

DHP D265
THE GLOBALIZATION OF POLITICS AND CULTURE
FOR IRAN, AFGHANISTAN PAKISTAN AND INDIA
THE FLETCHER SCHOOL OF LAW AND DIPLOMACY
SPRING 2017

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OFFICE: CABOT 102

OFFICE HOURS: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:30 a.m. – 1:45 p.m.

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course aims to produce a structure of modern knowledge about a part of Eurasia roughly bounded in the west by Iraq and in the east by India; its northern border includes the Caspian Sea and its southern edge contains the Arabian/Persian Gulf. Students who think about geopolitics of energy will understand immediately how this region has an importance related to oil and gas production (Iran and Saudi Arabia) and a geographic position capable of controlling the transportation of petroleum products from Central Eurasia to global markets (Afghanistan and Pakistan). In this course, we will place a special emphasis on the regional significance of this petroleum geography because the energy demand for both China and India will dramatically increase as both China and India meet their requirements from nearby reserves. The second reason for concentrating attention on this chunk of Eurasia is that the political elites of Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India have multiple reasons for not being satisfied with their current position in Southwest Asia and in the global political order. Collectively they represent a major threat to the stability of the flow of energy to the expanding global market for fossil fuels; and each of these states either through direct or covert actions has complicated the instability of the region by supporting non-government organizations devoted to disruption of the nation states system in Southwest and Central Asia.

While the above reasons for becoming familiar with the unstable politics of this section of the strategic ellipse are clear, there is an additional issue that links the petroleum resources of the Caspian Sea with the Gulf with instability. The Gulf is a boundary between the two large divisions within Islam: the Sunni and Shii communities. This division also has an ethnic character that in a time of great transitions compounds the relations between the two versions of Islam. The third general point about the importance of Gulf is that it contains great quantities of recoverable oil and gas resources that can be transported with ease to the global markets for petroleum products. But the states surrounding these gigantic underground pools of oil and gas are Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan are politically unstable; and this makes the “Greater Middle East” a fishing ground for large powers, revolutionary organizations and ruthless organizations. This combination of geopolitical importance, raw material endowments and regional political instability, drives analysts crazy when making predictions about the near-term stability. Many tend to use “mystical” expressions such as “we might have multiple “Black Swans” to describe conditions so complex no one cannot accurately foresee even for a medium-term outcome.

This course is an open-ended affair designed to fit the multi-cultural and multi-disciplinary character of the Fletcher curriculum. Lectures, readings and classroom discussions are structured to fit various career paths. In view of the interest in development work we also will pay attention to the arguments of economic historians and developmental experts who are concerned with how social and cultural conditions might lead to the formation of a modern state and society. For Southwest Asia, this generally means a rejection of imperial institutions related to agricultural and commercial economies of the past: they are no longer effective in the modern period. Elites then undertake radical institutional change but this produces an opposition that tests the ability of leaders to establish a new regime of law and order. If this does not happen the continuing impact of accelerating change will yield further destabilization of political and economic events and most probably foreign intervention.

II. LECTURES

The course meets Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:30pm to 1:45pm in C102. All of the lectures in this syllabus are “topical” in one form or another. Students should prepare for each lecture by doing the appropriate readings and in seeking a short mental answer to the big question that shapes each lecture. Each presentation has ample support in the notes to aid you in preparing.

I reserve the right to modify the sequence of lectures should we have to deal with a big event (as is happening in the Syrian and Iraq upheavals). I am committed to the use of slides, music, film and video to expand the dialogue beyond the classroom.

If the size of the course is small, I will modify the lectures to meet specific (Capstone) interests of the students; if the size is relatively large, I will conduct the course on a lecture and discussion basis.

Students should also take advantage of membership in the Southwest Asia and Islamic Civilizations group (SWAIC) to help determine who the guest speakers will be and what issues they should cover. Additionally, the online journal “Al-Nakhla” will be looking for good student papers for publication.

III. EVALUATION

The final grade will be based upon the following considerations:

- 15 percent for mid-term exam
- 70 percent for the final exam
- 15 percent for class participation

IV. READINGS

All texts are on reserve in Ginn Library or posted to Trunk (<http://trunk.tufts.edu>) under the course title. Texts on the Persian speaking areas of Southwest Asia are rarely best sellers and I do not

encourage students to purchase the detailed studies of specific issues unless there is a special interest in mind. Books will also be available for purchase at the Tufts University Bookstore.

