Glossary

1. **Ansar:** partisan, helpers; Arabic/Persian
2. **Ayatollah:** literally, "(exalted) sign of God"; Arabic/Persian. Senior theological rank in shia Islam. A distinguished *Mojtahed*
3. **Ayatollah-al-'ozma:** literally, "most exalted sign of God"; Arabic/Persian. Synonymous with *marja'-e taghlid*.
4. **Basi:** mobilization; paramilitary militia (subordinated to the Revolutionary Guards) in support for the regime against foreign enemies (such as in the war with Iraq).
5. **Bonyad:** foundation; Persian.
6. **Dafter:** office, administrative official; Persian.
7. **Barrels per day:** Production of crude oil and petroleum products is frequently measured in barrels per day, often abbreviated bpd or bd. A barrel is a volume measure of forty-two United States gallons. Conversion of barrels to tons depends on the density of the specific product. About 7.3 barrels of average crude oil weigh one ton. Heavy crude would be about seven barrels per ton. Light products, such as gasoline and kerosene, average close to eight barrels per ton.
8. **Five-Year Development Plan:** Iran's development plans have been of varying length and had various names. The plans and their dates under Mohammad Reza Shah were as follows: First Development Plan--September 21, 1948, to September 20, 1955; Second Development Plan--September 21, 1955, to September 20, 1962; Third Development Plan--September 21, 1962, to March 20, 1968; Fourth Development Plan--March 21, 1968, to March 20, 1973; and Fifth Development

9. **Faghih**: An expert in religious jurisprudence, specifically a Shia cleric whose mastery of the Kuran, the traditions of the Prophet and the Twelve Imams, and the codices of Shia Islamic law permit him to render binding interpretations of religious laws and regulations.

10. **Figh**: religious law, jurisprudence.

11. **Fiscal year (FY)**: Corresponds to the Iranian calendar year, which begins March 21 and ends on March 20 of the next year. To convert the Iranian year into Christian year, please add 621 to the former.

12. **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)**: The total value of goods and services produced within a country's borders during a fixed period, usually one year. Obtained by adding the value contributed by each sector of the economy in the form of compensation of employees, profits, and depreciation (consumption of capital). Subsistence production is included and consists of the imputed value of production by the farm family for its own use and the imputed rental value of owner-occupied dwellings.

13. **Gross National Product (GNP)**: Gross domestic product plus the income received from abroad by residents, less payments remitted abroad to nonresidents.

14. **Hadith**: Tradition based on the precedent of prophet Muhammad's words that serve as one of the sources of Islamic Law (shariat).
15. **Hejab**: Modesty in attire; defined by the Shia clergy to mean that women and girls must cover all their hair and flesh except for hands and face when in public. It is not necessary to wear a chador (a cloth serving as a cloak) to conform with hejab, although the two terms often are equated.

16. **Hezbollahi**: Literally, a follower of the party of God. Hezbollahis originally were followers of a particular religious figure who eventually came to constitute an unofficial political party. They were not an irregular or paramilitary group.

17. **Imam**: Among Twelver Shias the principal meaning is a designation of one of the twelve legitimate successors of the Prophet Muhammad. Also used by both Shias and Sunnis to designate a congregational prayer leader or cleric.

18. **Islamic clergy**: The religious leaders of Shia Islam, which group includes numerous mullahs, who in general possess only rudimentary religious education; mujtahids, a relatively small body of religious scholars, the majority of whom are accorded the title of hojjatoleslam; and a small number of the most learned and pious of the mujtahids, who are given the title of ayatollah.

19. **Jihad**: The struggle to establish the law of God on earth, often interpreted to mean holy war.

20. **Madraseh (Huzeye Elmiye)**: A religious college or seminary that trains men in Islamic jurisprudence.

21. **Maktab**: Primary school operated by Shia clergy.

22. **Mostazafin**: Literally, the disinherited; originally a religious term for the poor, which has become popularized.
23. **Majlis:** the term is used in two senses: the legislative body of imperial Iran, which included both a senate--composed of members appointed by the shah and elected members--and an elected lower house of representatives; and, the lower house alone. The Senate provided for in the constitution did not come into existence until 1950; the Senate was dissolved under Mossadeq but was revived later. Khomeini's revolutionary Constitution of 1979 eliminated the Senate, leaving only the lower house, or Majlis, in existence.

24. **Majlis-e Khobregan:** Assembly of Experts

25. **Majlis-e Shuray-e Islami:** Islamic Consultative Assembly


27. **Marja’-e taghlid:** a mujtahid whose authoritative guidance is followed in matters of Islamic practice and law.

28. **Ma'sumin:** those divinely endowed with the attribute 'ismat, (freedom from error and the commission of major sin; in Shia'i Muslim belief, the Prophet, his daughter Fatima, and the Twelve Imams.)

29. **Mostazafin:** Literally, the disinherited; originally a religious term for the poor, which has become popularized.

30. **Mujtahid:** a religious scholar qualified to engage in ijtihad.

31. **Mullah:** Generic term for a member of the Islamic clergy; usually refers to a preacher or other low-ranking cleric who has not earned the right to interpret religious laws.

32. **Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC):** Coordinates petroleum policies of thirteen major producing countries. In early 1987 members included Algeria, Ecuador, Gabon, Indonesia,
Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Venezuela.

33. **Occultation of the Lord of the Age:** the withdrawal from the manifest plane of the Twelfth Imam in the year 260/874; he will return to this plane when God wills.

34. **Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC):** Coordinates petroleum policies of thirteen major producing countries. In early 1987 members included Algeria, Ecuador, Gabon, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Venezuela.

35. **Reconstruction Jihad:** a service organization established after the triumph of the Revolution to perform essential tasks of rural and urban reconstruction.

36. **Rial:** Iranian official currency.

37. **seyyed:** a descendent of the Prophet Muhammad.

38. **Shar’:** religious jurisdiction

39. **Shura:** council

40. **Shariat (sharia in Arabic):** Islamic canon law. Among Shias (q.v.) the shariat includes the Quran and the authenticated sayings of the Prophet (hadith) and the Twelve Imams (q.v.).

41. **Shaykh:** Leader or chief. Term is used by Iranian Arabs for tribal chiefs and by Lurs and Kurds for religious leaders.

42. **Shia (or Shiite):** A member of the smaller of the two great divisions of Islam. The Shias believe that Ali (as) and his line to presumptive right to the caliphate and leadership of the world Muslim community, and on this issue they divided from the Sunnis (q.v.) in the first great schism of Islam. Later schisms have produced further divisions among the Shias.
43. **Shuray-e Negahban-e Ghanoone Assasi**: Guardian Council
44. **Sunna**: the normative practice of the Prophet Muhammad.
45. **Sunni**: A member of the larger of the two great divisions of Islam. The Sunnis, who rejected the claim of Ali's line, believe that they are the true followers of the sunna, the guide to proper behavior composed of the Quran and the hadith.
46. **Ummolghoraye-Islami**: Islamic Utopia
47. **Valiy-e-Faghih**: Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran.
48. **Velayat-e Faghih**: The guardianship of the religious jurist.
49. **White Revolution**: Term used by Muhammad Reza Shah Pahlavi to designate the program of economic and social reforms he initiated in 1963 with the support of United States of America.