



MFA Digest

Center for Public Diplomacy

February 2023



THE TEN DAYS OF DAWN CELEBRATIONS IN IRAN



THE TEN DAYS OF DAWN CELEBRATIONS IN IRAN (FAJR)



The Iranian nation toppled the US-backed Pahlavi regime on February 11, 1979, ending the 2,500 years of monarchy in the country.

Every year Iranians mark anniversary of their Islamic Revolution from February 1 to 11, known as the Ten-Day Fajr ceremonies. February 1, 1979 was the date when Ayatollah Khomeini returned from exile.

On February 11 each year, Iranian people pour into the streets in their millions to commemorate the great victory of the Islamic Revolution.

THE TEN DAYS OF DAWN CELEBRATIONS IN IRAN (FAJR)



Imam Khomeini lived around 14 years in exile from November 4, 1963 to February 1, 1979. First, he was sent to Turkey in 1963 and then to Iraq, but he spent the last part of the exile in France in a village called Neauphle-le-Chateau.

After the last Shah of Iran left the country on January 16, 1979, the Imam announced that the Shah's exit from Iran is the first phase of ending criminal Pahlavi regime, which has happened as a result of bravery protests by the Iranian people.

Imam Khomeini was to leave France for Iran on January 6, 1979, but Iran's civil aviation organization declared that all flights are cancelled because of bad weather condition.

Iranian protestors poured into streets to show their resentment to such a decision, calling for Imam's return as soon as possible. The protestors marched towards Mehrabad Airport.

THE TEN DAYS OF DAWN CELEBRATIONS IN IRAN (FAJR)



Imam Khomeini returned to Iran following 14 years in exile, when he was welcomed by around three million Iranians in capital Tehran, and the day of his arrival to the country has been named the first day of Fajr celebrations, which are commemorated as a national celebration each year.





HOW TEN DAYS OF DAWN PERIOD IS MARKED ACROSS EACH YEAR?

Imam Khomeini had lived many years in exile, in Iraq and France, before returning home and leading a historical revolution that overthrew Pahlavi regime on February 11, 1979.

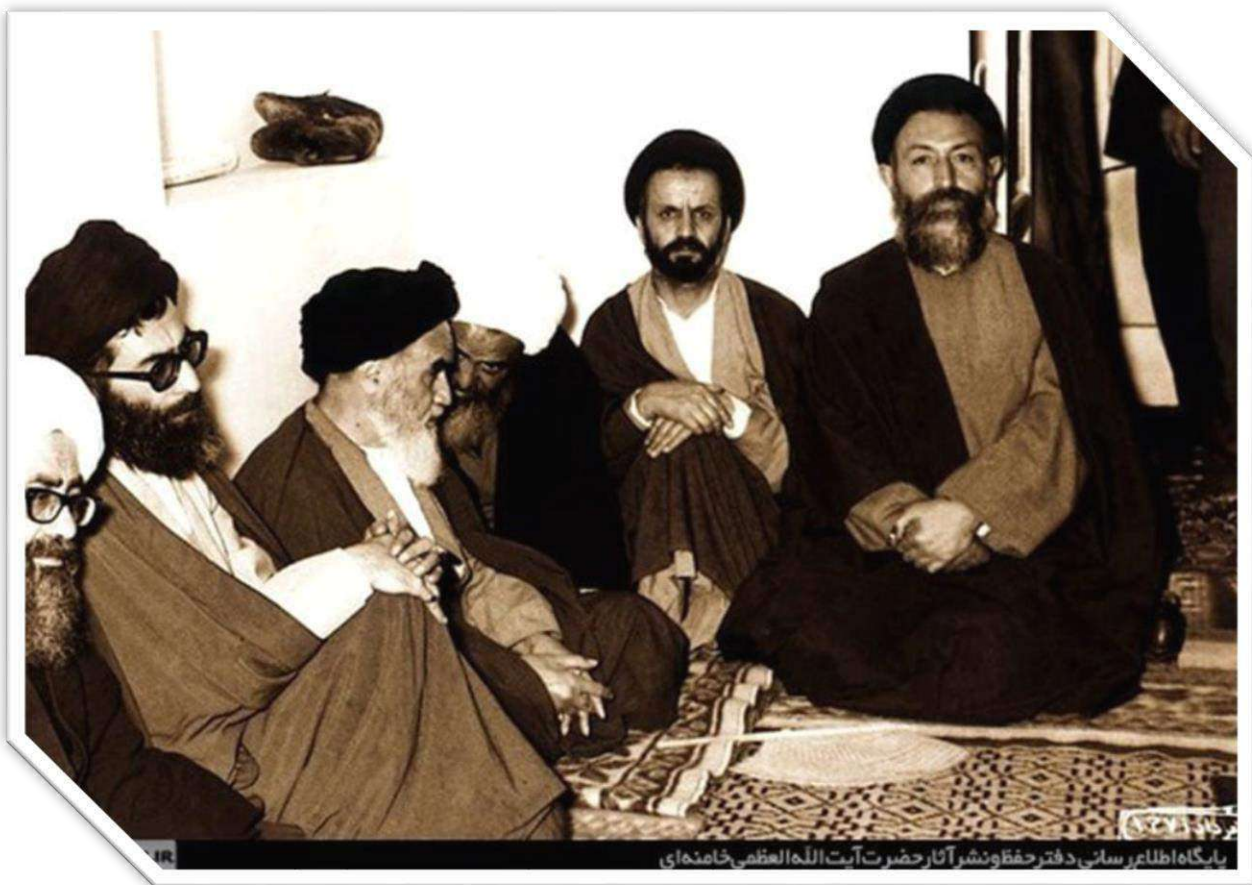
The 10-day period from the return of Imam Khomeini until the revolution's victory is celebrated annually in Iran, and is known as the Ten-Day Fajr (Dawn).

The day of Imam Khomeini's return to Iran marks the beginning of the Ten Days of Dawn, which culminates with the anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution on February 11.

THE START OF POLITICAL CONFRONTATIONS

Imam Khomeini's classes were the most crowded classes in that decade. Most students tried their best to attend his lectures. The Imam's new method of teaching, outstanding approaches, and new ways of making the students understand, attracted many students. The most outstanding feature of the Imam's classes was the discipline that was practiced in his classes.

According to a report by the 'SAVAK' (Shah's Secret Police), Imam Khomeini's classes were unique compared to the classes of other scholars. While the most famous scholars had forty or fifty students in their classes, the Imam had five hundred. This gap was enormous and indicates the popularity of Imam Khomeini's classes.





REASON FOR BEGINNING THE CAMPAIGN

From the beginning of the Pahlavi dynasty, Imam Khomeini was among the opposition and he had his reasons for this. He expressed his dissatisfaction in various ways and as soon as he got an opportunity. The most important reasons behind the Imam's strong opposition of the Pahlavi regime were the weakening of Islamic practices by the regime, the dependence of the regime on foreign powers, and fighting with oppression and tyranny.

