

2020

THE FALL OF ISLAMIC STATES

&

THE RRISE OF A NEW POLITICAL ORDER

(IRAN ISRAEL ARMENIA UNION)

You, you may say I am a dreamer

But I am not the only one

I hope someday you'll join us

And the world will be as one

John Lennon



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Chapter Six

A prospective look to the future

The “Teen Years” (2013-2019) in the Middle East have been and will continue to be a proxy war between Shia Iran and the Salafists countries of the Arabian Peninsula.

Salafi, meaning “original Islam”, is an Islamic sect with no tolerance and deviation from the original Islam Sharia.

Understanding these facts about Salafi, Sunni and Shia brings us to the argument Prime Minister Tony Blair put forward: With a Shia Islamite regime in Iran, one cannot stop Salafis abandoning their core belief to kill Shia infidels (Rafezi, Majoos, Safavi).

Shia can go to Saudi Arabia, the land of the Salafi, perform the ceremony of Hajj, pray and even live in Saudi Arabia, but Salafi cannot tolerate any deviation from original Islam and the propagators of Shia.

Other demonstrations of this proxy war between Iranian Shia and Saudi Salafism is the massacre in Syria over the past years and what happened in northern Iraq in Mosul and Tikrit.

There is no need to listen to Political Science professors to understand what is going on there.

Handing over Iraq to a Shia government, not bombing Iran and not overthrowing Bashar Assad of Syria has made Saudi Arabia very unhappy!.

Their Taliban cronies are fighting back in Afghanistan, Syria and Iraq. Jihadists from all over the world, financed by Saudis, Qatar and the United Arab Emirate are in Pakistan, Afghanistan, Syria,

Iraq to counter Shia followers. It's as simple as that!

Can the U.S. or Europe stop that? No!

Can U.S. or Europe stop Jihadists, Al-Qaida, Taliban, Boku Haram and ISIS (ISIL, Daesh) hatreds towards Shia? No!

It does not matter if a moderate president like Khatami or a fanatic president like AhmadiNejad or a pragmatic president like Rafsanjani or a diplomatic president like Rouhani is President in Iran. Since, as per the country's Constitution, all the power is with the Supreme Leader. He cannot deviate one inch from principles of the Shia Constitution, although he can give "Holiday" to the Pillars of Islam to safeguard the regime and its Constitution.

The United States got ready to leave Afghanistan too soon, while Taliban have never been stronger. This leaves no alternative but to make a deal with them.

The graduates of Madrasa, built three and four decades ago by Saudi's, are coming out in great numbers, young and energetic. Some of them might go to Harvard or Princeton to get a degree from a top university in the West. Therefore, releasing some old terrorists from Guantanamo prison will not have any effect on terrorism.

Although the nuclear issue with Iran is almost defused, and will be resolved one way or another, still many Americans criticize the Obama administration for not being tough.

In earlier chapters, I described events for the Iranian people that followed the rise to power of the Ayatollah Khomeini in 1979. His words, promising a government respectful of the people and justice for all, gave way to tyranny. Promises of fairness and honesty gave way to theft. Appointment to a high position was not viewed as an opportunity to serve

the people with honor but instead as an opportunity to gain personal wealth. Some examples are staggering. Ayatollah Khamenai may have gained over 90 billion dollars. His son has gained in excess of ten billion. Other regime leaders have likewise profited.

But the regime leaders' theft of their countrymen's wealth, as hateful as it may be, is nothing compared to the far crueler theft of their freedom, dignity and culture.

Over time, stolen money can be recovered, at least to some extent. But the loss of individual freedom, personal dignity and culture is much more difficult to reverse. Yet, if Iran is to prosper in years to come as a great nation—not only in terms of wealth but also in terms of honor and dignity—that national future can only come about if the freedom and dignity of the people are restored and protected.

There are surely many ways that this happy outcome could come about. In the following paragraphs, I describe one such course of events. It takes into account the Iranian people's traditional values, ones that reach back perhaps three thousand years. It likewise takes into account recent social developments in Iran, such as greatly expanded opportunities for women's education. And my scenario takes into account possible, perhaps even likely, events in other nations that have had traditional ties to Iran, some of them extending back many hundreds of years.

