

Joe Napierala
Alta-Aurelia High School
Alta, IA
Iran, Factor 14

Iran: Engaging in Diplomatic Initiatives for Conflict Prevention and Resolution, and Promoting Governance Based on Principals of Democracy, Accountability and Transparency.

World hunger is occurring in many different nations across the globe and there are many different projects occurring to combat it. My research focuses on the nation of Iran and how their government is causing hardships for its citizens, including making it difficult for them to feed their families. Some things to uncover about the people living there is what is their education like, their ability to either produce or buy food, and what type of effect the economy has in their country. Evidence supports the idea that the government is a major contributing cause to the hard lives of the lower class citizens. The government has much corruption in it. This premise can be drawn from the way they run the economics in the country to the human rights they continually violate. Another thing threatening the country is its energy demands, now and the future. Iran has a major reliance on oil and does not invest money anywhere else as far as energy is concerned. There are programs being implicated in Iran today but the one that needs to be reinstated is the project that focuses on water supplies and sanitation. Many different approaches could be taken on how to solve hunger in Iran, one idea of how to fix the problem is to replace the abusive government in place today.

The usual family of Iran households consists of a mother, father, two children, and extended family such as grandparents, aunts, and uncles (Afary, 2009) (Price, 2006). The father is head of the family in most cases (Iran Society, 2006). Education is sought after very highly in Iran, but most poor children will not get the opportunity to attend a university. They will be forced to take up a job to help the family or will have to watch over siblings while their parents work (Price, 2009). 8% of the 72 million people in Iran are below the poverty line. These families make less than 400 dollars a month for an average sized family of four (Afary, 2006). Iran has a suitable amount of farm land and produces enough food to feed its people, but the poor families simply do not make enough money to purchase food for the family (Background Note: Iran, 2012).

Iran has had problems with in its government since the revolution that took place in 1979. In 1979, Islamic extremists took control of the country and built a constitution. This constitution established Islam as the official religion; it also made it a requirement to serve in a religious position in order to participate within the government. Since the revolution, Human Rights have been constantly violated, but in no point in time has it been as prevalent as it is today. The constitution is set up so that there is one all-powerful leader at the top. Iran holds elections but most all elections are controlled by the supreme leader. The people really have no control of what happens within their own government (Background Note: Iran, 2012). Examples of what takes place within the government itself is anyone that speaks out, this includes bloggers, people within the media, and political opponents, have been sentenced to house arrest or have been put in prison, but no charges have been filed for these prisoners (Posner, Micheal H., and Jeffery D. Feltman, 2011).

Along with all of this political turmoil and problems with in the government there have been many outlaying consequences. For example, Iran has climbing levels of unemployment as the government starts to tinker more in business. It also has high rates of inflation, in the double digits range, from subsidizing items and trying to control prices. The government also does not have the support of many nations elsewhere in the world; since the beginning of the revolution in 1979, Iran has cut ties with the West and all of its allies. Policies implicated by the Iranian government have caused the economy to struggle for