If you have difficulty getting at the assigned readings, please see me.

My office hours are Tuesdays and Thursday from 2:00pm - 3:00pm in Cabot 603. Should these hours not work out for you, call or email my assistant, Ms. Rachel Brown at ex. 72734 (Rachel.Brown@Tufts.edu) to make an appointment. My teaching assistant for the 2016-2017 academic year, is Alya (Alya.Koraitem@Tufts.edu) can also answer questions about the syllabus, Trunk readings or other technical questions.

The list of texts below is for those who wish to build a professional library or to develop a Capstone project.

Framing texts:

Acemoglu, Daron and Robinson, James A., Why Nations Fail (New York, Crown Business, 2012)

Barbier, Edward B., Scarcity and Frontiers (London, Cambridge University Press, 2011)

Castells, Manuel, Networks of Outrage and Hope (Malden, MA, Polity Press, 2012)

Friedman, Thomas L., Thank You for Being Late (New York, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2016).

Mokyr, Joel, The Enlightened Economy (London, Yale University Press, 2009)

North, Douglass C., Violence and Social Orders (New York, Cambridge University Press, 2009)

Naim, Moises, The End of Power (New York, Basic Books, 2013)

Pinker, Steven, The Better Angels of Our Nature (London, England, Viking, 2011)

Sassen, Saskia, Expulsions (Cambridge, MA. Harvard University Press, 2014)

Schmidt, Eric and Cohen, Jared, The New Digital Age (New York, Knopf, 2013)

Recent Regional Studies:

Abbas, Hassan, The Taliban Revival (New Haven, Yale University Press, 2014)

Amanat, Abbas, Apocalyptic Islam and Iranian Shi'ism (New York, L.B.Touris, 2009)

Barfield, Thomas, Afghanistan: A Cultural and Political History (Princeton, New Jersey, Princeton University Press, 2010)

Cohen, Stephen, et al, The Future of Pakistan (Washington, DC, Brookings, 2011)

Fair, C. Christine, Fighting to the End, The Pakistan army's Way of War (New York, Oxford University Press, 2014)

Gheissari, Ali, Contemporary Iran (New York, Oxford University Press, 2009)

Howard, Philip N. and Hussein, Muzammil M., Democracy's Fourth Wave: Digital Media and the Arab Spring (London, Oxford University Press, 2013)

Nasr, Vali, The Dispensable Nation (New York, Doubleday, 2013)

Rubin, Barnett R. Afghanistan: From the Cold War Through the War On Terror (New York, Oxford University Press, 2013)

LECTURES

Jan. 19, 2017

LECTURE 1

The Globalization of Nationalism in Southwest Asia

Discussion Question: Was the Turkish revolution a model for the modernization of Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan?

Assigned Reading:

- Daron Acemoglu, James A. Robinson, Why Nations Fail, (New York: Crown Publishers, 2012), pp.7-95. **HB74.P65A28 2012**
- Bernard Lewis, The Emergence of Modern Turkey, Third Edition (London: Oxford University Press, 2001), pp. 401-442. **DR583 .L48 1968**
- M. Shukru Hanioglu, Ataturk: An Intellectual Biography (Princeton, Princeton University Press, 2011) pp. 129-198. **ISBN 978-0-691-15109-0**

Jan. 24, 2017

LECTURE 2

Southwest Asia and the accelerated impact of technological change (reign of Moore's Law)

Discussion Question: How does the high rate of technological change alter relationships between state and society in Southwest Asia's new nations?

Assigned readings:

Ervand Abrahamian, Iran Between the Two Revolution (Princeton, N.J., Princeton Univ. Press, 2nd ed., 1983), pp. 3-61, **DS316.6 .A27 1982**; Manuel Castells, "The Informational Economy and the New International Division of Labor," in the New Global Economy of the Information Age, Second Edition, Martin Carnoy, ed. (University Park, PA. State Univ. of Pennsylvania, 1996), pp.15-43. Eric Schmidt and Jared Cohen, The New Digital Age (New York: Knopf, 2013), pp.1-28 **ISBN 978-0-307-95713-9**

Jan. 26, 2017

LECTURE 3

The Collapse of Empires, Nationalism and Ethnic and Sectarian Segmentation: Iran and India.

