

Iran: de facto Persian-Turkic State.

Reference:

The Islamic Republic of Iran.

Date of formation: 1979.

Until 1935, it was called **Persia**, the country was also known by other names.

Capital: Tehran.

Population: about 87 million (data as of the end of 2022). In 1971, the country's population was about 29 million people. For 50 years, the country's population has increased by 3 times.

Ethnic composition (*official statistics of the Iranian authorities*):

Turks: 30-35%,

Kurds: 5-10%,

Arabs: up to 2%,

Baloch: up to 2%,

Armenians, Georgians, Jews, Assyrians, etc.: about 1%.

Persian-speaking population: 50-60%.

In the group of Persian-speaking peoples, Persians play the leading role.

In the group of Turkic-speaking peoples, Azerbaijanis play the leading role.

From the end of the second millennium BC to the beginning of the first millennium BC, Iranians, separated from Indo-Aryans and spread from the Eurasian Steppe toward the west. The territory of present-day Iran was inhabited by Iranian peoples: Persians, Medes, Parthians, and Bactrians.

Iranian peoples - a group of peoples of common origin, speaking the Iranian languages of the Indo-Iranian branch of the Indo-European language group, are the main population of Iran, Afghanistan, and Tajikistan. They also live in Uzbekistan, Pakistan, Turkey, Iraq, Syria, Oman, China, Azerbaijan, and Russia.

In the political aspect, the term 'Iranians' refers to the inhabitants of present-day Iran, especially the Persian-speaking ones, which is primarily associated with the 'Iran' name officially adopted in 1935. The term 'Iran' was originally used to refer to a vast region comprising present-day Iran, Afghanistan, and the south of Central Asia (Khorasan). To distinguish between the concepts of 'present-day State of Iran' and 'historical Iran,' the term 'Persia' is used for the latter.

The term 'Iran' refers to the present-day State of Iran. The term 'Persia' refers to the Fars Ostan (Pars province). Today's Iran also includes parts of Azerbaijan, Iraq, and Afghanistan territories. Persians live in the central, northeastern, and southwestern parts of Iran.

Persia is the Latinized name of the historical region of Pars, now Fars (in ancient Persian Parsuash; in ancient Greek Persis). The region is situated in southern Iran on the coast of the Persian Gulf (the historical homeland of Persians and the Persian language), after which a number of states were later named.

The first significant Iranian State was the Kingdom of Media (670-550 BC) with the Ekbatan capital (now Hamadan, Iran).

The Medes are an ancient people of Iranian origin who inhabited Media located in the northwest of present-day Iran and southeast Turkey. The Median language belongs to the Western Iranian group of languages.

According to historical literature, there were three Persian states: the Achaemenid Empire, the Parthian Kingdom, and the Sassanid Empire.

The Achaemenid Empire (705-330 BC) originates from Achaemenes, the leader of the confederation of Persian tribes. A descendant of Achaemenes, Cyrus II the Great, who ruled (558-538 BC) in Pars, founded the huge First Persian Empire uniting most of the Near and Middle Eastern countries. In 330 BC, under the attacks of Alexander the Great, the Achaemenid State ceased to exist. After the death of Alexander the Great (323 BC), Persia passed into the power of the Seleucids (Seleucus was a commander under Alexander the Great), which lasted until 256 BC.

Then Persia became part of the Parthian Kingdom.

Parthian Kingdom (250 BC - 227 AD). Parthia was situated in the southeastern part of the Caspian Sea and was a satrapy (province) of the Seleucid State. The Arsacids or Arshacids are an ancient dynasty founded by the leader of the Parns Arshak I, who ruled in the territories of present-day Eastern Anatolia, Transcaucasia, Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, Turkmenistan, and Pakistan. In historiography, the Parthian-Persian Arsacid Dynasty is often referred to as the Pahlavids, from the Parthian 'pahlav' meaning Parthian. Arshak I is considered the founder of the ruling dynasty, but he was also its ancestor. The first crowned King from this dynasty, which ruled Parthia, was his younger brother Tiridates, who took the reign name Arshak II. The Arsacid State had close ties with the peoples of Central Asia.

The Parns, also Aparns, are an ancient Eastern Iranian people who were part of the Dahae confederation, probably belonging to the Massagetae (Scythian) group.

In ancient times, they lived in the steppes of the Aral Sea region, in Mangyshlak, and on the northern slopes of the Kopet Dag.

Dahae is the common name of the Iranian-speaking confederation of three nomadic tribes of Saka (Massagetae), who lived in Central Asia in ancient times.

Massagetae - this ethnonym is used by ancient authors to refer to the Iranian-speaking nomadic people who lived in Scythia. Referring to his contemporaries, Herodotus wrote that, according to some of them, the Massagetae are a Scythian tribe.

The founder of the Parthian Arsacid Dynasty, Arshak I originated from Bactria (a historical region situated in the adjacent territories of present-day Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Afghanistan, between the Hindu Kush mountain range in the south and the Fergana Valley in the north). The Parthian Kingdom was a heterogeneous and unstable union. The regional population belonged to different or close ethnoses and tribes with their languages but united by a common material and spiritual culture. Parthians were nomadic tribes. The Sassanids or Persians did not consider Parthians to be Aryans. Therefore, the Parthian Kingdom is not considered a Persian Empire, which is the Achaemenid State and the Second Persian Empire - the Sassanid State, even though the Sassanian Empire is a descendant of the Parthian Empire. The rejection of Parthian rule by Persians led to the rebellion of the Pars province governor who killed the last Parthian King and his supporters and declared himself King. Only the state's name has changed. Representatives of the clan of Iranian-speaking nomads from Central Asia were removed and thus, the Sassanids declared themselves descendants of the Achaemenids.

