

Akbar HÄ•shemÄ• RafsanjÄ•nÄ•« pronunciation (help Ä• info) or Hashemi Bahramani, often mistakenly known as Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani ; 25 August - 8 January) was an influential Iranian politician, writer and one of the founding fathers of the Islamic Republic who was the fourth President of Iran from 3 August until 3 August

Email Front pages of the Monday, Jan. Newspapers in Iran published front-page photographs of Rafsanjani, while state television aired archival clips of his comments and speeches. The country is observing three days of mourning. He long served as a balance in the extremes of Iranian political thought, a go-between for reformers who seek outreach to the world and hard-liners who press for confrontation with the West. Without his behind-the-scenes influence advocating pragmatism, some fear that one side may feel free to try to overcome the other – in particular, that hard-liners could take off the gloves against moderates who have made gains in recent years. Rouhani is all but certain to stand for re-election in May. He served as the right-hand man of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the charismatic leader of the revolution. He led the military during the ruinous war with Iraq in the s. Internally, however, his legacy remains mixed. He was considered a protector of the moderates, but many reformers distrusted him because he was such an insider and because of accusations he was involved in killing dissidents during his eight-year presidency. Hard-liners distrusted him because of his support of moderates and sought to sideline him, but he was too powerful and entrenched to be discounted. Rouhani is expected to compete on the back of the nuclear deal, and there are no major hard-liners immediately known to be planning to challenge him. Trump has threatened to renegotiate the nuclear deal and challenge Iran militarily if provoked in the Persian Gulf. The two camps must act with "intelligence and broadmindedness. However, the government is ultimately overseen by clerics. At the top is the office of the supreme leader, who is head of state and the highest-ranking political and religious figure in the country. Rafsanjani served on the Assembly of Experts, the clerical body that will pick the next supreme leader. Who will replace the year-old Khamenei has become a growing question in recent years, especially after the ayatollah underwent prostate surgery in It has built a substantial business empire within Iran and wages foreign operations in countries like war-ravaged Syria on behalf of embattled President Bashar Assad. His work can be found at [http:](http://)

Chapter 2 : Former Iran president Rafsanjani dies in blow to moderates | Reuters

Rafsanjani was especially dangerous, they said, because of his conviction that Iran had changed and that establishing relations with the United States was the only way to secure the future of the.

Later on, the current President of Iran, Hassan Rouhani , then a member of Parliament, arranged for Khamenei to get his first major post in the provisional revolutionary government as deputy defense minister. He served briefly as the vice Minister of National Defence from late July to 6 November [66] and as a supervisor of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards. He also went to the battlefield as a representative of the defense commission of the parliament. Assassination attempt on Ali Khamenei Khamenei in the hospital after the assassination attempt Khamenei narrowly escaped an assassination attempt by the Mujaheddin-e Khalq when a bomb, concealed in a tape recorder, exploded beside him. After the first prayer, he began to give lecture to worshipers who had written their questions on the paper. Meanwhile, a tape recorder accompanied with papers was put on the desk in front of Khamenei by a young man who pressed a button. Khamenei became the first cleric to serve in the office. Ruhollah Khomeini had originally wanted to keep clerics out of the presidency but later changed his views. In his presidential inaugural address Khamenei vowed to eliminate "deviation, liberalism, and American-influenced leftists". Thousands of rank-and-file members of insurgent groups were killed, often by revolutionary courts. By , the government announced that the courts would be reined in, although various political groups continued to be repressed by the government in the first half of the s. As president, he had a reputation of being deeply interested in the military, budget and administrative details. The then Iranian Parliament speaker Ali Akbar Nategh-Nouri dismissed the ruling as being political, untrue and unsubstantiated. The ruling led to a diplomatic crisis between the governments of Iran and several European countries, which lasted until November Various lists were proposed and Khamenei was named in all of them. Supporters of the council proposal believed that having a council would produce a higher degree of unity in society and more positive characteristics would be found in a council, while the opposers believed that an individual leader was more efficient according to the past experiences in case of Judiciary council. According to him the opposers rejected the proposal because: Guardianship of a council was not rooted in Hadiths and Islamic jurisprudence. On the other hand, the supporters of the proposal believed that: Later, the constitution was amended to remove that requirement and the Assembly of Experts reconvened on 6 August , to reconfirm Khamenei with 60 votes out of 64 present. A pious mujtahid jurist-intellectual , who is approved by the esteemed Assembly of Experts Majlis-i Khobregan , will suffice. Apart from his time in Najaf as a student, Khamenei travelled to Libya during his time as President. After a few months, at a televised meeting with then-President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and his Cabinet ministers, important clerics, the leader of parliament and provincial governors, the heads of state broadcasting and the Iranian chamber of commerce, Khamenei ordered "to pass some laws, sell off some businesses, and be quick about it. Several ayatollahs, however, declined to recognize him as such. In , for example, Montazeri "questioned the powers of the Leader" and was subsequently punished for his comments with the closure of his religious school, an attack on his office in Qom, and a period of house arrest.