What follows is a story of the remainder of the decade. It is speculative history. It describes political events in the United States, Israel, and Armenia. Each of these nations, in its own way, has had a historical impact on Iran and, more important, on the thinking and traditional values of the Iranian people. Events in these three nations can have a

favorable impact on the Iranian people, as they look forward to restoring the nation. In each of the three nations in question, I establish conditions under which a woman is elected to the nation's highest office.

In addition, my story describes the restoration of a constitutionally guaranteed rule of law in Iran, one that respects the honor and dignity of every Iranian—male or female, of whatever ethnicity, of whatever political values, and of whatever religious belief.

The United States in November 2016

The United States in late 2016 faced many difficulties. The Obama Administration, which began with so much hope and expectation in January 2009, had lost the confidence of the American people. Unemployment, especially among minorities and women without advanced education, remained high

by historical standards. America's revolutionary approach to health insurance established 2010, popularly called 'Obamacare,' won the popular vote, but had failed miserably. Millions more Americans were without health insurance than in earlier years. In the nation's cities, crime rates, which had dropped in the first decade of the century, rose to new heights during the Obama Administration.

Foreign policy decisions had terrible outcomes. Hundreds of thousands of illegal immigrants crossed into the United States from Central America. The great majority had no work skills that they could use in the United States. Even worse, many of these newcomers brought tropical diseases with them. The worst of these, a virus called 'D-68,' brought paralysis and death to thousands of American children. At the same time, the Ebola virus, which had been earlier restricted to West Africa, entered the United States. Despite major government

efforts to contain the disease, Ebola spread quickly, causing many deaths.

The American people blamed their government for failing to prevent these disasters.

In the Middle East and Southwest Asia, American military efforts to prevent establishment of a new caliphate had little success. The Islamic State (IS) controlled far more territory than it did in 2014. All Muslim nations—Sunni and Shiite—became threatened. And militants belonging to, or encouraged by, IS had already conducted terrorist acts in Europe and the United States.

It is in this political context that the onetime Senator from New York and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton (wife of former President Bill Clinton) announced her candidacy for President of the United States. Mrs. Clinton understands that the policies

adopted by the Obama Administration were not only unpopular but also had unwanted outcomes.

Therefore, after becoming the presidential nominee of the Democratic Party, she campaign as a centrist, a person who favor practical government over ideology. Her Republican opponent, John Edward ('Jeb') Bush, son and brother of former presidents, is more ideological. Mrs. Clinton wins narrowly in the November election.

When she takes office in January 2017, President Clinton announces a new American initiative in the Middle East. Henceforth, American interests would be to respect and support territorial boundaries of the nations of the region, provided they adopt policies and practices that respect the moral values of their people while, at the same time, protect the rights of minorities.

This new American initiative was well received by the Iranian people, not the Government of Iran. In 2009 and 2010, there are major public protests and demonstrations in many cities against regime repression and misgovernment. Sad to say, those Iranians who treasured honor and freedom—popularly called the ‘Green Movement’—received no support from the Obama Administration. Now, under the new Clinton Administration, there was at least the possibility that the American response would be different.

The first such American efforts begin in October 2017, when the Clinton Administration established regular contact with the actual veterans of the 2009 Green Movements, not Mosavi, the former prime minister of the regime or Ayatollah Karoobi, the former speaker of “Majless”.

One of the first initiatives of the Clinton

Administration is passage of the Iranian Humanitarian Sanctions Act of 2017. This law authorized the President to apply such sanctions as visa restrictions and asset seizure to those regime leaders (and members of immediate families) identified as human rights violators. Under the terms of this law, punishment for human rights violations fell on the perpetrators, and not on the Iranian people. In sum, humanitarian sanctions served to weaken the leadership financially, while the Green Movement initiative strengthened regime opponents, those men and women who would one day become the leaders of a democratic Iran.