many years now and still continues to this day. This is because of their inability to address the real issues of the nation. They would rather spend time and resources keeping the poor, poor and the rich, rich. If the government focused on the problems of sanctions, their bloated and inefficient state sector, over dependence on oil, and keeping the farming sector private, this causes many shortages, they would have a much better functioning society, less poverty, and would be all around more successful (Background Note: Iran, 2012). Other examples of the Iranian government not using its resources to help its own people are, Iran spends millions of dollars a year training terrorist groups and also encourages them. It also uses its military on its own citizens. After the controversial election of their last president, hundreds of angry protesters were attacked and killed by Iranian authorities on the streets. Since the election of Mahmoud Ahmadi Nejad, violence and the continued assault on human rights has worsened within the country. Along with this, terrorist groups have started to work against the Iranian government. All of this has led to is much violence and fighting amongst politicians and religious leaders with in the country. The people are of very little importance there and do not appear to have a good outlook. The simple solution to this is to remove the current government in place, or reform it, for example removing the supreme leader and creating fair elections. By implementing a fair government that is for the people and by the people many of the problems faced by the Iranian people today would be fixed. For example, unemployment would not be where it is at, inflation would drastically decrease and all of the ignored issues causing the government problems today would hopefully have light shed upon them (Background Note: Iran, 2012). Until an agreed on consensus can be reached on what to do with Iran, there are things that are being done now that should be expanded on to force the government of Iran to become more responsive to the needs of its people. Unfortunately, I do not see light at the end of the tunnel for Iran until the government is fully restarted; yet, something that can be expanded on by the US and other countries are the sanctions against Iran. Since 2001 Iran has continued to import US goods at an exponential rate. By the end of 2010 Iran had imported about 58.97 Billion dollars of US goods. That is a big part of the Iran economy. If all exports from the US to Iran were stopped, maybe then Iran would listen to the demands of its people, but this cannot happen until the US and the rest of the world stops its dependence on foreign oil and starts to us more green technology. Iran's only bargaining tool today that keeps nations at bay is its abundant supply of oil (Iran imports historical data graph, 2011). The over throw of the current government of Iran is the only option that would have the shortest amount of time that there would be suffering immediately afterwards before the new government was put into place and to get the gears going. The current government in power right now will not stop until it has nothing left. Its people would suffer far greater if we just did what we could from the outside looking in trying to force the government to reform. There are pros and cons to each option thrown on the table when it comes to government reforms. The reform of Iran's government would see little resistance from the people of the country and the highest resistance from just the government. The chances of something like a civil war is very low due to the united nature of the people of Iran against their government and also how they are united by their mutual religion (Iranian Religious Groups, 2011). The con side of the argument is that you do not want another Iraq. You do not want your plan of action and presence to be rejected by the people. Also a government of the people's standards should be set not necessarily a government modeled after the US. A correct plan of action would have to be put into play to avoid a new government becoming extremely weak after the United Nations left (Top 10 pros and cons of US-Iraq war, 2009).

Since 1908 Iran relied on its oil production as its main source of income, employment, and also energy. It has many pipelines running through it but not enough to efficiently support the demands of the future of energy needs. New pipelines being built are being directed around Iran due to the effort of the United States and other nations. Another source of energy is petroleum, but this industry suffers from lack of refineries and subsidiaries that cause it to be very cheap. Lack of proper distribution though still causes petroleum to be imported rather than exported (Iran: Energy Overview, 2006). Few strides have been made to introduce renewable energy within the country. A few dams have been built but it stops there (Iran Agriculture Brief, 2008). As the world economy moves towards renewable sources of energy, the Iranian people will be finding themselves without jobs, economy, and money. Most all Iranian people will

be poverty stricken once the demand for oil in the world decreases. They have nothing to fall back on and that is an issue to be addressed to avoid a major catastrophe in the future of the country, particularly poverty-induced hunger. Green technology is the future. Any investment by any nation around the world into Green Technology would be highly beneficial.

A project that should be tried again is the Ahwaz and Shiraz water supply and sanitation project. People should have clean water because of all the chain reaction effects that follow. As water quality improves peoples' health and well-being improves. This also makes water more available for farmers and families. As sanitation also improves, the rate of disease also falls. All of the benefits of this would mainly affect the poor and improve the quality of life for all. Also creating everything that goes into giving everyone clean water and sanitation and maintaining it would support job growth and some form of economic growth, which would benefit the country. The original plan failed. With updates and learning from the past this project could become a success. Things that would need to be addressed are to force the government to stick to the original agreement and not dictate how the plan goes fourth, use qualified consults, keep up persistence and perseverance, and set a clear goal of what the project should be at the end. Things needed for the project would be funds, equipment, and a place to store materials (The World Bank, 2009).

After completing all of my research, it appears to be that the cause of all the problems of the citizens of Iran is the government. They control with fear and violence and only care about keeping power and not the future of the nation. There is nothing the people of Iran can do from within the country itself without facing prosecution or death. If the government of Iran were to be replaced with a functioning democracy and not the fake democracy dictatorship they have now, all of their current social issues would be solved to an acceptable point. Other agencies would not even have to be involved. Projects would not need to be attempted because the government would hopefully take care of the people themselves unlike what is happening now. The only institution needed would be the United Nations to get the gears going for joining with the people and over throwing the current government in place now.

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