

Primary Sources

Personal Interviews

Mahdi, Ali Akbar. Telephone interview. 15 Feb. 2012.

The Islamic Society of Houston helped me get in touch with Dr. Mahdi, an Iranian-American sociology professor who specializes in the impact of the Iranian Revolution. In this interview he gave me a personal perspective of how ordinary people reacted to the 1979 Revolution. It helped me clarify many of my thoughts on the reforms launched by the 1979 Revolution and why so many of them were changed due to economic and political problems in Iran. He verified many that there is currently a new movement in Iran in which women are demanding change.

Maher, Mina. E-mail correspondence. 16 Feb. 2012.

I was referred to Ms. Maher through a contact at the University of Houston. Maher was born in Iran, but her immediate family moved to the United States during the Revolution. Maher still has family in Iran and has visited many times over the years. This interview was very helpful in giving me a deep understanding from a first person experience about what life was like living in exile after the 1979 Revolution and going back to a home that is completely different. Maher gave me insight on how difficult it was to go back to Iran after living in America. She helped me understand how the reaction of women to reforms regarding clothing had changed from the start of the revolution to the present.

Wuest, Linda. Telephone interview. 13 Feb. 2012.

Linda Wuest is the Executive Director of the Houston World Affairs Council and was able to help me by giving me her take on her visit to Iran in 2010. Wuest has traveled extensively in the Middle East and helped me understand the reactions of westerners to Islamic reforms.

Published Interviews

Aisha. "What Is *Hejab*?" Weblog post. *Islam, Fashion and Identity*. 2 Mar. 2009. Web. 14 Feb. 2012.

A *hejab* is a head cover that Muslim women wear in public and in front of men. This interview helped me understand a different point of view about the wearing of the veil. Whereas I initially thought that all women were against covering, Aisha helped me understand why some women prefer to cover.

Azari, Shoja. "Shoja Azari on the Iranian Revolution." Interview by FLYP Media. July 2009. Web. 15 Feb. 2012.

This online interview allowed me to understand how an Iranian living in exile feels towards the Iranian Revolution. She is a big supporter the Green Revolution currently underway in Iran in which women are peacefully pushing for reforms. According to Azari, it is painful "not being able to go back or not risking to go back," but it is also a "fantastic feeling [that] perhaps there is a possibility of return or unification" with the Green Revolution.

Bezic, Soleyman. "Life During and After the Iranian Revolution." Interview by Rene Arakelian. *Clark Humanities*. Web. 4 Feb. 2012.

Bezic lived with his family in Iran during both the Iranian Revolution and the Iran-Iraq war. He stated that when the Iraq war started in 1980, his family would hide in the basement whenever they heard loud noises or bombings. He stated that women had to cover themselves up completely, and if a strand of hair showed, then it would get cut off. Men weren't allowed to wear short sleeves or shorts, and men and women had to be separated in weddings. This helped me understand some of the reforms of the Revolution.

"Ebadi, Shirin - Autobiography." *Nobelprize.org*. Web. 10 Feb. 2012.

Shirin Ebadi is an educated Iranian woman that was greatly impacted by the Iranian Revolution. She received a good education, obtained her law degree, and became the first woman in Iran to serve as a judge. However, after the 1979 Revolution, women weren't allowed to serve as judges anymore, so Ebadi along with many other women, were dismissed from their posts and given the position of clerks. Ebadi became discontent, so she protested against it. She currently is among a group of Islamic feminists who are leaders in the Green Revolution to come up with a form of government which is Muslim, democratic and modern. She won the 2003 Nobel Peace Prize for her work.

Ghermezian, Stepan. "Iranian Revolution." Interview by Paula Ghermezian. *Clark Humanities*. Web. 4 Feb. 2012.

This interview really helped me receive a first hand point of view of the Iranian Revolution. I learned that during demonstrations, the rioters burned homes, flags, restaurants, vandalized, and offered flowers to soldiers to stop them from shooting. These types of marches were as big as 200 to 300 people, and according to Ghermezian it was very scary to experience them.

