

The world outside.

*News headlines
from the 13 year span
of Wish You Were Here.*

created by
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Dramaturg

1979



February 11, 1979

Iran's 2,500-year-old monarchy came to an end as revolutionary forces seized control of Tehran and the military declared neutrality.

After months of protests, strikes, and unrest, Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi had already left the country, while Ayatollah Khomeini returned from exile to lead the revolution.

The revolution that promised liberation would ultimately leave millions asking whether Shah had simply been replaced by mollahs, while ordinary Iranians continued to bear the cost of decisions made in their name.

1980



September 22, 1980

War has erupted between Iran and Iraq as Iraqi forces launch a large-scale invasion following months of escalating tensions between Ayatollah Khomeini and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

Airstrikes and ground attacks have targeted key locations across southwestern Iran, while both sides accuse the other of aggression.

What many expected to be a brief conflict now appears likely to become a prolonged and costly war, with consequences extending far beyond the battlefield.

1981



January 20, 1981

The 444-day hostage crisis ended as fifty-two Americans held in Tehran since November 1979 were released following negotiations brokered through Algeria.

The hostage crisis that began when Muslim students seized the U.S. Embassy in Tehran on November 4, 1979.

The crisis became a defining rupture in U.S.-Iran relations, contributing to decades of diplomatic hostility, sanctions, and mistrust whose effects continue to be felt by ordinary Iranians and Americans alike.

1982



Universities remain closed across Iran after nearly two years. The Cultural Revolution continues to transform higher education. Thousands of professors and students have been removed, curricula rewritten, and new ideological screening measures introduced as the government seeks to align universities with the values of the Islamic Republic.

Supporters view the effort as a defense of Iran's religious identity, while critics argue it has weakened academic freedom and accelerated the country's growing brain drain.

1983



Four years after the Islamic Revolution, Iran has expanded enforcement of mandatory Islamic dress laws for women, making the hijab one of the most visible symbols of the country's new social order.

Government officials describe the policy as essential to preserving Islamic values, while critics argue it represents a significant restriction on personal freedom.

1984



Iranian universities are reopening after years of closure and restructuring under the Cultural Revolution. Academic programs have been revised, faculty and students subjected to ideological screening, and curricula reshaped to reflect the values of the Islamic Republic.

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Iranians vote in the country's second parliamentary election since the 1979 Revolution. Candidates have undergone extensive review by religious authorities, with many opposition figures excluded from participation, making the election largely a contest among factions within the Islamic Republic.

Officials describe the vote as a sign of national unity during the war with Iraq, while critics argue that political competition has become increasingly restricted since the revolution.