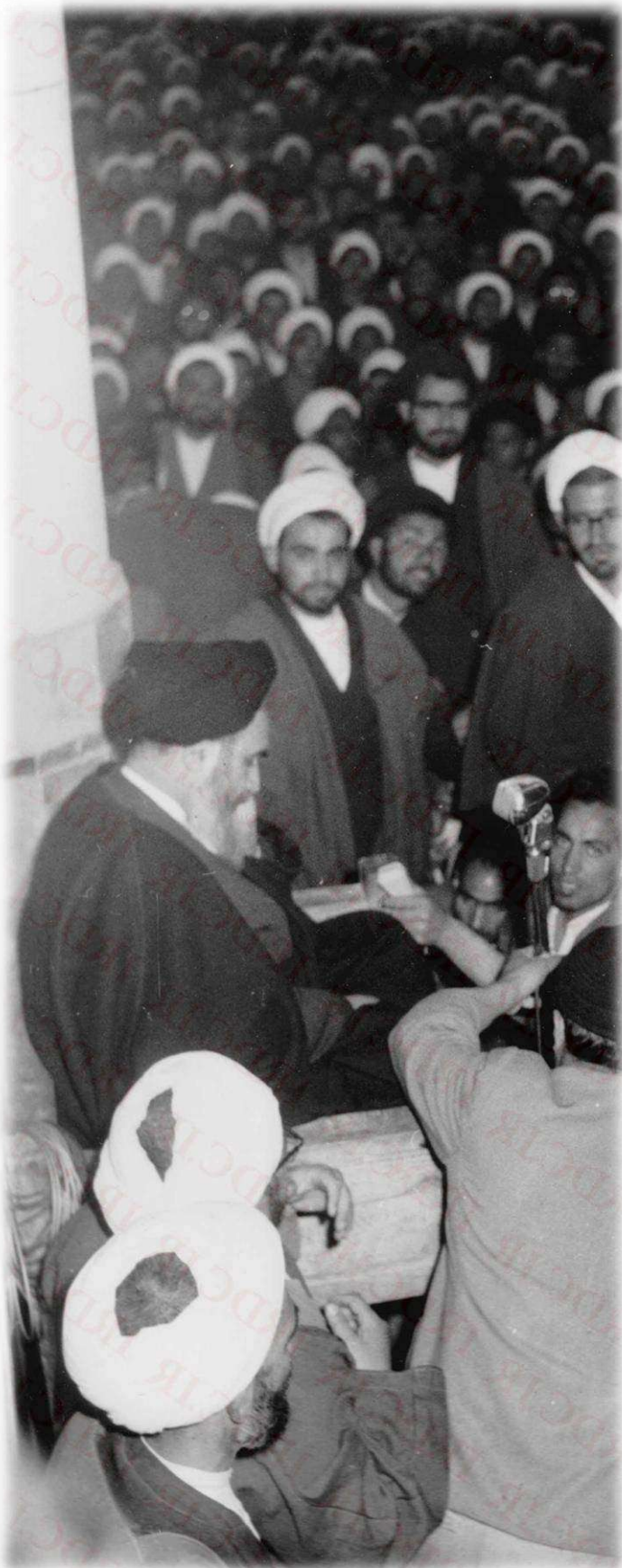
With the establishment of the Pahlavi regime great oppression surfaced and a particular enmity against religion was seen. During Reza shah's rule, oppression had its own shape and form and during the Shah's rule it was different.

IMAM KHOMEINI:

"WE WILL TEACH THEM A LESSON TODAY."

Towards the end of 1963 the Imam made an announcement and said: "The unjust regime should be aware that if it wants to act against Islam and its decrees, and if it wants blasphemy to spread in the Muslim cities, I am ready to stand against it. I will protect Islam and the Muslims until the last moment of my life. So long as I am alive I will not allow anti-Islamic laws to be introduced and practiced. I will not allow the oppressive regime to throw away the freedom of these people."





IMAM GIVING A LECTURE IN THE FAYDHIAH SCHOOL

Imam Khomeini addressed the Shah with unique bravery and then gave him the following piece of advice: "Think for a while. Think everything over. Consider the outcome of the affairs. Take lessons from your father's fate. Agha, stop carrying out such acts! Listen to the spiritual leaders. Listen to the religious scholars. They want what is best for the nation. Agha! Why are you trying to fool people so much? Why are you spreading so many lies? Stop it O misfortunate one. Don't you know that if one day a problem arises not one of these friends you have will help or assist you? They are all friends of your Dollars. They have no faith or religion. They are unfaithful."

THE ARREST OF IMAM KHOMEINI

The series of measures carried out by Imam Khomeini increased daily. The regime noticed this was something quite distinguished and that the continuation of the protests would endanger the foundations of the regime. Trying to fight a great religious leader was not easy and public opinion prevented the regime from making a quick move. However the regime decided to take a great risk and arrested Imam Khomeini.





EXILE TO TURKEY

At 5:30 in the morning, they arrested Imam Khomeini. He was deported without delay from Tehran to Turkey. Then a very short report read by SAVAK radio announced, "Rouhullah Khomeini is in exile." They announced it without mentioning the destination. People were very upset about this news but due to the dangerous circumstances at the time they were unable to protest.

They took the Imam to Ankara airport and the following morning they took him somewhere in Atatoork Street. After a week, the final destination was defined and it was Bursa, which is 460 Kilometers from Ankara. This city was quiet and unknown to the Iranians thus it posed no threat for the Pahlavi regime. This city had no mean of communication and so the Imam had to prepare himself for an isolated life.

Imam used his time in Bursa well and studied and wrote a book entitled Tahrirol Vasilah. While in Bursa the Imam contacted his friends via letters and he never showed that he was unhappy with the circumstances and never complained. He was content with whatever God had chosen for him and this was expressed in a letter he sent his wife on the 24th of March.