Discussion Question: What role does large-scale ethnic and sectarian division play in the modern development of violent Iranian Indian relations?

Assigned readings:

- Niki R. Keddie, "Religion, Ethnic Minorities, and State in Iran: An Overview," in Myron Weiner and Ali Banuazizi, The State, Religion and Ethnic Politics (Syracuse, N.Y., Syracuse Univ. Press, 1994), pp.157-66. **DS63.1 .S73 1986**
- Ayesha Jallal, The Struggle for Pakistan (Boston, Harvard University Press, 2014), pp. 1-60. **ISBN 978-0-674-05289-5**

Jan. 31, 2017

LECTURE 4

Reza Shah and State Intervention in Society: The Modern Agent

Discussion Question: Why is it so important during the early transition to a modern state that new rulers quickly consolidate control over military affairs?

Assigned readings:

- Abrahamian, Iran Between Two Revolutions, pp. 102-65 **DS316.6 .A27 1982**;
- Stephanie Cronin, The Army and Creation of the Pahlavi State in Iran, 1910-1926 (London, Tauris, 1997), pp. 222-234. **UA853.I7 C76 1997**
- Douglas C. North, et al., Violence and Social Orders (New York, Cambridge University Press, 2009) pp. 1-75 **ISBN 978-0-521-76173-4**

Feb. 2, 2017

LECTURE 5

Iran's early confrontation with modern European institutions and organizations

Discussion Question: Were Iranian elites at the turn of the 19th century aware that modern change might be resisted by the religious establishment era?

Assigned readings:

- Nikki Keddie, Religion and Politics in Iran (New Haven, Yale University Press, 1983), pp. 1-72. **BP192.7.I68 R44 1983**
- Lloyd Ridyeon, ed., Religion and Politics in Modern Iran: a Reader (New York, I.B. Tauris, 2005), pp.149-196. **ISBN 1-84511-072-7**
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Persecution_of_Baha'is;
- <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tobacco-Rebellion>;
- <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anglo-Persian-Oil-Company>

Feb. 7, 2017

LECTURE 6

Signs of a Cultural Crisis: Shi'ism as an Apocalyptic Version of Islam

Discussion Question: Does Iran have political culture that places great emphasis on divinely guided leaders appearing at a time of crisis?

Assigned readings:

- Abbas Amanat, Apocalyptic Islam and Iranian Shi'ism (New York, I.B. Tauris, 2009) pp. 1-70. **ISBN 978 1 84511 981 2**
- Imam Khomeini, Islam and Revolution, Hamid Algar, tr. (London, KPI, Ltd., 1985) pp. 27-163. **DS318.84.K48 A25 1985**
- Ahmad Kasravi, "Detrimental Consequences of Islam" in Lloyd Ridyeon, Religion and Politics, pp.55-70
- Stephen Kinzer, All the Shah's Men: An American Coup and the Roots of Middle East Terror (Hoboken: Wiley, 2003) pp.1-119.

Feb. 9, 2017

LECTURE 7

Afghanistan's Internal Geopolitics: "Hard Segmentation" And the Problems of a Feuding Society in the Era of Modern Transformations

Discussion Question: How much weight should one give to geography in explaining the "unique" character of internal politics in Afghanistan during the current period of transition?

Assigned readings:

- Thomas Barfield, Afghanistan: A Cultural and Political History (Princeton, Princeton University Press, 2010), pp. 1-65. **ISBN 978-0-691-14568-6**
- Robert L. Canfield, “Ethnic, Regional and Sectarian Alignments in Afghanistan,” in Myron Weiner and Ali Benuazizi, State, Religion and Ethnic Politics, pp. 75-103. **DS63.1 .S73 1986**
- <http://www.buzkashi.com>

Feb. 14, 2017

LECTURE 8

The Interventionist State in Afghanistan: Repeated Failures

Discussion Question: Why did the Soviets invade Afghanistan in 1979 and what impact did this event on the relations between the state and society?

