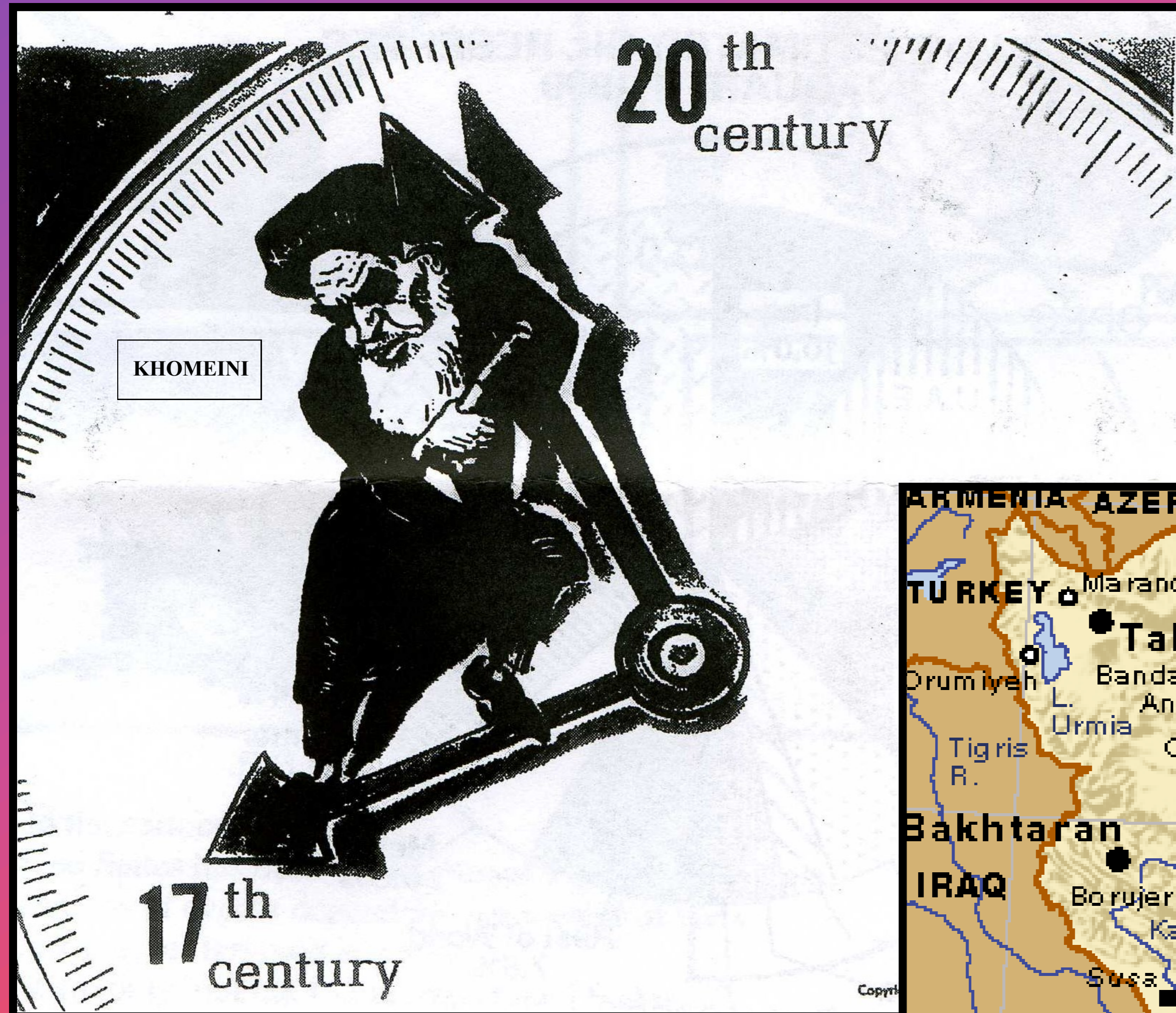


Station # 3

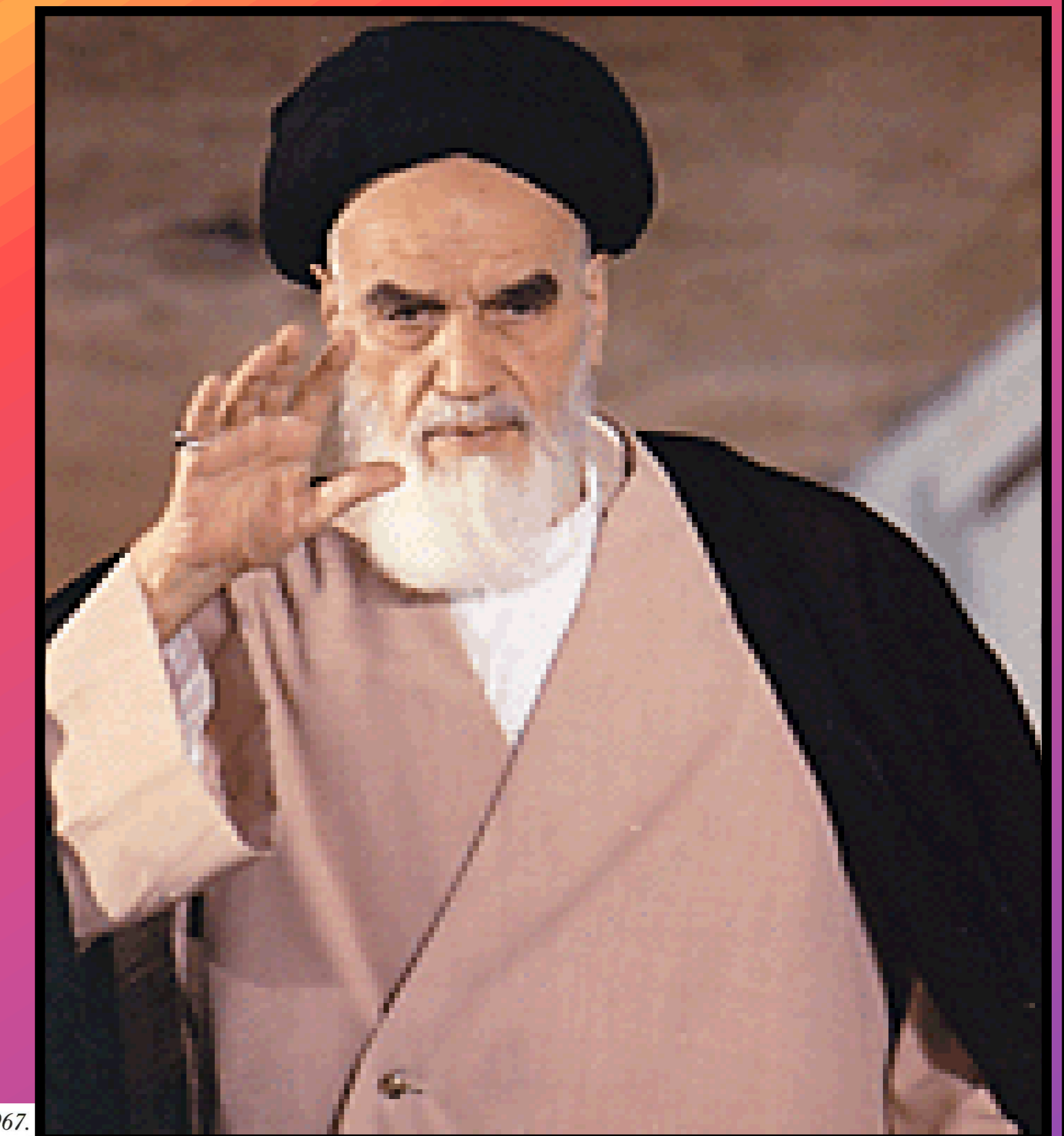
Prior to 1979, Iran was ruled by a shah, who was supported by the United States. Shah Reza Pahlavi was a dictator that implemented modernization, westernization and secularization (separation of religion and government). Reza Pahlavi was overthrown by Ayatollah Khomeini, the political leader of the 1979 Iranian Revolution and 1st Supreme Ruler of Iran. The Ayatollah set a theocracy based on strict Shiite rule. Like many Islamic leaders of the time, Ayatollah Khomeini openly rejected Western ways and technology because he feared that traditional values were being undermined.