Chapter 3 : Iran after Rafsanjani | Iran | Al Jazeera

Iran has reopened an investigation into the death of its former president Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, according to members of his family who say his body had unusually high radiation levels.

Former Iranian President Rafsanjani dies The opinions expressed here are those of the author. After the success of the Iranian revolution in and the return of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini to the country, Rafsanjani emerged as the closest aide and confidant to the revolutionary father and would play an instrumental role in managing the country under his leadership. He also played a decisive role in ending the conflict as he made sure Iran held its head up high even when virtually every global and regional power had supported Saddam. Read More After the war, he initiated a massive reconstruction program to rebuild the country during his two terms as president between and Hossein Mousaviani When Rafsanjani was elected president, Iran was also gripped by political polarization and radicalism among its leftist and rightist political factions. He set on championing the idea of moderation as a guiding philosophy in foreign and domestic policy and fought to entrench centrism in Iranian politics -- a cause to which he remained dedicated to till his last day. I knew Ayatollah Rafsanjani for over 30 years. When Washington and European officials appealed to Iran to help release Western hostages trapped in Lebanon between and , Rafsanjani delivered. He dispatched Mahmoud Vaezi -- now minister of communication -- and myself to engage in diplomacy that ultimately secured the release of all European and American hostages. Bush, however, would not follow through on his promise and reciprocate the goodwill gesture. President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani addresses the Parliament after being sworn in for a second term in office 04 August Rafsanjani told Genscher that Tehran supported the establishment of a security and cooperation system among Persian Gulf countries similar to the EU. Genscher was elated and said he would notify Washington. A short while later he informed us in private that Washington opposed the idea. With great hope, Kohl travelled to Washington to notify US officials. Rafsanjani was a man of peace and cooperation in foreign policy and of construction and development in Iran. He worked to build a modern, progressive nation true to its history and religion while remaining at peace with its neighbors. His most significant legacy, however, will be of ingraining a mindset of moderation and aversion to radicalism in Iran and the region. While many in the West did not comprehend this in his time, costing him dearly politically, he passed the torch to a new generation in Tehran, making it still possible to right past wrongs and reach the breakthroughs he long fought for but never lived to see. Separately, an editing error has been corrected to reflect that the writer was referring to the Persian Gulf states and Persian Gulf countries.

Chapter 4 : Iran reopens investigation into Rafsanjani death | World news | The Guardian

Seyed Hossein Mousavian, former Iranian ambassador to Germany who knew Rafsanjani for over 30 years, says the ex-Iranian president -- who died Sunday at age of 82 -- was a man of peace and.