Assigned readings:

- Barfield, Afghanistan, pp.164-270.
- M. Nazif Shahrani, “State Building and Social Fragmentation in Afghanistan,” in Myron Weiner and Ali Banuazizi, State, Religion and Ethnic Politics, pp. 23-74. **DS63.1 .S73 1986;**
- Barnette R. Rubin, The Fragmentation of Afghanistan (New Haven, Conn., Yale Univ. Press, 1995), pp. 45-80. **DS371.2 .R8 1995**

Feb. 16, 2017

LECTURE 9

The Foundation of Pakistan: Nationalism, India, Islam and Ethnic Politics

Discussion Question: How did the elite of Pakistan use the military establishment in the early years of nation building, and did the concentration on military affairs ultimately undermine establishment of modern nation state?

Assigned readings:

- Hassan Abbas, Pakistan’s Drift into Extremism: Allah, the Army and America’s War on Terror (New York, M.E. Sharpe, 2005) pp. 3-31.
- C. Christine Fair, Fighting to the End: the Pakistan’s Way of War (New York, Oxford University Press, 2014), pp. 1-65. **ISBN 978-0-19-989270-9**
- Ian Talbot, Pakistan: A Modern History (New York, St. Martin’s Press, 1998), pp. 21-52. **DS382 .T35 1998;**
- Nisid Hajari, Midnight’s Furies (Boston, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2016), pp.153-261. **ISBN 978-0-544-70539-5**

Feb. 21, 2017

LECTURE 10

The Dynamics of Globalization: The Impact of World War II, the Growth of The Oil Industry and The Cold War on Iran

Discussion Question: How did the arrival of the oil industry in Iran intensify the relationship between the state and society in Iran?

Assigned readings:

- Stephen L. McFarland, “Anatomy of an Iranian Political Crowd: The Tehran Bread Riot of December 1942,” International Journal of Middle Eastern Studies (IJMES), 17/1 (Feb. 1985), pp. 51-65.
- John H. Morrow Jr., The Impact of the Two World Wars in a Century of Violence (Washington D.C., The American Historical Association, 2011), pp. 1-56. **ISBN 978-0-87229-175**.
- Daniel Yergin, The Prize, (New York, Simon & Shuster, 1991), pp. 450-60.
- Stephen Kinzer, All the Shahs Men: an American Coup and the Roots of Middle East Terror (Hoboken, Wiley, 2008), pp. 1-119. **ISBN 978-0-470-18549-0**
- *ARGO*: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Argo_%282012_film%29

Feb. 23, 2017

LECTURE 11

The US, Iran and The Globalization of Iran's Economy

Discussion Question: Why did the White Revolution fail?

Assigned Readings:

- Ali Gheissari, Iranian Intellectuals in the Twentieth Century, (Austin, Texas, University of Texas Press, 1998) pp.74-119. **ISBN 0-292-72804-2** ;
- Ervand Abrahamian, A History of Modern Iran, (New York, Cambridge University Press, 2008) pp. 123-154. **ISBN 978-0-521-82139-1**
- <http://fanack.com/en/countries/iran-invisible/society-media-culture/society/urbanization/>
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/White_Revolution

Feb. 28, 2017

LECTURE 12

The Iranian Revolution and the Collapse of the Shah's Regime and the Backlash to Modernity in Iran: The Problem of Creating a Modern Loyalty

Discussion Question: Why did religious leaders spear-head the Iranian Revolution of 1978-79?

Assigned readings:

- Ervand Abrahamian, Khomeinism, (Berkeley, CA, 1993), pp. 1-143. **ISBN 0-520-08351-2**.
- Abbas Amanat, Apocalyptic Islam and Iranian Shi'ism, (New York: L.B.Touris, 2009), pp. 179-219.
- Andrew Scott Cooper, The Fall of Heaven: The Pahlavis and the Final Days of Imperial Iran (New York, Henry Holt, 2016), pp. 463-499. **ISBN 978-0-8050-9897-6**

March. 2, 2017

LECTURE 13

The “Big Enchilada”: How Iran Controlled its Oil and Gas and Rapid Development

Discussion Question: Are the Iranians happy with this result?

Assigned Readings:

- Robin Wright, ed., The Iran Primer, (Washington D.C., US Institute for Peace, 2010), pp 95-118. **ISBN 978-1-60127-084-9**

- Ali Gheissari, Contemporary Iran: Society, Politics (New York, Oxford University Press, 2009), pp. 3-37. ISBN 978-0-19-537849-8

March. 7, 2017

LECTURE 14

Afghanistan: The Rise of the Taliban

Discussion Question: What were the reasons for Pakistan's creation of the Taliban, how did they obtain support from Afghans and what were the regional consequences of the new Pakistan involvement in Afghanistan?