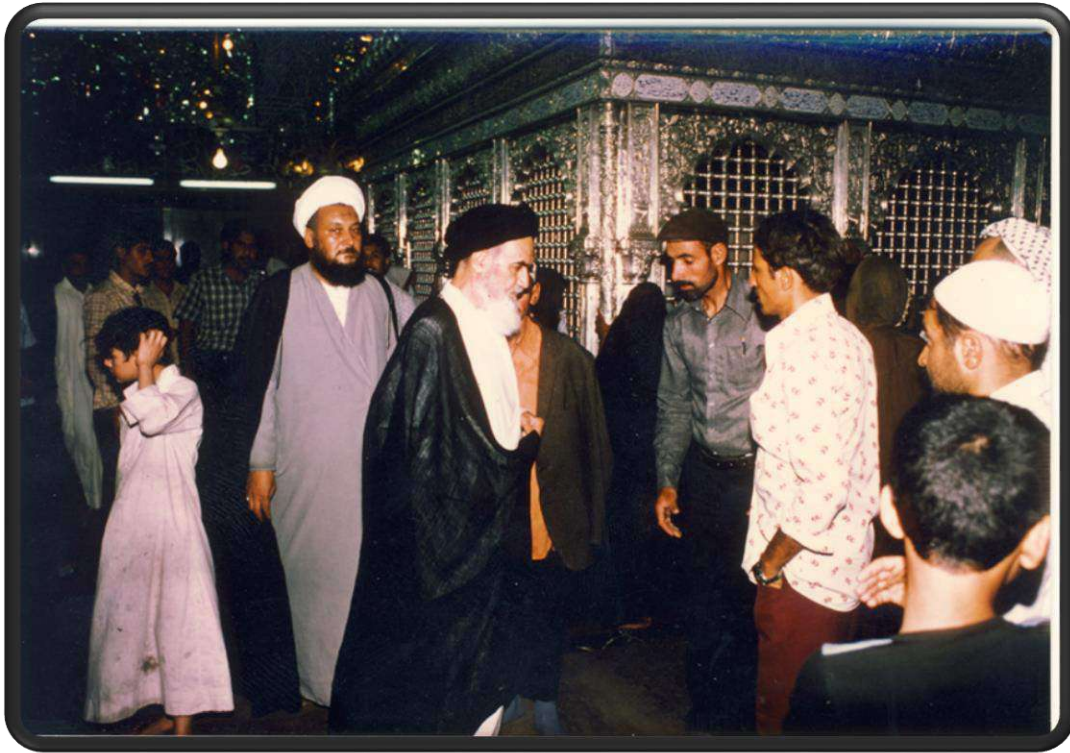
The exile in Turkey lasted 11 months

EXILE TO IRAQ

The regime was forced to change the destination of his exile so the Imam was taken to Iraq. The Imam accompanied by his son Mustafa entered Iraq on the 5th of October 1965. For one week they visited the different cities of Iraq. They then went to Najaf and the Imam stayed there for thirteen years. The Imam thought that Iraq was much better than Turkey.

In relation to scientific activities the Imam paid attention to two main goals. The first was establishing classes and training clergymen. The Second was that he started writing books, which were useful for students. Many students from different countries attended his lectures. He started teaching 'Islamic government' on February 1970 and it came to be his main area of teaching. Later a book was published, which stated the words of the Imam in these lessons, and was entitled the 'Islamic Government'.





ISLAMIC GOVERNMENT

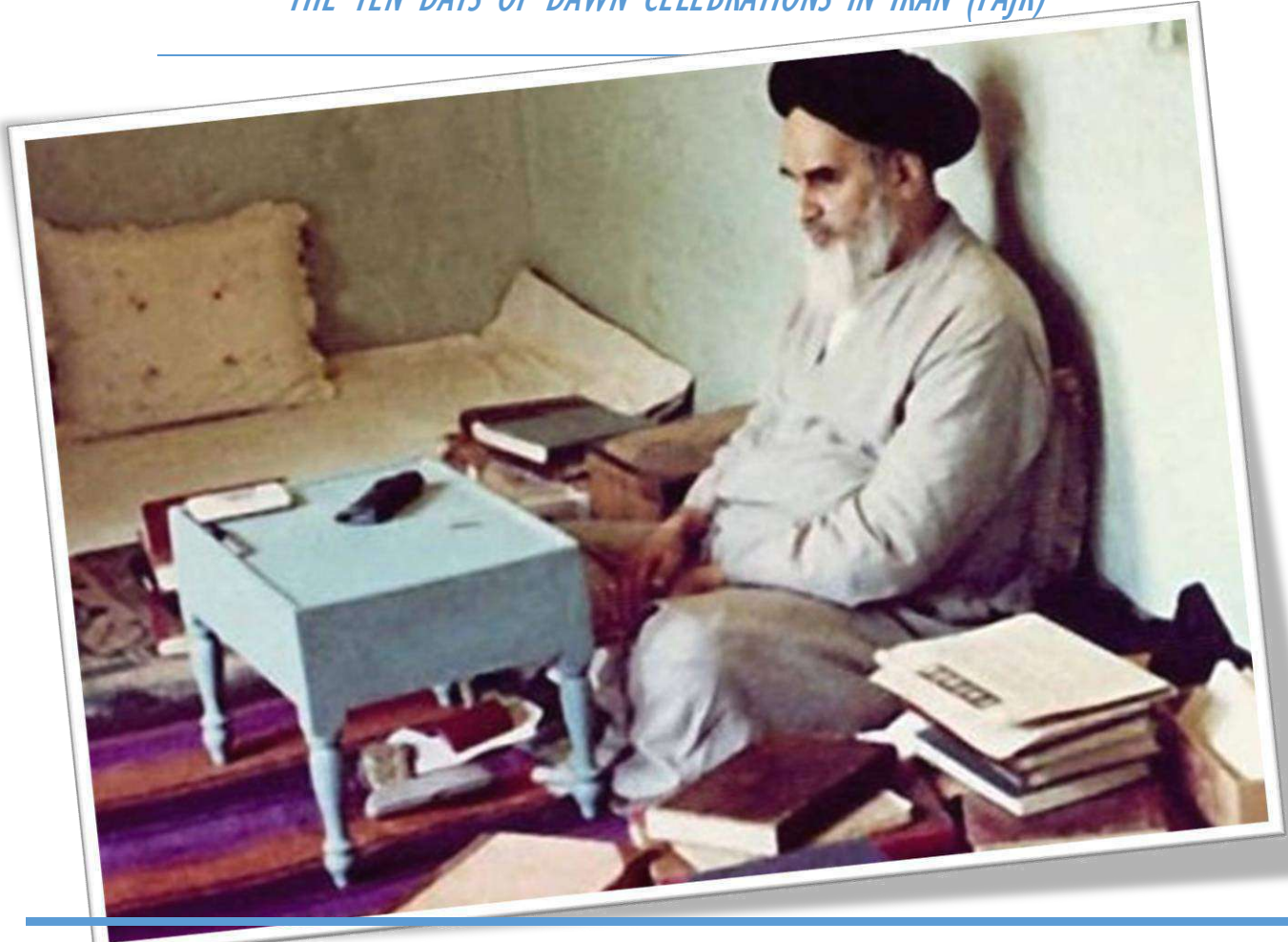
In the book, 'Islamic government', the following has been written:

"You have a duty to establish an Islamic Government. Know that you are able to do this and believe in yourself. The colonialists started their campaign 300-400 years ago and now they have reached this point. We will also start from zero."