In 1980, after the Ayatollah had been calling for Islamic revolutions across the Muslim World, Saddam Hussein invaded into Iran to begin the 8 year long Iran-Iraq War. The war began as a battle over resources and access to the Persian Gulf, but ended in a draw. The USA supported Saddam Hussein in the Iran-Iraq War because of the Ayatollah's role in the Iran Hostage Crisis of 1979 when Iranians attacked a US embassy and held 52 Americans hostage for 444 days.

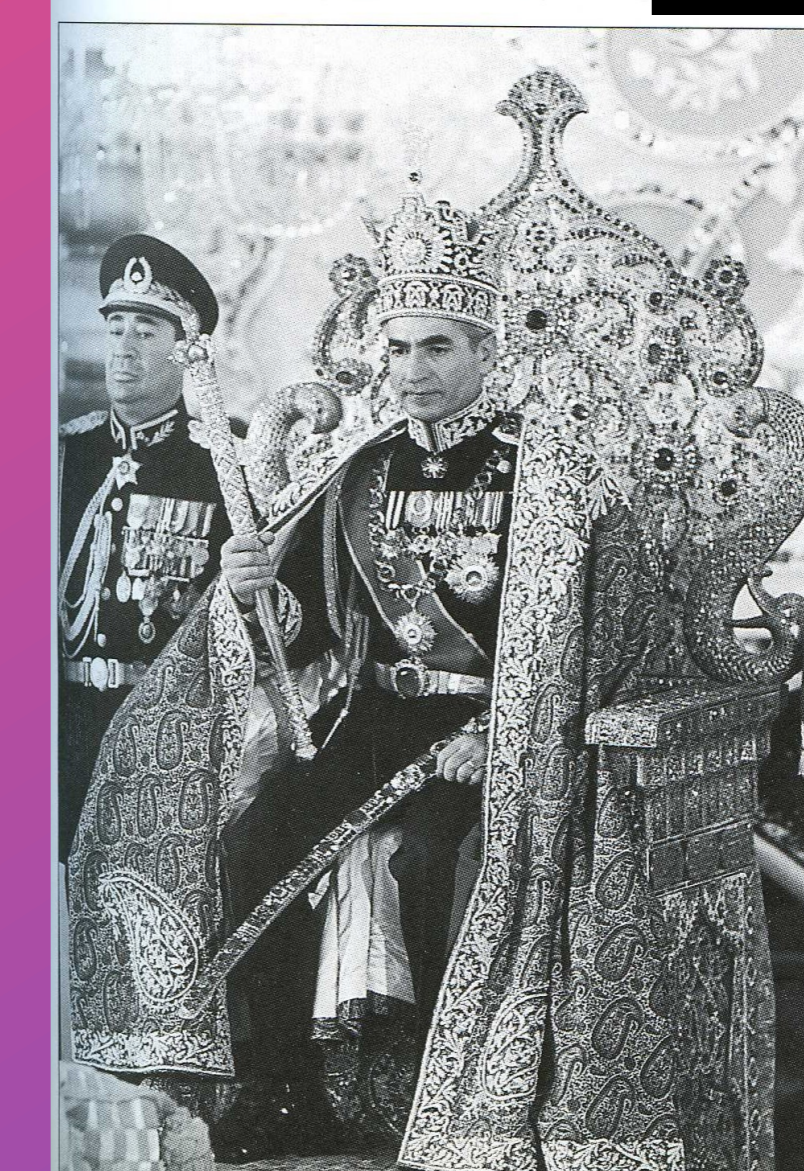
President George W. Bush referred to Iran as part of the "Axis of Evil" (along with Iraq and North Korea) because of three decades of distrust between US & Iran, their development of nuclear technology, and the potential danger of an extremist government.



Official Coat of Arms & Flag of Shahinshah Aryamehr
(King of Kings, Light of the Aryans, titles given to Shah Reza Pahlavi)



The Shah sits on the "peacock" throne, 1967.



Shah Reza Pahlavi