Assigned readings:

- George Crile, Charlie Wilson's Wars (New York, Grove Press, 2003), all. ISBN 0-8021-4124-2.
- Steve Coll, The Ghost Wars, (New York, Penguin Books, 2004), all. ISBN 0 14 30,3466 9.
- Christine Faire, Fighting to the End, pp. 66-135.

March. 9, 2017

MID-TERM EXAMINATION (Presentation 15) Mid-term examination or submission of capstone projects.

March. 14, 2017

LECTURE 16

Saving the State with Religion: Pakistan and the Ideological Consequences of the 1971 War with India.

Discussion Question: How do explain Gen. Haqq's selection of a closed version of religion for Pakistan's identity when the consequences of the 1971 war implied that an open religious identity would better fit contemporary politics?

Assigned readings:

- Mumtaz Ahmed, "The Crescent and the Sword: Islam, the Military and Political Legitimacy in Pakistan, 1977-1985," The Middle East Journal, (Summer, 1996), pp. 372-386.
- Hassan Abbas, Pakistan's Drift, pp. 89-132.

March. 16, 2017

LECTURE 17

Ayatollahs and Religious Leaders as Managers of Modernizing States: The Iranian Record.

Discussion Question: Did the revolutionary leaders of religiously oriented regimes anticipate the need to create new institutions and organizations to meet the new era? What was the record of the Khomeini regime?

Assigned readings:

- Saul Bakhash, "The Politics of Land, Law and Social Justice in Iran," The Middle East Journal, 43/2 (Spring, 1989), pp. 185-201.
- Shahla Haeri, "Obedience versus Autonomy: Women and Fundamentalism in Iran and Pakistan in Foreign Policy 2, pp. 181-213.

- Eliyahu Kanousky, Iran's Economic Morass (Washington DC, Washington Institute for Near East Policy, 1997), pp. pp. 1-73.
- Suggested reading on feminist issues:
 - Azar Nafisi, Reading Lolita in Tehran.
- Suggested viewing on Iranian patriarchy:
 - Samira Makhmalbaf's film, The Apple.

March. 28, 2017

LECTURE 18

Do Southwest Asian Elites Recognize the Importance of Scientific and Technological Frontiers in The Global Era?

Discussion Question? What are the major impediments to the development of science and technology in Iran, Afghanistan, and Pakistan?

Assigned readings:

- Edward B. Barbier, Scarcity and Frontiers (New York, Cambridge University Press, 2011) pp. 1-46. **ISBN 978-0-521-70165-5**
- Pevez Hoodhoy, Islam and Science (New Jersey, Zed Books Ltd., 1991), pp. 1-6, 22-64, 118-154; **BP190.5.S3 H66 1991**
- Majid Tehranian, "Islamic Fundamentalism in Iran and the Discourse of Development," in *Foreign Policy* 2, pp. 341-373.
- Kamran Arjomand, "The Emergence of Scientific Modernity in Islam," Iranian Studies 30/1-2 (Winter-Spring, 1997), pp. 5-23.

March. 30, 2017

LECTURE 19

The Globalization of Warfare in Southwest Asia 1980 to the Invasion of Iraq 2003

Discussion Question: Were there deeper reasons for the US invasion of Iraq in 2003 other than arguments about Iraq's involvement in terrorist activities and the development and use of weapons of mass destruction?

Assigned readings:

- Phoebe Marr eds., Iraq: Its Neighbors, and the United States, (Washington D.C.: The US Institute for Peace, 2011), pp. 73-97. **ISBN 978-1-60127-077-1**
- Barfield, Afghanistan, pp.255-329.

April. 4, 2017

LECTURE 19

Afghanistan and Nation Building "Lite." The Power of Perverse Connections

Discussion Question: Why did the Afghans not have a larger role in the development of modern institutions within Afghanistan after the defeat of the Taliban?

Assigned Readings:

- Rubin, Afghanistan From the Cold War, pp. 99-255.
- Barfield, Afghanistan, pp. 293-330.

April. 6, 2017

LECTURE 20

Pakistan: Military Dictatorship on the Road to 94-Democracy?