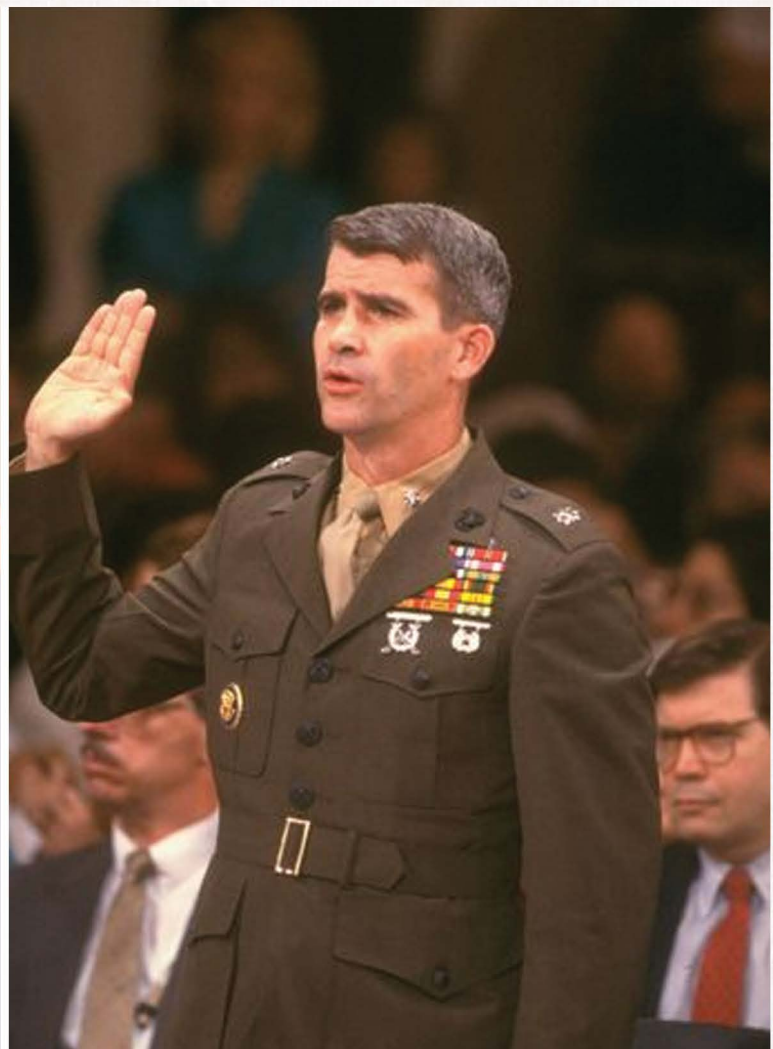
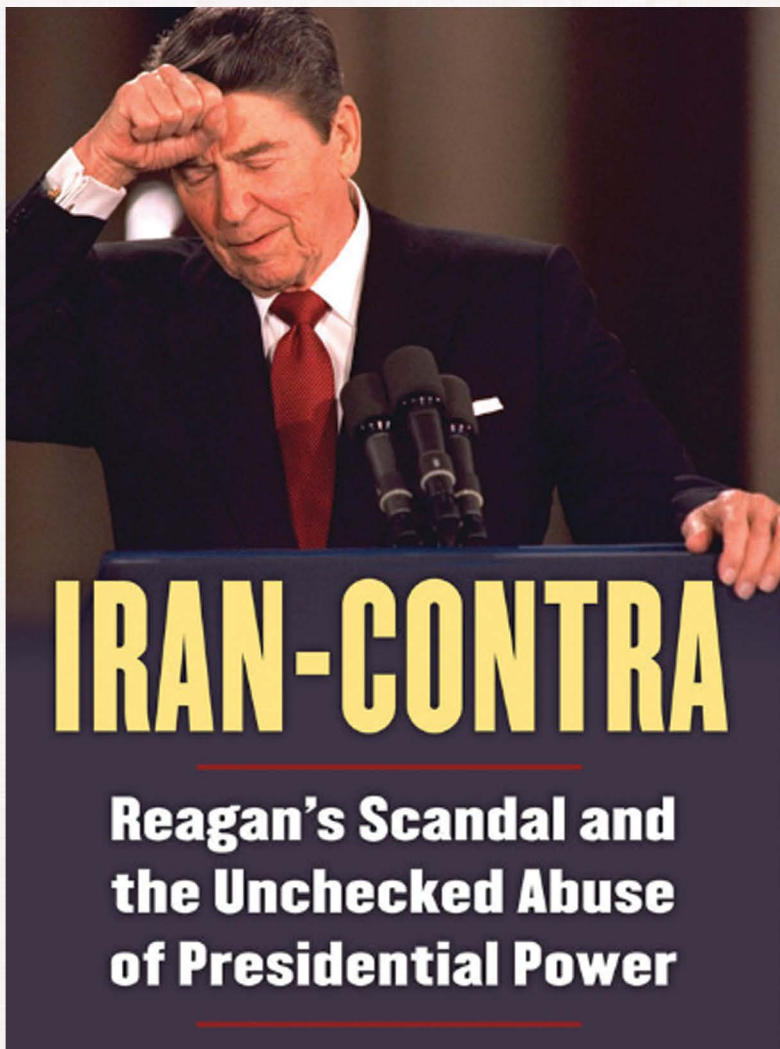
1985



Growing numbers of Iranian physicians, engineers, academics, and students are leaving the country. As the war with Iraq enters its sixth year, many cite war, economic uncertainty, political restrictions, and concerns about personal freedoms as reasons for emigrating.

Analysts warn that the loss of skilled professionals could have lasting consequences for Iran's economy, universities, and scientific development, while many families face difficult choices between opportunity abroad and ties to their homeland.

1986



Revelations emerge in the Iran-Contra scandal that senior Reagan administration officials secretly facilitated arms sales to Iran despite publicly opposing the Islamic Republic.

Investigators are examining whether proceeds from those sales were diverted to support Contra rebels in Nicaragua in violation of congressional restrictions.

The affair has become one of the most significant political controversies of the Reagan presidency, exposing the secret diplomacy taking place behind the Iran-Iraq War.

