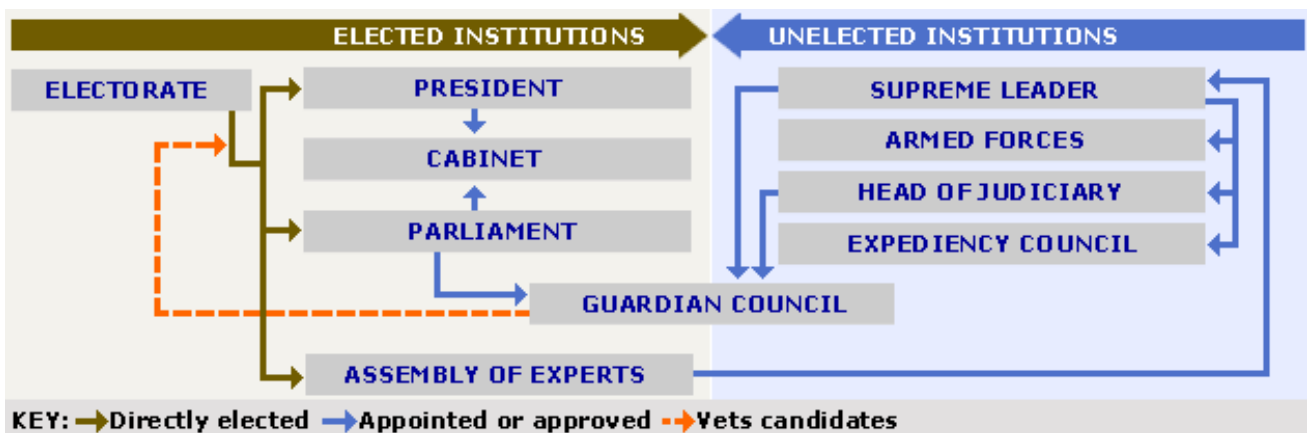


IRAN: Basic Facts

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

- **Population:** about 93 million (2026 est.). Growth rate, 1.1%; median age, 35 years; 78% urban; 93% literate
- **Life expectancy at birth:** total population: 78 years, male: 76 years, female: 80 years (2026 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 61%, Azeri and Turkic dialects 18%, Kurdish 10%, Luri 6%, Balouchi 2%, Arabic 2%, other 1%
- **GDP per capita (PPP):** \$19,873 (2024 est.). [Afghanistan \$2,202; China \$27,105; Turkey \$46,639; U.S. \$85,810]. Iran's economy is the 24th largest in the world. [All data are from the IMF & the World Bank.]
- **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; assassinated by the US-Israel, 28 February 2026); successor, Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei, elected by the Assembly of Experts on 8 March 2026.
 - 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



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