

Passage to 2025 and the Great Decision of the Iranian Nation

Below is a comprehensive English translation of the original Farsi article, including additional context and elaboration to provide a clearer and more detailed perspective on the arguments presented. The article addresses a crucial turning point in Iran's recent history, examining the roots of the ongoing crises, the pressures of international sanctions, the question of Iran's nuclear program, and—most importantly—the responsibility and power of the Iranian people to bring about transformative change and avoid the looming threat of war. Finally, the conclusion will summarize the paper's core contention about the necessity of transitioning to a democratic system.

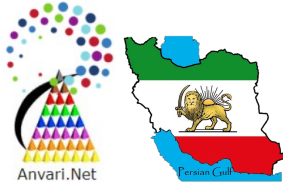
Introduction: A Historical Juncture for Iran

Iran today stands at a historic crossroads that will determine not only its current situation but also the fate of future generations in the decades to come. An examination of the country's past and present reveals how a combination of economic crises, international sanctions, regional tensions, and domestic repression has prepared the ground for a fundamental change. Against this backdrop, many analysts identify the year 2025 as a symbolic moment for a final decision. By then, the Iranian people may either halt the country's gradual decline—by toppling the current Islamic government and paving the way for democratic governance—or, by persisting on the same course, further exacerbate domestic and international crises, even risking large-scale conflict.

Looking at the Historical Roots

Contemporary Iranian history is filled with pivotal turning points, which have repeatedly underscored the need for reform or change. From the Constitutional Revolution in the early 20th century, to the nationalization of the oil industry, and ultimately the events leading up to the 1979 Islamic Revolution, there have been multiple social and political upheavals. Each of these demanded greater public participation in decision-making and sought to safeguard the rights of the Iranian people. Nevertheless, whether due to domestic factors or foreign interventions, these popular demands were often suppressed or went unrealized.

Once again, Iran stands on the brink of fundamental change, sparked by external pressure on one side and internal dissatisfaction on the other. After the Islamic Revolution of 1979, Iran's power structure became ideologically driven and centralized, rooted in anti-Western and anti-Israeli rhetoric. The new government aspired to carve out a distinct, revolutionary identity by championing



the underprivileged and fighting what it deemed Western imperialism. However, a significant share of national resources were channeled into supporting proxy groups across the region, often overshadowing Iran's own national interests. As a result, waves of international sanctions and progressive isolation in global politics began to weigh heavily on the Iranian public, bearing down on their livelihoods.

Sanctions, the Nuclear Program, and Regional Tensions

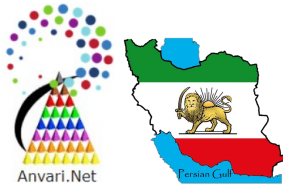
In more recent decades, Iran's nuclear program emerged as the focal point of confrontation with major world powers, particularly the United States and Israel. Suspicions that Iran might be developing nuclear weapons led to the imposition of extensive economic sanctions. Banking, shipping, insurance, oil exports, and key infrastructural industries were targeted, crippling the economy and depreciating the Iranian currency. This economic pressure intensified further due to Iran's ongoing support for groups like Hamas, Hezbollah, and the Houthis, escalating regional tensions.

In response, the United States adopted a "maximum pressure" strategy, leveraging sanctions to compel the Iranian government to alter its behavior or else face potential collapse from within. Years have passed under these sanctions, making Iran's economy increasingly fragile. Domestic production has declined, international lines of credit have dried up, and runaway inflation has made everyday life more difficult than ever for ordinary citizens. Despite these pressures, the government in Tehran has persisted with its anti-American stance and continued support for regional proxies.

This deadlock has gradually laid the groundwork for a severe security crisis. In recent years, there have been isolated attacks on Iran's nuclear facilities, and certain military activities near its borders hint at the risk of a broader conflict. Observers caution that continuing these policies without deep structural changes could lead to a destructive war, one that would have catastrophic consequences for all sides involved—above all, the people of Iran.

