



# ISD Virtual Learning

## World History Iran Hostage Crisis

**May 5, 2020**



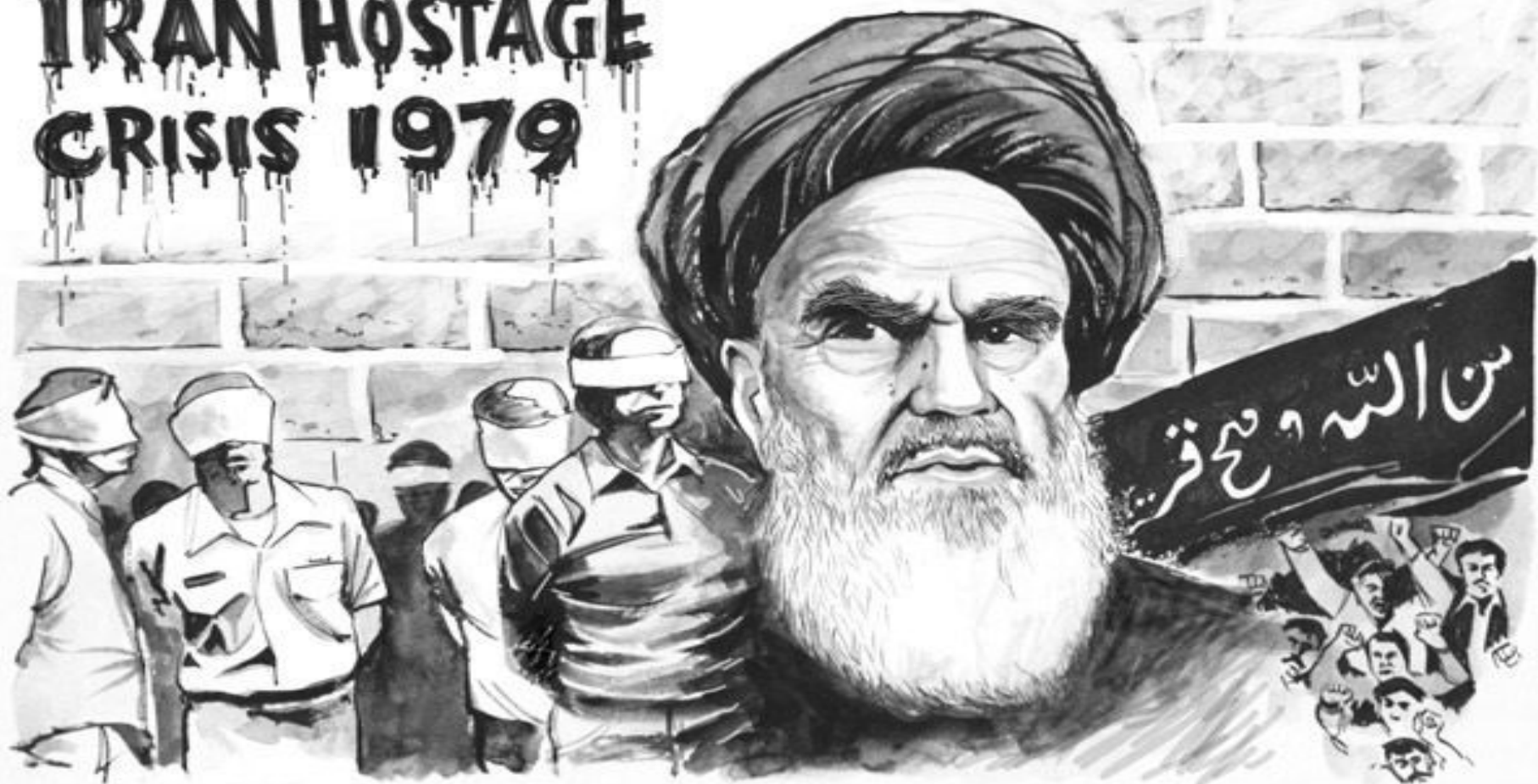
Grade/Course

**Lesson 32: May 5, 2020**

**Objective/Learning Target:**

**I can explain the Iran Hostage Crisis and how the events of the crisis impacted the world.**

# IRAN HOSTAGE CRISIS 1979



## Warm Up

What do you observe about this image?