The Imam has also said the following during his stay in Najaf:

"Great men, who have an open mind, never give up hope. They never think of themselves. They do not think of their freedom while they are in prison. They try to achieve their goals under any circumstances. If they are unable to attain their goals they leave their work for others to take over. Achieving these goals may take 300 to 400 years. Great revolutions are made in this way."

THE TEN DAYS OF DAWN CELEBRATIONS IN IRAN (FAJR)



On the 24th of April 1978 a reporter from the famous Le' Monde newspaper came to Iran to get the latest news on the political changes and shifts in the greatest country in the Middle East. This reporter wrote the following: "Within one of the small alleys of Najaf, where the houses were built into each other in order to act like a shelter against the burning heat of the sun, one finds the humble residence of Ayatollah Khomeini. This house resembles the houses of the poorest people of Najaf. In this humble residence there are no signs of the power of opposition leaders who live in exile. If Ayatollah Khomeini has the power to ignite a rise in Iran then this power is certainly due to his dominance and authority over the views of the Iranian people. Instead of decreasing, this authority has increased tenfold since he has been exiled..." The Imam expressed his views regarding matters to do with the rise of the people, foreign powers and other political groups during his interview with this French reporter.

EXILE TO PARIS

On the 4th of October 1978, the Iraqi government forced Imam Khomeini to leave Iraq for Kuwait. However the Kuwaiti government did not give refuge to Imam Khomeini due to the Iranian regime's request. Consequently, Imam Khomeini flew to Paris.

Imam himself explains this event: "They (the Iraqi government) said that: 'due to the fact that we have certain agreements with the Iranian government and the actions of you and your companions do not observe these agreements, we can no longer have you here.' I answered that you have made agreements, I haven't. I have a religious duty, which I will carry out, and I will pay no attention to your agreements. I will preach on the Manbar issue statements and make recordings on tapes and send them. This is my duty. Whatever duty you have, carry it out... I then got ready to leave... under strict Iraqi supervision I went to the Kuwaiti border and the same pressure that was put on the Iraqi government was also put on the Kuwaiti government... from there we returned to Basra and then we went to Baghdad. I realized that whichever Muslim country we go to it will be the same. It was for this reason that, without any previous thought on the matter, I decided to go to France."





Imam Khomeini sent sweets and flowers for neighbors on Christmas in Neauphle-le-Chateau

We had gathered around the pine tree on Christmas night and then the bell rang. We looked at each other. At that time of the night we thought that we did not have anyone who would ring the bell. I wanted to go and open the door but my father said: no I myself will go. My mother made a sign and that had to do with me and I went after her.

When she opened the door a man who had a branch of flower and a box of sweets had stood behind the door. The man had amiability and said: "I have brought these from Ayatollah Khomeini. He congratulated you for the birth of Prophet Jesus and he apologized from perhaps this that his residence in the village has caused you trouble. My father was astonished and was standing and was not saying anything. I had become negligent. Was it true that he was thinking of the people to that extent? The man wanted to go.

My father got the flower and the sweets and said: Thank him on our behalf.



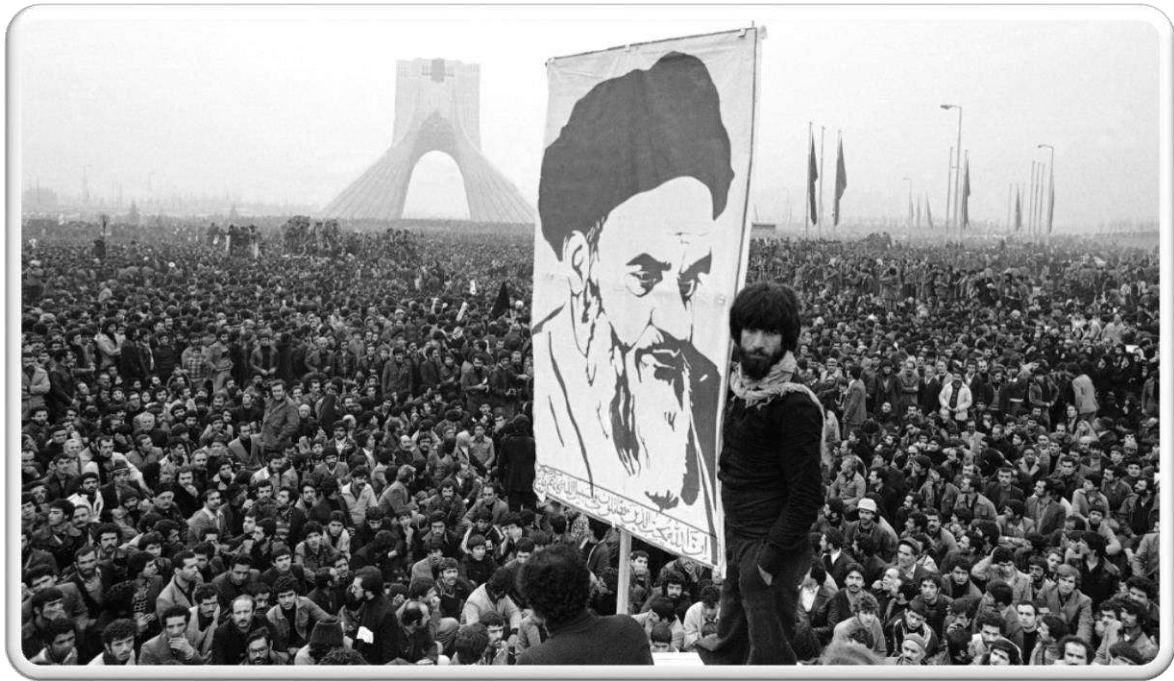
RETURN TO TEHRAN

After the Shah's departure, people were eager for Imam Khomeini's return to Iran. In Tehran ceremonies were being organized to celebrate the Imam's historical return. However due to the fact that Bakhtiyar, who was the Prime Minister at the time, announced he would close the airport, the Imam's return was delayed for some time. Finally, on the 1st of February the Imam entered Iranian soil while millions of people came to see his arrival.

In the Imam's last interview in France, a French reporter asked him: "Did you get any support?" The Imam replied: "We did not get any support from anyone." The Imam also said that "the Iranian nation has made up its mind and will succeed. We will definitely be victorious."



THE TEN DAYS OF DAWN CELEBRATIONS IN IRAN (FAJR)



THE HISTORICAL RETURN

On the 1st of February 1979, millions of people came to welcome and witness the Imam's return from Paris. It was a winter morning, but nobody could feel the cold weather. It was dangerous and various threats were made but people still came. It seemed as if the passenger on that airplane had captivated everyone, so that the people forgot all hardships and worries and waited to see the Imam.

