

Fall 2020 Arts of Asia Lecture Series
Heroes & Villains in Asian Art and Culture
Sponsored by the *Society for Asian Art*

Ta'ziyeh: The Shia Passion Play
Negar Mottahedeh, Duke University
November 13, 2020

Qajar Period- Persia

1848 Nasir al-Din Shah

1896 Mozaffar al-Din Shah

1905 Constitutional Revolution. Parliament established. Shah signed constitution in 1906.

Pahlavi Period -Persia / Iran

1921 February - Military commander Reza Khan seizes power.

1926 April - Reza Khan crowned Reza Shah Pahlavi.

1935 - *Iran* is adopted as the country's official name.

1941 - Anglo-Russian occupation of Iran and the deposition of the Reza Shah in favour of his son, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi.

1951 April - Parliament votes to nationalize the oil industry, dominated by the British-owned Anglo-Iranian Oil Company (BP since 1900)

1953 August - Prime Minister Mossadeq is overthrown in a coup engineered by the British and US intelligence services.

1963 January - The Shah launches the 'White Revolution' program of land reform and social and economic modernization. Leans on SAVAK secret police to control opposition movements.

1978 September - The Shah's policies alienate the clergy and his authoritarian rule leads to riots, strikes and mass demonstrations. Martial law is imposed.

Islamic Republic of Iran

1979 January – Mass demonstration force Shah into exile.

1979 February - Islamic clerical opposition leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini returns from 14 years of exile in Iraq and France.

1979 April - The Islamic Republic of Iran is proclaimed following a referendum.

1979 November - Islamic militants take 52 Americans hostage inside the US embassy in Tehran. They demand the extradition of the Shah, in the US at the time for medical treatment, to face trial in Iran.

Suggested Reading

Dabashi, Hamid. 2012. Shi'ism : Religion of Protest. Cambridge: Belknap Press.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TaVKZLn9A6A>

Amanat, Abbas. 2017. Iran: A Modern History. New Haven, Yale UP.

Afary, Janet. 2003. 'Shii Narratives of Karbalâ and Christian Rites of Penance: Michel Foucault and the culture of the Iranian Revolution, 1978–1979'. *Radical History Review* 86: 7–35.

Beeman, William O. 1982. 'A Full Arena: The Development and Meaning of Popular Performance Traditions in Iran' in Michael e. Bonine and Nikki R. Keddie, Modern Iran: The Dialectics of Continuity and Change. Albany: State university of New York Press, pp. 361–81.

Chelkowski, Peter J. 1979b. 'When Time Is No Time, And Space Is No Space: The Passion Plays of Husayn' in Milla Riggio (ed.), Ta'ziyeh: Ritual and Popular Beliefs in Iran. Trinity college: Hartford Seminary, pp. 13–23.

Najmabadi, Afsaneh. 2001. 'Gendered Transformations: Beauty, love, Sexuality in Qajar Iran'. *Iranian Studies* 34(1–4): 89–102.

Petereson, Samuel R. 1979. 'The Ta'ziyeh and Related Arts' Peter J. Chelkowski (ed.), Ta'ziyeh: Ritual and Drama in Iran. New York/Tehran: New York university Press/Soroush Press, pp. 64–87.