranian and New Persian dialects, and Iranian religion, professor of Iranian studies at the University of Hamburg, author of “Kulturschichten der Pamirtäler im Spiegel der Sprache,” in *ZDMG* 84 (1930), and “Wie weit verstehen wir die zarathustrischen Gāthās?” in *ZDMG* 105 (1955), dies.

**1987** Iran launches the “Karbālā 5” offensive, one of the most vigorous operations in the Iran-Iraq war.



**1987** Moḡaffar Baqā'i Kermāni (b. 1912), activist politician, Majles deputy, professor of ethics at the Faculty of Letters of the University of Tehran, who was once a collaborator with Moḡammad Moḡaddeq but later became his opponent on account of Moḡaddeq's repeated requests from Majles for full powers and his eventual dismissal of the Majles in 1953, dies after a prison term which physically subdued him.

**1988** Ayatollah Khomeini announces the formation of a 13 member "Discretionary Council" (*Šurā-ye mašlahat*) comprised of executive, legislative, and judicial leaders with the authority to overrule the veto power of the Guardianship Council. The new Council is empowered to review controversial bills in the event that Majles and the Guardianship Council fail to reach agreement on some theological or legal grounds.

**1988** A United Nations investigation concludes that Iraq made extensive use of chemical weapons in its military operations in 1988, the final year of the Iran-Iraq war.

**1988** An Iran Air commercial plane carrying 290 passengers and crew is shot down by US Navy warship USS Vincennes, which had allegedly mistaken the airliner for a hostile military jet.

**1988** A ceasefire is signed between Iran and Iraq following UN-sponsored negotiations in Geneva. The recent military defeats caused by the shortage of arms, the intolerable war expenses, the isolation of Iran in the world, as well as the American presence in the Gulf and the downing of the Iran Air Airbus accelerated the decision by Ayatollah Khomeini to "drink the cup of poison," accepting the ceasefire.

**1988** Alessandro Bausani (b. 1921), prominent Italian polyglot historian of Persian literature, religion, and culture as well as the culture and literature of a number of other Muslim nations, including Urdu, Sindi, and Indonesian literatures, professor at the University of Rome, author of *Persia Religiosa* (1959; English tr. as *Religion in Iran*, 2000), *Storia della Letteratura persiana* (1960, with Antonino Pagliaro), and *The Persians, from the earliest days to the twentieth century* (English tr., 1971), dies.

**1989** Ayatollah Khomeini issues a *fatwā* (legal pronouncement) of a death sentence against writer Salman Rushdie for his allegedly blasphemous depiction of the Prophet Moḡammed in his book *The Satanic Verses*.



**1989** The 12 European Economic Community (EEC) countries recall their ambassadors from Tehran over the Salman Rushdie affair.

**1989** Iran breaks off diplomatic relations with Britain over the Salman Rushdie affair.

**1989** Ayatollah Ḥosayn-‘Ali Montazeri is dismissed from his position as the successor to Ayatollah Khomeini.

**1989** Assassination in Vienna of ‘Abd-al-Raḥmān Qā-semḷu, secretary-general of the opposition Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan, and two of his associates, by agents of the Iranian government.

**1989** Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini (b. 1902), leading theologian, political activist, patriarch of the 1979 Islamic Revolution, and Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran (1979-89), author of *Welāyat-e faqih dar kosus-e hokumat-e Eslāmi* (1979), and a *Tawzīḥ al-masā’el* (1980) dies.

**1989** Sayyed-‘Ali Kāmene’i, president of the Islamic Republic, is elected Supreme Leader (*wali-e faqih*) by the Assembly of Experts.

**1989** Reputed theoretician of the Tudeh party, Ehsān Ṭabari (b. 1917), who after the Islamic Revolution showed support for Ayatollah Khomeini and the Islamic Revolution, and was later arrested and jailed, dies.

**1989** Basil Gray (b. 1904), British art historian, Keeper of Oriental Antiquities at the British Museum, and author of *Persian Painting* (1961), dies.