Slowly the wheels of the French airplane came to a halt at the Mehr Abad airport runway. A few moments later, the old spiritual man came down the stairs. At that moment, not only Iranians but people all over the world were awaiting the Imam's entrance into Iran. Fourteen years ago, this very man was deported from Iran and people thought he would be forgotten in history. However, it seems that everything was reversed and the assertive powerful men of that era were quickly forgotten and that Imam became the guest of millions of Iranians' hearts. His first words in the airport were, "I thank you all for your love. The Iranian people's affection is a great responsibility on my shoulders, and I cannot repay it. Unity is the key to victory."

THE VICTORIES WERE FAR GREATER

After a while, Imam Khomeini left the airport for the Behest Zahra cemetery in order to visit the graves of the martyrs and pay his respects to them. These martyrs lost their lives for the love of Imam Khomeini. The car carrying Imam Khomeini moved very slowly and finally stopped in front of a particular area in the cemetery, where the martyrs of the revolution were buried. Here Imam Khomeini stated, "We have experienced many tragedies. Some of these tragedies were so great but the victories after them were far greater. There were many tragedies of women losing their husbands, and men losing their children. When I see people whose children died in these movements, I become sorrowful and sense a heavy weight on my shoulders. I am unable to thank a nation who has lost their lives for the sake God."





ASSIGNING THE FIRST PRIME MINISTER OF THE REVOLUTION

A very important and sensitive event took place on the 4th of February. On this day, Imam Khomeini assigned Mehdi Bazargan as the Prime Minister of Iran. This made Iran one step closer to the revolution. Imam asked the people to come to the streets to show their support for this appointment. The next day military jets flew in the skies of Tehran to frighten the people but had no effect whatsoever. On the 8th of February many of the air force personnel marched before Imam Khomeini.

THE FALL OF THE PAHLAVI REGIME

At 2pm it was announced on the radio that the military commander of Tehran has declared that a curfew will be imposed after 4:30 pm. The Imam called this curfew a trick and illegal, and asked the people to ignore it.

Finally on the 11th of February 1979 the army announced it would no longer take part in the conflicts. The Imam told people to keep calm and peaceful if the army was to return to the barracks.

The revolution was finally victorious in the evening of the 11th of February 1979. The people's persistence, blood and hard work finally paid off.



They like the Iran of the Pahlavi era,
a milking cow that is submissive to their orders.

THEY WANT A KING IN IRAN

who for a simple decision would have to ask
the English ambassador or the American ambassador what to do!

“ IMAM SAYYID ALI KHAMENEI
LEADER OF THE MUSLIM UMMAH
03 Oct 2022

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**A look at the
Fajr celebrations
Through the statements of the
Supreme Leader of the
Revolution**



THE TEN DAYS OF DAWN CELEBRATIONS IN IRAN (FAJR)



EACH YEAR THE PRESENCE OF MILLIONS OF PEOPLE IN BAHMAN 22 DEMONSTRATIONS SHOWS THAT THE REVOLUTION AND THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC RELY ON THE RELIGIOUS FAITH OF THE PEOPLE. THIS IS THE MAIN REASON WHY THE ENEMIES ARE UNABLE TO UNDERMINE THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC. THE OPPONENTS OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC ARE TERRIFIED WHEN THEY SEE THE MASSIVE PARTICIPATION OF THE PEOPLE IN VARIOUS DEMONSTRATIONS HELD IN THE COUNTRY. IN ORDER TO MASK THIS SOLIDARITY, WITH THE HELP OF THEIR AGENTS, THE ENEMIES PRETEND IN THEIR PROPAGANDA THAT THE PEOPLE ARE SUFFERING FROM DISCORD. 22 BAHMAN IS A NATIONAL WEALTH AND IT BELONGS TO THE IRANIAN NATION, IMAM KHOMEINI (R.A.), AND THE MARTYRS. THE ENEMY IS TRYING TO UNDERMINE THIS GREAT NATIONAL WEALTH. THEREFORE, WE MUST BE PRESENT ON THE SCENE WITH ALL OUR POWER AND MOVE AHEAD THOUGHTFULLY.

THE TEN DAYS OF DAWN CELEBRATIONS IN IRAN (FAJR)

Imam Khomeini showed us the way to live free, to become perfect, to live life in a way that satisfies God and is required in Islam, to truly construct life and to avoid compliance with anti-Islamic powers. To us, these are the lessons of 22 Bahman. 22 Bahman is the real Eid of our nation.

The authorities in charge of the Fajr celebrations should, as far as they can, make people aware of the truth of this ten-day celebration by organizing good, varied, rich and meaningful programs.



THE TEN DAYS OF DAWN CELEBRATIONS IN IRAN (FAJR)



The holy ten-day Fajr celebrations have already started. During these celebrations, two things are necessary for us and people like us. First, we need to be thankful to God. We bow to God with complete humility for bestowing this blessing on the Iranian nation. This great movement, this great achievement, this historic movement was carried out by the Iranian nation under the leadership of our magnanimous Imam. The Islamic Republic was established. The Iranian nation started its movement towards God, towards divine goals, towards divine values. No other blessing is superior to this blessing and it is necessary to thank God for this great blessing at all times, particularly during the ten-day Fajr celebrations. Second, we need to be grateful to the Iranian people. They remained loyal. They showed magnanimity. They made sacrifices. They showed courage. They exhibited insight. They were always present so that this sapling grew stronger and produced more fruits on a daily basis in spite of all the dangers and all the problems.

THE TEN DAYS OF DAWN CELEBRATIONS IN IRAN (FAJR)



The Islamic Republic proved that it is possible to resist and move forward. All powers of the world stood against our magnanimous Imam(r.a), yet he managed to defeat all of them and promote Islam and the Islamic Revolution in the world by relying on Allah the Exalted and the people. Peoples are capable of such achievements. Islam and Muslims can move forward. This is a responsibility that lies on our shoulders and the Islamic Republic will continue this path. Our pleasant, exciting and successful experiences are a source of motivation for our nation to continue the path of God, Islam and the Holy Quran.

THE TEN DAYS OF DAWN CELEBRATIONS IN IRAN (FAJR)





Some Achievements of Iran's Islamic Revolution



THE TEN DAYS OF DAWN CELEBRATIONS IN IRAN (FAJR)



World witnessing Iranian scientists' achievements

Any issue our scientists have focused on, they've carried out tasks revered by the world: stem cells and animal cloning, sending satellites into space, humanoid robots, nuclear technology, building advanced missiles and drones, and making vaccines, specially COVID vaccines.

Imam Khamenei | Oct. 19, 2022



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Imam Khamenei

Praise God, the country's stronghold in production and the economy is standing firmly. Entrepreneurs and competent economic managers are the army that has stood against the enemy and the officers in this Sacred Defense, while the workers are the sincere, pure fighters in this battle.

Imam Khamenei



Entrepreneurs & workers have stood against enemy

Praise God, the country's stronghold in production and the economy is standing firmly. Entrepreneurs and competent economic managers are the army that has stood against the enemy and the officers in this Sacred Defense, while the workers are the sincere, pure fighters in this battle.

