

#1332 America as Media-Persia, II – Toward the Iran Hostage Crisis: 1925-1979, The Time of the Pahlavi Dynasty, including the “twinship relationship” of the U.S. and Iran in the 1970’s

In 1970, U.S. President Richard Nixon and his national security advisor, Henry Kissinger, pressed by the escalating military demands of the Vietnam War, searched for an alternative to American power to defend the Persian Gulf. The Shah of Iran was their choice. In May 1972, the U.S. made the Shah a partner in American global military strategy. He became the “policeman”



of the Gulf, spending \$4 billion on American weapons and making Iran the largest importer of American-produced arms in the world.

Shah Reza Pahlavi with
President Nixon in the Oval Office,
July 24, 1973

For the greater part of the 1970’s, with the Shah benefiting from rocketing oil prices, the United States essentially anchored its national interest in the crucial

Persian Gulf in the Shah of Iran. With the aid of the Shah, the growing American community resident in Iran functioned as a privileged colony removed from Iranian culture. On July 4, 1976, the bicentennial of the United States, Americans flocked to the campus of the Tehran American School for a massive celebration. With the permission of the Shah, it ended with an elaborate fireworks display.

In the book *Majestic Failure: The Fall of the Shah*, by Marvin Zonis, it is put this way:

Indeed, when Nixon and Kissinger designated Iran as the defender of U.S. interests – defined, of course, in terms of issues such as “the free world” and democracy – it was possible for the Shah to imagine Iran in a **twinship-like relationship** with the United States . . . Whatever the appropriate metaphor, throughout his relationship with the United States in the 1970’s the Shah came to believe that he shared certain qualities with those U.S. presidents and that under his rule Iran had come to share certain qualities with the United States. **The Shah had managed to establish mirroring relationships with the United States.** Its representatives and leaders told him in words, as well as in financial and military assistance and diplomatic and political support, that he was the central figure to the security and well-being of the United States. Through the decades of his rule, the Shah clearly idealized the United States and its presidents. That was, moreover, an idealization which the United States did nothing to discourage. To the contrary, the Shah’s realization was encouraged as an indication of the close connection between the two nations and as a way of cementing U.S. influence over the fate of Iran. That idealizing relationship to the United States allowed the Shah to merge or identify with the United States and, from that, to gain strength by sharing in its strength.

The Shah managed to establish a mirroring relationship with the United States. This was because Iran and the United States were twin *second* 'Cyrus the Great' Media-Persias.



Key Understanding: *Iran and the U.S. as twin second Media-Persias.* During the time that Iran was under the rule of the Shah, Iran and the United States were prophetically serving as twin *second* 'Cyrus the Great' Media-Persias. When dissidents would lash out at the Shah's regime, they were also lashing out against the United States.

Isaiah 44:28 (KJV) [Thus saith the Lord] **THAT SAITH OF CYRUS, HE IS MY SHEPHERD, and shall perform all my pleasure: even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; and to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid.**

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