Neshat, Shirin. "Shirin Neshat on Iran's Green Revolution." Interview by FLYP Media. 2 July 2009. Web. 5 Feb. 2012.

This video of an interview with Neshat allowed me to obtain the definition of the Green Revolution from an exiled Iranian. She also described the role that women and exiled Iranian play in this revolution. This helped me get a better insight of the Green Revolution.

Parsipur, Shahrnush, and Faraz Jamshid. "Iranian.com: Faraz Jamshid, Why the Islamic Republic Is Good for Iran." *Iranian.com | Nothing Is Sacred*. Web. 3 Jan. 2012.

This source helped me understand some of the Iranians own personal thoughts and opinions. For example, many Iranians would like to see their country with more freedom, peace, and as a democracy.

Shakib, Siba. "Siba Shakib on Iranian Revolution." Interview by FLYP Media. 2 July 2009. Web. 15 Feb. 2012.

This interview was really helpful because Shakib had a different point of view about being outside of the country. Unlike the other interviews, Shakib believes that she is a better help by being outside of Iran and voicing her opinion outside of her country.

"The Women's Revolution in Iran." Interview by Ryan Mauro and Ramesh Sepehrrad. *World Threats*. 20 June 2008. Web. 15 Feb. 2012.

This published interview helped me get a better understanding of the situation in Iran and the reactions Iranians have taken towards the revolution. It also allowed me to know what Sepehrrad, the president and founder of the oldest Iranian women organization in Washington D.C., believes needs to happen to improve the Iranian oppressive situation.

Memoirs

Ebadi, Shirin, and Azadeh Moaveni. *Iran Awakening: A Memoir of Revolution and Hope*. New York: Random House, 2006. Print.

I learned about a strong, leading Iranian woman who will not give up on her country through her memoir. I also learn of the effect that the Iranian Revolution had on its people, and the reaction that the Iranians had. Ebadi was dissatisfied with the path that Iran took under the clerics, so she has been trying to change it for the better.

Farman-Farmaian, Sattareh, and Dona Munker. *Daughter of Persia: A Woman's Journey from Her Father's Harem through the Islamic Revolution*. New York: Crown, 1992. Print.

Through Farmaian's memoir I was able to learn more about Persia's history and culture. I saw how the country transformed as Iranian Revolution took place. Thousands of people's lives changed, especially those of woman, who were restricted to many things.

Mir-Hosseini, Ziba. "The Conservative-Reformist Conflict over Women's Rights in

Iran." *International Journal of Politics, Culture and Society*, Vol. 16, No. 1 (Fall 2002), pp. 37 – 53.

Dr. Mir-Hosseini is a social anthropology professor at the University of London who was studying at the University of Tehran during the Revolution of 1979. She writes of her experiences both as a scholar and as an Iranian. This source helped me understand problems in Iran between the traditionalists and those who think that Iran can reform to be Islamic, democratic and modern.

Moaveni, Azadeh. *Lipstick Jihad: A Memoir of Growing up Iranian in America and American in Iran*. New York: PublicAffairs, 2005. Print.

Moaveni's memoir of growing up in America and later working as a reporter in Iran allowed me to see the Iranian's reactions of the 1979 Revolution. Through her first hand experience, I learned that there was strong tensions between the people and the mullahs due to the restrictions placed on the people. Additionally, many women decided to begin fighting for their rights.

Satrapi, Marjane. *Persepolis*. New York: Pantheon, 2003. Print.

After the Iranian Revolution, women had to wear veils again, and their dress code became extremely restricted. This description of the limitations placed on women's dress gave me a better understanding of how women lost their voice regarding their own appearance. This showed me how totally dominated the women were after the revolution.

Secondary Sources

Books

Hoveyda, Fereydoun. *The Shah and the Ayatollah: Iranian Mythology and Islamic Revolution*. Westport, CT: Praeger, 2003. Print.

Khomeini convinced many people to go with him to Tehran to oppose the Pahlavi Dynasty.

Moghadam, Valentine. *Modernizing Women: Gender and Social Change in the Middle East*. Boulder: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2003. Print.