Imam Khamenei | Jan. 30, 2022

**The message
of championship**

The message of championship in athletic events, particularly at the international level, is that of ability, exuberance, perseverance and willpower. Champions teach resistance, hope and exuberance.

Imam Khamenei | Sept. 18, 2021



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The chivalrous behavior displayed by Iranian athletes is valuable, examples such as: performing prayers, embracing the defeated rival, using a kufiyah scarf as a symbol of resistance and ladies' hijab in competitions.

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The chivalrous behavior of Iranian athletes

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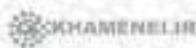


Iranian women

are outstanding in athletic competitions

Iranian women are among the most outstanding in athletic competitions. One is truly unable to praise them the way they deserve. Iranian women wearing hijab stand on podiums receiving medals in front of hundreds of millions of global TV viewers. This is not trivial.

Imam Khamenei | July 27, 2022



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Imam Khamenei

A movement to manufacture components has started in the country. You should ask the manufacturers who are doing this to build the components that are needed, and they can do it. We have been able to manufacture very delicate, complex components in the Armed Forces. Some components, which were presumed to be impossible for us to manufacture, have fortunately been manufactured.

Imam Khamenei

#STRONGIRAN



Imam Khamenei:

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THE TEN DAYS OF DAWN CELEBRATIONS IN IRAN (FAJR)

According to the reports prepared by reliable scientific centers of world, the fastest scientific growth is taking place in Iran. Reliable scientific centers of the world reported that in the year 2011 - which ended three months before the year 1990 the scientific growth of the Iranian nation was 20 percent more than the year 2010. What is the meaning of this? The Iranian nation acted like that in a station in which the enemies of the Iranian nation were betting on our collapse and were describing their sanctions as crippling. Reliable scientific centers of the world also report that Iran is the top country in the region in terms of its scientific level and that it ranks 17th in the world. Imam Khamenei



THE TEN DAYS OF DAWN CELEBRATIONS IN IRAN (FAJR)



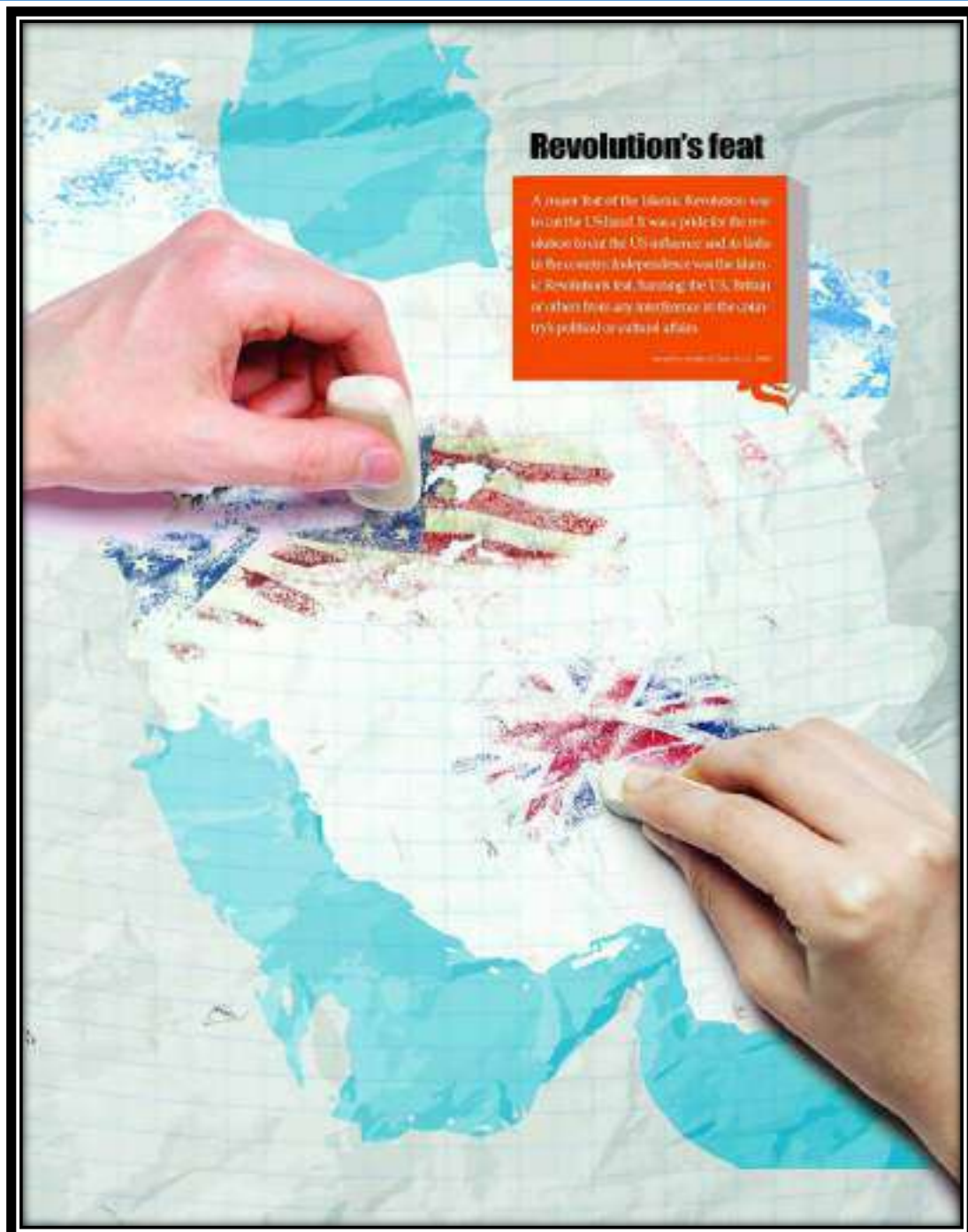
The nuclear technology the Iranian nation gained is a great historic achievement. Moreover, the Iranian nation does not owe a single favor to anybody for this technology. Nuclear technology has been indigenized. The Iranian nation has achieved this accomplishment due to the prudence of its officials. It belongs to the Iranian nation and no power can deprive the nation of this advantage and this great right.

Imam Khamenei

THE TEN DAYS OF DAWN CELEBRATIONS IN IRAN (FAJR)

A major feat of the Islamic Revolution was to cut the US hand. It was a pride for the revolution to cut the US influence and its links in the country. Independence was the Islamic Revolution's feat, banning the US, Britain or others from any interference in the country's political or cultural affairs.

