

The Middle East During the Cold War



Afghanistan-Before

- Historically, Afghanistan was an important trading region because it links the Middle East and Central Asia.
- British gained control there as they did in India. Viewed Afghanistan as a “buffer” between India and Russia. Why was Russia interested?
- They allowed kings to have power, but mostly controlled things behind the scenes from 1800s on.
- From 1919 to the 1970s, various leaders tried modernization in Afghanistan with some success.

Afghanistan-During

- 1973-first President of Afghanistan takes over. Looks to either US or Soviets for \$\$\$.
- In 1979, the US decides to fund anti-Soviet groups in Afghanistan.
- Soviets decide to invade (proxy war – small war that breaks out because of influences from the Cold War).
- 1979 to 1989 Soviets kill 600,000 to 2 million.
- US increases funding and helps train “mujahideen”
- Many Arabs from the Middle East (Osama bin Ladin included) travel to help fight the Soviets during this time
- Soviets pull out in 1989. US views this as a victory.



The first was for himself. The second was for his country.
This time is for a friend.

STALLONE

RAMBO III

MARIO KASSAR and ANDREW VAJNA Present
SYLVESTER STALLONE
RAMBO™ III
RICHARD CRENSHAW

Music by JERRY GOLDSMITH Director of Photography JOHN STANIER, G.B.C.T.
Associate Producer TONY MILNARO Executive Producers MARIO KASSAR and ANDREW VAJNA
Based on Characters Created by DAVID MORRELL Written by SYLVESTER STALLONE and SHELDON LETTICH
Produced by BUZZ FEITSHANS Directed by PETER MACDONALD A TRI STAR RELEASE

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Afghanistan-After

- The war over, US loses interest and Soviets leave. The country must rebuild. But first...
- Mujahideen groups are left in Afghanistan; they have overthrown the Soviet backed government. They now fight each other to see who will replace it.
- Over 1996-2001, one such group, funded by Pakistan, rises to prominence. They are called the Taliban. They are strict conservative Muslims.

The Taliban

- Life under the Taliban is **HARSH**. Women have few rights. It is not a democracy at all.
- The Taliban openly support terrorism against the West.
- The US invades in 2001 after 9/11 and removes the Taliban. A President is installed.
- Country still must struggle to rebuild from Soviet war and remnants of the Taliban remain.

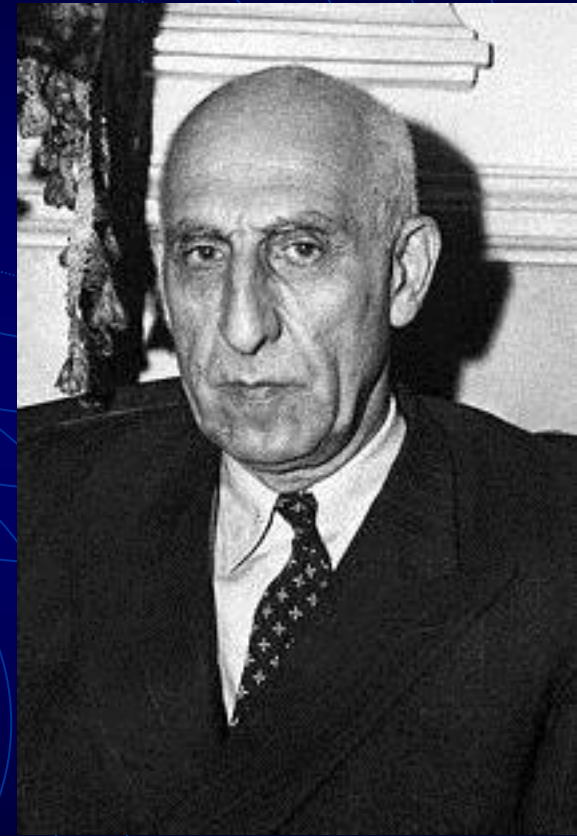


Iran-Before

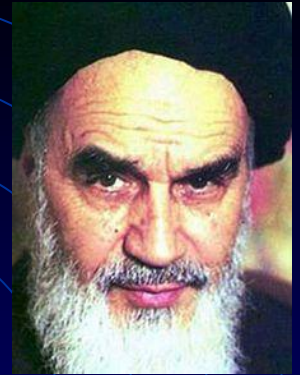
- Home to one of the Earth's oldest continuous civilizations, from 7000BCE.
- Never colonized by European powers, but Britain especially had influence there.
- 1906-Democracy and parliament established.
- 1925 Reza Khan becomes Shah (ruler).
- British and Russians overthrow him during WWII because he has ties to Germany. Forced to turn power over to his son, Reza Pahlavi.

Iran-During

- 1951-Mossadegh elected Prime Minister. Wants to take oil from hands of foreign businesses and put it into Iran's power. Not popular for this, so Britain and US decide to take him out.
- The Shah, now with more US backing, becomes more dictator-like. He tries to modernize Iran very quickly, which is popular with the city dwellers but not country people who want traditional Muslim values. Many view the Shah as a symbol of Western greed and corruption.



Iranian Revolution, 1979



- Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, a popular Muslim figure foments revolution and criticizes the Shah and the US. The Shah eventually exiles him.
- 1978-Demonstrations and protests against Shah.
- 1979-Shah flees country, Khomeini returns.
- Iranians vote to create an Islamic democracy.
- Iranian Hostage Crisis-Revolutionaries overthrow US Embassy calling them spies. Hostages kept for 444 days. Probably the reason Carter lost the next election.

Iran-After

- 1982-1988: Iran-Iraq War, as started by Saddam Hussein. No side wins.
- US and Iran don't trade or communicate often.
- Some Presidents in Iran have sought to increase civil rights and democracy, but more recently a conservative movement has seen Iran being more anti-US and less democratic.
- Nuclear power or nuclear weapons?

Iraq-Before

- After WWI, UN gave Iraq to Britain as a mandate (taken from defeated Ottomans).
- 1932-Britain grants independence, but government there is weak.
- 1941-Britain invades to make sure oil supplies aren't cut off during WWII.
- 1947 Britain leaves and Iraqis fight over who will rise to power.

Iraq-During

- 1969-Socialist Baath party comes to power.
- 1979-Saddam Hussein becomes leader of this party and the President.
- Iranian Revolution is seen as dangerous to Iraq, because Baath party is non-religious. They fear the Shiite majority in Iraq might also want to create such a state.
- Iran-Iraq War 1980-1988: US and Soviet Union both “back” Iraq, but sell weapons to both sides.



Iraq-After

- Neither side truly wins. Iraq's economy is messed up and many people have died.
- 1991-Iraq invades Kuwait.
- With support from the UN, the US invades Iraq and quickly defeats them.
- 2003-US invades Iraq again and overthrows Saddam Hussein.