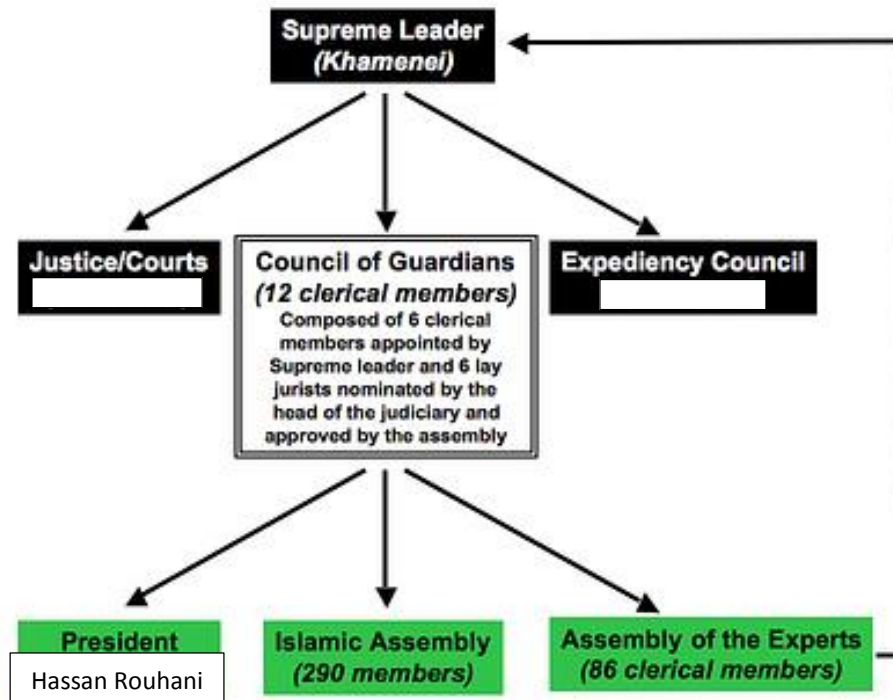


# IRAN'S GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE

Theocratic Republic

AKA: Constitutional Theocracy

## Simplified Power Structure of Iran



The Islamic Assembly is Iran's version of a Congress (however it is unicameral). The members of this assembly are elected, but all candidates for office (including the President) have to be approved by the Guardian Council. It's a circular system of power. You can only run for office if those already in power approve of you as a candidate, and the only people to be approved are the ones who will do the bidding of those already in power; a vicious cycle so to speak.

Iran's Constitution is an antithesis to the US Constitution in respect to how religion is handled. In America there is a separation of Church (People's rights) and State (Government Power), with the State seemingly having the upper hand over religious aspects when the two come in conflict. However, the Iranian Constitution dictates that if Islamic religious beliefs come in conflict with a government law, then the religious argument always wins.