The Clinton Administration's purposes included matters of vital interest to the United States. Efforts by earlier administrations to come to an agreement with Iran's clerical regime to end Iran's efforts to develop nuclear weapons had failed miserably. It was increasingly evident that if such a goal were to

be achieved, it could only be accomplished by an Iranian government more responsive to the will of the people. The basic purpose of American foreign policy in the region became fostering peaceful regime change in Iran. As it happened, this objective found an ally in an unexpected place—Israel.

Tziporah (Tzipi) Livni, long-time member of Israel's Knesset and advocate of a 'two state' solution to her nation's ongoing Arab-Israeli conflict, succeeded in forming a multi-party coalition in June 2017 with herself as prime minister. Livni had previously served as Foreign Minister from 2006 to 2009 and as Justice Minister in the Netanyahu government starting in 2013. Among her duties was overseeing Israel's peace initiatives and ongoing peace talks with Palestinian representatives. If Benjamin Netanyahu is described as a 'hard-liner,' Tzipi Livni can just as reasonably be described as a vocal peace

advocate.

Quite understandably, Israelis, having fought three major wars against Arab nations, are particularly sensitive to any possibility that they might be overwhelmed by a national enemy. It is for this reason that a basic consideration of Israel's foreign and military policy is the prevention of any potential enemy developing an atomic arsenal. The nation most likely to accomplish that feat—the nation with a sufficient level of technology and scientific expertise— is Iran.

To be fair to Israel, Iran's leaders in the past few decades have called for the destruction of Israel, something that never happened when Iran was ruled by the Shah. The Pahlavi regime was hated by many Iranians because of its abuse of power. But that regime's peaceful relationship with Israel did not contribute to the people's anger.

While both Israel and the United States consider the development of an Iranian nuclear force as inherently dangerous, the Sunni Arab nations are terrified at the possibility. There are persistent rumors that, should Iran develop a nuclear weapon, Saudi Arabia might contract with Pakistan to store weapons from its atomic arsenal in Arabia. If that were to occur, the entire Middle East would become far more unstable than is already the case today. And Iranian nuclear weapons, under the control of Sunni Arabs, would pose a fundamental threat, just as that development would likely threaten Israel.

During the election campaign that led to her success, Livni argued that prior efforts to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons had done no more than delay the program. As a practical matter, Israel's national goal could only be achieved if the existing Iranian government were replaced by one that reflected the nation's traditional moral and social

values—ones that, in many respects, reach back to the time of Cyrus the Great. With that purpose in mind, Prime Minister Livni, working in conjunction with U.S. President Hillary Clinton, opened regular communications with a number of Iranian dissident groups.

The initial response of Iran's clerical leaders (Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and his senior associates) to the American-Israeli initiative was anger, accusations of treason, and threats of severe punishment.

However, like so many tyrannical regimes in the past, Iran's leadership over the decades had lost what was once the fervent support of so many citizens. After years of illegal financial dealings and reports of abuse of women and girls by government officials, men and women who had once put their hopes in the 1979 revolution now felt only bitterness.

Thus, regime efforts to call out crowds of supporters

had little effect. The regime leadership was now in the position of trying to retain power, even as popular support eroded.

After more than a decade in Armenia's Parliament, Hranush Hakobyan, the senior female member of that nation's legislature, is elected President of the Armenian Republic in April 2018. Ever since its independence following the breakup of the former Soviet Union, Armenia tried to remain aloof from the many ethnic and religious disputes in Southwest Asia. This attitude was understandable.

Over a million ethnic Armenian civilians were slaughtered in 1915-1919 by Turkish authorities. They were suspected of favoring the Allies during the First World War (when Turkey was allied with Germany). Years later, when Armenia was part of the Soviet Union, the Moscow government tried to 'Russify' the Armenian people—forbidding cultural

and religious practices in favor of communist doctrine. This tragic experience made many Armenians suspicious of the motives of any neighboring nation.