The Role of the People and an Historic Necessity

Against this fraught backdrop, attention increasingly turns to the key source of real power: the Iranian people. Throughout modern Iranian history, whenever the government has failed to heed popular demands, a new wave of protest or revolt has emerged. Now too, to break the vicious cycle of sanctions, repression, and the threat of war, the Iranian population must, more than ever, recognize its responsibility to drive fundamental change.



A crucial insight here is that the current ruling structure, with its entrenched ideological character, fundamentally resists thorough reform. It is built on the principle of “Guardianship of the Jurist” (Velayat-e Faqih) and maintains extra-constitutional oversight, leaving little space for true democratic transitions. Thus, many believe that Iran needs a sweeping transformation—moving beyond the present Islamic system to a genuinely democratic republic. This shift, it is argued, is essential to resolving deep-rooted tensions with Western powers and other global players, as well as ending the political and economic isolation hobbling the country.

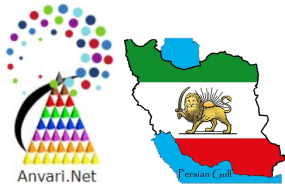
Realizing such a democratic order demands a nationwide mobilization. Although protest movements have sporadically emerged in recent years, genuine impact requires coordinated action by professionals, students, women, workers, artists, and intellectuals. Only by unifying these calls for change can the government be forced into retreat, creating the conditions for a referendum or any other legal mechanism of power transition.

2025 as a Symbol of the Great Decision

Within Iranian political discourse, 2025 has become a key talking point, symbolizing a point of no return. Analysts suggest that if Iran’s Islamic government persists in its current path, not only will economic crises worsen, but the risk of war or large-scale military action may rise sharply. Conversely, if the Iranian people, with a collective will, topple the Islamic structure and replace it with a democratic system, a new road could open for the nation—one that steers clear of intense military confrontations.

Such a transition would not only help prevent a catastrophic war but could also open the door to international relations. A democratic government in Iran would significantly reduce ideological influence over regional proxies, yielding fresh economic gains. By joining the global economy, Iran could revive foreign investment and stimulate economic growth. Moreover, the country’s regional role would shift from a source of tension to that of a responsible partner that could advance stability and peace in the Middle East.

While the path toward democracy is far from easy, many analysts argue that it remains the only viable option to avoid a massive, potentially devastating conflict. With international powers weighing multiple options—from tighter sanctions to military interventions—only a homegrown, grassroots initiative from the Iranian populace can truly change the country’s destiny. In this sense, the year



2025 serves as a powerful symbol to draw attention to the precarious situation and the shrinking window of opportunity.

Domestic Consensus and Avoiding Past Mistakes

For fundamental change to occur, domestic consensus is paramount. One of the tragic lessons of Iran's modern political history has been the fracturing and disunity among various political and social factions. Time and again, disunity has undermined the potential for a united front seeking sweeping reforms. If different segments of society fail to coordinate, the path to genuine freedom or a more accountable government is often blocked.

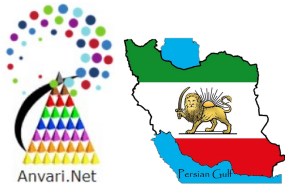
National unity must now top the country's agenda, to shield it from foreign interventions that can spark chaos or proxy conflicts. Historical experiences, such as the Constitutional Revolution, show that when people unite in demanding freedom and the rule of law, the ruling regime is compelled to accept reforms or step aside. Although foreign interferences again derailed these movements in the past, today's heightened awareness—supported by social media and the internet—can help reduce the likelihood of repeating those mistakes.

Meanwhile, the involvement of women, youth, and various ethnic communities in Iran is particularly critical. These groups have suffered most directly from the government's policies and can be pivotal drivers of democratic change. Their peaceful protests, united under a common purpose, can place unprecedented pressure on the regime and potentially force it to relinquish power.

