



IRAN

IRAN, New Persian Irān (Mid. Pers. Ērān, from OIr. *Aryānām “of the Aryans” [see [ARYANS](#)]), name of the modern political state, also used, as noun or adjective (e.g., “Iranian plateau”), as a geographical term. The adjective is applied, independently of political boundaries, as an ethnolinguistic descriptor (“Iranian languages”) and a cultural descriptor (see [GEOGRAPHY](#)).

The following series of sub-entries will expand on the above definition. These provide an overview of the unifying factors which constitute Iran through time and across space, while also showing the complexity and heterogeneity of the components of Iranian culture. Many of the points touched on in these articles can be explored in separate entries under the individual keywords.

- i. *Lands of Iran.*
 - ii. *Iranian history: an overview.*
 - iii. *Traditional history of Iran.*
 - iv. *Iranian myths and legends.*
 - v. *Peoples of Iran.*
1. A General Survey.
 2. Pre-Islamic period.



3. Islamic period.

vi. *Iranian languages and scripts.*

vii. *Non-Iranian languages of Iran.*

viii. *Persian literatures.*

1. Pre-Islamic literature.

2. Classical literature.

3. Modern literature.

ix. *Religions in Iran.*

1. Iranian religions of the pre-Islamic period.

2. Islam in Iran.

x. *Persian art and architecture.* See ART; ARCHITECTURE.

xi. *Persian music.*