**1989** Wilhelm Eilers (b. 1906), outstanding German scholar of Iranian studies and Assyriology, professor of Oriental philology at the University of Würzburg who wrote on Iranian onomastics, lexicography, and dialects, and author of the very detailed and authoritative *Deutsch-Persisches Wörterbuch* (1959-71, incomplete), *Iranische Ortsnamenstudien* (1987), and *Der Name Demawend* (1988), dies.

**1989–97** The cleric ‘Ali-Akbar Hāšemi Rafsanjāni, a wealthy pistachio grower from Kerman, author of a book on Amir Kabir, active in the Islamic Revolution, a close confidant of Ayatollah Khomeini and former speaker of the Majles, is elected president. He is reelected in 1993.

**1990** A major earthquake strikes western Iran, killing over 40,000 people, with



Zanjan and Gilan provinces particularly hard hit.

**1990** Iran remains neutral following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

**1990** Diplomatic ties with Britain, which had been broken off over the Salman Rushdie affair, are resumed.

**1990** Iran and Iraq resume diplomatic relations.

**1990** Mehdi Akavān-Sāles (Tālet, b. 1928), modernist poet whose poetry combines aspects of classical and modernist styles, author of *Zemestān* (1956), *Pā'iz dar zendān* (1969), and *Zendagi miguyad ammā bāz bāyad zist* (1978), dies.

**1990** Parviz Nātel-Kānlari (b. 1914), noted poet, essayist, scholar of Persian literature and phonology, professor of Persian literature at the University of Tehran, publisher and editor of *Soḵan*, a journal of considerable influence in the development of modern Persian literature, founding director of the Iran Cultural Foundation (*Bonyād-e farhang-e Irān*), minister of education in the Cabinet of 'Alam, and senator, dies.

**1990** 'Ali-Akbar Siāsi (b. 1895), professor of psychology, chairman of the progressive *Irān-e Javān* Society, a dean of the Faculty of Letters, minister of education and minister of foreign affairs, capable and dedicated president of the University of Tehran (1943-55), under whose direction the University became independent of the Ministry of Education and run by its own Council, known for his resistance to governmental interference and his refusal to dismiss a number of professors who belonged to the Tudeh Party, dies.

**1990** Bertold Spüler (b. 1911), outstanding and prolific German historian of Iran, Central Asia, and the Mongols, professor at the University of Hamburg, author of *Die Mongolen in Iran* (1939) and *Iran in frühislamischer Zeit* (1952), and founding editor of the well-known multi-volume *Handbuch der Orientalistik*, dies.

**1991** Šāpur Baḵtiār, last prime minister of Iran prior to the 1979 Revolution, is assassinated in Paris, allegedly by agents of the Islamic Republic.

**1991** Ġolām-Ḥosayn Šadiqi (b. 1905), respected professor of sociology, founder, with Ehsān Narāgi, of the Institute of Social Research at the University of Tehran, a close associate of Dr. Moḥammad Mošaddeq and his minister of



interior, dies.

**1992** 'Ali Amini (b. 1905), politician and former prime minister, whose Cabinet members included Ḥasan Arsanjāni who carried out the land reform and Moḥammad Deraḵšeš, who raised teachers' salaries considerably, dies.

**1992** Ayatollah Abu'l-Qāsem Ḳo'i (b. 1900), a leading moderate Shi'ite theologian, dies. Ayatollah 'Ali Sistāni succeeds him.

**1992** Four Kurdish opposition leaders, including Dr. Šādeq Šarafkandi, the secretary-general of the Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan, are assassinated in a Berlin restaurant. German newspapers publish a report that authorities have proof of the involvement of 'Ali Fallāḥiān, Iranian minister of intelligence, in the assassinations. In 1996, a German court issues an arrest warrant for Fallāḥiān and the judge states that he believes the murders had been approved at the highest levels of the Iranian government and with the knowledge of the foreign minister, the president, and the Supreme Leader.

**1992** Walther Hinz (b. 1906), German Iranist of wide-ranging interests, including Old Persian, Iranian history, and the Elamite language, professor at the University of Göttingen, author of *Iranische Reise. Eine Forschungsfahrt durch das heutige Persien* (1938), *Altiranische Funde und Forschungen* (1969), and *Darius und die Perser. Eine Kulturgeschichte der Achämeniden* (2 vols., 1976-79), dies.

