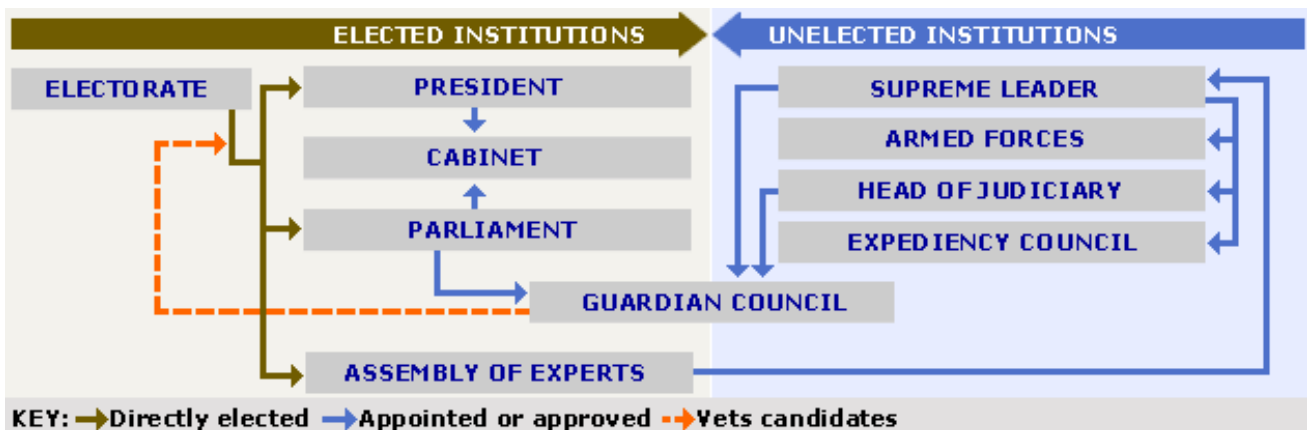


IRAN: Basic Facts

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

- **Population:** about 87 million (2022 est.). Growth rate: 0.98%, 24% below age 15; 77% urban; 87% literate
- **Life expectancy at birth:** total population: 75 years, male: 74 years, female: 77 years (2021 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):** \$15,791 (2021 est.). [Afghanistan \$2,079; China \$19,338; Turkey \$30,472; U.S. \$69,288]. Iran's economy is the 22nd largest in the world. [All data are from 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),
 - head of government: President Ebrahim Ra'isi (since 3 August 2021),
 - 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 (6/18/2021): Ebrahim Ra'isi elected president; percent of vote – Ra'isi, 72.35%; Rezaee, 13.81%; Hemmati, 9.81%; Ghazizadeh-Hashemi, 4.04%.
- **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 21 February 2020, runoffs were held in September 2020 (due to COVID).
- **Judicial branch:**
 - Supreme Court - above a special clerical court, a revolutionary court, and a special administrative court.



Southwest Asia



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