Fragments of Parthians concentrated in the province of Armenia, the governor of which was a representative of a Parthian Royal Dynasty's branch. Armenian chroniclers appropriated the Parthian period of history by literally copying and assigning names and dates. And from the beginning of the 400s, the armenization of the Parthian Central Asian tribes began.

Sassanid Empire (224-651). The dynasty originated from Pars and was named after Sasan, the father of the first King of Pars from the Sassanid clan Papak. In 224, the son of Papak Ardashir I defeated the Parthian King Artaban IV and founded the Sassanid State, which entered into a confrontation with the Byzantines. It has been going on since the beginning of the 4th century. The last war took place in 602-628. In fact, these were religious wars between Christians and Zoroastrians. As a result, both sides reached exhaustion, and at that time, the star of the Arabs rose. Saad ibn Abu Waqqas al-Qurayshi, a companion of the Prophet Muhammad, and a cousin of the Prophet's mother, who was among the first to convert to Islam at the age of 17, made a significant contribution to the conquest of the Sassanid Empire. He was one of the ten most respected companions of the Prophet Muhammad. In 614, Saad and other Muslims went out

to the hilly country near Mecca to pray. There, a fight broke out between the pagans and the Muslims. Saad hit one of the pagans with a camel jaw that came into his hands. This was the first bloodshed for Islam.

Arab Caliphate (632-1245). The initial core of the caliphate was the Muslim community formed by the Prophet Muhammad at the beginning of the 7th century in Hijaz (a territory in the west of the Arabian Peninsula, part of Saudi Arabia), the ummah (in Arabic, community, nation). Then a huge state was founded, which comprised the Arabian Peninsula, Iraq, Iran, the territories of Transcaucasia, Central Asia, Syria, Palestine, North Africa, most of the Iberian Peninsula (Spain, Portugal, part of France, Andorra, Gibraltar), and Sindh (province of Pakistan). In the middle of the 7th century, the Arabs launched an invasion of the Sassanid Empire. After the capture of the capital Istakhr in 650, all of Persia fell under the rule of the Arabs, and Arab governors were assigned there. By that time, part of the Zoroastrians had already been Christianized. But the Arabs did not force them to convert to Islam.

Istakhr was an ancient city in the south of Iran, five kilometers from the ancient capital of Persepolis, administratively part of the Shahrestan Marvdasht of Fars province. Istakhr was the center of Zoroastrianism. During a campaign against Persia, Alexander the Great burned this city.

In the 10th century, the territories of present-day Iran were ruled by several small dynasties that seized power in the same way: their founders were vassals or governors who ascended to the throne as a result of an armed rebellion against the Arab Caliphate.

By the end of the 9th century, the Arab Caliphate fell into decay. In different regions of the Caliphate, governors and military leaders began to create their semi-independent formations like principalities or counties.

***The Sajids** ruled Azerbaijan and the northwest of Iran in 889-929. They were of Turkic origin, Central Asian descent. Capitals: Maragha and Ardebil (currently cities of Iran, Southern Azerbaijan).*

***The Sallarids** ruled in 941-981, first in Azerbaijan and the northwest of Iran, then in the territories up to Derbent. They were of Daylamite origin (now non-existent Persian-speaking people), the capital was Ardebil, currently a city in Iran (Southern Azerbaijan).*

***The Shaddadids** ruled Azerbaijan and Armenia in 951-1199. They were of Arabic origin. Capitals: Dvin, Ganja (970-1075), Ani. Ganja is located in Azerbaijan. With the advent of the Seljuks, the Shaddadids became their vassals and governors of the territories, part of which is present-day Armenia.*

*The **Rawadids** ruled Azerbaijan and the northwest of Iran in 981-1071. They were of Arab origin (Yemenis from Basra) and were resettled in northwestern Iran under Caliph al-Mansur (Caliph in 754-775). Capitals: Maragha and Ardebil, currently cities of Iran (Southern Azerbaijan).*

*In 875-999, the Persian **Samanid** Dynasty ruled in the territory of Khorasan and Maverannah (now the territory of Iran, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, and Pakistan).*

In 962, one of the Turkic tribal leaders Alp-Tegin (from the Oghuz Kayi tribe), who served the Samanids, became the ruler of the State with the capital in Ghazni and founded the **Ghaznavid** Dynasty, which ruled for more than 100 years. Led by Toghrul Bey (the grandson of Seljuk), part of the Oghuzes from the Kynyk tribe moved west. He occupied Baghdad and acquired the title of Sultan from the Caliph, whereupon declared Rey the capital and founded the **Seljuk** Dynasty (1037-1194).

In Azerbaijan, the Turks (Huns) appeared in the 3rd-4th centuries, Sabirs - in the 5th-6th centuries, Khazars - in the 7th-8th centuries, the Oghuz Turks - in the 10th-11th centuries, Kipchaks (Cumans) in the 11th century, and Turko-Mongols - in 13th-15th centuries.

Before the arrival of the Genghisids, Iran was for a short time under the rule of the Persian Ghurid State and the State of Khwarazm Shahs who belonged to the Oghuz Begdili tribe. The Begdili Oghuz Turkmen tribe was also part of the Shamlu tribal union, a branch of the Qizilbash tribal confederation under the Safavids.

In 1265-1335, Iran was ruled by the Hulaguid Ilkhan Dynasty. The state was formed as a result of the dissolution of the Genghis Khan Empire and covered present-day Iran, most of Afghanistan and Turkmenistan, Arabian Iraq, the eastern part of Asia Minor, and most of the Transcaucasus.

Genghis Khan was a Turk. In the Chingizid armies, the vast majority of warriors belonged to various Turkic tribes.

The Khulaguid State is the name adopted in Russian historiography while in Western one, it is called the Khulaguid Ilkhanate, and the ruler is called Ilkhan. The real name of the State was Iranzamin (Iranian lands). The Ilkhanate's capitals were Maragha (Southern Azerbaijan, Iran), Tabriz (Southern Azerbaijan, Iran), and Sultaniye (near Zanjan, Southern Azerbaijan, Iran). All these cities are now located in the northwestern part of Iran (Southern Azerbaijan).

