

Proposal

Title - United States Foreign Relations with Iran: 1946-1953

Program of Study – MA in History

Presentation Type – PowerPoint

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Category – Textual

Abstract: After World War II, the situation in Iran, which had been a sideshow during the war, became much more dire, as both the United States and the Soviet Union looked to extend their reach into the country. The question weighed heavily on both powers, as each made attempts at having the politically unstable Iran fall either towards pro-western democracy, or Soviet-inspired socialism. This paper will cover the main policies that the United States implemented in its relationship with Iran during the post-World War II, Stalin era from 1946-1953 including a focus on the events surrounding the Iranian Crisis in 1946, the assassination of the Prime Minister in 1950, the nationalization of the oil industry, and the reinstatement of the Shah in 1953. This history will be based heavily on primary sources from the United States Central Intelligence Agency, State Department documents, and the personal papers from Presidents Truman and Eisenhower. This paper will be from the focus of the United States, but care will be given to show the Iranian perceptions and experiences at the time. This research will hopefully aid in the historiographical background as to how and why Iran became the threat that it poses in the current, nuclear era.

Christian Worldview Integration: My research as a Christian historian with a Christian worldview completely alters the way that I conduct and write about my research. It is very easy to fall prey to providing my own opinions or the politics of American relations with the Greater

Middle East, especially Iran in these uncertain times. Having a Christian worldview means that I am required to see past all of that. My only prerogative is to the truth. While seeking the truth for my research in a politically-charged arena, I found sources that crossed party-lines and looked to find answers in both primary and secondary sources.

Every historian has bias whether they admit to it or not. Admitting that my bias includes the sanctity of life, respect for the truth regardless of how unappealing it may be, and the existence of God, all allow me to come at my research from a different point of view than secular counterparts.

Communicating my research with love and understanding is how my Christian worldview shines through the research findings. Parts of my research on American foreign policy with Iran in the post-World War II era show a not-so-favorable side of American decisions. The truth is oftentimes vindictive, but the way I present my research does not have to be. God loves us despite our pasts, which reminds me that I should be forgiving and understanding. God also calls us to turn from our old ways and be better, which is what my research aims to do. I desire to teach through my research about decisions in the past so that we can learn from them and make better decisions in the future.