Social and Political Effects of 19th Century Iran on the 20th Century

OSHER 964-001
Dates: Tuesdays, 1/17/17 - 2/21/17
Time: 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM
Location: Commander's House, Fort Douglas
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Description
The course will provide a brief history of the events in 19th century Iran and their devastating impact on the present conditions of the country. We will begin by discussing the Russo Persian relations which extends over 1000 years, until 1800 and modernization of Russia. Russo Persian wars of (1804-1813) and (1826-1828), loss of Caucasus and the Anglo Russian imperial aspirations often referred to as the Great Game. We cover how these events led to the Constitutional Revolution of 1905 1911 and the creation of Islamic movements.

Expectation and Goal
- Understand. The external and internal dynamics that shaped Iran throughout the 19th century
- Gain perspective on how key world events such as WWI, and the Russia Bolshevik Revolution impacted Iran’s independence
- learn the details
- learn about the Bolshevik Revolution from perspective of Iran and the rise of the Pahlavi Dynasty.

Russian Empire and Iran
Russo Persian relation extends over 1000 years, and until 18th century these two nations treated each other on an equal Base,

Modernization of Russia beginning with Peter the great (1696-1725) continued by his successors, with their expansionist aspirations on the Persian Territories in the Caucasus and the Caspian provinces, changed this relationship into conflict and confrontation.

Peter the great and Catherine the Great’s failed aggression to Iran.

Establishment of the Qajar Dynasty from 1785 to 1925 (Qajar Period) by Aqa Mohammad Khan Qajar.
After assassination of Aqa Mohammad Khan, his nephew and heir Fath Ali Shah became King of Persia.

First Russo Persian War of 1804-1813, Golestan Treaty, loss of great part of the Iranian territories in Caucasus.

Origin of the War
Revolt of ruler of East Georgia one of the from ancient Persian Empire’s provinces; and their request from Russia for Protection. Provinces, treaty of Georgievsky between Russia and Georgia, Annexation of Georgia and Russian General Tsitsiamov’s attack and conquest of Ganje another Persian city in Caucasus, and massacre of its inhabitants made the war inevitable.

Iran’s desperate attempt to get help for the modernization of its army.

British Persian agreement of 1801, mainly to prevent Persia (Iran) to help Napoleonic France reach India through Iranian territories. With verbal promises to help Persia (Iran) Modernize its army.

Franco-Persian Alliance (Treaty Of Finkestein)
Britain temporizing without any sign of British assistance for the modernization of Persian (Iranian) army, or Fath Ali Shah decided to accept Napoleon’s offer for alliance against Russia and Britain.

Napoleon Bonaparte and Franco Persian Alliance of May 1807. (Treaty of Fieldenstein).
French Military Mission under General Gardanne to Iran, to help modernize Iran’s army in war against Russia.

Napoleon’s change of policy, after vanquishing Russian army at the battle of Friedland. Franco Russian alliance of July 1807, Treaty of Tilsit.

Great Britain policy in Iran, which was mainly based on the British concern for the security of India. Description of 4 stages of British diplomacy in the 18th Century Iran.

Anglo Persian agreement of 1801, to prevent Iran, from helping France to reach India, and British promises to assist Iran.

British Iranian Treaty of 1810. British commitment to help Iran modernize its army, in the war against Russia.

Second Russo Persian War (1826-1827). British role in the war, loss of rest of the Iranian territories in Caucasus to Russia, humiliating treaty of Turkman Chay.
After death of Fath Ali Shah, Mohammad mirza, his grand Son became King of Persia
Qaem Maqam, a capable, honest Chancellor, Russian agents roll In his fall and execution

Nasr Al Din shah,

Amir Kabir, most capable reformist Chancellor, British agents roll in his fall and execution.

Concessions granted to the British and Russian government/subjects
In the second half of the 18th century a number of concessions were granted To the British and Russian subjects, among them the monopoly of Tobacco trade in 1890 to Major Talbot, a British subject met with strong popular opposition, outrage and protest of the people forced Government to cancel the grant, with heavy reparation, borrowed from the British to be paid to the British subject.

Tobacco Protest, and its success, is considered to be the beginning of liberal movements in Iran

Assassination of Naser Al Din Shah Qajar, in 1896, beginning of the Constitutional movement and Revolution.

St Petersburg Convention of 1907, and British Russian treaty of 1925 division of Iran

Russian October Revolution and cancellation of all Imperial Russian Treaties with Iran by the Russian Revolutionary Government.

British Fear Of Bolshevik penetration in Iran, endangering British India’s security.

British diplomacy’s drastic change in favor of consent with Establishment of a strong a strong, nationalist government in Iran, capable of stopping Bolshevik penetration.

Fall of Qajar Dynasty, rise of Reza Shah and establishment of the Pahlavi Dynasty (1925)

References:
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- Russia I, Russo-Iranian relations up to the Bolshevik Revolution
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- Great Britain iii British Influence in Persia (Iran)
- Anglo Persian Relations-Qajar Period.
Iraj Amini
Napoleon and Persia.
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