Discussion Question: Why did Pakistan pursue a secret policy of maintaining support for the Taliban during the time when the United States sought to eliminate one of the main supporters of terrorism in Southwest Asia?

Assigned Readings:

- Larry Hanauer and Peter Chalk, India's and Pakistan's Strategies in Afghanistan: Implications for the United States and the Region, (Santa Monica, Calif.: Rand Corporation, 2012), pp. 1-42.
- Abbas, Pakistan's Drift, pp. 178-241.
- Hassan Abbas, The Taliban Revival (New York, Yale University Press, 2014), pp 94-234.

April. 11, 2017

LECTURE 21

Afghanistan: The Way Forward?

Discussion Question: Should the United States and its allies negotiate with the Taliban or continue military action against the insurgents at a lower level while intensifying the effort to improve the development?

Assigned Readings:

- Rubin, Afghanistan From the Cold War, pp. 339-457.
- Vali Nasr, The Dispensable Nation: American Foreign Policy in Retreat, (New York, Doubleday 2013), pp. 13-59.

April. 13, 2017

LECTURE 22 308-396

Iran, Oil Economic Development and the US Containment Policy

Discussion Question: Has the US containment policy toward Iran seriously weakened Tehran's political power internally and externally in Southwest Asia?

Assigned Readings:

- Ali Gheissari, Contemporary Iran, (New York, Oxford University Press, 2009), pp. 95-111.
- Nasr, The Dispensable Nation, pp. 95-140.

April. 18, 2017

LECTURE 23

Southwest Asia as a Nuclear "Full" Zone

Discussion Question: What would be the consequences of the 2 following events? Iran's production of a nuclear weapon, and the Kashmir region explodes in violence.

Assigned readings:

- Fletcher Forum conversation with Ambassador Khalilzad:
<http://www.fletcherforum.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/Khalilzad.pdf>

- On the development of nuclear capacity in Pakistan:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abdul_Qadeer_Khan
- David E. Sanger, *The Inheritance*, (New York: Crown Publishing Company, 2009), pp. 3-38 and pp. 38-219. **ISBN 078-0-307-40793-1**
- Christine Fair, *Fighting*, pp. 202-260.

April 20, 2017

LECTURE 24

Failing the Modern Tests? Pakistan's Future

Discussion Question: What are the predictions of Pakistan's near term development?

Assigned Readings:

- Stephen P. Cohen et. al., *The Future of Pakistan*, (Washington D.C.: Brookings Institute, 2011), pp. 1-69, 284-295. **ISBN 978-0-8157-2180-2.**
- Ahmed Rashid, *Pakistan on the Brink*, (New York: Viking, 2012), pp. 1- 212. **ISBN 978-0-670-02346-2.**
- Christine Fair, *Fighting*, pp. 261-282.

April 25, 2017

LECTURE 25

The Iranian Spring: Where Is My Vote!

Discussion Question: What produced the large scale, public demonstrations against the Islamic regime in Iran?

Assigned readings:

- Nader Hashemi and Dann Postel eds., *The People Reloaded: The Green Movement and the Struggle for Iran's Future*, (Brooklyn, New York: Melville House, 2010) pp. 1-227. **ISBN 978-1-84813-816.**
- Hamid Dabashi, *Iran, The Green Movement and the USA: The Fox and the Paradox*, (New York, Zed Books, 2010), **ISBN 978-1-84813-816.**
- Philip N. Howard and Muzammil M.Hussain, *Democracy's Fourth Wave? Digital Media and the Arab Spring* (London, Oxford University Press, 2013), pp. 3-125. **ISBN 978-0-19-993697-7**
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2009%E2%80%9310_Iranian_election_protests

April 27, 2017

LECTURE 26

A Globalized Southwest Asia Enters an Era of Multi-Polarity

Discussion Question: What impact will the Pivot of the US toward Asia and refusal of the US to become deeply involved in the Syrian conflict have on the region's stability of the region?

Assigned readings:

- Nasr, *The Dispensable Nation*, pp.185-283;
- David E. Sanger, *Confront and Conceal* (New York, Crown Business, 2012), pp. 439-462. **ISBN 978-0-307-71802**
- Jalal, *The Struggle for Pakistan*, pp. 308-396.