Ilkhan Oljeitu (1278-1316) converted to Shiite Islam in 1309. The first of the Genghisides to convert to Islam was the Golden Horde (Ulus of Jochi) Berke Khan (1209-1266), Jochi's son, Genghis Khan's grandson. This happened in 1240.

Oljeitu respectfully treated Sheikh Safiuddin Ardebili (1256-1334) - the founder of the Sufi Order of Safavids and the ancestor of the Safavid Dynasty. In Iran (mainly in the Azerbaijan region), this Order's activity led to the segregation of a special Sufism branch, usually called Qizilbash (Red Head) due to the color of the headdresses of the Order members.

According to many distinguished scholars, the Golden Horde waged wars with the Khulaguids and then the Timurids mainly for Azerbaijan. Its geographical and strategic position, natural resources, as well as trade and caravan routes passing through Azerbaijan, attracted conquerors. Also, according to Genghis Khan's will, Azerbaijan was to be part of the Golden Horde.

By the middle of the 14th century, due to the weakening of the Khulaguids, three states emerged on the territory of Iran: the Chobanids, the Jalairids, and the Muzaffarids.

The Chobanids (1338-1357) - a dynasty originating from the Turkic Suldus tribe. In the Hulaguid Ulus (State), they occupied the highest positions. In the last period of the State's existence, they ruled on behalf of the substitute Ilkhans alternately with the Jalairid dynasty and then created a state on the territory that was part of present-day Iranian Azerbaijan. The capital was the city of Tabriz (Southern Azerbaijan, Iran).

The Jalairids are a dynasty of Sultans (1340-1410), originating from the Turkic Jalair tribe. Their state covered the territories of present-day central and southern Iran and Iraq (except for the north). The capitals were the cities of Baghdad (Iraq), Tabriz (Southern Azerbaijan, Iran), and Basra (Iraq). The founder of the dynasty Hassan Buzurg was known for his friendship with Safiuddin Ardebili. After the death of Hassan Buzurg, the Jalairids continued to maintain good relations with the Order of Safavids.

Ahmad Jalair, the last ruler from the Jalairid Dynasty (1382-1410), is considered one of the first Azerbaijani poets. He wrote poetry in Azerbaijani, Arabic, and Persian.

The Muzaffarids - a dynasty (1314-1394) of Persian origin, ruled in the eastern part of present-day Iran. The Muzaffarids were continuously at war with the Jalairids. The capitals were the cities of Kirman (Iran) and Shiraz (Iran).

In 1380-1395, the entire territory of Iran was under the rule of Timur (Tamerlane). By that time, the Chobanids, Jalairids, and Muzaffarids ceased to exist. Timur belonged to the Turkic Barlas tribe. His wife, Saray Mulk Khanum,

was the daughter of Qazan Khan, the last ruler of the Chagatai Ulus from the Genghisid Dynasty.

Timur was a Muslim and a follower of the Sufi Orders. He maintained friendly relations with Sheikh Khoja-Ali Ardebili from the Order of Safavids.

In Western historiography, the Oghuz Turks were called Turkomans or Turkmens. According to the medieval authors Al-Biruni and Marwazi, this term refers to Oghuzes who converted to Islam.

The term Turkoman was most widely used in the Seljuk era. During this period, large Turkoman settlements were established in Syria, Iraq, and Eastern Anatolia. In the 11th century, Turkomans densely populated Arran (a medieval historical and geographical region in eastern Transcaucasia, now part of the Republic of Azerbaijan).

Turkomans included the Yiva and Bayandur tribes, from which the ruling clans of the states of Qara Qoyunlu and Aq Qoyunlu emerged. After the fall of the latter, the Turkoman tribes, partly under their names, e.g., Shamlu, Rumlu, Ustajlu, Afshars, Qajars, partly in the composition of a unified Turkoman tribe, united into the Qizilbash tribal confederation of the Safavids.

Qara Qoyunlu is a confederation of Oghuz Turkic tribes led by the Shiite Turkoman dynasty from the Oghuz Yiva clan. The Qara Qoyunlu State (1375-1468) existed in Western Asia, on the territory of present-day Azerbaijan, Armenia, Iraq, northwestern Iran, and eastern Turkey. At the end of the 14th century, they fought with the Timurids. The State's capital was the city of Tabriz (Southern Azerbaijan, Iran).

Jahan Shah (reigned 1436-1467) was the first among the Qara Qoyunlu rulers to take the title of Sultan. Jahan Shah was also known as a poet who wrote in Azerbaijani Turkic under the pseudonym Khaqiqi.

The rule of Qara Qoyunlu was in many respects similar to that of the Jalairids. In 1467, in a battle with the Aq Qoyunlu confederation near the city of Mush (eastern Turkey), the Qara Qoyunlu troops were defeated, and their possessions passed to Aq Qoyunlu.

Aq Qoyunlu is a confederation of Oghuz Turkic tribes led by the Sunni Turkoman dynasty from the Oghuz Bayandur clan. In 1402, Timur granted them the entire region around Diyarbakir (Turkey). The Aq Qoyunlu State (1453-1501) ruled in eastern Anatolia, Iran, Iraq, Armenia, and Azerbaijan. The capital of the state was the city of Tabriz (Southern Azerbaijan, Iran).

The Oghuz Turkic tribes, which were part of the states of Qara Qoyunlu and Aq Qoyunlu, were related. The only difference was that the first ones were Shiites while Aq Qoyunlu were Sunnis.

In 1501, weakened by the end of the 15th century by feudal strife and popular unrest, the Aq Qoyunlu State was defeated by the Qizilbashs led by Ismail Safavi (the maternal grandson of Uzun Hassan), who founded the Safavid State, to which all the Aq Qoyunlu State's territorial gains passed.

