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***The Rise of Sectarianism  
throughout the Middle East***

**ASIS, 3 April 2014**



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## ROOTS OF SECTARIANISM



**Imam Hussain**

**... was killed in 680 AD**

## DEEP-SEATED TENSIONS



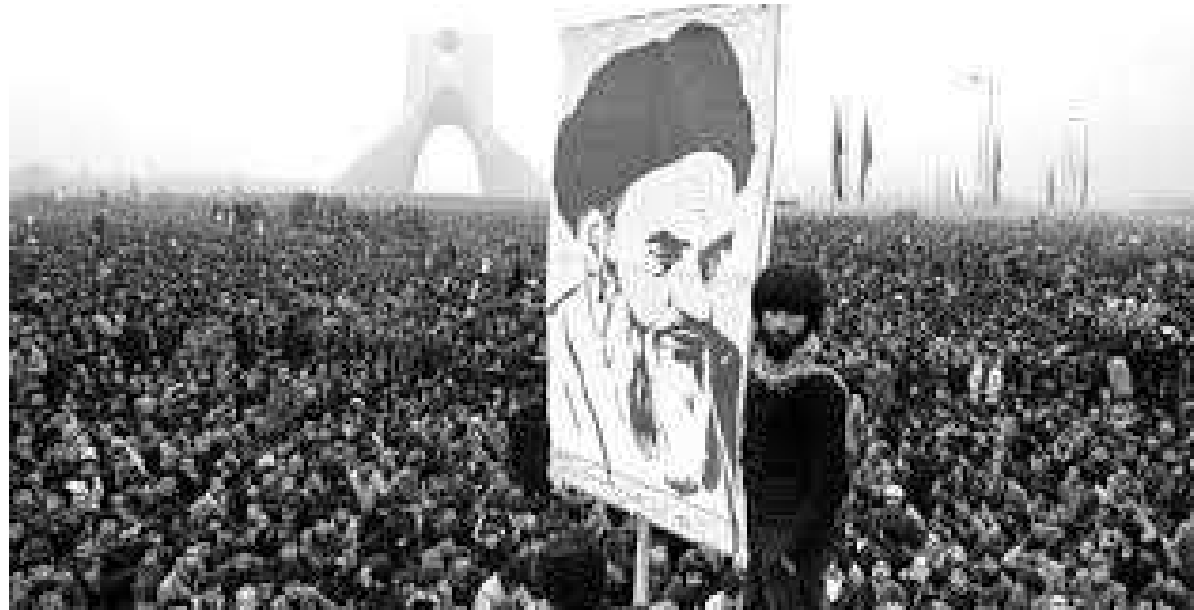
**Hussain's name written in colour of blood, reflecting Shia demand for vengeance for his death**

## POLITICAL EXPLOITATION



**Imam's death remains emotive,  
continues to be exploited by Shia  
political figures**

# IMPACT OF IRANIAN REVOLUTION



**Fall of Shah, creation of Islamic Republic  
represented huge geopolitical shift**

## CREATION OF REGIONAL PROXIES



**Tehran established and supported Shia groups throughout region**

## IRAN-IRAQ WAR



**Sunni Gulf monarchies backed Baghdad  
in conflict**

## INVASION OF IRAQ



**US intervention brought about collapse  
of Saddam's Sunni regime...**



## NEW SHIA LEADERSHIP



**... and rise of Shia leadership unwilling to share power**

## SECTARIAN CIVIL WAR



**Outbreak of sectarian civil war, bringing sectarian relations throughout region to all time low**

## UPRISING IN SYRIA



**Popular uprising against Assad regime,  
bringing sectarian tensions to surface**

## SYRIAN CIVIL WAR



- ... triggering sectarian civil war
- Impact of images of mass killings of Sunnis has had profound regional impact

## POLARISATION OF COMMUNITIES



- **2006: Sunni support for Hizballah**
- **May 2013: al-Jazeera survey found that more than 70% believe Hizballah is an enemy of Arabs and Muslims**



## UNPRECEDENTED SECTARIAN TENSION



- **Sunni and Shia communities more polarised than ever**
- **Sectarian unrest, violence, kidnaps, Sunni support for jihadism**

## REGIONAL INFLUENCE OF ISLAMISTS



- **Political Islamists remain powerful force despite removal of Muslim Brotherhood**
- **Islamists are unsympathetic to Shia, support sectarian elements in Syria**

## FRACTURED JIHADIST COMMUNITY



- Unprecedented split in global jihadist movement – al-Qaeda vs ISIL
- Difference over strategy will trigger competition in various theatres



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## COMMERCIAL CONSEQUENCES

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اطعمو هالخبان اللي قاعد يدعمهم بالاكل والشرب



The image displays a collection of brand logos, many of which are crossed out with a red 'X', indicating a boycott. The logos include JAWAD Business Group, MANGO, DIXI, fcuk, Pumpkin Patch, ORIGEM, HOBBS, staff, and AVIS. Other visible logos include JAWAD, ALFANAR, JAWAD, artikol, and AVIS.



## COMMERCIAL CONSEQUENCES 2

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العصائر والألبان ::

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فوستر كلاركس - هانس

شبكة الأقطار العربية

منظمة المستهلكين

الحرب الاقتصادية

## IMPACT ON STABILITY



**Foreign involvement in various countries, political impact of sectarian tensions**

## INTERNATIONAL FALLOUT



**Shifting alliances, levels of influence,  
tensions between governments**

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