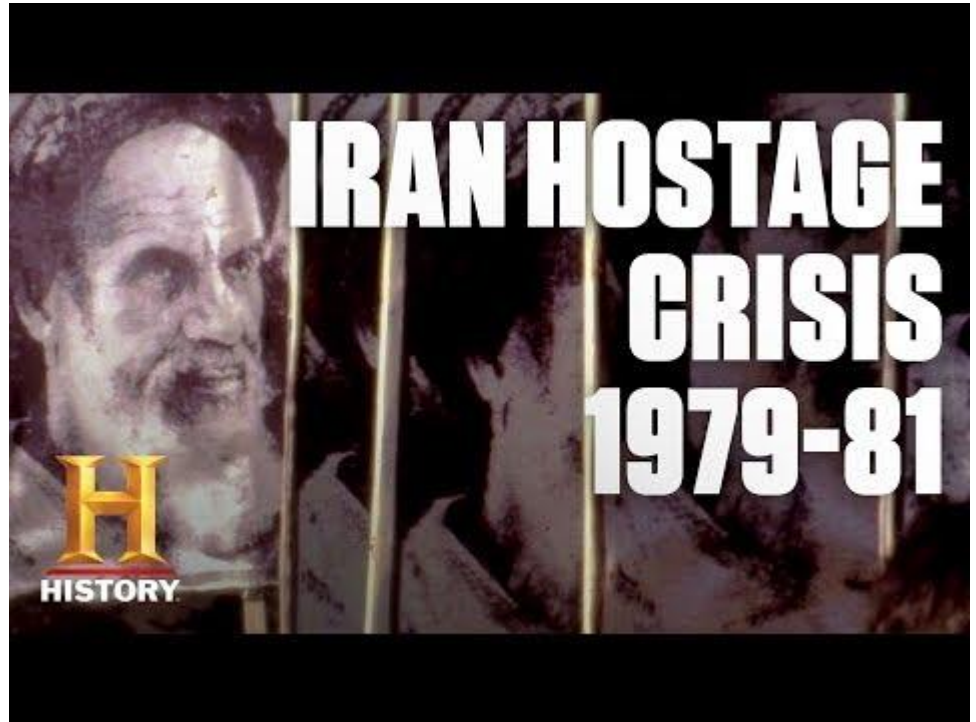


# Warm Up

**What do you observe about this image?** Students should see young Iranian men moving a man who is blind-folded. Students may think the image is showing how the Iranian students remained in control of the hostages.



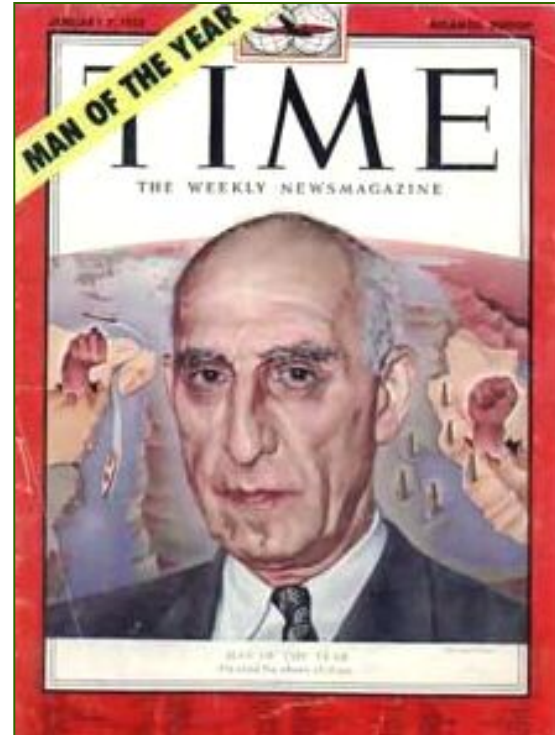
**Iran Hostage Crisis -  
Definition, Results &  
Facts** Read the  
article and watch the  
video.





# Dr. Mohammad Mossadegh, Prime Minister of Iran

- Became Prime Minister in 1951.
- Nationalized the foreign oil companies.
- Got rid of corrupt military officials.
- Was toppled in a coup aided by the America CIA in 1953.



