

Why do Iranians hate the American government?

A glimpse at the reasons and roots of the historical incident of November 4, 1979, at the former US Embassy in Tehran



The former US embassy is located in central Tehran, where the intersection of Taleghani Street and Mofatteh Street is now. However, at the time of its takeover, these two streets were named Takht-e Jamshid and Dolat Gate. The US embassy is approximately a 10-minute walk to the Tehran Bazaar and about a 5-minute walk to the embassies of Russia, Britain, and France. It is clear that the embassy's location was cleverly chosen to gain an accurate understanding of the country's social structure and people, independent of government propaganda. Americans could have had embassies in the best areas of Tehran like many other countries, but at that time, the embassy's main function, obtaining an accurate image of the host country, took precedence. The urban structure of Taleghani and Mofatteh streets is almost the same as it was back then. The former embassy building on Taleghani Street is now home to the Handicrafts Bazaar, and Meshed Hotel and Sahra Hotel are in their original locations. Sahra Hotel was also referred to as the American Hotel. It is said that before the ill-fated Tabas Rescue mission, the Americans used the rooms of this hotel for espionage, surveillance, and monitoring the embassy – the place where diplomats were housed.

The embassy has undergone significant changes since 1979. Part of the northern section of the embassy has been transformed into a sports club, and in the southern part, a bookstore has been established. The walls have undergone fundamental changes and now bear

revolutionary and anti-American slogans. These walls are often a subject for foreign photographers and videographers stationed in Tehran to address the issue of Iran-US relations. Leaving aside this exterior view, the interior of the embassy has changed. Several halls and buildings have been constructed, serving purposes ranging from conference rooms to restaurants and a prayer room. In the initial days after the embassy's takeover, detained American diplomatic personnel were held there. Later, this complex was handed over to the Revolutionary Guard, becoming an educational center during the war. Subsequently, the Basij student foundation was established there and, currently, it is still located in this complex. The 13 Aban Student and Cultural Complex was founded in the main building of the embassy. The 13 Aban Garden Museum, also known as the Imperialism Museum, officially opened in Aban 1398 (October 2019); however, visits to this complex have been possible before that for schools and visitor groups through unofficial tours. Currently, this complex, with its relative renovation and the use of up-to-date facilities and technology, hosts visitors from various countries worldwide. Among the visitors to this museum, there are some ambassadors from countries that have a serious political and media position against imperialism and imperialistic policies, especially those of the United States in the world, and they actively work against the arrogant policies and interference of the United States.

As a result of the US coup, Dr. Mohammad Mosaddegh, the then Prime Minister of Iran, was removed from power, and Mohammad Reza Shah, who had temporarily gone to Italy, returned to power.