**1993** Sayyed Abu'l-Qāsem Enjavi-Širāzi (b. 1921), literary scholar, man of letters, and writer best known for his studies of Persian folklore, author of *Jašnhā o ādāb o mo'taqedāt-e zemestān* (1973), *Mardom o Ferdowsi* (1976), and *Qešsehā-ye Irāni* (1978), dies.

**1993** Annemarie von Gabain (b. 1901), German scholar of Central Asian and Turkic studies who wrote a number of works on various aspects of Iranian-Turkic contacts, dies.

**1993** Louis Vanden Berghe (b. 1923), Belgian archeologist of Iran who identified a number of pre-Islamic remains in the Fars province, author of *Bibliographie analytique de l'archéologie de l'Iran ancien* (1979), dies.

**1994** 'Ali-Akbar Sa'idi Sirjāni (b. 1931), liberal eassayist, social critic, poet, writer with a distinctive style, author of a satirical allegory, *Afsānehā* (1961), author of *Dar āstin-e moraqqa'* (1984), *Ey kutah āstinān* (1991), and *Az Šayḳ-e*



Şan'ān *tā marg dar zendān* (1995), who had been arrested and jailed on account of his bold and mocking attacks on the Supreme Leader and the Islamic government, dies in prison; his family's request for an autopsy is denied.

**1994** Edith Porada (b. 1912), Austrian art historian of the ancient Middle East, professor at Columbia University, and author of *The Art of Ancient Iran* (1965), dies.

**1995** Total trade ban with Iran imposed by the United States in response to Iran's alleged sponsorship of terrorism.

**1995** Mehdi Bāzargān (b. 1907), professor of engineering at the University of Tehran, a devout Muslim, the first prime minister appointed by Ayatollah Khomeini, and the leader of the Freedom Movement (*Nahzat-e āzādī*), dies.

**1995** Peter Calmeyer (b. 1930), German archeologist, historian of Iranian art, a Deputy Director of the Tehran branch of the German Archeological Institute, and author of *Datierbare Bronzen aus Luristan und Kirmanshah* (1969), dies.

**1996** Moḥammad-Ja'far Maḥjoub (b. 1924), noted scholar of Persian language and literature, professor at the University of Tehran, editor of numerous Persian literary works including *Divān-e kāmel-e Iraj Mirzā* (1989), and *'Obayd Zākāni: Collected Works* (1999), and author of *Āyin-e Javānmardi* (2000), dies.

**1996** Ḥosayn Kāzemi (b. 1924), capable painter and portraitist whose tableau inspired by Şādeq Hedāyat's *The Blind Owl* is his best-known work, dies.

**1996** Ġazāleh 'Alizādeh (b. 1948), novelist and author of *Ķāna-ye Edrisi-hā* (1992), commits suicide.

**1996** Sir Harold Walter Bailey (b. 1899), eminent and prolific British Iranist, Indo-Europeanist, prodigious linguist, professor of Sanskrit at Cambridge University, member of the Advisory Committee of the *Encyclopaedia Iranica*, principal founder of Ancient India and Iran Trust, especially noted for his extensive work on the Middle Iranian Saka language of Khotan, author of the etymological *Dictionary of Khotan Saka* (1979), and *The Culture of the Sakas in Ancient Iranian Khotan* (1982), dies.

**1996** Geo Widengren (b. 1907), Swedish philologist, historian of Iranian religions, professor at Uppsala University, author of *Mesopotamian elements in*



*Manichaeism* (1946), *Iranisch-semitische Kulturbegegnung in parthischer Zeit* (1960), *Mani und der Manichaismus* (1961), and *Die Religionen Irans* (1965), dies.

**1997** Donald Newton Wilber, author, scholar, archeologist, CIA agent (1948-70), author of *Architecture of Islamic Iran: the Ilkhanid period* (1955), *Persian Gardens and Garden Pavilions* (1962), *Iran: Past and Present, from Monarchy to Islamic Republic* (revised edition, 1981), and *The Timurid Architecture of Iran and Turan* (1988), dies.