# Shah Reza Pahlavi

## 1941 - 1979



- Institutes Western reforms & ties with the West .
- But, the majority of his people live in poverty.
- Brutal suppression of dissidents □ **SAVAK**



# The Shah & His Wife, Farah



**Iranian elite/upper- and intellectual classes: very pro-Western.**



# **“The White Revolution”**

## **The Shah’s Reform Program (1963)**



- 1. Land reform – 90% of Iran’s peasants became land owners.**
- 2. Massive government-financed heavy industry projects.**
- 3. Granted women more political power – the right to vote.**
- 4. Poured government money into education – especially in rural areas where illiteracy was very high.**



# The Shah at George Washington's Home,



# The Shah with Several American Presidents







# The Shah with President Jimmy Carter





# Reasons for the Fall of the Shah

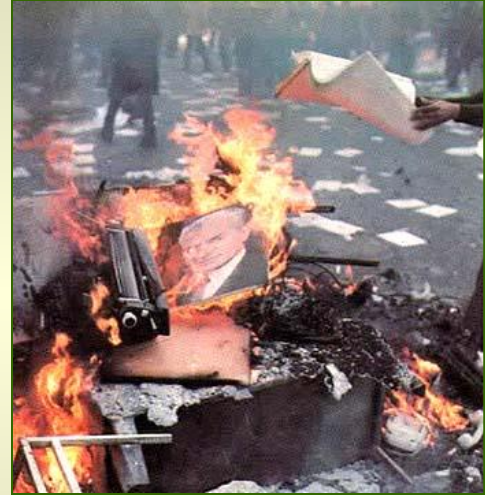


- The Shah spent the oil profits for top of the line American military hardware.
- Little money to reinvest back into the Iranian economy.
- Religious leaders angry with the Shah for too much “Westernization.”
- Government corruption.
- The Shah’s constitutional violations of the basic human rights of his citizens.





# Anti-Shah Protests





# The Shah's Chief Opponents?



1. Oil field workers.
2. Students and other intellectuals.
3. Middle class businessmen.
4. Iranian nationalists.
5. Muslim clerics.

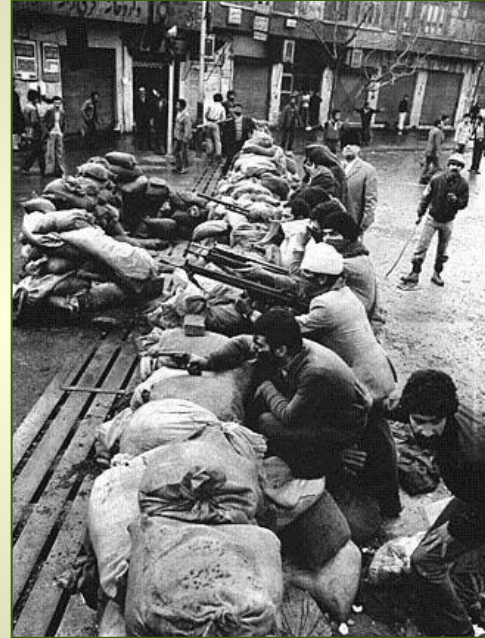
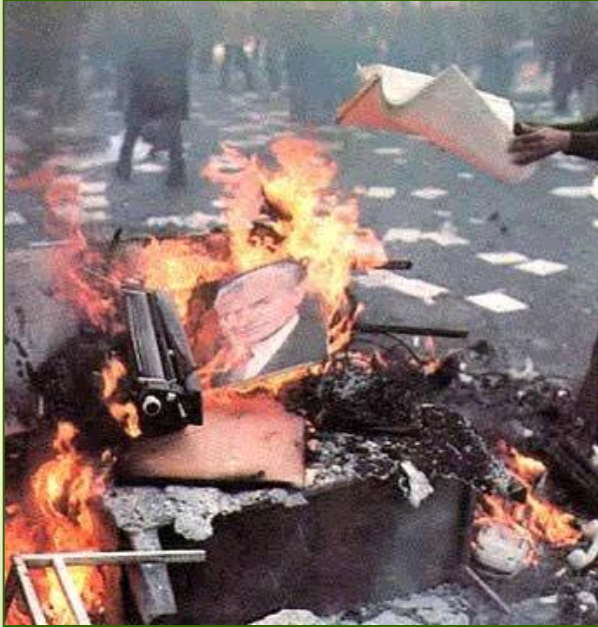