Pre-Revolution struggles[edit] When he was studying at Qom Seminary , he became interested in politics under Ruhollah Khomeini. This opposition eventually led to his arrest and imprisonment. He was arrested for 7 times from until and was in jail for four years and 5 months in total due to his clandestine activities against Pahlavi regime. Despite the anti-Western attitude of revolutionaries, he had traveled to 20 states of the United States. Although individual major pre-revolutionary speeches against Shah regime, But Khomeini acted him as financial manager of revolutionary struggle as well as connector with other revolutionary groups. This communication was another reason for his arrest. In prison, he found the opportunity to become familiar with other groups opposed to the Shah. After the revolution[edit] After the victory of Iranian Revolution , Hashemi became one of the members of Council of Islamic Revolution. He was one of the powerful members of the council from its establishment. He was also deputy interior minister at that time and later became the acting interior minister. He was one of the 28 founders of Traditional right-wing Combatant Clergy Association and also one of the members of the central committee of Islamic Republican Party at the first years of the revolution. At the time, he was the closest person to the Khomeini and ruled as his "eyes and ears". At Iranian hostage crisis in , Hashemi Rafsanjani mentioned it as "one of the largest manufacturer in the history". However, on the tenth anniversary of the revolution, he said in an interview that according to the experiences of these years, the hostage was "wrong". He forced Khomeini to accept to end the war. Rafsanjani was the Speaker of Parliament of Iran for 9 years. He was elected as the speaker in in the first season of Parliament after the Iranian Revolution. He was also chairman in the second season and first year of the third parliament. After the death of Ruhollah Khomeini , founder of the Islamic Republic and election of then-President Ali Khamenei as new supreme leader, he joined the presidential race and became the President , leaving Parliament. This led to the establishment of Expediency Discernment Council , which later he chaired the council. He had an active role in Iranâ€™s Contra affair , which was divulged by Mehdi Hashemi and failed. Mehdi Hashemi was executed but Rafsanjani was the loser at internal dimension. During differences between Prime Minister Mir-Hossein Mousavi and Khamenei, Hashemi cleverly managed to keep the position favor or against these two perspectives and take the middle position. According to Bahman Bakhtiari, at that time Mousavi was the leader of the left-wing , and Khamenei the right-wing. With the death of Khomeini one of the supporters of leftists , leftists were weakened. In such circumstances, Hashemi leaped for a powerful presidency. He was also accused of corruption by both conservatives [29] and reformists, [30] and was known for tough crackdowns on dissent. If we had killed two hundred of them right after the Revolution, their numbers would not have mounted this way. I repeat that according to the Quran, we are determined to destroy all [Mojahedin] who display enmity against Islam. Rafsanjani also worked with Khamenei to maintain the stability of government after the death of Khomeini. Iran sent truckloads of food and medicine to Iraq, and thousands of Kuwaiti refugees were given shelter in Iran. In Rafsanjani reiterated that the use of weapons of mass destruction was not part of the Islamic Republic culture. In the Tehran contest, Rafsanjani came in 30th, or last, place. He won the chairmanship with 41 votes of the 76 cast. His ultraconservative opponent, Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, received 31 votes. In a speech on 17 July , Rafsanjani criticized restriction of media and suppression of activists, and put emphasis on the role and vote of people in the Islamic Republic constitution. His daughter was arrested on 21 June by plain clothes Basij during the subsequent protest [57] and later sentenced to six months in jail on charges of spreading propaganda against the Islamic Republic. However, for the most part, Rafsanjani was silent about the controversial 12 June election and its aftermath. Former Iranian president Hashemi Rafsanjani leads Friday prayers On 17 July , Rafsanjani publicly addressed the election crisis, mass arrests and the issue of freedom of expression during Friday prayers. The prayers witnessed an extremely large crowd that resembled the Friday prayers early after the revolution. Supporters of both reformist and conservative parties took part in the event. During prayers, Rafsanjani argued the

following: We should open the doors to debates. We should not keep so many people in prison. We should free them to take care of their families. It is impossible to restore public confidence overnight, but we have to let everyone speak out. We should have logical and brotherly discussions and our people will make their judgments. We should let our media write within the framework of the law and we should not impose restrictions on them. We should let our media even criticize us. Our security forces, our police and other organs have to guarantee such a climate for criticism. Rafsanjani stated that he withdrew from the election for chairman to "avoid division. Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani presidential campaign, Hashemi announcing his candidacy with his daughter, Fatemeh accompanied him. On 11 May , Rafsanjani registered for the 14 June presidential election with just minutes to spare. Rafsanjani could not act as a political horse traderâ€”for example, he could not prevent reformist candidates from being disqualifiedâ€”but his role in guiding reformist politicians was a crucial one and, up to a point, he was able to influence Khamenei by preventing him from making one-sided decisions. Hardliners now have a chance to completely surround the Supreme Leader and block moderate influences. He also said "Now I can die with peace of mind" after seeing election of a moderate parliament in the legislative election.

Chapter 5 : Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani - Wikipedia

Ayatollah Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, a former president of Iran and a founder of the Islamic republic, who navigated the opaque shoals of his country's theocracy as one of its most enduring.