**1997** Moḥammad Khatami, presenting a liberal platform, is elected president of Iran in May in a landslide, garnering 70% of the popular vote.

**1997** *Ṭa'm-e gilās* (Taste of Cherry), a film by Iranian director 'Abbās Kiārostami, wins the prestigious Palme d'Or award at the Cannes Film Festival.

**1997** Aḥmad Tafazzoli, noted professor of pre-Islamic Iranian languages at the University of Tehran, scientific deputy-director of the Persian Academy of Language and Literature, frequent contributor to, and a Consulting Editor of *Encyclopaedia Iranica*, author of *Vāḡa-nāma-ye minu-ye karad* (1969), *Anthologie of Zadspram* (1993), *Tāriḡ-e adabiyāt-e Irān piš az Eslām* (1997), and *Sasanian Society* (2000), recipient of an honorary doctorate from the University of St. Petersburg, dies under suspicious circumstances.

**1997** Siāvoš Kasrā'i (b. 1927), one of the noted lyric poets of modern Iran and author of *Āraš-e kamāngir* (2001), dies.

**1997** Bozorg Alavi (b. 1904), noted novelist and short story writer, author of *Češmhāyaš* (1952; English tr. as *Her Eyes*, 1989) and several collections of short stories, and an erstwhile member of the Tudeh Party who had fled to East Germany where he taught Persian, dies.

**1997** John David Yohannan (b. 1911), American scholar, professor of English and Comparative Literature at the City University of New York, author of *Persian Poetry in England and America* (1977), and *The Poet Sa'di* (1987), dies.

**1998** Iran participates in its second Soccer World Cup, held in France, having previously taken part in the 1978 games in Argentina; Iran defeats the United States 2-1 in the tournament for its first ever victory in a World Cup match, but fails to advance past the first round.



**1998** The Iranian film *Bačehā-ye āsemān* (Children of Heaven), directed by Majid Majidi, is nominated for an Oscar for Best Foreign Film.

**1998** Assad-Allāh Lājevardi, former head of Iran's notorious Evin prison, is assassinated. The militant opposition group *Mojāhedīn-e kalq* claim responsibility.

**1998** Šādeq Čubak (b. 1916), the noted short-story writer and novelist, author of *Tangsir* (1963), *Sang-e sabur* (1967), and short story collections *Kejma-šab-bāzi* (1968), of dies.

**1998** Fritz Meier (b. 1912), prominent Swiss scholar of Islamic and Persian mysticism, author of *Zwei Abhandlungen über die Naqshbandiyya* (1994), and *Essays on Islamic piety and mysticism* (English tr., 1999), dies.

**1999** World Association of Newspapers awards the 1999 Golden Pen of Freedom Award to exiled Iranian writer Faraj Sarkuhi, former editor of *Ādīneh* journal, who had left Iran for Germany after his release from prison in 1998.

**1999** Student supporters of the reformist President Khatami stage a sit-in at the Amirābād dormitories on the campus of the University of Tehran following the closure of the reformist newspaper, *Salām*. The peaceful sit-in is violently suppressed by fundamentalist paramilitary forces.

**1999** Iran and the United Kingdom agree to exchange ambassadors for the first time in 20 years.

**1999** ‘Abd-al-Ḥosayn Zarrinkoub (b. 1922), prolific scholar of Persian literature and history, professor at the University of Tehran, author of, among others, *Arzeš-e mirat-e Šufiyya* (1963), *Bā kāravān-e Ḥella* (1964), *Še’r-e bi doruḡ, še’r-e bi neqāb* (1967), *Tāriḡ-e mardom-e Irān* (2 vols., 1985-88), *Pella pella tā molāqāt-e kodā* (1991), dies.