# Anti-American Pin (1960s)





# Anarchy & Revolution



**The Shah leaves Iran on 1/16/79.**





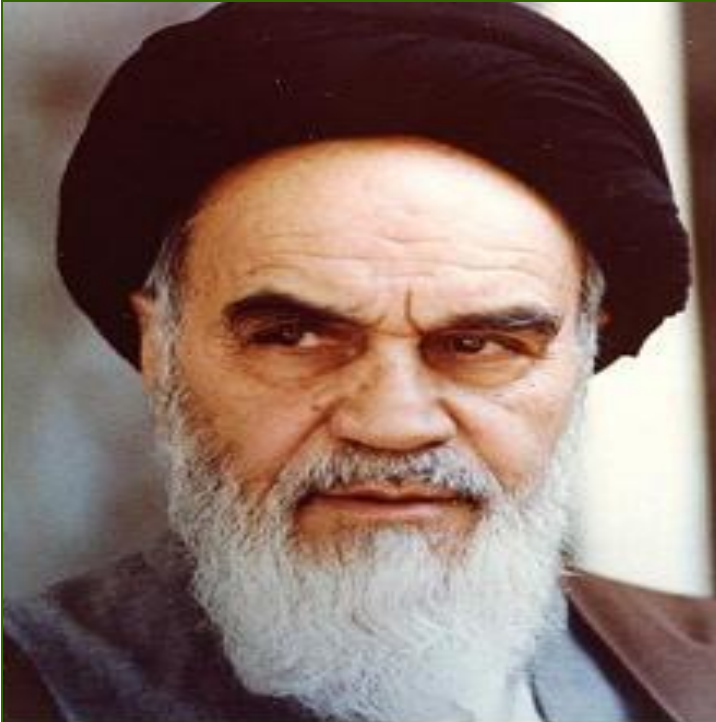
# Ayatollah Khomeini Leads the Revolution



**Khomeini returns to Iran  
on February 11, 1979.**

# Ayatollah Khomeini

## (1979-1989)



- 1902 – 1989.
- Became an Islamic scholar (studied in Qom).
- Began to speak out against the Shah in the 1960s.
- Arrested and imprisoned several times by the Shah.
- Deported in 1978 & went to France.





# Triumphant Muslim Clerics & Iranian Soldiers



**A theocracy is created!**



# Iran Revolutionary Poster



***When the devil leaves, the angel  
returns!***

# Iran Hostage Crisis



In February 1979, less than a year before the hostage crisis, **Mohammad Reza Pahlavi**, the Shah of Iran, had been overthrown in an Islamist, nationalist revolution.



Shortly before the Islamic revolution in 1978, President **Jimmy Carter** angered anti-Shah Iranians with a televised toast to the Shah, declaring how beloved the Shah was by his people.





Next, on October 22, 1979, the U.S. permitted the exiled Shah, who was ill with cancer, to attend the Mayo Clinic for medical treatment, which angered the anti-Shah Iranians.





**The Shah's admission to the U.S. intensified Iranian revolutionaries anti-Americanism and spawned rumors of a U.S. backed coup to re-install the Shah.**

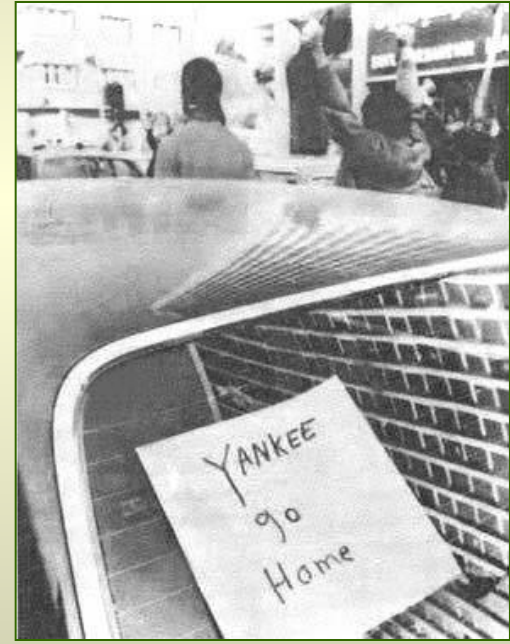


Around 6:30 am on November 4, the **Muslim Student Followers of the Imam's Line** (500 Islamic students) forced themselves into the U.S. embassy in the capital city of Tehran.





# American Embassy in Tehran Taken Over



**The students bound and blindfolded the embassy soldiers and staff and paraded them in front of photographers.**



**The Muslim Student Followers of the Imam's Line demanded that the Shah return to Iran for trial and execution.**



**President Carter applied economic and diplomatic pressure on Iran. Oil imports from Iran were stopped, and \$8 billion of Iranian assets were frozen.**





The students other demands included that the U.S. apologize for its interference in the internal affairs of Iran and for the overthrow of Prime Minister Mossadeq, and that Iran's **frozen** assets in the U.S. be released.