This book helped me understand the historical context of the reforms of the 1979 Iranian Revolution. It also explained that there was a reaction to these reforms due to economic problems faced by the Iranian people at the time.

Sewell, Nahid. *The Ruby Tear Catcher: An Iranian Woman's Story of Intolerance : A Novel*. Lexington, KY: Summerhill, 2010. Print.

Through this book, I learned many things that the Iranian women had to endure and experience due to the Iranian Revolution. I was also able to get an idea of what the women were thinking throughout this time period. Additionally, I learned that the Iranian society isn't entirely radical Islamist.

Wright, Robin B. *The Last Great Revolution: Turmoil and Transformation in Iran*. New York: A.A. Knopf, 2000. Print.

This book taught me the impact the 1979 Revolution on the ordinary people of Iran. It provided me with a greater understanding of the revolution and the reactions that it triggered.

Lecture Notes

Hill, Richard. Lecture Notes for Sociology of Revolutions. Michigan State University. 2012.

I was able to access Dr. Hill's lecture notes on-line through the Michigan State website. These notes helped me understand the different phases of the Iranian Revolution and how many of the Reformists were able to change things after the 1989 death of the Ayatollah Khomeini.

News Articles

"BBC NEWS | Middle East | Profile: Maryam Rajavi." *BBC News - Home*. Web. 15 Feb. 2012.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/2980279.stm.

This source helped me understand some of the actions that Maryam Rajavi made. She was a strong Iranian woman that did many things to overthrow the Shah and Khomeini.

"BBC News | MIDDLE EAST | Women Police on Parade in Iran." *BBC News - Home*. 10 Oct. 2000. Web. 15 Feb. 2012.

This article gave me a different interpretation on the rights of Iranian women. According to this source, women have gained more equality in the recent years. For example, they are now able to be a part of the Iranian police, and most professions in Iran are available to them as long as they cover themselves up with the traditional chadors.

"BBC ON THIS DAY | 16 | 1979: Shah of Iran Flees into Exile." *BBC News - Home*. Web. 10 Jan. 2012.

In 1979, the Shah fled to Egypt with his wife. Reporters said that he left to receive medical treatment and to go on a vacation as well. This source helped me understand the controversial reasons that the Shah left Iran.

Bruno, Greg, and Jayshree Bajoria. "Iran's Revolutionary Guards." *Council on Foreign Relations*. 12 Oct. 2011. Web. 10 Jan. 2012.

After the Islamic Revolution, Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps was made to defend the regime against internal and external threats. This article helped me because it informed me about some of the actions that took place after the Iranian Revolution.

Daragahi, Borzou. "Neda: Family, Friends Mourn 'Neda,' Iranian Woman Who Died on Video – Latimes.com." *Los Angeles Times - California, National and World News - Latimes.com*. 23 July 2009. Web. 09 Feb. 2012.

Neda Agha-Soltan was killed in 2009 during a protest in Tehran. She was an Iranian woman that was loyal to the traditional values but was also curious of the outside world.

Fathi, Nazila. "Starting at Home, Iran's Women Fight for Rights - NYTimes.com." *The New York Times - Breaking News, World News & Multimedia*. 13 Feb. 2009. Web. 1 Feb. 2012.

This newspaper article was especially helpful because it showed me that women today are more determined to obtain an equal status in the Muslim theocracy. For example, Iranian women are now filing for divorces instead of enduring the abuse from their husbands, and that is something that they wouldn't have done 30 years ago.

"Iran and the Shah: What Really Happened." *The New American*. Web. 10 Jan. 2012.

The Shah left Iran because the slander of the Western press, the opposition by the mullahs, and the Soviet-inspired communist insurgents combined to make him want to leave the country.

"Iranian Revolution." *Nova Online Home Page*. Web. 1 Jan. 2012.

This article online taught me about the background of the Iranian Revolution along with many of the events that happened during. Another way that this helped me was that it taught me that on January 16, 1979 the Shah left Iran.

"Iranian Women's Activist Shot Dead in Houston - CBS News." *Breaking News Headlines:*

Business, Entertainment & World News - CBS News. CBS Interactive Inc., 18 Jan. 2012. Web. 09 Feb. 2012.

