

2016 Research Week Proposal Instructions and Template
Posters and Presentations

Proposal

Title – The Policy Regarding Iran: Circumstances Surrounding the Allied Invasion in 1941

Program of Study – Social Sciences Teacher Licensure

Presentation Type – Print Poster

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Category – **Choose one of the following:** Textual

Abstract: This paper examines the chronology of the Allied occupation of Iran during World War II and the impact the United States, Great Britain, and the Soviet Union made on it. When the Allies completed the invasion in Iran, problems arose as British and Russian policies clashed. The United States was involved to a lesser extent, but President Franklin Roosevelt also had plans for the future of Iran. The terms of the occupation were written with the best intentions for Iran but were eventually disregarded by the British, Americans, and especially the Soviets. The mixture of a poor execution of treaty terms as well as British, Soviet, and American interests within Iran destroyed the unity it possessed and allowed Russia to extend massive influence over the newly destabilized country. This paper details the Allied interests in Iran before the outbreak of World War II, including the Soviet Union's desire for a warm water port and to influence Iran with Communist ideas. Other than national interests, the Allies insisted that the Iranian government under Reza Shah Pahlavi favored the Nazis and believed that Hitler had been eying the Middle East as a way to get oil as his territorial assets declined. The invasion of Iran began on August 25, 1941 and was called Operation Countenance. Within four days, the nation of Iran was mostly occupied by the Allies. The terms of the occupation were outlined in the Tripartite Treaty of Alliance, which was signed January 29, 1942 in Tehran and reiterated at the Tehran

Conference in 1943. It stated that the Allies would withdraw from Iranian territory no later than six months after the war had ended. The Soviets were much more aggressive within Iran than the other two Allies by exploitation through arms, financial, manufacturing, and other agreements. The Soviets influenced the Tudeh party which allowed for the Soviet Union to politically influence Iran past what the Tripartite Treaty allowed. On March 2, 1946, six months after World War II had officially ended with the surrender of Japan, all Allied troops had left Iran as stated in the Tripartite Treaty except for the Soviet Union. Pahlavi testified that instead of leaving, on March 3, 1946, three columns of troops started marching toward Tehran towards Iraq and Turkey, followed by hundreds of tanks and infantrymen in the following weeks. The sovereignty the Allies had promised was gone. These actions, preceded by what had already been done, were the beginnings of what would become the Cold War. The idea of occupying Iran to keep the Nazis out until the end of the war was destined for failure from the beginning. Russia and the other Allies did not have the same intentions for Iran. While Britain and the United States truly desired for Iran to be sovereign with the promise of maintaining their oil concessions, Stalin desired full control, which he gained.

Christian worldview integration: My Christian worldview has influenced the writing of this paper in many ways. I originally chose to write on Iran during World War II because its history is not well-known. I believe that wise decisions must be based on the knowledge of the history of the past. American foreign policy in Iran is a current issue. For myself or anyone to develop answers as to what to do, it is essential to study Iran's past to determine how it arrived at where it is today. Having a Christian worldview has impacted the way I was able to write this paper because I am coming from a position of knowing that God is in control of every situation and every event throughout history. It has also allowed me to pursue the truth of what happened in

Iran at all costs, not necessarily adhering to the stigmatic reputation that so often precedes it. Having a Christian worldview has also allowed me to contemplate the fact that all human beings, no matter where in the world they live or the time period they live in, are created by God. This has allowed me to think both from the Iranian perspective on how citizens felt when the Allies came to occupy their nation, as well as rationalizing the motives for each Allied nation. My research is impactful to the culture at large because knowing the history of Iran and its occupation during World War II helps to understand the attitude of the Iranian nation today. I believe that God laid this topic on my heart for a reason and he continues to ignite my passion for it.