

Headgear worn by Muslim women



BURQA

- ▶ Full veil traditionally worn by Pashtuns in **Afghanistan**
- ▶ **Covers the head and the body** and has a **grill** which hides the eyes
- ▶ **Enforced** by the **Talibans** fighting **US forces in Afghanistan**



NIQAB

- ▶ A veil that entirely covers a person, including the **mouth and the nose**
- ▶ It has a small opening for **the eyes**
- ▶ It's use is widespread through the influence **Wahabi Islam**, especially in **urban environments**



HIJAB

- ▶ A Hijab is a headscarf, not a veil.
- ▶ Hides the hair, ears and neck
Only the oval shape of the face is visible
- ▶ **Widespread use** in the Muslim world. Championed by the Muslim Brotherhood



CHADOR

- ▶ **Traditional garment** worn by women in **Iran and Afghanistan**
- ▶ Full cloak that covers the body and the hair, **open at the front**
- ▶ **Not obligatory** in Islamic countries, unlike the veil.



chador

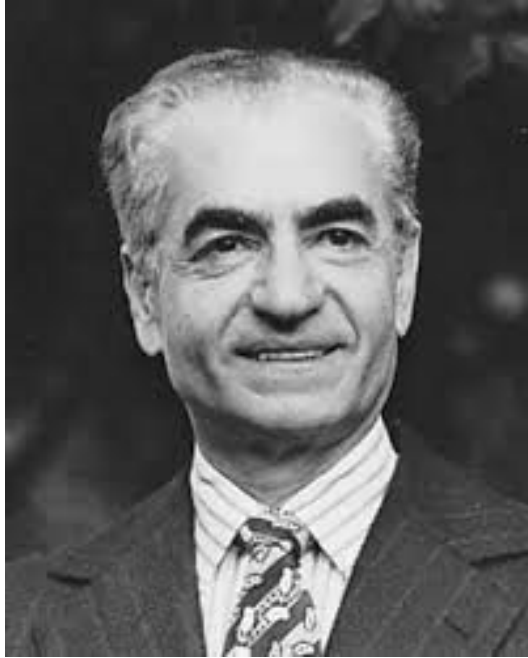


niqab



burqa

Iran in the 1970s (time of our novel)



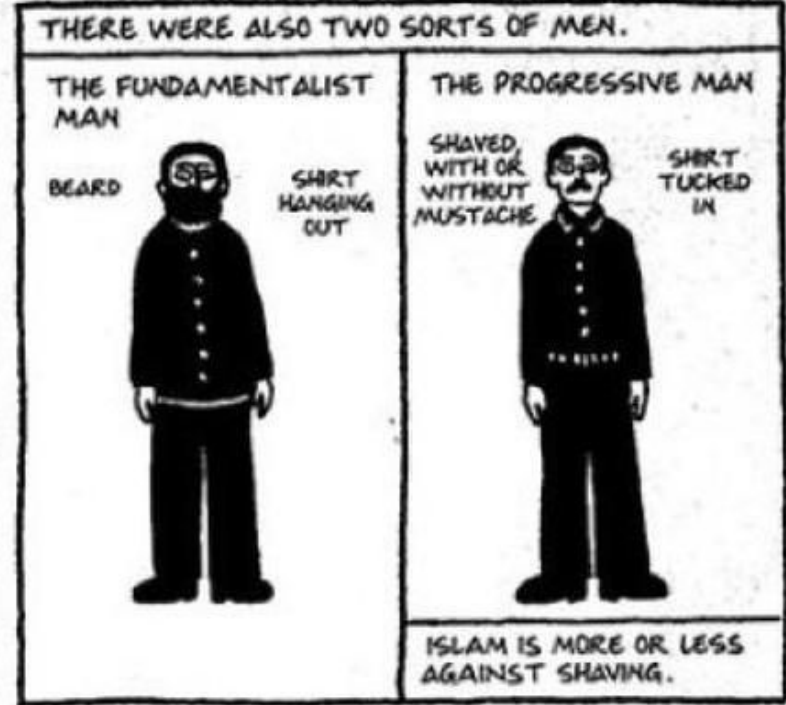
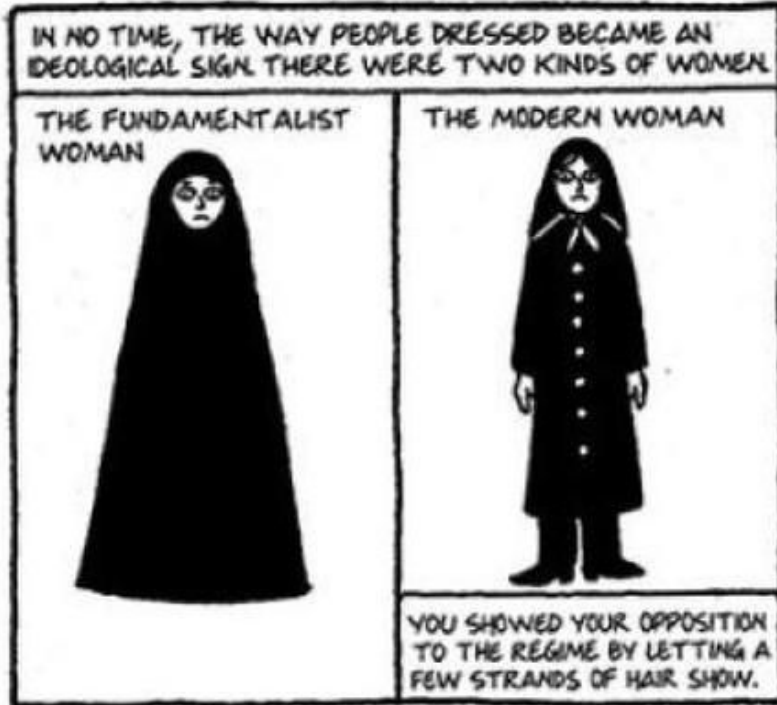
The Shah encouraged capitalism and “westernization” of Iran. Different social classes.
Veils were banned!