The plan was to hold the embassy for only a short time, but this changed after it became apparent how popular the takeover was with the Iranian people. In addition, the **Ayatollah Khomeini** (Iran's religious leader) had given his full approval.



**Ayatollah Khomeini**

**The hostage-takers, declaring their solidarity with other “oppressed minorities” and “the special place of women in Islam,” released 13 women and blacks in the middle of November 1979.**



**One more hostage, Richard Queen, was released in July 1980 after he was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. The remaining 52 hostages were held captive until January 1981.**





# 52 Americans Held Hostage for 444 Days!





**The hostage takers declared that the hostages were actually “guests” of the Ayatollah, but their treatment was not always gracious. They were often paraded blindfolded before local crowds and television cameras.**



**The hostages experienced long periods of solitary confinement and forbidden to speak to one another for months.**



**The most terrifying night for the hostages came on February 5, 1980, when guards in black ski masks roused the 53 hostages from sleep and led them blindfolded to be executed....**



**After rejecting Iranian demands, Carter approved an ill-fated secret rescue mission, Operation Eagle Claw.**



**In the Iranian desert, a rescue helicopter ran into a C-130 tanker aircraft and crashed, killing eight U.S. servicemen and injuring several more.**





**After the mission and its failure were made known, Khomeini's prestige skyrocketed in Iran as he credited divine intervention of Islam.**



**In America, President Carter's popularity and prospects for being reelected in 1980 were further damaged after a April 25 television address in which he explained the failed rescue mission.**



The death of the Shah, and the **invasion of Iran by neighboring Iraq** in September 1980 may have made Iran more receptive to the idea of resolving the hostage crisis.



**Ronald Reagan** defeated Jimmy Carter in the 1980 presidential election, but Carter continued to negotiate for the release of the hostages.



With 3rd-party assistance, the U.S. and Iran agreed to the **Algiers Accords**. Iran agreed to release the hostages, and the U.S. unfroze Iranian assets, and pledged the following....





....“it is and from now on will be the policy of the U.S. not to intervene, directly or indirectly, politically, or militarily, in Iran’s internal affairs.”

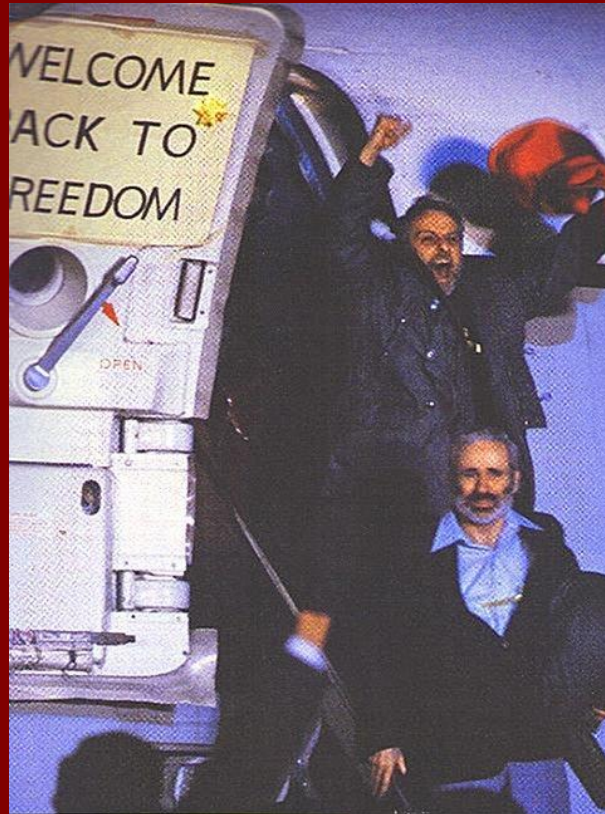
This was viewed as a major victory over the West by a middle-eastern Muslim country.



On January 20, 1981, minutes after Reagan was sworn in as President, the American hostages were released by Iran, having spent **444** days in captivity.



**The hostages were flown to Rhein-Main Air Base in West Germany, where former President Carter, received them.**



**Argo Official Trailer #1 (2012) Ben Affleck Thriller Movie**  
**HD**

**A very good movie about the Iran Hostage Incident.**

# Reflection

**After learning about the Iran-Hostage Crisis what is your view of how the event was handled? (Write a paragraph about your thoughts. Role of the Carter Administration and other key players.)**