However, during her campaign for president, Hakobyan argued that Armenia could not remain isolated from the rest of the world forever. While Armenia had many friends in the United States and Western Europe, the fact remained that, in order to have any real chance of surviving and prospering, the nation would have to find reliable allies in the region. She argued that there was at least the possibility that Iran's clerical regime could collapse, if only because it no longer had the unquestioned support of the Iranian people.

Given that possible development, President Hakobyan stated in a speech in Parliament that Armenia should cooperate with the United States and

Israel in efforts to strengthen moderate opponents of the Iranian regime. She noted that Armenia had once enjoyed happy and fruitful relations with the Persian Empire. She added that the Iranian people in past centuries had a history of fair and honorable relations with peoples different from themselves. And President Hakobyan added a warning: Sunni activists seeking to reestablish the Caliphate had announced their intention of extending their rule into Armenia and Iran. If this were to happen, both Shiite Muslims and Armenian Christians would find themselves in grave danger.

While the United States, Israel, and Armenia had different motives for supporting Iran's regime opponents, they had a common interest in doing so. All three countries established training programs in practical government. In America, the State Department conducted seminars in effective local government at Harvard University's Kennedy

School. Many Iranian participants were particularly impressed (and sometimes amused) by the 'direct democracy' of town meetings practiced in small, New England towns. At the University of Colorado (in the American West), visiting Iranians saw how local authorities provided public services. Of particular interest was fair and impartial distribution of water. (Colorado has a dry climate similar to that of Iran.)

Iran has a number of religious and ethnic minorities. For the past four decades, these minorities have been treated as second-class citizens. A number of visiting Iranians said they were concerned about how everyone in the nation would get along if all citizens were to be treated equally. What they found in the United States, Israel and Armenia was promising but not perfect.

Many visitors expressed the opinion that citizen equality in a democratic Iran would have to be based

on self-understanding as Iranians descended from the Achaemenids, one of the most honorable and tolerant empires the world has ever known, instead of Shia, Sunni, Wahabi or Christian affiliation

The road to 2020

In Iran, a nuclear agreement is finally reached. And with a full, verifiable inspection of the nuclear facilities, no issue dividing Iran and the West, except for Human Rights, exists.

Sanctions are going to be lifted gradually and people will begin to see some light at the end of the tunnel. But years have passed and there is no improvement in the country's economy. Large-scale unemployment is the same as before and social freedom is getting even worse.

On March 12, 2019 Ayatollah Ali Khamenei suffers a

massive stroke, causing him to be totally paralyzed on the right side of his body and unable to speak. Under Iran's constitution, the Ayatollah, as Supreme Leader, has the right to overturn decisions by elected officials. But no successor to Khamenei was named. There was no agreement among the clerical leaders to name a temporary replacement.

Making matters worse for the regime, a number of western nations, led by the United States, announced sanctions affecting a large number of the clerical leadership. Billions of dollars in foreign assets, belonging to elite families of the regime, were blocked and their families found themselves unwelcome in Europe or America. There was no alternative for the leadership of the Iranian regime but to find a conciliatory approach to the people before popular unrest destroyed their assets inside Iran.

It was during this period of confusion that Iranian President Hassan Rouhani declared a national emergency. On March 17, President Rouhani announced that the nation would conduct a plebiscite—a vote by all the people—to determine if they wished the government to call a constitutional convention. The plebiscite was conducted on March 28. Despite vocal opposition from the leading clergy and with Ayatollah Khamenei incapacitated, they were unable to change the course of events.

The plebiscite included a number of 'ground rules' that would guide delegates in writing the new constitution. These included rules and precepts providing that (1) the new constitution is based on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; (2) religion is separated from governance; (3) appointment to public office is restricted to adults who have spent most of their lives in Iran (and not as expatriates); (4) the head of state is a

ceremonial office and the officeholder may be called Shah or Leader or President. He or she will be nominated by the Prime Minister and elected by Parliament for a period of ten years; and (5) the first such officeholder will be a woman.

This last provision was politically very shrewd. Those favoring the new constitution pointed out that the United States, Israel and Armenia—three democratic, albeit very different, countries—had recently elected female heads of state and so it would be logical for Iran to do the same. But there was another reason as well. Any woman holding the office of head of state would be unable to use the office to assume dictatorial powers, as had been the case with Ayatollah Khomeini in 1979.

