

Iran

- I. Critical Historical Junctures
- II. Governance and Policy-Making
- III. Representation and Participation
- IV. Political Economy
- V. Iranian Politics in Transition



I. Critical Historical Junctures

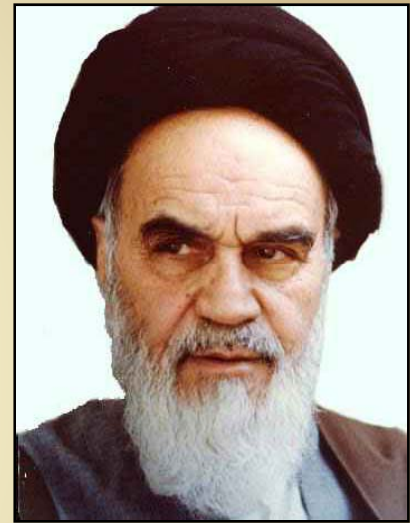
- Safavids and Qajars
- Pahlavi Coup – Reza Khan (1921)
 - Shah Reza Pahlavi (1925-41)
- Shah Mohamed Reza Pahlavi (1941-79)
- Mossadeq and CIA-backed coup
- 1979 Iranian Revolution
- US Embassy Hostage Crisis
- Iran-Iraq War (1980-88)
- Post-9/11



US-Iranian relations circa 1979

II. Governance and Policy-Making

- Theocracy and *Sharia*
- Religious Authorities
 - The Supreme Leader
 - The Council of Guardians
 - Assembly of Experts
 - The Expediency Council
- Secular Authorities
 - The President
 - The Cabinet



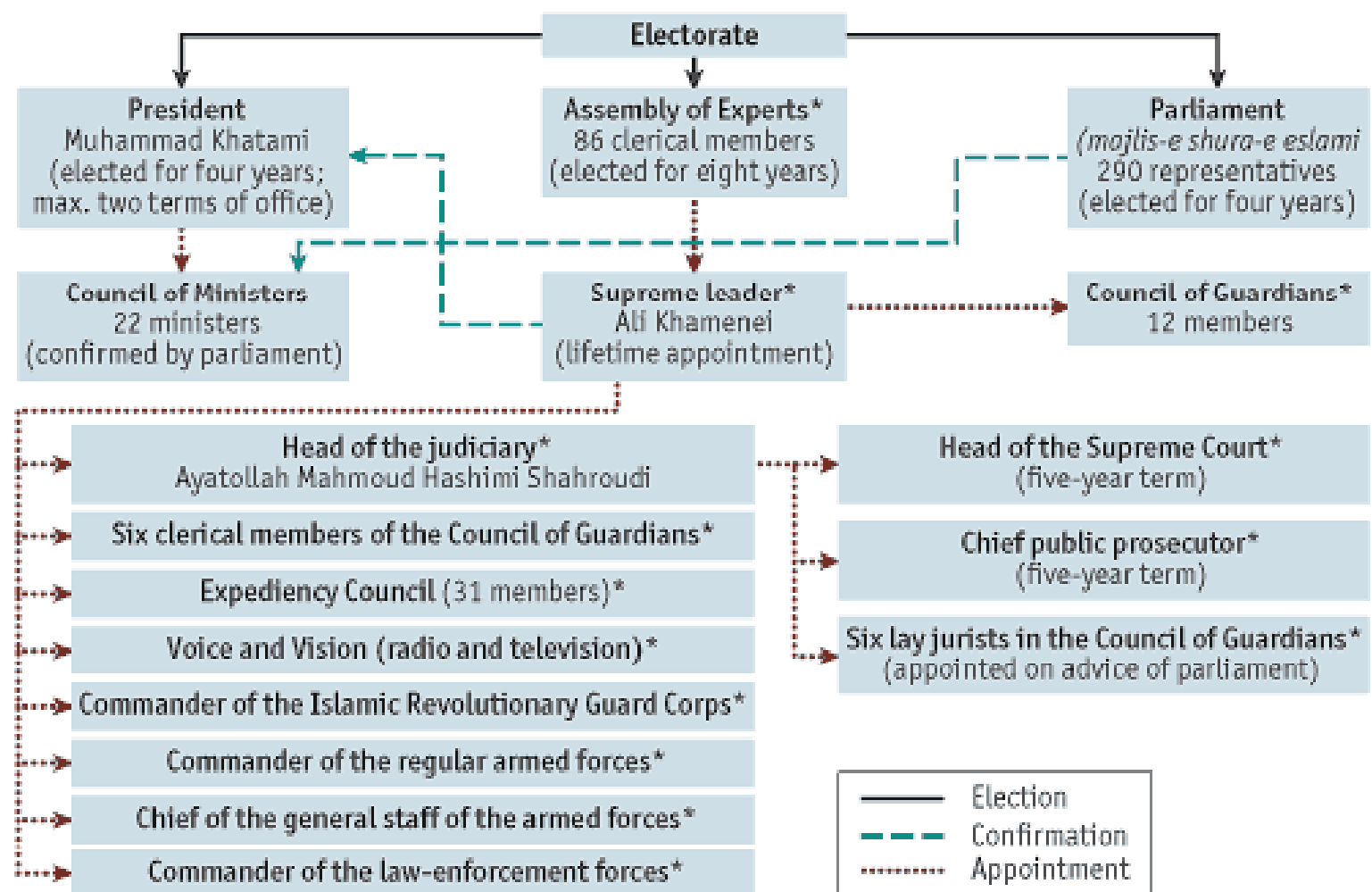
The Supreme Leaders:
Ayatollah Khomeini



Ayatollah Khamenei

Cat's cradle

Iran's formal constitutional power structure



Source: Based on Wilfried Buchta, "Who Rules Iran?" (Washington DC: Washington Institute 2000)

* Dominated by the right

III. Representation and Participation

- The *Majles* (legislature)
- Guardian Council approval of legislation
- Guardian Council approval of candidates
- Suppression of Political Dissent

**The *Majles* in
action...or not**



IV. Political Economy

- An Oil-Dependent Economy
- State-Owned or Controlled Industry
- The Demographic Problem



V. Iranian Politics in Transition

- Iran and Iraq
- Iran and Terrorism
- The Nuclear Question
- The Stability of the Regime



**President Mahmoud
Ahmadinejad**