The head of Aq Qoyunlu Uzun Hassan maintained close relations with the Sufi dervishes. His sister Khadija Begim was given in marriage to Sheikh Junayd (the father of Sheikh Heydar), and one of his daughters Martuza Begim (in the Safavid court she was called Alemshah) - to the leader of the Ardebil Order of Safavids Sheikh Heydar (the father of Shah Ismail Safavid). Uzun Hassan also banned the persecution of Shiites to strengthen the alliance with the Safavid Sheikhs of Ardebil.

Safavids - the Shah dynasty, the rulers of the Safavid State (1501-1736). The first ruler from this dynasty was Shah Ismail I (1487-1524), who was born in the city of Ardebil (Southern Azerbaijan, Iran).

The Safavid State's territory covered the lands of present-day Azerbaijan, Iran, Armenia, Georgia, Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Iraq, eastern Turkey, eastern Syria, Kuwait, Bahrain, western Pakistan, southern Uzbekistan, and southern Tajikistan.

In medieval sources, the State was more often called the Qizilbash State (in Persian, Dovlet-e Qizilbash). The capital was the city of Tabriz (Southern Azerbaijan, Iran), later it was moved to Qazvin, and then Isfahan. The Safavids called themselves by the Sasanian title Shahinshah (king of kings). Ismail considered himself the legitimate heir of his grandfather Uzun Hassan. The Qizilbashs brought to the fore not the ethnic principle but Shiism, declaring it the state religion. Just in the era of the Safavids, Shiism was established as the dominant religious trend in Azerbaijan and Iran.

In the Safavid State, the Azerbaijani Turkic language became the language of the court, the army, lawsuits, and poetry, and Persian - the language of administration and literature. The inscriptions on the coins were engraved in Persian. Soviet orientalist I.P. Petrushevsky wrote, "The first Safavid Sheikhs lived in Ardebil; their native language was Azerbaijani."

To neutralize the impact of the Qizilbash elite, Shah Abbas I (1571-1629) from the Safavid dynasty formed a new tribal confederation called Shahseven (a people who are loving Shah). From all over the State, thousands of warriors from different, mainly Turkic tribes entered this confederation. Every warrior, clan, or tribal community who swore their allegiance to Abbas I could declare themselves Shahseven. It is believed that Yunsur Pasha and his descendants from the Ayrum tribe were among the first to recognize themselves as Shahseven. Some sources wrote that they immigrated to Southern Azerbaijan from Ganja and Karabakh in

3,000 covered wagons. Earlier, they arrived in the northern regions of Azerbaijan from Anatolia, after the fall of the Seljuk Sultanate of Konya in 1301.

The last Shah of the Safavid Dynasty, Soltan Hussein I (1668-1726), was a pietist. Under him, the anti-Sufism law was tightened, alcohol and opium were banned, and the behavior of women in public places was restricted. The governors were ordered to be guided by the Shariah Law.

The inculcation of Shiite Islam at the state level has led to increasing intolerance against Sunni Muslims, Jews, and Christians. There were other discontents as well. As a result, uprisings broke out everywhere. The Shah was deposed by Afghan rebels in 1722.

In 1729, the military leader Nadir defeated the Afghans, who left Iran.

The Afsharids ruled in Iran (1729-1796) and then in Khorasan (1750-1796). The founder of the Nadir Dynasty was a Qizilbash from the Kirklu clan of the Afshar Turkoman tribe. In his letter to Fath-Ali Shah Qajar, Napoleon Bonaparte considered himself a follower of Nadir Shah. Joseph Stalin called Nadir his teacher, along with Ivan the Terrible.

Nadir considered the southern shores of Lake Urmia (Southern Azerbaijan, Iran) to be the motherland of the Afshars. Nadir was proud of his Turkoman origin and maintained a strong Turkic identity throughout his life.

Nadir's native language was Turkic.

According to famous orientalist V. Minorsky, Nadir, like other Afshars, spoke the southern Turkoman dialect of the Oghuz language. Soviet orientalist Hakob Papazyan also pointed out that Nadir Shah, being a Qizilbash, used Azerbaijani as his native language.

After the death of Nadir, civil strife broke out in Iran (except for Khorasan) and thus, representatives of the Kurdish Zand tribe (1753-1794) seized power.

Qajars are a Turkoman tribe. According to the Ethnohistorical Dictionary of the Russian and Soviet Empires, Qajars are a sub-ethnic group of Azerbaijanis. In 1796, for the first time, Agha Mohammad Qajar made Tehran, the former residence of the Afshar Khans, the capital of the Qajar State. During the Qajar period, the throne heirs were appointed by the governor of Azerbaijan.

Due to its strategic position, Tehran first emerged as a Safavid garrison city, the northern gate. The first capital of the Seljuk State, the ancient city of Rey, is located 10 km from Tehran.

Back in 1553-1554, the son of Ismail I, Shah Tahmasp I (1514-1576), built city walls with 114 (according to the number of the Koran suras) gun turrets in Tehran.

After the Russian-Qajar wars of 1804-1813 (the Treaty of Gulistan) and 1826-1828 (the Treaty of Turkmenchay), the Qajar State lost Eastern Georgia, Dagestan, Armenia, and Northern Azerbaijan.

The 47-year period of the reign of Naser al-Din Shah Qajar (1831-1896) was the longest in modern history and the third longest in the entire three-thousand-year history of Iran. Until the age of 12, he knew only the Azerbaijani language. At the age of 17, he became Shah.

The last Qajar ruler, Sultan Ahmad Shah, was deprived of the throne on October 31, 1925, and Reza Khan was proclaimed Shah.