As matters worked out, Ayatollah Khamenei recovered some of his faculties (including limited speech), but it was too late for him to alter the

course of events. Recognizing that there was no realistic chance of his returning to power, Khamenei decided to save what he could for fellow clerics and their families.

In a public statement on national television, the Ayatollah announced that he and President Rouhani had agreed on a transitional government to start negotiations with the people's representatives no later than April 14th. And as a good will gesture, all political prisoners were to be promptly freed.

The popular vote was overwhelmingly favorable, with 71 percent voting for a constitutional convention. A second vote, for delegates to the convention, was held on May 9th. Delegates to this convention, the Majles Moasesan (Special Parliament), met for the first time on May 16th, in Tehran.

History's future road may presently be dark and impenetrable but a vision of how change will come

to Iran and its Middle East allies is hereby offered. After the nuclear issue is resolved and many sanctions are lifted in 2016, people see no difference in their lives.

The U.S. Congress, well before the 2016 Presidential election, passes a unanimous resolution urging the President to impose a "Smart Humanitarian Sanction" on Iranian leaders. The sanction covers nearly two thousand Ayatollahs and Iranian regime leaders recognized as human rights violators in Iran, together with their families and associates, denying them visas to enter the United States and, in some cases, finding and blocking their assets.

For the first time, this meaningful sanction has a direct effect on the regime rather than the people.

President Obama, before leaving office, signs the executive order and makes that resolution a law to be renewed every year by the president-elect.

American action sets a response cycle in motion. The following actions may not happen immediately but a momentum has been established.

Canada follows suit, but it takes the European Union, except for Great Britain, a little longer to agree with that kind of sanction.

All over Iran, people are reading and joking about the Islamic Republic's Constitution. The presidential election in the U.S. and debate over human rights in Iran give the Iranian people encouragement. So they decide they should do something about it. Small groups all over the country, discussing a new constitution, grow larger and larger and, in some big cities, begin exchanging notes together.

Rather than write the whole constitution, which should be done by a special parliament, "Majles Moasesan", people more or less agree on the

framework of some unchangeable items of Iran's future Constitution.

These items include:

1-The new Constitution should be based on the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

2- Separation of Religion from any governance of the State;

3- Any Iranian, who has lived two-thirds of his life outside Iran, will not be eligible for any ministerial or leadership role in the government;

4- The country will have a ceremonial Head of State, who may be called Shah or Leader or President. This individual will be recommended by the elected Prime Minister to the Parliament "Majles" and will be appointed for a ten-year term as the ceremonial Head of State by a two-thirds majority of the

Parliament;

5- The first head of state, after the change of regime, will be a woman.

These five simple principles of the future Constitution become a road map and the people's protest agenda.

The 2016 election in the United States elects a woman President, which gives another boost to the Iranian opposition.

More encouragement for Iranian women is the 2017 election in Israel and 2018 election in Armenia, in which both nations elect women Prime Ministers and Presidents.

The 2018 Presidential Election in Iran comes and goes as few other past elections. People who realize their meaning do not even bother to listen to the debates or even the outcome of the election.

Billions of dollars foreign assets, belonging to elite families of the regime, are blocked and their families are not welcome in Europe and America, leaving no alternative for the leadership of the Iranian regime but to find an alternative before popular unrest destroys their assets inside Iran.

After Great Britain informs President Rouhani that they can no longer go against sanctions imposed by the US, Canada and Europe, Rouhani starts discussions with Ayatollah Khamenei and finally agrees on a transitional government to start negotiations with the people's representatives before 2019.

As the first good will gesture, all political prisoners are freed. All jailed political activists and many others choose five among them to start negotiating with the leaders of the Islamic regime in January 2019.

The Islamic Regime agrees to change the Constitution and an election for “Majles Moasesan” on February 1, 2019, to discuss and approve a secular Constitution and a referendum three months after that date.

