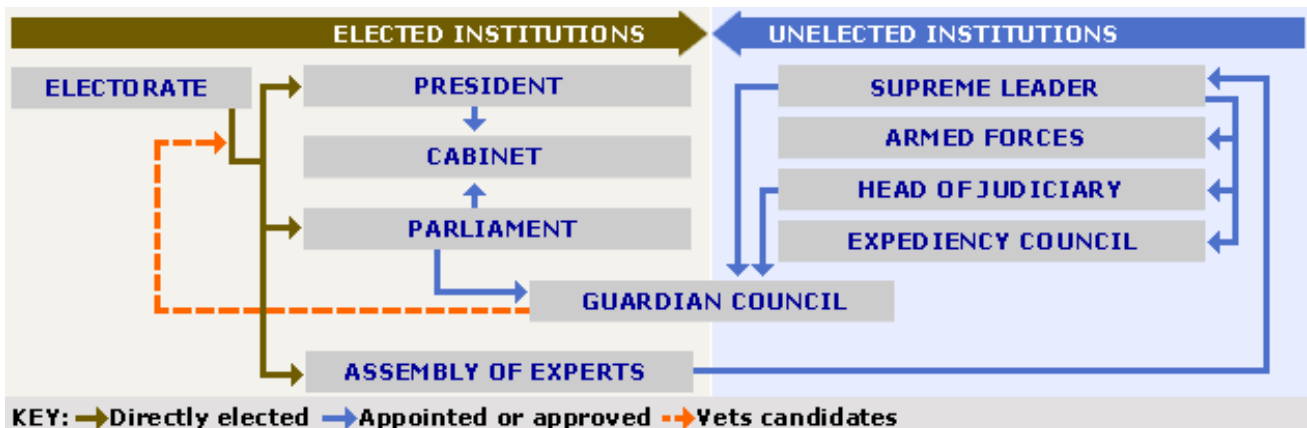


# IRAN: Basic Facts

Name derives from the Avestan term "aryanam" meaning "Land of the Noble [Ones]"

- **Population:** about 89 million (2024 est.). Growth rate, 0.88%; median age, 33.8 years; 77% urban; 89% literate
- **Life expectancy at birth:** total population: 76 years, male: 74 years, female: 77 years (2024 est.)
- **Ethnic groups:** Persian 61%, Azeri 16%, Kurd 10%, Lur 6%, Balouch 2%, Arab 2%, Turkmen, other 3%
- **Religions:** Shi'a Muslim 90%, Sunni Muslim 8%, Zoroastrian, Jewish, Christian, and Baha'i 2%
- **Languages:** Persian and Persian dialects 60%, Azeri and Turkic dialects 18%, Kurdish 10%, Luri 6%, Balouchi 2%, Arabic 2%, other 2%
- **GDP per capita (PPP):** \$19,607 (2024 est.). [Afghanistan \$2,116; China \$26,310; Turkey \$40,283; U.S. \$86,601]. Iran's economy is the 23<sup>rd</sup> largest in the world. [All data are from the IMF.]
- **Area:** 1.648 million sq km = 636,128 sq miles; 31 provinces; capital, Tehran
- **History:** **Pre-Islamic Era: (ancient times to 651 AD):** Ancient times to 559 BC: early communities/kingdoms. Empire: 559 BC [330-150 BC, Hellenic period] to 651 AD  
**Islamic Era (651 AD to present):** Constitutional Revolution 1905-11, CIA coup 1953, Islamic Republic 1979
- **Executive branch:**
  - chief of state: Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Hoseini-KHAMENEI (since 4 June 1989),
  - head of government: President Masoud Pezeshkian (since 30 July 2024),
  - cabinet: Council of Ministers selected by the president with legislative approval; the Supreme Leader has some control over appointments to the more sensitive ministries,
  - elections: leader of the Islamic Revolution appointed for life by the 88-member Assembly of Experts (8-year terms, last election 26 February, 2016); president elected by popular vote for a four-year term,
  - Presidential election results (7/05/2024): After the second round, Masoud Pezeshkian, 53.7%; Saeed Jalili, 44.3%.
- **Legislative branch:**
  - unicameral Islamic Consultative Assembly or Majles-e-Shura-ye-Eslami (290 seats; of which 5 set-asides: Zoroastrians, and Jews 1 each; Christians 3; members elected by popular vote to serve four-year terms),
  - elections: last held 1 March 2024.
- **Judicial branch:**
  - Supreme Court - above a special clerical court, a revolutionary court, and a special administrative court.



Southwest Asia