A woman named Gelareh Bagherzadeh was found dead in her own running car in Houston. She was apparently shot while she was talking on the phone with her ex-boyfriend. He said that he heard a loud thud and a screeching noise, but no gunshot. Bagherzadeh was a molecular genetic technology student at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, and she promoted Iranian women's rights. It is unclear on whether her death was related to her activities.

"Iran's Neda Did Not Die in Vain - New York Daily News." *Featured Articles From The New York Daily News.* 13 June 2010. Web. 09 Feb. 2012.

Neda Agha-Sultan was an Iranian woman that was killed on June 20, 2009, a week and a day after the elections in Tehran.

Ng, Christina. "Iranian Student Activist Shot to Death in Texas - ABC News." *ABCNews.com – Breaking News, Latest News & Top Video News - ABC News.* 17 Jan. 2012.

Gelareh Bagherzadeh, age 30, was found dead on January 16, 2012 inside her car with all her belongings. The vehicle she was in had run into a garage door. Several witnesses claim that they heard gunshots and tires screeching. She strongly promoted women's rights and criticized the Iranian government. According to Houston Chronicle, she participated in a 2010 protest for a regime change in Iran, but she requested that her name wouldn't be used in the video because she was afraid of persecution.

Muir, Jim. "BBC NEWS | Middle East | Peace Award Divides Iran." *BBC News - Home.* 11 Oct. 2003. Web. 1 Feb. 2012.

This online article showed me the reaction of the Iranian hardliners towards the peace award that was given to Shirin Ebadi, an Iranian activist. While many of her supporters were excited about her prize, the hardliners in Iran weren't happy that outside forces were awarding a dissident.

Shauk, Zain. "Family Asks for Help Solving Woman's Mysterious Murder - Houston Chronicle." *Houston News, Sports, Business, and Entertainment - The Houston Chronicle at Chron.com - Houston Chronicle*. 18 Jan. 2012. Web. 15 Feb. 2012.

This source is important because it informs about the recent death of an Iranian woman. In fact, it wasn't just an ordinary Iranian woman, but she was an immigrant who wanted political change in her native country.

Thiébaud, Azadeh K. "Iranian Women Take on the Mullahs." *Le Monde Diplomatique - English Edition*. Web. 15 Feb. 2012.

This source informed me about the significance of re-reading the Koran. In 1992, the Koran was re-interpreted; therefore allowing women to have more rights because the Zanan magazine published that the Koran didn't forbid women from issuing religious edicts.

Totten, Michael J. "Michael Totten » The Iranian Revolution Echoes in Egypt." *PJ Media*. 1 Feb. 2011. Web. 14 Feb. 2012.

Due to the industrialization push during the early 1960s, the middle class grew in 1979. The "middle class" includes the income, the amount of urbanization, the number of educated people, the number of people who lived in their own domicile, and the number of people who could travel outside the country. This online interview article of Abbas Milani, an educated Iranian, helped me obtain information about the people during the Iranian Revolution in a first person point of view.

Wedeman, Ben. *Undercover Fashion in Iran*. CNN. CNN. 3 Sept. 2008. Web. 15 Feb. 2012.

This video showed me that Iranian women are beginning to design trendier clothes while still meeting the Islamic dress code. This helped me because it is one of the more recent reactions from women in Tehran.

Journal Articles

Bahramitash, Roksana. "Revolution, Islamization and Women's Employment in Iran." *The Brown Journal of World Affairs*. Winter/Spring 2003—Volume IX, Issue 2. pp 229 – 244.

This was one of my most helpful sources. Dr. Bahramitash argues that the Shah believed that westernization was the only way to bring liberation to Iranian women. She states that there is currently a revolutionary movement in Iran that women can be liberated without being westernized. This sets up the Muslim feminist movement.

Gabriel, Satya J. "Class Analysis of the Iranian Revolution of 1979." *Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, Massachusetts*. Web. 06 Jan. 2012.

