The shia worlds and Iran

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Abstract: From Africa to Asia, Twelver Shi'a form significant minority and, in some cases, majority communities. Geography and history place Iran at the centre of these worlds. But to what extent can we speak of an 'Iranian model' that these groups follow? This researched volume presents the Shi'a worlds in all their complexities, exploring the tenuous relations between these groups and Iran while shedding light on the understudied Shi'a communities in the Gulf, Turkey, Afghanistan and Senegal.

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Iranian-backed militias are the defenders of the Shiite shrines in the cities of Najaf and Karbala that drive trade and tourism. In local councils, Iranian-backed political parties have solid majorities, and campaign materials stress relationships with Shiite saints and Iranian clerics. Portraits of members of Iraqi forces and Shiite militia groups at a cemetery in Najaf. Iran - Led by Shia fundamentalists. Only 9 percent of the population is Sunni. Iran is the world's fourth largest oil producer. The United States supported the Shah who was non-fundamentalist Shia. The Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini overthrew the Shah in 1979. The Ayatollah is the Supreme Leader of Iran. He guides all elected leaders. The Shia reaffirmed their alliance with Iran and Syria. Although the United States wiped out al-Qaida leaders, the Sunni insurgents became the Islamic State group. In June 2014, they recaptured a large portion of western Iraq, including Mosul. By January 2015, they ruled 10 million people. By December 2016, they lost 16 percent of the land they held and only controlled six million people. Shia, also transliterated Shiah and Shi'ah, is a branch of Islam which holds that the Islamic prophet Muhammad designated Ali ibn Abi Talib as his successor and the Imam (leader) after him, most notably at the event of Ghadir Khumm, but was prevented from the caliphate as a result of the incident at Saqifa. This view primarily contrasts with that of Sunni Islam, whose adherents believe that Muhammad did not appoint a successor and consider Abu Bakr, who they claim was appointed Caliph through a Shura.