Petrushevsky writes about the Qajar tribe, "According to the tribal tradition transmitted by the court historian Abd-ar-Razzaq Dumbuli (1763-1828), the Qajar tribe was formed in the Mongol period due to the unification of fragments of three tribes - Sulduz, Jelair, and Tangut" (I.I. Petrushevsky, Essays on the History of Feudal Relations in Azerbaijan and Armenia in the 16th - Early 19th Centuries).

Tanguts lived in the State of Xi Xia or, as some scholars call it, the Tangut Kingdom, which neighbored Uighurs and Mongols in, respectively, the west and the north. The Tanguts named their state after the ancient Xiongnu Xia Kingdom. Xi Xia means Western Xia, i.e., to the west of the historical Xiongnu lands. The Chinese Wall was built in the 3rd century BC to protect it against the Xiongnu. The Tangut territories were also behind the wall. This means that the Tangut Kingdom was also related to the Huns, i.e., the Turks. At the moment, the theory of the Turkic origin of the Xiongnu is one of the most popular and more or less proven in the world scientific community. Chinese sources firmly state that the Turks were descendants of the Huns.

In the ethnic formation of Tanguts, a mix of Mongoloid and Caucasoid features can be traced. Russian traveler and geographer Grumm-Grzhmailo (1860-1936) writes that the modern type of the Ganzhou Tangut (Tibetan) is closer to the Caucasian than the Mongolian.

At the beginning of the 18th century, Russia began to intensively express interest in the Eastern question, and Armenians, cherished by the Russian political and scientific elite, began their intended activity. Armenians living among the Ottoman Turkey Muslims and in the Safavid State joined them. They knew languages and mentality, occupied important government posts, traded and moved freely, enjoyed the favor of monarchs, and were also engaged in trade in the territory of regional countries. From the beginning of the 18th century, the Russification of the region starts. Peter the Great resettled Russians and coreligionist Christians, in particular, Armenians and Georgians, to the Caspian region, starting from Astrakhan in the north to Derbent, Baku, Lankaran, Gilan, and up to Mazandaran.

In the 19th century, the expansion of Great Britain and Russia in relation to the Qajar state took a new form, including control over natural resources, trade and foreign policy relations. The state got deeper and deeper into debt. Loans taken from Russia and Britain failed to revive the economy. The concessions issued to the British, which included monopoly rights to the tobacco industry, the

construction of telegraph lines, navigation and the creation of banks, could not improve the economy. The Qajar state was slowly going to the abyss thanks to the Armenians, who occupied important positions in the state, but were agents of Russia and Britain. There were a lot of them. Here are some:

Agha Yakub Kutuli - the chief eunuch in the harem of Fath-Ali Shah Qajar.

Mirza Yakub (1785-1829) - eunuch in the harem and manager of Shah's treasury.

Khosrow Khan (Kaytmazyants) and Manuchehr Khan (Yenikopolian) - the Shah's eunuchs.

The chief eunuch ordered Mirza Yakub, Khosrow Khan, and Manuchehr Khan to establish a trading company to make supplies for Shah's court and harem. They got rich very quickly. Khosrow Khan and Manuchehr Khan further became governors. All of them were Tiflis Armenians. Recall that from 1501 to 1813, the main part of

Georgia with the city of Tiflis was part of the Safavid and Afshar States, and then from 1501 to 1813, the Qajar State.

Mirza Yakub Markarian - the Shah's second eunuch.

In 1829, the chief treasurer, the keeper of precious stones, and the second eunuch Mirza Yakub Markarian robbed Shah's treasury in collusion with the Russian Embassy's clerk Rustam Bensayan (Rustam Bey), first, by deception, sent two Armenian women from the harem to the Russian Embassy, and then, also hid there. The Shah requested extraditing the deserter and two Armenian women, but the head of the Russian mission Griboyedov refused. Then tragedy occurred, and an angry mob captured the Embassy. Griboyedov, the Embassy employees, and the eunuch were killed.

Manuchehr Khan (?-1846) from the Mamikonian-Epikopolian clan, served at the court as a master of ceremonies, a governor.

Suleyman Khan (?-1852) from the Mamikonian-Epikopolian clan, Manuchehr Khan's brother served at court and was engaged in gathering troops and suppressing uprisings.

Nariman Khan (1826-1885) from the Mamikonian-Epikopolian clan, the son of Suleyman Khan - a diplomat and public servant.

Jahangir Khan (1828-1890) from the Mamikonian-Epikopolian clan, the son of Suleyman Khan - an adjutant of Nasreddin Shah (1831-1896), the Minister of Industry.

Set Khan Astvatsaturian (1780-1842) - businessman, ambassador to Great Britain, military adviser to Fath-Ali Shah, and close friend of Crown Prince Abbas Mirza.

Tsatur Khan (1820-1905), the son of Set Khan - General, envoy to Russia and advisor to Shah Mozaffar ad-Din Qajar (1853-1907). He was a close friend of

Grand Duke Mikhail Nikolayevich (1832-1909), the fourth son of Emperor Nicholas I, Viceroy of the Caucasus (1862-1881), the Chairman of the State Council (1881-1905).

Daut Malik Shahnazarian (?-1853) - diplomat, a public servant of the Qajars.

Mirzajan Daut Khan (?-1865) - diplomat, a public servant of the Qajars.
Hovhannes Khan Massehian (1864-1929) - diplomat, public servant.
Hovhannes Khan Aghchalian (?-1914) - General, diplomat.

The Davidkhanian family.

David Khan (1795-1851) - diplomat, a public servant of the Qajars, and Shah's royal physician.

Markar Khan Davidkhanian, David Khan's brother - the Minister of Finance in 1804-1848, a close friend of Fath-Ali Shah.

Martiros Khan Davidkhanian (1843-1905), David Khan's brother - General, Chief of Staff of the Kazak brigade, the Commander of the Qajar court guards.

Eskander Khan Davidkhanian, the son of Martiros - General, Deputy Commander of the Kazak brigade.