The Risk of War and Future Scenarios

Many experts believe that unless Iran quickly pulls out of its current predicament, a major military confrontation could erupt. In such a scenario, foreign powers—potentially allied with neighboring states or armed opposition forces—might engage in a direct conflict with Iran. Such a war would inflict not only total economic destruction on an already vulnerable country but also claim millions of lives and destroy vital infrastructure.

Some hope that the government in Tehran will come to recognize that maintaining its policies endangers not only the citizenry but the ruling class itself, making de-escalation or compromise preferable. However, experience has shown that Iran's Islamic government is reluctant to abandon its ideological tenets without intense and unified pressure from within. If that nationwide pressure emerges and a peaceful transition to a democratic structure can be achieved, Iran would be able to



negotiate diplomatically with global powers. This change in governance could allow broader economic engagement, reopening domestic markets, and strengthening economic links with neighboring countries, which would bolster both regional stability and economic growth.

The Role of Intellectuals and Civil Society

Academics, intellectuals, journalists, and civil-society activists have consistently played a critical part in guiding public opinion and laying the theoretical groundwork for political change throughout Iran's history. In today's Iran, large-scale participation by these sectors is likewise indispensable for any far-reaching transformation. They can illuminate the path forward, explaining complexities and mobilizing public opinion to find effective ways out of crises.

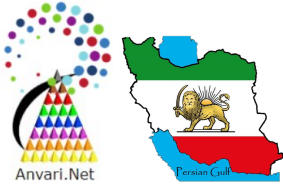
Civil-society organizations, including independent labor, students, and professional associations—are also vital. Peaceful demonstrations and gatherings remain lawful tools for placing pressure on governments; when these movements are widespread and repeated enough, they can compel a government to retreat. This effort must be united across social classes, with a straightforward, central demand: a complete transition from the Islamic government to a democratic system.

The Vision of a Democratic Iran and the Final Summary

If, from within, a broad-based movement can topple the Islamic government and establish a people-centered, law-abiding structure, Iran would face a promising future. First, sanctions could be lifted, enabling foreign investment and new technology, which would stimulate rapid economic growth and address rampant inflation and unemployment. Second, by adopting a diplomacy that stresses de-escalation and collective wisdom, Iran could play a constructive role in regional affairs—becoming a reliable partner for peace in the Middle East, rather than an exporter of tension or proxy conflicts.

Third, domestic politics would become more open, allowing for the flourishing of culture, art, and creative thought. Youth and women, especially, would have freedom of expression and equal opportunities to participate in the nation's future—leading to major achievements in societal development. Ultimately, the country could break free from cyclical threats of war and ideologically driven hostility toward the West, reintroducing Iran to the international stage as a proud, ancient civilization governed by democratic ideals.

Hence, the year 2025 represents a moment for the Iranian nation to choose. That choice is stark: either a break with the destructive policies that have dominated so far—giving birth to a peaceful,



development-oriented Iran—or a continued anti-American stance coupled with support for regional proxies, dramatically raising the likelihood of a conflagration. This moment rests firmly in the people’s hands, who shoulder the grave historical responsibility of liberating the nation from religious autocracy, crippling sanctions, and the looming threat of a catastrophic war.

Conclusion

The overarching question is whether Iran will successfully navigate its way out of the current crisis by 2025. Much depends on the resolve of its citizens and intellectuals. Time and again, the Islamic government has shown itself unwilling to accommodate even minimal demands unless subjected to broad, unrelenting societal pressure. Thus, peaceful demonstrations, organized civil-society initiatives, and incisive advocacy from public intellectuals collectively form the critical engine driving a potential transition.

More urgently than ever, Iran needs a government that is accountable to its people—one that prioritizes economic development over supporting foreign proxies, and one that can engage positively with the world. From the global perspective as well, nations would welcome a stable and democratic Iran in the Middle East, not an isolated and volatile one at perpetual risk of igniting war.

Therefore, the Iranian people are called upon to assume a proactive, decisive role in this historic test. Should they squander this opportunity, the nation’s future could grow even darker. However, through unity and a fundamental mobilization, Iran’s destiny can be reshaped, granting its citizens the precious keys to progress and freedom.

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