Proceedings of the constitutional convention were televised in real time worldwide, with translation subtitles in local languages. Individual delegates received constituent ‘feedback’ via Facebook and other social media. (Interestingly, there was a large audience following on Al-Jazeera, the Arabic language television network, a development that may have implications for Arab constitutionalism in years to come.)

Despite the sharp disagreements expressed during the months leading up to the convention, there proved to be a general agreement on the format of the new government, the extent of its authority, and

guarantees of fundamental rights of citizens. But debate over matters concerning the leadership of the former regime and the wealth they wrongfully accumulated over the decades was the occasion of much anger. Many delegates were furious at the thought that members of the former regime who had diverted billions of dollars would be permitted to keep what they had stolen from the Iranian people.

But the majority of delegates agreed that if national life under the new constitution were to have any real chance of success, the nation could not afford a policy of national revenge. Instead, it was agreed that those members of the ousted clerical leadership who returned to the Iranian national treasury what they had accumulated would each be permitted to keep one billion dollars. Supporters of this measure made clear that the former leaders did not deserve the money in any moral sense. Rather, those delegates made the point that it was more

important to end national division than to seek justice in these cases. In any event, under the new rules almost 900 billion dollars were eventually recovered. The delegates agreed that the first executive leader would be a woman with the title of Shah Banoo. More important, the delegates agreed that national reconciliation required a general amnesty. Despite bitter objections from a minority of delegates, it was agreed that no former member of the 40-year Islamic regime would ever be prosecuted for any crime such as embezzlement, torture, murder, rape or any other offence.

Millions of Iranians watched the proceedings on television. Many of them made their opinions on specific issues known to their delegates. And in the end they overwhelmingly approved the new constitution. Over 50 million Iranians participated in the national referendum on adopting the new constitution (conducted on July 27, 2019). Iran

would hold its first national elections under the new constitution on October 9th. A new day had dawned for the Iranian people.

But the distribution of nearly one trillion dollars belonging to Ayatollahs and regime cronies takes almost one week to resolve. Starting with Ayatollah Kamenei's ninety- four billion dollars and his son Mojtaba's thirty billion dollars, they agree the family shall keep only one billion dollars. The same formula applies to Ayatollah Rafsanjani, who also keeps only one billion dollars. The rest are entitled only to one hundred million dollars.

Finally to keep a financial balance between Ayatollah's cronies and Previous regime, Pahlavi cronies, it was agreed apart from 64 million Dollars cash assets which Prince Reza admitted to have before 1979 Revolution, the Pahlavi family should return 19 Billion Dollars from the Pahlavi Trust and

they will be entitled to keep one Billion Dollars from that trust for themselves.

With regards to Mojahedin, their crimes were forgiven and their supporters will never be prosecuted in Iran. But Maryam and Masood Rajavi are banned to travel to Iran as long as they live.

Since all the discussions at “Majles Moasesan” are open discussions and representatives are connected by Twitter and Facebook to their constituencies, it is decided a referendum will take place one month after approval by the Majles. Fifty million, or 95% of the eligible voters, take part in the referendum.

Many parties are formed and in an election for Majles and President are held. The new government takes office on October 25.

The first congratulations come from Lady Prime Minister of Israel and Lady President of Armenia,

followed by other world leaders.

The first order of foreign policy is the creation of a Union of the Middle East, where these three historic nations--Iran Armenia and Israel-- sign an economic pact that, after one year, extends to a political pact of cooperation.

Within the next year, Lebanon, Afghanistan and Tajikistan join the union. Iraq and Syria still have their internal problems but the governments express their nations' willingness to join the Union.

The Middle East begins to change forever

On March 1, 2020 Iran, Armenia and Israel announced the formation of a customs union, the Union of the Middle East. In the years that follow, a number of republics in both Central Asia and the Middle East opt into the Union. What was once the dream of the Caliphate is overtaken by the reality of

practical politics and good government.

There is a Persian expression, which says, "If you wait, from sour grape you can make sweet Halwa" or "Good things comes to those who wait".

THE END