Sarkis Khan Davidkhanian (1846-?) - an Iranian General during the Qajar era.

Meguertitch Khan Davidkhanian, the son of Sarkis - General, statesman.

Alexander Khan Setkhanian (1865-1953) - General, husband of Martiros Khan Davidkhanian's daughter. He was the son of General Tsatur Khan from the Set Khan family.

In 1905-1911, a revolution occurred in the Qajar State, caused by the dominance of foreigners in the financial and economic sphere of the country. The northern provinces, primarily Iranian Azerbaijan, became the center of the anti-state movement. In the course of the revolution, the Mejlis (parliament) was formed, and a constitution was adopted. The country was divided into spheres of influence between Tsarist Russia and Great Britain. Up to 200 Armenian Dashnaks took part in the revolution (Dashnaktsutyun is an Armenian political party since 1890). One of its active participants was Yeprem Khan Davtyan (1868-1912), Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces of the provisional government (1909-1912). In 1910, he arranged an attack on Sattar Khan (1860-1914) (in the Russian and Western European press, Sattar Khan was called 'Azerbaijani Pugachev' and 'Persian Garibaldi').

The National Council of the Parliament invited Sattar Khan to Tehran for negotiations. On April 3, 1910, Sattar Khan arrived in Tehran with his associates. On August 7, 1910, an armed detachment of the provisional government, headed by Yeprem Khan (a supporter of Sattar Khan in the fight against Shah's regime), treacherously attacked Sattar Khan. As a result, 300 supporters of Sattar Khan were killed, and he was seriously injured. Yeprem Khan was killed near Hamadan in a battle with a pro-Qajar detachment in 1912. Sattar Khan died of his wounds in Tehran in 1914.

In 1920, under the leadership of Sheikh Mohammad Khiyabani (1880-1920), an uprising arose throughout Northern Iran against the government and the British who supported it, which was crushed in the same year in Tabriz (Southern Azerbaijan, Iran).

In June 1920, with the help of Soviet Russia, the Gilan Soviet Republic was proclaimed in the city of Rasht (the center of Gilan) in the south of the Caspian Sea, which existed until September 1921.

On December 12, 1925, after the dethronement of the Qajar Dynasty, Reza Khan (1878-1944), who went down in history as the Shahinshah Reza Pahlavi, ascended Shah's throne. He became the founder of present-day Iran. The country's name was introduced by Reza Shah in 1935 and meant 'Land of the Aryans.'

According to some sources, Reza Pahlavi was born on March 16, 1877, in the Alasht village of Shahrستان Savadkuh, the province of Mazandaran. His father was a small landlord and hereditary officer. Some note that he was a Mazandaran and not a Turk, although there are solid assertions that his mother was Azerbaijani.

According to others, Reza was born on March 15, 1878, in the Alasht village of Shakhristan Savadkuh, the province of Mazandaran, into a Turkish-speaking family of military servants. His mother Noushafarin Ayromlou came from Ayrum-Azerbaijanis. One of his wives, Tadj ol-Molouk Ayromlou (Nimtaj Khanum), also originated from the Ayruns. According to some reports, Reza's mother was from a family of Muslim immigrants from Georgia. Reza Khan's ancestors immigrated from the Caucasus after the Russian invasion and received a fief in the Alasht village. Reza Pahlavi's grandfather Morad Ali Khan (a captain in the Qajar army) died during the siege of Herat in 1856. His father Abbas Ali Khan (major in the Qajar army) participated in the siege of Herat in 1856 as a member of the Savadkuh regiment. Reza Pahlavi's father-in-law, Teymur Khan Ayromlou, was a general in the Persian Cossack Brigade (1878-1920). Teymur Khan's nephew, General Mohammad Hossein Ayromlou, also served in the Persian Cossack Brigade. Later, in 1931, he became the head of the National Police of the Pahlavi State and was Reza Shah's right hand.

Reza Khan knew many languages - he spoke the Alashti dialect of Mazandaran, Persian, broken Russian, and Turkic in a circle of close people.

Reza began his career as a common soldier in the Persian Cossack Brigade; in 1898, he became an officer, and in 1919, a general.

In 1878, during a trip to the Transcaucasus, Cossacks accompanied Naser al-Din Shah Qajar, which made a great impression on him. At his request, Russian authorities sent Russian officers to create a Cossack brigade. Until 1920, it was commanded by Russian officers. Recruitment was performed mainly among the Turks of the province of Azerbaijan and the Qazvin region. A small number of recruits were Persians and Gilans.

During the reign of the Safavids and Qajars, the vast majority of Zoroastrians converted to Islam, and some emigrated to India, where they formed the second large Indian Zoroastrian community known as the Iranians. During the reign of the Pahlavi Dynasty, Zoroastrians became one of the most persecuted minorities in Iran and a symbol of Iranian nationalism.

Reza Shah also actively inculcated the ideology of neo-Achaemenism, which actualized the legacy of the pre-Islamic period, and modernized all aspects of social life since there was someone to look up to - in neighboring Turkey, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk showed examples of reformism to the world. Reza Pahlavi allowed women's education, released schools from religious control, ordered officials to wear European-style clothes, and executed some of the most ardent and hostile clergy.

Reza Shah understood that the political ideology of Shiism could not be used to strengthen the power and relied on the monarchical tradition, which was increasingly acquiring a nationalist Persian overtone. Thus, at the beginning of the 20th century, the concept of a 'unified Iranian nation' (pan-Iranianism) became widespread among monarchists, according to which all the country's population represented a single Iranian nation. The spread of Persian culture and language among the non-Persian population played a special role in it. In the areas of residence of Azerbaijanis, the use of the Azerbaijani language in public education, the press, and clerical correspondence were banned.

