

Authority and Guidance in Shiism

God... (via the Qur'an)

The Prophet Muhammad (via the *hadith*)

The Imams (via the *Akhbar*)

The 'Ulema (the Clergy, via their practice of *ijtihad*, or independent reasoning)

Grand Ayatollah (25+)

Ayatollah (100+)

Hujjat al Islam (1000s)

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The Importance of Geography

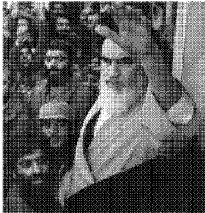
- Historical lands of Shiism
- Karbala', Kufa, and Qom: Religious education & Shiite centers of learning
- Centrality of Iran in modern Shiite world
- Growing Iranian influence in Iraq

Qom and Najaf

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Significance of the Iranian Revolution

- The idea of clerical rule
 - Khomeini and *Vilayat-i Faqih* ("The Sovereignty of the Jurist")
- Changing face of political Islam
- Questions of imperialism and authority
 - Anti-imperialism as unifying theme
 - Not just an Islamic movement



Ayatollah Khomeini, 1979

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Iranian Revolution - Organizations

- Mojahedin-e Khalq
 - Rise of Socialist-Shiism: 1965-1979
 - From opposition to cult: 1980-present
 - Intelligence source?
- Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps
 - Gods Force
 - Relationship with Hizballah
 - Terrorism by proxy



IRGC logo




Mojahedin-e Khalq logo

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Martyrdom: The Historical Roots

- Martyrdom of Imam Husayn
- Ashura Festival
- Justice vs. injustice
- Iran-Iraq war martyrs



Ashura celebration

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Points of Comparison and Controversy

- *Sabb al-Sahaba* ("Reviling the Prophet's Companions")
- *Mu'ā* (Temporary Marriage)
- Jihad Law
- Veneration at tombs

Muqtada al-Sadr at a Sunni-Shi'a prayer meeting in Basra



Shrine of the daughter of Imam Husayn, Damascus

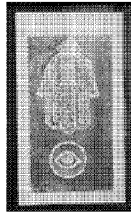


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Key Take-Aways

- Authority
 - Imamate and the ulema: hierarchy, and centralized clerical control*
- Martyrdom
 - Husayn, sacrifice, and suicide*
- Geography
 - Importance of Iran & Iraq to Shiite society*



"Hand of Fatima"

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