



## The Iranian Revolution (Pivotal Moments in History)

By Brendan January

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In the Middle Eastern nation of Iran, discontent simmered for decades. The Iranian people despised their leader, Reza Shah, who catered to foreign businesses while ruling Iran as a dictator. In 1979 discontent boiled up into all-out revolution. Led by the charismatic Ayatollah Khomeini, the Iranian people seized control and created a new government based on the Islamic religion. The Iranian Revolution quickly became a showdown between the ideas and values of Islam and those of the West--particularly the United States. The most dramatic event in this showdown occurred in late 1979, when Iranian students captured a group of U.S. Embassy staff, holding them hostage for more than a year. During the following decades, the revolution recast the face of the Middle East: it set in motion a movement of Islamic fundamentalism--a movement that has taken center stage in world events in the twenty-first century. The Iranian Revolution is an ongoing story. However the story ends, the revolution is surely one of world history's most pivotal moments.

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### Editorial Review

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This concise but informative history chronicles how the Iranian Revolution of 1979 transformed Iran from a monarchy to a Fundamentalist Islamic republic. Brief background information explains the underpinnings of the revolution and basic facts about Islam, including the differences between Shiite and Sunni sects. The bulk of the book focuses upon the revolutionary leader Ayatollah Ruholla Khomeini and the impact the revolution had upon the Iranian people, the Middle East, and particularly the U.S., with considerable attention given to the hostage crisis of 1979–1981. January effectively illustrates the irony of how the revolution rid the country of an autocratic, corrupt ruler only to replace it with an equally oppressive regime. A brief discussion of contemporary developments in Iran concludes, followed by a time line, source notes, and suggestions for further research. Accessibly written and attractively designed, the text is complemented throughout with photographs, maps, and sidebars. Offer this insightful volume to YAs alongside Marjane Satrapi's graphic novel *Persepolis* (2003), an account of her childhood during the Iranian Revolution. Grades 9-12. --Ed Sullivan

About the Author

**Brendan January** is an award-winning author of more than twenty nonfiction books for young readers, including *Genocide* and *Globalize It!*. Educated at Haverford College and Columbia Graduate School of Journalism, January was also a Fulbright Scholar in Germany. He lives with his wife and two children in Maplewood, New Jersey.

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