In February 1979, the Islamic Revolution overthrew the monarchy. The last Shah of Iran, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, left the country. The Islamic Republic of Iran was established. The 1979 Iranian Revolution suggested a unifying ideology for all the country's people - Shiite Islam. But there were discrepancies. Islamic socialists, followers of one of the ideologists of the Islamic Revolution, philosopher Ali Shariati (1933-1977), spoke of a classless society based on social equality and brotherhood. They demanded autonomy - the enforcement of the rights of ethnic minorities to local self-government and the development of school systems in national languages.

The leader of the movement for the autonomy of Azerbaijan, Mohammad Kazem Shariatmadari (1905-1986), also called for the autonomous rights of national minorities within the boundaries of unified Iran. Shariatmadari was one of the five grand Ayatollahs and the leading representative of the clergy in the last years of the reign of Mohammad Reza Shah Pahlavi (1919-1980). After the death of Grand Ayatollah Borujerdi in 1962, he became one of the most influential marjas, with a lot of followers in Iran, Pakistan, India, Lebanon, Kuwait, and some Persian Gulf states.

Reference:

Ayatollah is an honorary title of Shiite theologians (mujtahids) entitled to independently decide on issues of Islamic Law based on the Jafari jurisprudence school (madhhab).

Mujtahid is a high-ranking faqih (Islamic theologian) who has the competence and the right to issue fatwas (decisions) on important issues of religion and Islamic Law. He should rely solely on ayats and reliable hadiths (the tradition

about the words and actions of the Prophet Muhammad, affecting various religious and legal aspects of the Muslim community life) and not the judgments of other theologians. In plain language, mujtahid is a theologian of the highest rank.

The Jafari Madhhab is the school of Islamic Law followed by the Twelver Shiites. Its founder is Imam Jafar ibn Muhammad al-Sadiq, revered by the Shiites as the sixth immaculate imam.

Shiites are a branch of Islam, uniting various communities that recognized Ali ibn Abi Talib (cousin, son-in-law, and companion of the Prophet Muhammad) and his descendants (imams) as the only legitimate heirs and spiritual successors of the Prophet Muhammad. The concept of Twelver Shiites is the predominant trend in Shiism, which is most common in Iran, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Iraq, and Lebanon. It is also widespread in Yemen, Afghanistan, Turkey, Syria, Kuwait, Pakistan, UAE, and southwestern Tajikistan.

Marja is the highest religious rank of Shia religious leaders (mujtahids), the major religious authority in matters of law and theology, who has the right to make legal decisions. Marja's orders are binding on all members of the Shia community. The last Marjas in Iran were Mohammad Kazem Shariatmadari, Ruhollah Khomeini (1900-1989), and Sayyid Abu al-Qasim al-Khoei (1899-1992). Al-Khoei openly criticized the Pahlavi regime but refused to support Khomeini and his Islamic Revolution in Iran. Shariatmadari and Al-Khoei were Azerbaijanis, and Khomeini was Persian.

Ruhollah Khomeini's regime (1979-1989) suppressed the independence of people and opposition groups. During these years, a theocracy (secular and clerical power rolled into one) was formed in the country, headed by a spiritual leader and experts representing the Shiite clergy, who could interfere in any social processes. Religious norms became obligatory for everyone.

After the death of Ruhollah Khomeini in 1989, the ethnic Azerbaijani Seyyed Ali Hosseini Khamenei was elected the religious leader of Iran.

In 1980, immediately after the Islamic Revolution in Iran, the Iran-Iraq war began, which lasted until 1988. During this difficult period (1981-1989), Khamenei was President and Mir-Hossein Mousavi Khamenei was Prime Minister. They were Azerbaijanis. Khamenei and Mousavi's father were cousins. Ali Khamenei's aunt was the wife of Mohammad Khyabani (1880-1920), the leader of the national liberation movement against Shah's regime in Iranian Azerbaijan in 1920.

When Islamists came to power in 1979, one of the ideological goals of the Islamic Republic of Iran became to spread the revolution throughout the entire Middle East. To do this, a policy was developed to strengthen the influence on the Shiite communities of neighboring states, from which militia groups were formed. In this way, the Islamic Republic of Iran planned to indirectly participate in the

politics of neighboring states and become an influential regional player. Lebanon became the first platform to spread the influence, where the Al-Quds (Jerusalem Force) formation played a major role. This special-purpose military unit of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) is responsible for special operations beyond the territory of Iran. Today, the Islamic Republic of Iran supports the paramilitary Shiite organization Hezbollah (advocating the establishment of an Islamic state modeled after Iran) in Lebanon and the Palestinian Islamic Movement HAMAS in the Gaza Strip, where it has been the ruling party since 2007. Along with Iranian IRGC, Hezbollah is fighting in Syria on the side of Bashar al-Assad. The IRGC supports the Iraqi Al-Hashd Al-Shaabi organization, mainly consisting of Shiite fighters. Iran also provides overt military and financial support for the militarized group of Zaydi Shiites (Houthis, followers of Zayd, the brother of the fifth Shia Imam, Muhammad al-Baqir).

On September 16, 2022, following the news of the death of a girl named Mahsa Amini, who was presumedly stoned to death by the Guidance Patrol for allegedly inappropriately wearing a hijab, protests and riots began in Iran against the Iranian state system. The United States, Great Britain, and the European Union supported the Iranian people and accused the Iranian leadership of atrocities against the participants in the protest movement. The Iranian leadership once again demonstrated its muscles: arrests, repressions, and executions by hanging began. 573 people were killed and 18,553 were arrested. However, the protest movement succeeded in abolishing the morality police.

Judging by the information, civil actions in Iran will be held regularly. Inflation and devaluation lead to a decrease in the purchasing power of the population. Once every few years, shock inflation takes place, which leads to an uncontrolled jump in prices. Starting from 2018, annual inflation is about 40% and is forecasted to grow up to 50% in 2023.

