



QAJARS

1794-1925

EMILY HU

THE REGIME

- The regime still remained a monarchy/theocracy.
 - The Shah still ruled over the people, but the Shi'i clerics were still the main interpreters of Islam.
- In the 1900s, it started to become more democratic (laws made by a legislative assembly and popular sovereignty).
 - New constitution: still had the monarchy but had the political power in a national assembly called *Majiles*.
- Iran still had a weak central government. However, it still had a very unitary state and leaned more towards devolution. The provinces within Iran were very autonomous.



Art from the Qajar Dynasty

THE ECONOMY

- The Qajar empire was bankrupt. At the end of the 1800's the Qajar empire had racked up massive debts to the European banks from their court expenses.
- Because they were so in debt, it allowed for more foreign intervention from other nations, especially those in Europe.
- They still remained a rentier state.
 - They also tried to inflate the prices of goods, but was only met with protests.
 - It was further intensified when the people claimed their local businesses and merchants were not being protected.



Currency from the Qajar Dynasty

THE LEADERS

- Naser o-Din Shah helped begin Iran's modernization. He tried to limit foreign intervention but ultimately failed when he fell into too much debt with the European countries. Soon, the Iranian government was very much under British rule.
- Mozaffar o-Din Shah worsened the economic situation of Iran by putting it into debt with the Russians, which also increased their power over Iran.



Naser o-Din Shah



Agha Mohammad Khan	1794 - 1797
Fath'Ali Shah	1797 - 1834
Mohammad Shah	1834 - 1848
Naser o-Din Shah	1848 - 1896
Mozaffar o-Din Shah	1896 - 1907
Mohammed Ali Shah	1907 - 1909
Ahmed Shah	1909 - 1925

THE CHANGE

- The change in the regime happened when Iranians began to revolt against Shah and his control.
- They took sanctuary in mosques in Tehran and requested that there be a constitution made.
- The constitution had:
 - Elections
 - Balance of powers
 - Laws made by a legislative branch
 - Popular sovereignty
 - National assembly: Majles
 - “representing the whole people”
 - Had representation for religious minorities.



The Constitutional Revolution of 1905

POLITICAL IDEOLOGY

- The Shahs all have traditional legitimacy as the Iran is very much of a monarchy.
- From the revolution in 1905, we can see that the Qajar Empire used more consensus rather than coercion. Similar to the Safavid empire, this was because they lacked:
 - a central government
 - a working military
 - an efficient way to tax its citizens.
 - It was also incredibly devolutionary.
- The *Majiles* was also soon characterized by internal conflict between the liberal and conservatives parties.

Liberals: Educated (intellectuals)	Conservatives : Landlords, chiefs, etc.
Wanted social reform Replace <i>shari'a</i> with a more modern legal code	Opposed land reform, women's rights, equality to religious minorities

BIBLIOGRAPHY

<http://jpewinfield.wordpress.com/2014/05/13/protest-in-the-political-economy-of-qajar-iran/>

<http://www.iranchamber.com/history/qajar/qajar.php>

Kesselman, Mark, Joel Krieger, and William A. Joseph. *Introduction to Comparative Politics: Political Challenges and Changing Agendas*. Boston: Wadsworth, 2010. Print.