

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Transcript of interview with Dr Lina Khatib

At the beginning of the clip we can hear protests against the Shah, that Marjane continues in their flat. We see in the clip a demonstration against the Shah – What are the protesters opposed to?

The protesters were opposed to the Shah's political activities, and saw him as a Western puppet. They were also protesting against his extravagance. What also caused people to protest was his failed oil price programme in 1974, which actually resulted in economic slow down and inflation.

Did they become a force in Iranian politics later?

Some of the protesters managed to seize power from the Shah, transforming Iran from a monarchy into an Islamic Republic in 1979 in what is known as the Islamic Revolution or the Iranian Revolution.

What changes happened in Iranian society after the fall of the Shah?

Society under the Islamic Republic came to be governed by a system based on a strict interpretation of Islam. It became compulsory for women to wear a headscarf, and many Western practices and products became unacceptable, for example, certain kinds of Western music and films.

How was Iran governed after the Shah left power?

After the Shah left power, Iran became an Islamic Republic where the clergy had ultimate power. Speaking against the regime remained unacceptable.

When Marjane returns to Iran the war is over. Who is in power at this time and what kind of society would Marjane and her family live in?

After the end of the war, Hojat ol-Islam Rafsanjani became the president of the Iranian Islamic Republic. Under Rafsanjani, Iran continued to be governed by the clergy and society was by now completely dominated by their ideologies. There were restrictions on people's appearance and behaviour. Society was still grieving for the losses imposed by the war, and the images of martyrs became a regular feature on many Iranian streets, something that continues until today.