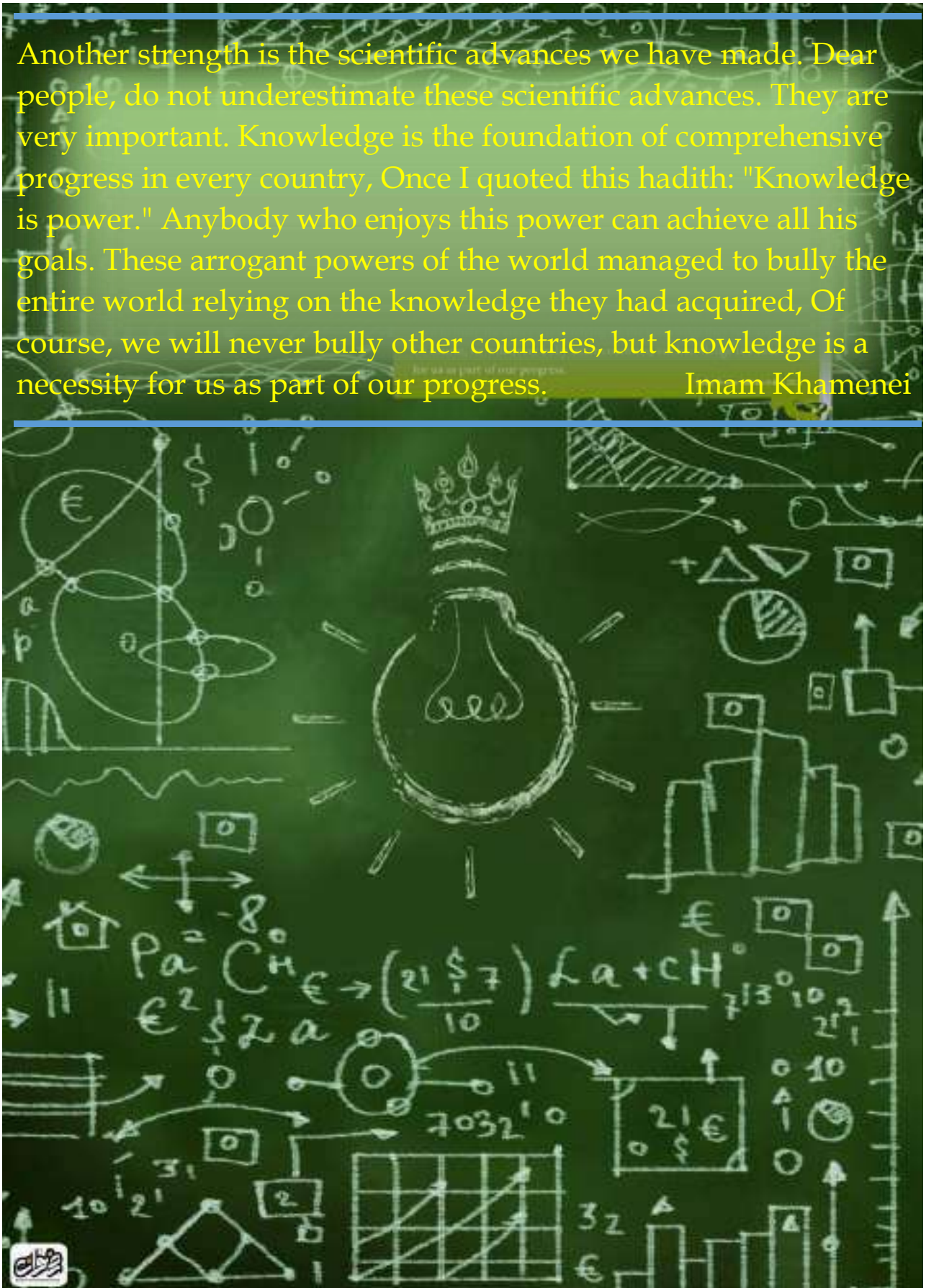
Imam Khamenei





The Islamic Republic and the Islamic Revolution have set a good performance with an excellent mark. Other revolutions could not endure such vast problems. Transitions of power have already occurred in Africa and Asia and many other places however none endured the ensuing problems. Even many major revolutions of the world, namely the Great Revolution of France and the Soviet Union's October Revolution could not endure the ensuing problems. Actually they got diverted from the very start from their original goals. The popular and Islamic traits of this revolution and the fact that it follows certain causes is a great achievement. That a revolutionary young man shouts the original revolutionary causes decades after it got triumph is a great achievement that never took place in any other revolutions. Imam Khamenei

Another strength is the scientific advances we have made. Dear people, do not underestimate these scientific advances. They are very important. Knowledge is the foundation of comprehensive progress in every country, Once I quoted this hadith: "Knowledge is power." Anybody who enjoys this power can achieve all his goals. These arrogant powers of the world managed to bully the entire world relying on the knowledge they had acquired, Of course, we will never bully other countries, but knowledge is a necessity for us as part of our progress. Imam Khamenei



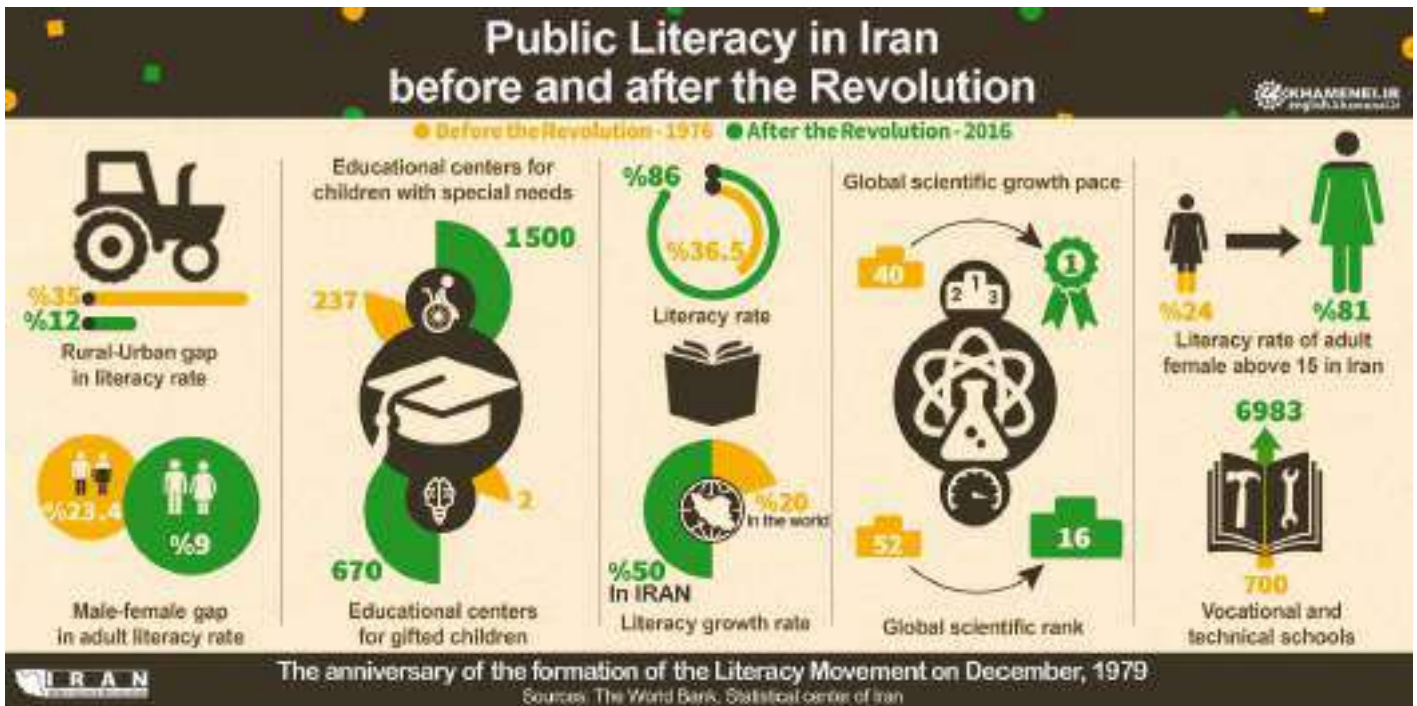
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Before the revolution, the country was dependent politically so that the senior authorities and government bodies were submissive to the US and waited for its orders. The US consent was imperative for the appointment of prime minister and even the Shah himself. However, the revolution granted independence to the country. Today there is not even a single country in the world that can claim its will has had the slightest effect on the determination of our government officials. The fact that nations of the world feel respect for the great Iranian nation is mainly because of (Iran's) political independence.

