

Vocabulary →

Ayatollah

WMDs

***Term***

***Definition***

***Knowledge  
Connections***

***Picture***

## Essential Question

Why has the United States become involved in Middle Eastern conflicts?

# How did conflict arise in Iran?

In the 1950s and 1960s, the Shah of Iran worked closely with the United States



Iran worked to build a modern state by:

→ *Using money from oil*

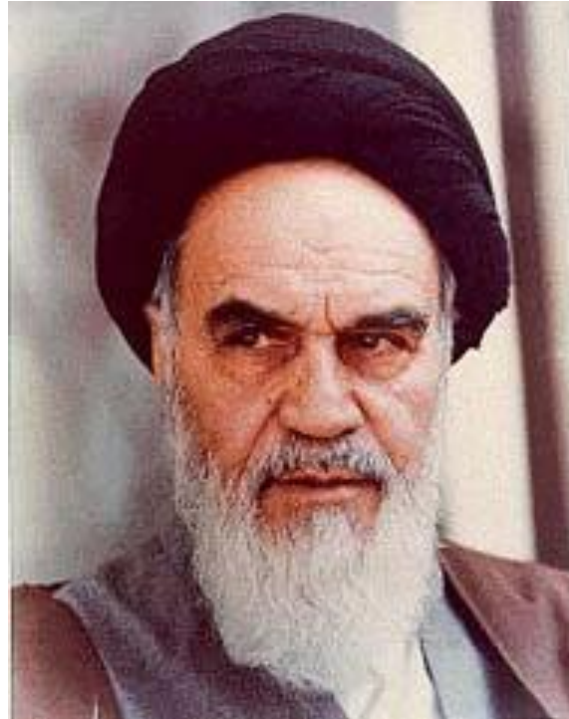
*and*

→ *Support from the United States*

Not everyone in Iran agreed with the Shah...

Many people wanted Iran based on the traditions of Islam...

# Who was the Ayatollah Khomeini?



**AYATOLLAH KHOMEINI**

Leader of Iran (1979-1989)



- ▢ Opposed to Iran's modernization and "westernization"
- ▢ Led the movement to return Iran to Islam ways
- ▢ His followers overthrew the Shah's government in 1979

# What was the Iran Hostage Crisis?



## IRAN HOSTAGE CRISIS

*(Nov. 4, 1979 – Jan. 20, 1981)*

The US embassy in  
Iran is attacked



52 Americans are  
taken hostage

The Iranians hold these  
hostages for more than a year  
*(444 days)*

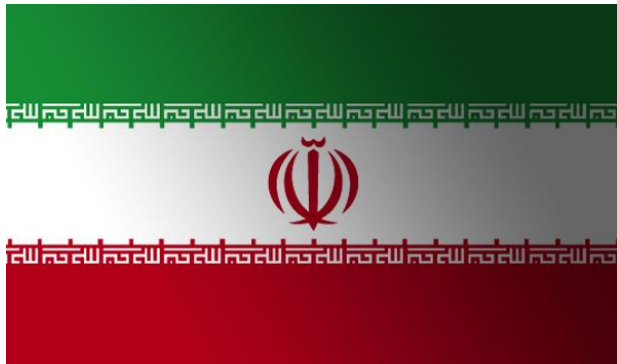


# What was Iran like after Khomeini?

1989 – Khomeini dies



Since 1989.... Several different leaders have come to power, all remain committed to Islam in Iran



2005 – **MAHMOUD AHMADINEJAD**  
elected President of Iran

- Developing nuclear capabilities
- Remains opposed to the US and Israel



# How did Iraq become a trouble spot?

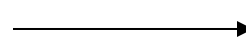


**SADDAM HUSSEIN** was the leader of Iraq during that time



During the *1980s*, Iran fought with its neighbor Iraq

*1990* – Hussein invades oil rich country of Kuwait



Led to the **PERSIAN GULF WAR**  
(*1991*)

US led forces drove Hussein out of Kuwait – but Hussein was allowed to remain in power



# How has Iraq changed in recent years?

In 2003, the US led another coalition into Iraq...



...This time, Hussein was removed from power.

Many Iraqis welcomed the fall of their brutal leader!

Efforts were made to rebuild the Iraqi government

In 2005, the Iraqi people approved a constitution and elected a government



However, fighting and civil wars still leave the future of Iraq uncertain. U.S. troops were removed in December 2011.