This source helped me understand part of the reasons as to why the 1979 Revolution occurred. The revolution was an effect of the opposition against the modernization of the country. Many of the Islamic fundamentalists wanted to maintain the main religion of Islam in the law.

Ghasemi, Shapour. "History of Iran: Pahlavi Dynasty." *Iran Chamber Society*. Web. 04 Jan. 2012.

Reza Shah wanted to develop large-scale industries, implement major infrastructure projects, build a cross-country railroad system, establish a national public education system, reform the judiciary, and improve health care.

Hoodfar, Homa. "Iranian Society: The Women's Movement in Iran: Women at the Crossroads of Secularization and Islamization." *Iran Chamber Society*. 1999. Web. 09 Jan. 2012.

During the westernization of Iran, women were encouraged to discard the veil and were allowed to become more educated.

Khorasani, Noushin A. "Iranian Women's Equality Calendar." *Feminist School*. Chronology of One Million Signatures Campaign Demanding Changes to. Web. 10 Feb. 2012.

Mohtaram Eskandari was the chief editor of Nesvan-e Vatankhah Iran, an activist, the principal of public school no. 35, and the founder of the Patriotic Women's Association. This association resulted in a group of opponents that published a booklet called booklet called The Deceit of Women (Makr-e Zanan). With other members of the association, she bought those booklets and set them on fire in Sepah square in Tehran. This woman can help me because I can use her as a strong woman that promoted woman's rights before the Iranian revolution.

Kirpalani, Anita. "A Q&A With Nobel Laureate Shirin Ebadi." *The Daily Beast*. Daily Beast Company LLC, 8 Jan. 2010. Web. 10 Feb. 2012.

This article really helped me understand Ebadi's personal views and opinions on the protests and movements that were occurring in Iran. Ebadi said that her sister was arrested because of her activities, so that she would stop them. She also said that the protests are growing bigger and stronger day by day because the people are the leaders, and they have gained the courage to continue protesting against the sad conditions the government has created despite the fact that they could get shot in the middle of the streets. One of the other things that Ebadi mentioned was that she doesn't believe this could be the start of a second revolution because people have already grown tired of all the violence in their country, so they are just after reforms.

"Maryam Rajavi - Biography." *Iran-e-azad*. Web. 16 Feb. 2012.

This biography of Maryam Rajavi helped me understand that she was a strong and active woman during the time of the 1979 Iranian Revolution. She was a part of the anti-shah movement in 1970, and she later joined the People's Mojahedin of Iran, the Muslim, democratic and nationalist movement that espouses the establishment of a secular government in Iran. This woman has made a very strong impact in the history of Iran.

Noshiravani, Reyhaneh. "Iranian Women and the Islamic Republic: A Chronology." *Foundation for Iranian Studies*. Web. 14 Feb. 2012.

This source helped me by giving me a lot of information about the role of women after the revolution. They were extremely oppressed by the state; for example, they were banned from serving as judges, they had to wear a hejab in the workplace, and their protests against the oppression was stopped violently by Islamic forces. Despite, their demonstrations, they continued to be robbed of certain rights. The sport events and beaches were even segregated by gender. However, they were slowly granted more rights throughout the years.

"Press Release - Nobel Peace Prize 2003." *Nobelprize.org*. Nobel Media, 10 Oct. 2003. Web. 10 Feb. 2012.

Shirin Ebadi, and Iranian woman, won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2003 for her efforts for democracy and human rights. She is a lawyer, judge, lecturer, writer, and activist that spoke out clearly in her country, Iran, and outside its borders as well. She favors enlightenment and dialogue as the path that would best change attitudes and resolve conflict. She is a conscious Moslem and sees no conflict between Islam and fundamental human rights. This article helped me because I can refer to this woman in my essay to portray the great reactions some woman took toward the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Ramazani, NESTA. "Women in Iran: The Revolutionary Ebb and Flow." *Middle East Journal*, Vol. 47, No 3 (Summer, 1993), pp 409 – 428.

This source outlines the history of revolutionary reforms in Iran from the 1979 Revolution through the aftermath of the death of the Ayatollah Khomeini. Dr. Ramazani details all the reforms and feminist reactions throughout this time period.