Imam Khamenei



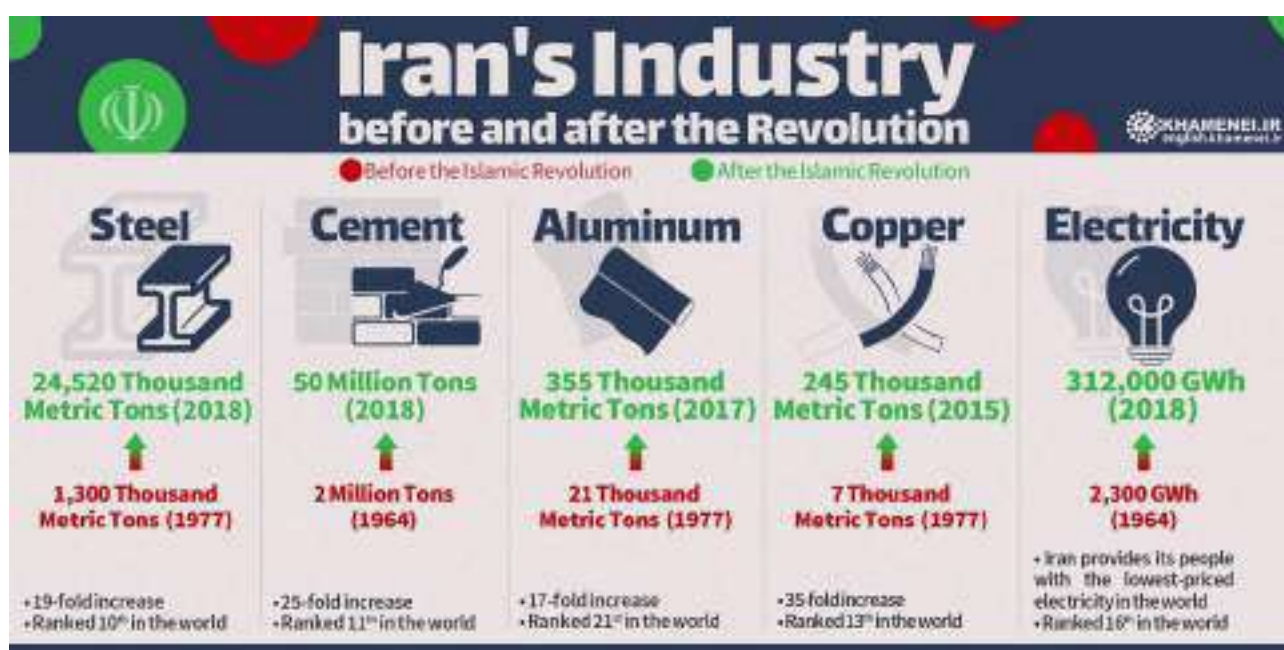
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One of the advances made was the improvement of public literacy through the formation of the Literacy Movement Organization on December 28, 1979, which was one of the main issues of the Islamic Revolution. During the Pahlavi regimes, education was only available to certain groups of people. The Pahlavi government tried to keep the public at a lower level in society by keeping them illiterate so that it could dominate the people. In contrast, during the time of the Islamic Republic improving education became one of the main policies of the government. This was to the extent that according to international organizations significant developments were made in the area of literacy for the general public in addition to high-level scientific advances.

THE TEN DAYS OF DAWN CELEBRATIONS IN IRAN (FAJR)

Despite the unprecedented economic sanctions imposed by the domineering powers on Iran in recent decades, and especially in recent years, the country has made dramatic advances in industry since the establishment of the Islamic Revolution. Contrary to the approach of the Pahlavi regime - which was highly dependent on imports and oil revenues to supply the country's needs, especially from Western countries and the United States - Iran has sought to stimulate domestic production and strengthen its industrial power after the Islamic Revolution. This approach has led to huge growth (tens of times) in Iranian key industries and placed it among the top 10 countries in the world. Therefore, economic sanctions against Iran have caused this country to realize that the correct, effective way to deal with these sanctions and to maintain its political and economic independence from the domineering powers is to strengthen its industrial power within the country to become a supplier and exporter instead of an importer and consumer.





In its statistical exploration of the scientific status of countries, the prestigious analytic website and research intelligence platform Web of Knowledge has offered interesting results. In terms of the number of scientific articles published, the said website reports Iran to have published 669 articles in 1978. This figure shows Iran's share in the scientific production of the world less than 0.01 percent. However, regarding the same variables, the post-revolutionary Iran has experienced a boom. In 2018, the number of published articles by Iranian scientists and researchers drastically grew to 55,509, indicating an extremely substantial 82-fold increase. This sudden growth places the Islamic Republic of Iran 16th among the top countries in scientific research and production.

THE TEN DAYS OF DAWN CELEBRATIONS IN IRAN (FAJR)

We have no problems with anyone. We only want to say to the people who wish to dominate us again, "No way. We will not allow you to do so". The Islamic Republic's fight against those who want to confront this system is over this matter. There is no other problem. Imam Khamenei



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General Qasem Soleimani Attending the Anniversary Celebration of the Islamic Revolution on February, 11 ,2017

