

Perspective

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The Middle East and the King of the South

The last fifty years in the Mideast have seen extraordinary change. The downfall and overthrow of Saddam Hussein of Iraq in 2003. Muammar Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, was overthrown in October 2011 after nine months of fighting in the Libyan Civil War. The conflict was fueled by widespread dissatisfaction with his authoritarian governance and the Arab Spring's call for democratic reform. Afghanistan fell to the Taliban on August 15, 2021. The government collapsed, and the Afghan capital, Kabul, was taken over by the Taliban. This event occurred 20 years after the U.S. invaded Afghanistan following the 9/11 attacks. In the last fifty years, many regimes in the Islamic nations have fallen, including those in Oman, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, and Turkmenistan. Is another historic regime change about to occur?

The Persian nation of Iran

Israel's military offensive against Iran, attempting to knock out its potential to build nuclear weapons, has brought worldwide attention to the Islamic Republic and its regime. Although Iran is not an Arab country, of the 87.6 million population, 99 per cent are Muslim and 85 per cent are Shia Islam. Iran anciently was once part of the vast Persian empire; prior to 1979 it was a much more secular and tolerant nation. Reza Shah Pahlavi ruled from 1925–1941, and he led a modernization effort in Iran and allowed some secularism. The Shah reduced the influence of the Shia mullahs. He centralized government power and installed Western-influenced legal codes. He made reforms and in 1936 he placed a ban on the hijab or head covering for women, and promoted Western-style dress. Under his reign the mosques and Muslim seminaries lost autonomy; the state took over education and the judicial systems.

The Shahs were expelled from Iran in 1979 after 2,500 years of monarchy. The Shahs fled Iran, and Ayatollah Khomeini became the Supreme Leader. He enacted strict Sharia law, marking the start of the Islamic Republic of Iran. A once pro-western nation began crying, “Death to America and Israel!” Wikipedia states about Iran: “One of the most dramatic changes in government in Iran's history was seen with the 1979 Iranian Revolution where Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi was overthrown and replaced by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. The authoritarian monarchy was replaced by a long-lasting Shiite Islamic republic.”

What goes around comes around

Fast forward 46 years from 1979, and Iranians are increasingly turning against the regime of the Supreme Leader Khomeini. The website irannewsupdate.com reported on September 8, 2024: “A recent survey conducted by the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance has revealed that 92% of Iranians are dissatisfied with the current state of the country and the way it is being governed. The findings, which were reported on September 7 by the state-run Ham Mihan newspaper, shed light on the growing public discontent with the leadership of the Iranian regime.”

The Economist, at its website, economist.com, in a June 16th article titled, “Will Iran's hated regime implode?” states: “Iran's regime is often described as decaying, corrupt, bankrupt and despised by its citizens. Is it about to collapse? Israel's shock-and-awe campaign continues relentlessly: on June 16th, it said it had ‘full air supremacy over Tehran’. On June 17th President Donald Trump called for Tehran to ‘immediately evacuate’ and cars have already been streaming out of the city in recent days. Its shops are shuttered. On social media some Iranians have celebrated the assassination of their generals with emojis of barbequed meat. The humiliation illuminates the failure of the regime's military strategy and, some hope, may trigger an uprising or a coup d'état, in turn creating chaos or national renewal.”

On *Newsweek*'s website, newsweek.com, June 18: “Reza Pahlavi, the exiled son of Iran's last monarch, has said the Islamic Republic is nearing collapse and called on Iranians to ‘reclaim and rebuild’ the country. As Israel continues its bombardment of Iran, Pahlavi, who for decades has opposed the regime in his home

country from abroad, said in a video message on social media that Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei had gone into hiding 'like a frightened rat...He referred to reports that Khamenei had gone into hiding underground, saying that the Supreme Leader had "lost control of the situation" and that "what has begun is irreversible.''''

Meanwhile the Ayatollah is claiming on the airways that Iran will never surrender. What will become of this bold move of Israel against Iran to knock out their nuclear potential, kill many of their high military leaders, destroy their armed forces and military equipment. Israel is striving to remove their ability to wage war?

Added to all of this is the possibility that the United States may enter the war to assist Israel. Israel has openly made it known it wanted to destroy Iran's nuclear program, but the only bomb believed to be powerful enough to penetrate deeply to reach the Fordow facility protected by a mountain of tons of rock is an American "bunker buster" bomb that the Israelis don't have. It is at Fordow that the Iranians have their vital centrifuges. Centrifuges are cylindrical devices that perform the enrichment of uranium-235, increasing its concentration so it can be used as nuclear fuel or in the production of nuclear weapons.

A call for Muslims to unite against Israel

Pakistan has come out in support of Iran. An article dated June 14, 2025, at hindustantimes.com titled, "Pakistan comes out in support of Iran after Israel's attack" reported, "Pakistan's defence minister, Khawaja Asif, said that all Muslim countries must unite against 'Israeli aggression', according to Dunya News."

The article further reports, "'In this time of trial, we stand by Iran in every way. We will protect Iranian interests. Iranians are our brothers, and their grief and pain are shared,' Asif said. Asif said that Israel is targeting not just Iran, but also Yemen and Palestine, adding that unity in the Muslim world is crucial. 'If we remain silent and disunited today, then everyone will be targeted eventually,' he said."

Iran has gone to war with several Muslim nations in the Middle East, including Syria, Iraq, and Gaza. Iran and Saudi Arabia have agreed to reopen diplomatic missions after a years-long rift that has fueled tensions in the Gulf and deepened conflicts from Yemen to Syria. Iran has not been an easy neighbor to have.

Prophecy says there will be a King of the South

The term "King of the South" referred in ancient times to the Ptolemaic Empire of Egypt, which was situated to the south of Israel. The term is used in Daniel 11 to describe the fighting between the Seleucid Empire based in Syria, which was the king of the North, and the Ptolemaic Empire of Egypt, the king of the South. Israel was situated between the two powers.

Iran has threatened the United States and Israel as well as, Europe which undoubtedly will be the seat of the beast and the end time king of the north. Nearly every nation in Europe believes Iran must not get a nuclear bomb. Nearly all with the exception of France's President Macron support a regime change in Iran.

Prophecy is often dual. What happened anciently also will happen in modern times. The King of the North and King of the South will exist and fight in type, like in ancient times: "*At the time of the end the king of the South shall attack him; and the king of the North shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter the countries, overwhelm them, and pass through. He shall also enter the Glorious Land, and many countries shall be overthrown; but these shall escape from his hand: Edom, Moab, and the prominent people of Ammon. He shall stretch out his hand against the countries, and the land of Egypt shall not escape.*" (Daniel 11:40-42)

The events we are witnessing now, cause us to take notice---we may be at the cusp of the time when current events will serve as a catalyst which will later bring together a conglomerate to make up a king of the south and a king of the north. Daniel's prophecy in chapter 11, was not understood by the prophet. God told him, "*Go your way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end. Many shall be purified, made white, and refined, but the wicked shall do wickedly; and none of the wicked shall understand, but the wise shall understand.*" (Daniel 12:9-10)

Let us pray, as we watch world events and remain close to God, we will understand.