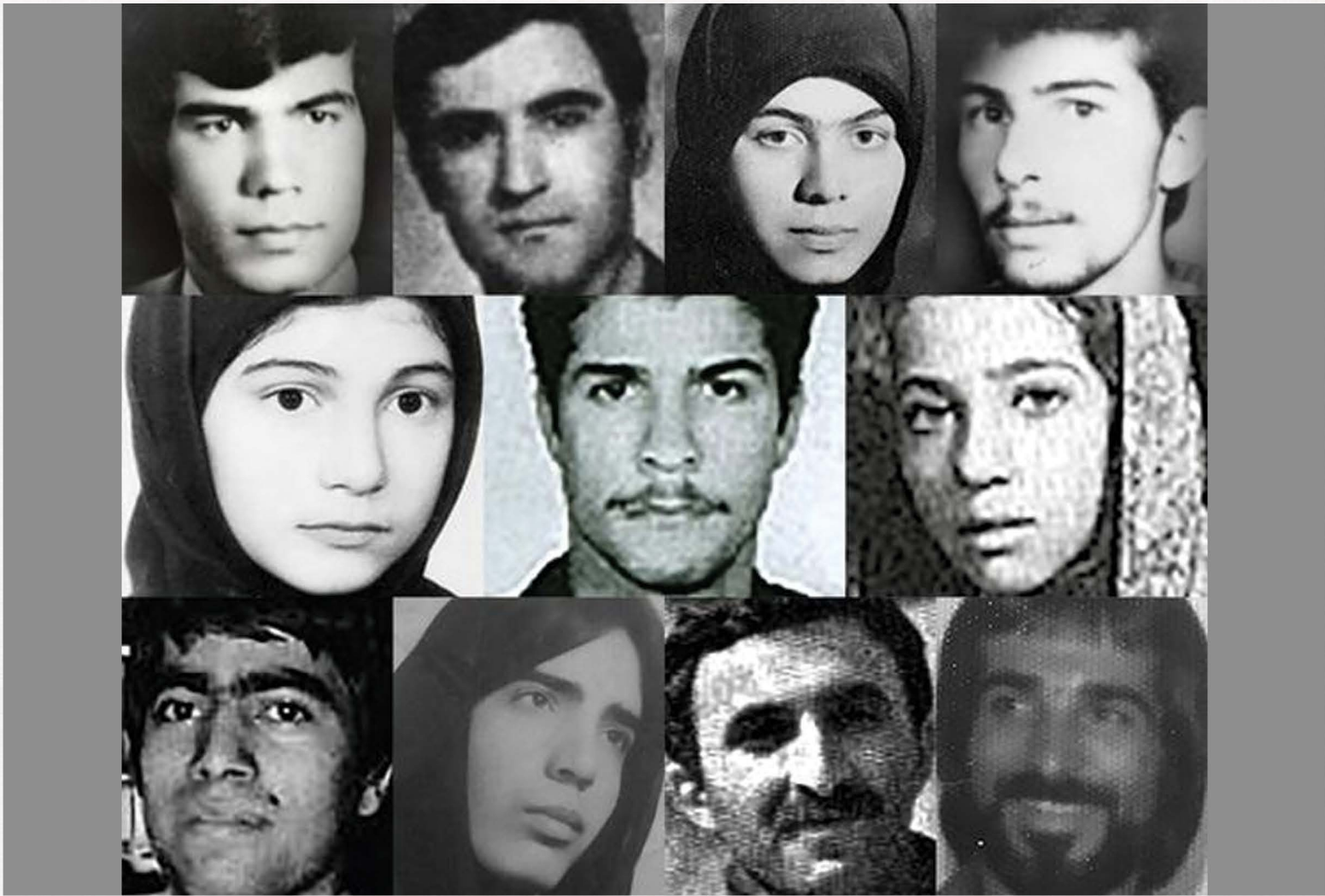
1987



The United Nations has adopted Resolution 598, calling for an immediate ceasefire in the seven-year Iran-Iraq War and urging both countries to begin negotiations, exchange prisoners, and withdraw to internationally recognized borders.

Although diplomats hope the resolution will lead to peace, fighting continues and both sides remain divided over the terms of a settlement after one of the deadliest conflicts of the late twentieth century.

1988



Reports are emerging of mass executions inside Iranian prisons following a directive reportedly issued by Ayatollah Khomeini.

Opposition prisoners, including members of the Muslim and various leftist groups, are believed to be among those targeted, though independent verification remains difficult.

The allegations come just weeks after the end of the Iran-Iraq War and have raised growing concern among human rights organizations, while many families remain uncertain about the fate of imprisoned relatives.

1989



Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, founder and Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, died in Tehran at the age of eighty-six.

As the leader of the 1979 Revolution, Khomeini passionately redirected Iran from a modern society into an Islamic State and remained the country's most influential political figure for a decade.

1990



Northern Iran is struck by a devastating earthquake, causing widespread destruction across the provinces of Gilan and Zanjan. Entire villages have been flattened, transportation routes damaged, and tens of thousands are feared dead or injured.

As rescue efforts continue, the lack of effective leadership, preparedness, and coordinated emergency planning has deepened the humanitarian crisis, creating yet another major challenge for a country still recovering from the long and costly war with Iraq.

1991



More than a decade after the Islamic Revolution and one year after the end of the Iran Iraq War reconstruction period began in earnest, a new generation of Iranians is coming of age in a country profoundly transformed by revolution, war, and social change.

For millions of young people, memories of the monarchy are distant or entirely absent. Their lives have been shaped instead by wartime sacrifice, religious governance, economic hardship, and the institutions created by the Islamic Republic.

Across Iran, universities are once again filled with students in cities damaged by war, and economic sanctions.