**1999** Ḍabiḡ-Allāh Šafā (b. 1911), prolific historian of Persian literature, professor of Persian literature at the University of Tehran, and the author of, among others, *HĀamāsa sarā’i dar Irān* (1945), the extensive history of Persian literature, *Tāriḡ-e adabiyāt dar Irān* (in 5 vols. and 8 parts, 1953-90), and the anthologies *Ganj-e soḡan* (poetry, 3 vols., 1960-61), and *Ganjina-ye soḡan* (prose, 3 vols., 1969), dies.



**1999** Igor M. Diakonoff (b. 1915), prominent Russian historian of Iran and the ancient Middle East and its philology, author of *Istorja Midii* (History of Media, 1956), dies.

**2000** The judiciary bans the publication of 16 reformist newspapers with the adoption of new Press Laws.

**2000** Parviz Šāpur (b. 1924), acclaimed satirist and the author of a body of humorous *kalemakāturs* showing exceptional imagination and wit, dies.

**2000** Yaḥyā Maḥdawi (b. 1908), respected professor of Western philosophy, author of *Fehrest-e noḳostin mošannafāt-e Ebn Sinā* (1954), and translator of a number of philosophy texts, who had donated his salary to the University of Tehran to be spent on the publication of books, dies.

**2000** Aḥmad Šāmlou (b. 1925), modernist poet, known for his good declamation of Persian poetry, author of *Āydā dar āyena* (1964), *Pariā o qešsehā-ye doḳtarā-ye nana daryā* (1988), written in the style of children's stories, author of *Havā-ye tāza* (2000), dies.

**2000** Nāder Nāderpur (b. 1929), outstanding modernist poet and imagist whose poetry combined the polish of classical poetry with modernist themes and motifs, who left Persia after the 1979 Revolution, residing first in Paris and then Los Angeles, author of the collections of poems *Sorma-ye ḳoršid* (1960), *Ḳun o ḳākestar* (1988), *Morḡ-e āftāb* (1995), and *Zamin wa zamān* (1996), dies in Los Angeles, from where he had often lamented his imposed exile.

**2000** Nošrat Raḥmāni (b. 1929), modernist poet, author of *Mardi ke dar ḡobār gom šod* (1959), dies.

**2000** Fereydun Moširi (b. 1927), prominent and popular modernist poet, particularly known for the ease and eloquence of his poems, author of *Gonāh-e daryā* (1957), *Abr wa kuča* (1966), *Bahār rā bāvar kon* (1968), and *Yek āsemān paranda* (1997), dies.

**2000** Hušang Golširi (b. 1937), noted novelist and short story writer who gained fame with his novel *Šāzdeh Eḥtejāb* (1969), author of *Meṭl-e hamiša* (1969), *Panj ganj* (1989) and *Āyinehā-ye dardār* (1992), dies.

**2001** Mohammad Khatami is re-elected president for a second term, garnering



over 75% of the vote, despite the profound disappointments engendered among his supporters by his first term of office.

**2001** Ronald E. Emmerick (b. 1937), Australian Iranist and philologist, an expert on the Khotanese language, professor of Iranian studies at the University of Hamburg, editor and translator of *The Book of Zambasta: a Khotanese poem on Buddhism* (1968), author of *A guide to the literature of Khotan* (1979), dies.

**2001** David Neil Mackenzie (b. 1926), British Iranist and philologist, professor at the University of Göttingen, expert in Middle Persian, Chorasmian, and Kurdish, author of *Kurdish Dialect Studies* (2 vols., 1961-62), and *A Concise Pahlavi Dictionary* (1971), dies.

**2001** Vasiliĭ Ivanovich Abaev (b. 1900), Ossetic linguist of the Soviet Union specializing in the diachronic study of Iranian languages, Ossetic in particular, author of *Nartovskiĭ epos* (Nard Epic, 1945), and *Russko-osetinskiĭ slovar* (Russian-Ossetic dictionary, 1950), dies.

**2001** Ilya Gershevitch (b. 1914), British Iranist of Russian origin, philologist, staunch defender of W. B. Henning's view of the date of Zoroaster (circa 6th century B.C.) and Bartholomae's transcription scheme of Avestan, Reader of ancient Iranian languages at the University of Cambridge, and author of *The Avestan Hymn to Mithra* (1959), dies.