# What Happened to Saddam Hussein?

In 2006, Saddam Hussein was put on trial for using chemical weapons against the **KURDS** during the 1980s...



*People of Turkish descent  
living in Northern Iraq*



THE CASE AGAINST SADDAM



He was found guilty and executed in December of 2006

# Why is terrorism such a problem?

The 2000s have seen a rise in **TERRORISM**

*Violence against civilians  
to achieve a goal*

Since terrorists are not part of a government, they are difficult to control or stop.

## Terrorists have:

- ☹ Upset the peace process in the Middle East
- ☹ Attacked nations that are against their beliefs



# What happened on September 11<sup>th</sup>?

**9/11/2001** → Terrorists seized four US passenger airplanes while in flight



## Plane

## Target

Flight 11 → North Tower of WTC  
(New York City)

Flight 175 → South Tower of WTC  
(New York City)

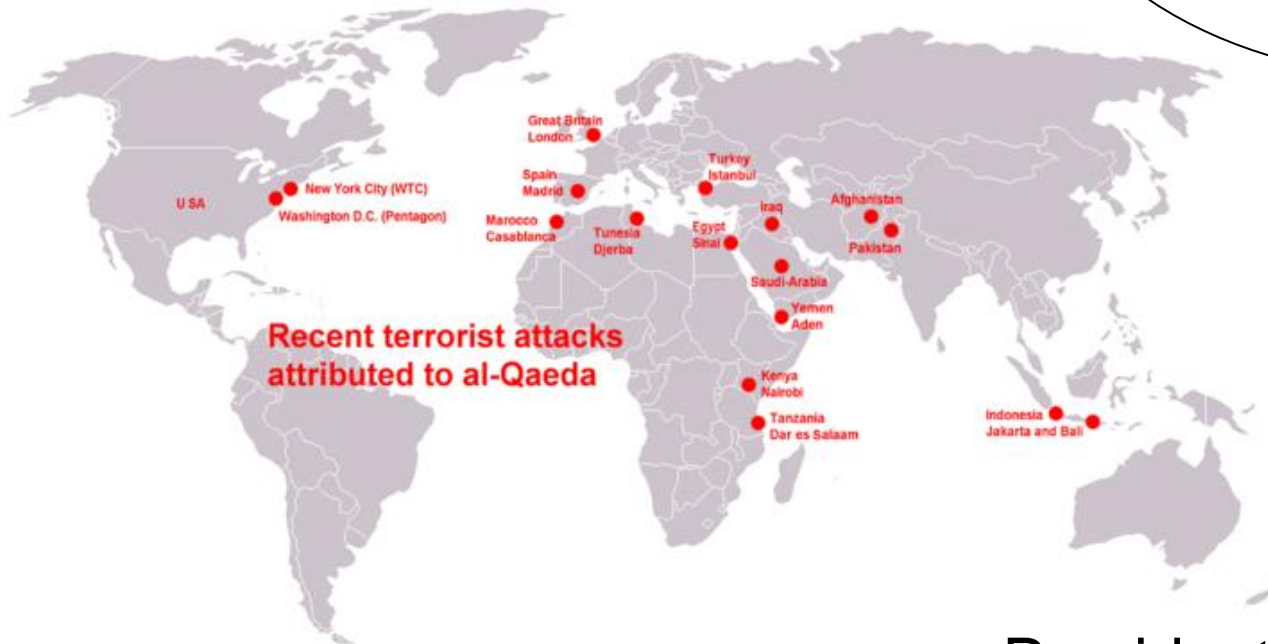
Flight 77 → Pentagon  
(Washington, DC)

Flight 93 → Crash landing  
(Shanksville, PA)

# How has terrorism become a world issue?

The US government believed that **OSAMA BIN LADEN** and the **AL-QAEDA** were behind the attacks

Any terrorist group or nation that supports terrorism or protects terrorists is an enemy of the United States!



President **GEORGE W. BUSH** declared war on terrorism



# What dangers are posed by WMD's?

After 9/11, many people worry that **WMD's** may fall into the hands of terrorists

Weapons of Mass Destruction



The United States had stressed that any nation suspected of having WMD's (*North Korea and Iran*) should remove their weapons and work to form peaceful relations with the rest of the world

## Essential Question

Why has the United States become involved in Middle Eastern conflicts?

Topic  
**UNITED STATES  
INVOLVEMENT  
IN THE  
MIDDLE EAST**

