

**Some quotes from  
The Times 25th October  
1969 - a special report  
on Iran**

*On people and geography:*

"Life is where water is. The vast deserts in the centre of the country are sparsely peopled. Commerce and agriculture have largely grouped themselves round the fringes, in the horse-shoe of foothills and mountains that sweeps round from south-west to north-east, along the Caspian coast and now at the centres of oil production."

*On the Asian Trade Fair, held in Tehran in 1969 and attended by about 2 million people:*

"A Persian proverb says: 'Caravans which come to our land shall never leave empty.' Caravans which passed through Iran for hundreds of years have now given place to fleets of jets and other modern means of transport."

*Citing a valley in north-west Iran:*

"There are still places in the world where life is lived as it has been for centuries, unchanged and innocent of the bustle of modern times."

*On archaeology: in words of an eminent source*

"Iran is so rich in archaeological sites that you have only to put in a thumb anywhere in Iran to pull out an archaeological plum."

*On handicrafts:*

*talks of a walk* "round the shops or through the bazaars with their shelves of copper, brass and metalware, painted enamels, lacquered and inlaid wood, jewelry in gold and silver, filigree work, ceramics .. and miniatures"

*On wildlife:*

"Iran, situated between the Eurasian, African and Indian faunal realms, possesses a diversity of arid zone fauna unmatched in other parts of the world."

*On oil:*

"Iran is now the second largest oil producing country in the Middle East and the fifth largest in the world."

*On Iranian society:*

"In a country fast changing, generalizations about the people are difficult. The Iranians are lively, good-humoured and hospitable."

*Some statistics:*

"Land area:  
628,000 sq.miles  
Pop.1969 official estimate:  
28.1m" (~ 1/3 urban, ~ 2/3 rural / some nomadic)

*Illustration of Iran's central position in the Middle East:*