Iran after the revolution (1980ish)



A revolution takes place against the Shah and the inequality/decadence that is found in society. Ayatollah Khomeini is the religious leader (and most powerful person). A return to stricter values. Veils are required by law!

There have been protests by women throughout.



For the veil:

Modesty; a sign of religious beliefs. “Normal” dress code.

Attempts at changing the [dress code](#) (and perspectives toward it) occurred in mid-1930s when [pro-Western](#) autocratic ruler [Reza Shah](#) issued an arbitrary decree, banning all veils abruptly, swiftly and forcefully.^{[41][51][52][53][54]} Many types of male traditional clothing were also banned under the pretext that "Westerners now wouldn't laugh at us".^{[55][56][57]} Western historians state that this would have been a progressive step if women had indeed chosen to do it themselves, but instead this ban humiliated and alienated many [Iranian women](#),^{[40][45][49][52]} since its effect was comparable to the hypothetical situation in which the European women had suddenly been ordered to go out [topless](#) into the street.^{[40][55][56][57]} To enforce this decree, the police was ordered to physically remove the veil off of any woman who wore it in public. Women were beaten, their headscarves and [chadors](#) torn off, and their homes forcibly searched.^{[40][41][49][51][52][55][56][57][58][59]} Until Reza Shah's abdication in 1941, many women simply chose not leave their houses in order to avoid such embarrassing confrontations,^{[41][49][55][56][57]} and few even committed [suicide](#).^{[55][56][57]} A far larger escalation of violence occurred in the summer of 1935 when Reza Shah ordered all men to wear European-style [bowler hat](#), which was Western par excellence. This provoked massive non-violent demonstrations in July in the city of Mashhad, which were brutally suppressed by the army, resulting in the deaths of an estimated 100 to 5,000 people (including women and children).^{[49][51][53][55][56][57][59]} Historians often point that [Reza Shah's](#) ban on veiling and his policies (know as [kashf-e hijab](#) campaign) are unseen even in [Atatürk's Turkey](#),^{[40][49]} and some scholars state that it is very difficult to imagine that even [Hitler's](#) or [Stalin's](#) regime would do something similar.^{[55][56][57]} The arbitrary decree by Reza Shah was criticized even by British consul in [Tehran](#).^[60]

Against the veil:

It is a forced dress code.

It oppresses women.

There seems to be a relation between the imposed veil and women's identity deconstruction in Iran. The Islamic state attempts to reconstruct a new identity for women according to Islamic definition of righteous women. Imposing the veil on women is a means to create uniformity. The aim of this uniformity is to destroy the individuality of women, making them eviscerated, thereby having no sense of individual identity, and consequently having no subjectivity. Iranian women have been an object in the plans of Islamists who intended to deconstruct women's subjectivity and construct them according to their own fantasies and ideals for women in post-revolutionary Iran. The Islamic definition for righteous Muslim women defines them as obedient wives and mothers and expects them to act accordingly. There are numerous Islamic and Quranic quotations which define righteous women, and the one that is usually cited by Muslim men to prove their entitlement to be superior to women--

Read more at gozaar.org (A Forum on Human Rights and Democracy in Iran).

Iran Today:



What do women in the military have to wear when they go “off base” in an Islamic country?

<http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/news/washdc/2001-04-24-mcsally.htm>

This link contains an article that addresses this question.