

**Title:** The Birth of a Theocracy: Why Iran Lacks Religious Freedom  
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Within the last few decades, the social fabric of Iran has been incredibly worn and unstable as large-scale protests have become a regular occasion to combat their lack of freedom. Their incredible lack of freedom is largely due to not having any freedom of religion. This lack of religious freedom is displayed in the fact that “a number of Christian converts received prison sentences ranging from 10 to 15 years,” in Iran, in 2017 (Amnesty International). Additionally, Christians in Iran have experienced violations of their rights like “expropriation of property, forced closure and persecution” (Van Gorder). Inhuman acts of enforcement are committed by government sanctioned religious police against those who practice minority religions in Iran every day, contributing to a very high score of 8.3 on the Government Restrictions Index and a score of 5.2 on the Social Hostilities Index (Global Restrictions on Religion). This study aims to answer where the lack of religious freedom comes from by looking at Iran’s history, constitution, their Government Restrictions Index score, and their Social Hostilities Index score. A look at these variables helps to form a theory as to why Iran does not provide its citizens with “the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance” (Universal Declaration of Human Rights).

## References

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