

Name _____
Social Lit. – Silver/Haskel

Date _____
Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood

Glossary of Terms

Bolshevik: A Bolshevik is a member of the Communist party. The Bolsheviks are credited with founding the Soviet Union in 1917 and encouraging communist revolt throughout Europe and Asia.

Communism: Communism is an economic theory in which social classes are abolished and all property enters into common ownership.

coup d'état: A coup d'état is a sudden overthrow of a sitting government.

dialectic materialism: The Marxist theory (adopted as the official philosophy of the Soviet communists) that political and historical events result from the conflict of social forces and are interpretable as a series of contradictions and their solutions. The conflict is believed to be caused by material needs.

F-14: An F-14 is a type of fighter jet plane.

fatwa: A *fatwa* is a religious proclamation of rule or order.

fundamentalism: Fundamentalism is usually related to a religious belief in certain "fundamental," usually conservative, aspects of faith.

Guardians of the Revolution: The Guardians of the Revolution were the secret police agency of the Islamic Fundamentalist regime.

Iran-Iraq War: The Iran-Iraq War was a conflict occurring from 1980 to 1988. The Iraqi Sunni government engaged the Iranian Shi'ite government for control of the Middle East.

Leftist: The term "leftist" refers to a liberal political position.

matriarchy: Matriarchy refers to a family's lineage from the mother's side of the family.

Persepolis: Persepolis was an ancient capital of the Persian Empire and a symbol of Persian greatness. Many Persian kings are buried there.

Prime Minister: A Prime Minister is a political leader in a constitutional monarchy.

self-flagellation: Self-flagellation is the act of beating or whipping oneself, usually in an act of contrition or demonstration of toughness.

Shabbat: Shabbat is the Jewish Sabbath, celebrated every seventh day.

Shah: In a general sense, the term "Shah" represents a Persian name for king or ruler. In a specific sense, Shah was the name of used for Mohammad-Rezā Shāh Pahlavi, ruler of Iran from 1941 until the 1979 Revolution.

Sharia: *Sharia* is the term for Islamic law and rule.

Shi'a: The Shi'a are the second largest Islamic denomination. Shi'as differ from other Islamic denominations in their belief that Ali, Muhammad's cousin and son-in-law, is the rightful successor to Muhammad and first Imam. Iran is the country with the largest Shi'a population.

Socialism: Socialism is an economic and political theory that stipulates common ownership of the means of economic production.

Sunni: The Sunni are the largest Muslim denomination in the world.

The Iranian Revolution: The Iranian Revolution was the 1979 coup by the people of Iran to overthrow the Shah. The coup was lead by leftist political leaders, but a fundamentalist Islamic regime ended up holding power after the revolution.

vintner: A vintner is a person who ferments and bottles wine.

Western: "Western" is a term that generally relates to the culture and society of the Western Hemisphere, often specifically meaning Europe and the United States.