**II. Iran Today**

1. Geography of Iran

* The majority of Iran is made up of deserts
* Temperatures can reach as high as 110° with very little rain
* **Shamal –**

B. Importance of Fossil Fuels

* **85 Percent –**
* 5th largest oil producing country in the world
* **10% -**
* **Strait –**
* **Strait of Hormuz –**

C. Persian Empire

* **Persia –**
* At its height the Persian Empire controlled a larger portion of the modern Middle East

D. Iranian Revolution

* In 1953 the United States helped keep Iran’s Shah in power
* The Shah was an oppressive ruler who killed and arrested critics of his rule
* Lots of Iranian opposed the Shah’s rule
* **1978 –**
* **Ayatollah –**
* The Shah was forced flee Iran and Muslim conservative Muslim clerics took power

E. Iran’s Government

* **Theocracy –**
* **Supreme Leader** –
* All Iranian laws must follow Islam as it is interpreted by religious leaders
* Iran’s government has placed many limits on people’s freedoms
* Women in Iran have very little rights and are not treated as equals
* The government sometimes kills or imprisons people who oppose the government
* **Brain Drain –**

F. Iran and the US

* The relationship between Iran and US has been tense since the Shah was overthrown
* American hostages were held in Iran for 444 day
* US has attempted to prevent Iran from building a nuclear bombs
* US efforts have hurt Iran’s economy