Oil revenues lag behind the growth in government expenditures. The situation is aggravated by large funds directed by Iran for military purposes and operations abroad. The government is increasingly relying on tax revenue, which reduces the profits of businesses and companies. Many Iranian companies have declared bankruptcy. Such a continuation will lead to an economic disaster.

Also, Iran got in hot water with the United States and Israel to such an extent that these countries can carry out missile and air strikes on strategic and military targets in Iran at any time. E.g., on the night of 29 January 2023, several cities in Iran were attacked by unknown drones. Kamikaze drone strikes hit defense factories, military bases, and army depots. Iranian authorities have acknowledged that a factory in Isfahan, manufacturing ammunition for drones, was attacked from the air. Foreign agencies, citing local sources, claim substantial damage caused to military facilities as a result of the air attack. It is also reported that the Iranian air defense system failed to cope with the raid, and the drones managed to hit a Shahid drone plant in Tabriz, an ammunition depot in Mallard, and other facilities.

Explosions were heard in Tehran, Kerej, Dizful, and Hamadan. Local media reported fires in Isfahan and East Azerbaijan.

The situation in Iran is also aggravated by the craving of national minorities, i.e., Azerbaijanis, Kurds, and Balochs for autonomy or complete political independence. Protests in the provinces of East Azerbaijan (Tabriz city), Western Azerbaijan (Urmia city), Ardebil (Ardebil city), and Zanjan (Zanjan city), where Azerbaijani Turks make up the vast majority of the population, are less active than countrywide. The Turks from these provinces are called Azeri. The inhabitants of these provinces call themselves Turks, and the Persians also call them Turks. Turks make up 55% of the population in the Qazvin province, 59% in the Hamadan province, 50% in the Merkezi province, about 30% in Tehran, and 20% in the Kurdistan province. In the province of Western Azerbaijan, 30% of the population are Kurds, who are concentrated in the Shakhrestan of Mekhabad with the center in Mekhabad - the cultural center of Iranian Kurdistan.

There are no schools in the Azerbaijani Turkic language in Iran. The TV channel in Tabriz (population over 1.5 million) is broadcasting morning and evening news programs in the Azerbaijani language for children about the events and weather in the province of Eastern Azerbaijan (population over 4 million).

The Republic of Azerbaijan and Iranian Turks did not forget the capture of the city of Shusha on May 7-8, 1992. At the moment when leaders of Armenia and Azerbaijan were signing a joint communiqué on the basic principles of a peace agreement through the mediation of Iranian President Rafsanjani in Tehran, Armenians strafed Shusha. The then advisor to the President of Armenia, Vagan Papazyan, recalls that all the brackets cannot be opened even a decade and a half after the events, “The peace document had already been prepared when the news came from Shusha. Of course, we have put the Iranians in an awkward position. Roughly speaking, it turned out that Armenians and Iranians joined in a conspiracy against Azerbaijan.” (“Shusha, May 7-9, 1992: How It Was” (ANI Armenian Research Center, May 7, 2020).

The Republic of Azerbaijan and Iranian Turks did not forget that during the 28-year occupation of Azerbaijani lands by Armenians, Iran had never accused the Armenian side or demanded the liberation of Azerbaijani lands.

And now, after the victorious 44-day war, when Azerbaijan has liberated its ancestral lands from the Armenian scourge, Iran opposes the opening of the Zangezur corridor. Iranian Ambassador to Armenia Abbas Badakhshan Zohuri claims that Iran and Armenia will never allow such a corridor to open. Iran is opening a consulate in Kapan (Armenia); Armenia is preparing to open a consulate in Tabriz (the province of Eastern Azerbaijan). Have Iran and Armenia forgotten that in 1944-1992, there was a railway connection between Baku and Yerevan through the stations of Minjivan (Azerbaijan) - Meghri (Armenia) - Ordubad (Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic, the Republic of Azerbaijan)? There was a route Moscow-Baku-Tehran. By the end of 2020, the Ordubad-Meghri-Horadiz

road section was completely dismantled by Armenians. After the II Karabakh War (September 27 - November 9, 2020), Azerbaijan restored the railway and road sections on its territory. The 43-kilometer Armenian section of the railway remains destroyed. The Republic of Armenia undertook to build this section under the tripartite agreement signed by the Presidents of Russia and Azerbaijan and the Prime Minister of Armenia on November 9, 2020.

Tehran should have in mind that the pro-Armenian policy and anti-Azerbaijani statements are fueling separatism in Iran itself.

Iran should know that Tabriz has always been the center of opposition to Tehran. Uprisings took place there in 1908-1911, 1920, and 1941-1945. Iran should remember the existence of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic (November 1945-December 1946). Iran should know that Azerbaijani Turks are everywhere, including the armed forces. Here are some of them:

Iranian military leaders - Azerbaijanis:

Yahya Rahim Safavi (1958) - Major General, Commander-in-Chief (1997-2007) of the Corps of the Islamic Revolution Guards (IRGC). Now he is a senior military advisor to the Supreme Commander-in-Chief.

Amir Khatami (1965) - Brigadier General, Minister of Defense of Iran (2017-2021). Now he is a military advisor to the Supreme Commander-in-Chief.

Mohammad Bagheri (1960) - Major General, was the commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps, Chief of the General Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces since 2016.

Aziz Nasirzadeh (1965) - Brigadier General, Commander of the Air Force (1918-1921), since September 2021, Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces.

Abdullah Araki - Brigadier General, Commander of the Mohammad Rasoul-Allah IRGC Brigade, since 2009, Deputy Commander of the IRGC Ground Forces.

Tehran should realize, and understand that without the Azerbaijani Turks, Iran has no future. The today's Islamic Republic of Iran is a de facto joint Perso-Turkic state. The future of Iran is a federal state, where the constituent entities have legally enforceable independence.