**2002** Construction of Iran's first nuclear reactor in Bushehr gets under way with the help of Russian technicians.

**2002** Aḥmad Maḥmud (b. 1931), noted novelist whose fiction mostly depicts the fate of the poor and the oppressed of his native Khuzestan, author of *Zamin-e suḵta* (1982), *Hamsāyahā* (200?), and *Madār-e šefr daraja* (2001), dies.

**2002** Jes Peter Asmussen (b. 1928), Danish scholar of Iranian philology and religion, professor of Iranian studies at the University of Copenhagen, and author of *Xuāstvānīft. Studies in Manichaeism* (1965), and *Manichaean Literature* (1975), dies.

**2002** Tahsin Yazici (b. 1922), Turkish scholar and historian, one of the editors of *Islam Ansiklopedisi*, and a Consulting Editor of the *Encyclopaedia Iranica* for Perso-Turkish relations, dies.



**2003** Shirin Ebadi, lawyer and human rights activist, becomes the recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, a first for Iran.

**2003** An earthquake in Bam, southeast Iran, results in an estimated 40,000 deaths and destruction of the town and its historic remains.

**2003** Zahrā Kāzemi, an Iranian-Canadian freelance journalist, is arrested after taking photographs of Tehran's notorious Evin prison. Two days after her arrest she dies in hospital as a result of injuries suffered in an attack while in custody; government agents are suspected of the murder.

**2003** Annemarie Schimmel (b. 1922), scholar of Islamic literature and mysticism, poet, art historian (calligraphy), whose research interests covered Persian, Turkish, Arabic, and Urdu literatures, author of *Mystical Dimensions of Islam* (1975), *Triumphal Sun: a study of the works of Jalaloddin Rumi* (1978), and *A Two-Colored Brocade: The Imagery of Persian Poetry* (1992), dies.

**2003** Gerhard Doerfer (b. 1920), eminent German expert of Turkic and Mongolian languages and author of *Türkische und mongolische Elemente im Neupersischen* (4 vols., 1963-75), dies.

**2004-05** Canada recalls its ambassador to Iran and in 2005 reiterates that until Iran agrees to an international investigation into Zahrā Kāzemi's death, Canada will not resume diplomatic relations with Iran.

**2005** Moḥammad Deraḵšeš (b. 1915), founding director of Mehregān Club (*Bāšgāh-e Mehregān*), essayist, minister of education in 'Ali Amini's Cabinet who substantially raised teachers' salaries, and editor of *Mehregān*, an anti-Islamic Republic of Iran journal, dies.

**2005** Šāhroḡ Meskoob (b. 1925), man of letters, member of the Tudeh Party in his youth but later a commentator and critic of the Party after abandoning it, scholar, translator and stylist, author of *Sug-e Siāvaš* (1971), *Goftogu dar bāḡ* (1992), *Melliyat wa zabān* (English transl. by M. Hillman as *Iranian Nationality and the Persian Language*, 1992) and *Armaḡān-e mur* (2005), the result of his studies on Ferdowsi's *Šāh-nāma*, dies.

**2005** Sir Denis Wright (b. 1911), diplomat and scholar, British ambassador to Iran (1963-71), a contributor to the *Encyclopaedia Iranica*, author of *The English Among the Persians* (1977), and *The Persians Among the English* (1985), dies.



**2005** Karim Emāmi (b. 1930), man of letters, translator, editor, lexicographer, writer for *Keyhān International*, an editor with Franklin publications, founder of Zamina bookstore after the establishment of the Islamic Republic, devoted to the promotion of good books, translator of the Rubā'iyāt of Omar Khayyām into English and F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* and John Osborne's *Look Back in Anger* into Persian, among many other translations, author of *Az moṣāḥebāt-e āftāb: zendagi o še'r-e Sohrāb Sepehri* (1996, with Kāmyār 'Ābedi), dies.

**2005** Maḥmud Aḥmadinežād, the fundamentalist mayor of Tehran, is elected president of Iran, defeating 'Ali-Akbar Hāšemi Rafsanjāni.

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