Iranian state media said Sunday, Jan. He supported President Hassan Rouhani. Rafsanjani, who showed ruthlessness while in power but later pushed for reforms, died Sunday after suffering a heart attack, state media reported. Iranian media said he was hospitalized north of Tehran earlier Sunday, where doctors performed CPR in vain for nearly an hour and a half before declaring him dead. Rafsanjani, "after a life full of restless efforts in the path of Islam and revolution, had departed for lofty heaven," she said. Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei called Rafsanjani an "old friend and comrade" and said his loss is "difficult and life-decreasing. Rafsanjani served as president from to , during a period of significant changes in Iran. Behind the scenes, he directed the secret purchase of technology and equipment from Pakistan and elsewhere. In an interview published in October, Rafsanjani acknowledged the war with Iraq, which killed some 1 million people, led Iran to consider seeking nuclear weapons. But after years of waning influence, Rafsanjani was handed an unexpected political resurgence with the victory of a fellow moderate, Hassan Rouhani, giving him an insider role in efforts that would culminate in the nuclear agreement. His past stature as a trusted Khomeini ally also offered him political protection. Rafsanjani was a top commander in the war with Iraq and played a key role in convincing Khomeini to accept a cease-fire after years of crippling stalemate. His image, however, also had darker undertones. He was named by prosecutors in Argentina among Iranian officials suspected of links to a bombing of a Jewish center in Buenos Aires that killed 85 people. Some Iranian reformers accused him of involvement in the slaying of liberals and dissidents during his presidency — charges that he denied and that were never pursued by Iranian authorities. If it loses its Islamic aspect, we will go astray. If it loses its republican aspect, the Islamic Republic will not be realized. Based on the reasons that I have offered, without people and their vote there would be no Islamic system. Here, Rafsanjani began to build his multilayered — and sometimes contradictory — political nature: A supporter of free enterprise, a relative pragmatist toward foreign affairs and an unforgiving leader who showed no mercy to any challenges to his authority. He built roads and connected villages to electrical, telephone and water networks for the first time, earning the title of Commander of Reconstruction by his supporters. There were certain self-interests at play as well. Rafsanjani also faced warnings from the ruling theocracy about pushing too far. None of his reforms dared to undercut the vast power of the Revolutionary Guard — which Rafsanjani briefly commanded, and which controls every key defense and strategic program. He took over the presidency in a critical time of transition just after the death of Khomeini. He tried to make overtures for better ties with the U. He was jailed for several years under the shah. Only months after the revolution, Rafsanjani was shot once in the stomach by gunmen from one of the groups vying for power amid the political turmoil. He was not seriously wounded — and neither was his wife, who jumped in front to shield him from the attack. During the s, he used his links with Lebanese Shiite extremists to help secure the release of Western hostages in Lebanon and was a key middleman — identified as "Raf" in Pentagon documents — in the secret Iran-Contra dealings to funnel U. Although Rafsanjani was seen by Washington as a potential ice breaker, his views were far from solidly pro-Western and displayed conflicted positions. Shortly after becoming president in , he hinted that Palestinians should kill Westerners to retaliate for Israeli actions in the occupied territories. In February , Rafsanjani survived a second assassination attempt. A lone gunman fired at him as he was speaking to mark the 15th anniversary of the revolution. Unhurt and unshaken, Rafsanjani calmed a crowd of thousands and continued his speech. The Iran-Contra fallout is an often-told tale about the dangers of crossing Rafsanjani. Hashemi and others were executed in September Later, however, he was dismayed at the brutal crackdown against opposition groups and others claiming Ahmadinejad won re-election in June through vote rigging sanctioned by the ruling theocracy. Khamenei decided to throw his backing behind Ahmadinejad, effectively snubbing Rafsanjani and his complaints. Later, Rafsanjani fell short on efforts to mobilize enough moderate clerics in the Assembly of Experts — the only group with the power to dismiss the supreme leader — to force possible concessions

from Khamenei on the postelection clampdowns. Rafsanjani was forced out of the post in , but remained as head of the Expediency Council, an advisory body that mediates disputes between the parliament and the Guardian Council, a watchdog group controlled by hard-line clerics. However, his family did not escape so easily. A court in sentenced his younger son, Mahdi, to a year prison term over embezzlement and security charges. Rafsanjani is survived by his wife, Effat Marashi, and five children. On Sunday night, Rouhani and others visited the hospital to see Rafsanjani one final time before his body was taken to a mosque ahead of burial. Biographical material in this story was written by former AP staffer Brian Murphy.

Chapter 6 : Former Irani president Rafsanjani dies, aged 82 - Wikinews, the free news source

Iran's former president Hashemi Rafsanjani dies at 82 Former Iranian president Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani has died from a heart attack. He'd earlier been taken to hospital in Tehran with heart problems.

Chapter 7 : Death of Iran's Rafsanjani: Ex-president was a man of peace - CNN

Former Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani died Sunday after suffering a heart attack, Iranian state-run media said. He was

Chapter 8 : Ali Khamenei - Wikipedia

Hashemi Rafsanjani, in full Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, also spelled ĒĵAIĀ« Akbar HĀ•shimĀ» RafsanjĀ•nĀ», (born August 25, , BahremĀ•n, Iranâ€”died January 8, , TehrĀ•n), Iranian cleric and politician, who was president of Iran from to

Chapter 9 : Rafsanjani, Iran leader whose life mirrored nation's, dies

Rafsanjani, president from to , died of a heart attack on Sunday at the age of He was one of the most influential figures since the revolution, criticised for his harsh rule but.