

Politics & health in Iran: isolation or liberation?

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Abstract

Purpose: to study & provide both the mainstream and alternative views on the health of Iranians.

Mainstream: due to sanctions and global isolation, Iran's healthcare system is weakened through inadequate access to pharmaceuticals and technological advancements.

Alternative: there are underlying advantages that result from having minimal imperialist ties and foreign control over Iran's economy and resources.

Conclusion: neither the oppressive regime nor imperialist powers in the Global North have the interests of the Iranian masses in mind.

Approach

- Critically analyzing western media, international organizations' documents, as well as official Iranian reports.
- Interviewing Iranian's who have worked in the healthcare industry.
- Reading unconventional viewpoints.
- Making inferences based on statistics and varying statements.

Guiding Questions:

1. Do the advantages of a lack of Western imperialism outweigh the consequences of global isolation on Iranian's health?
2. Who are the bigger threats to the health of Iranians: imperialist powers in the Global North or the corrupt leaders of the regime?
3. Where do the Iranian people go from here?

Did you know:

1953: CIA-backed coup overthrew Mossadegh, the democratically elected prime minister, after successfully nationalizing Iran's oil.

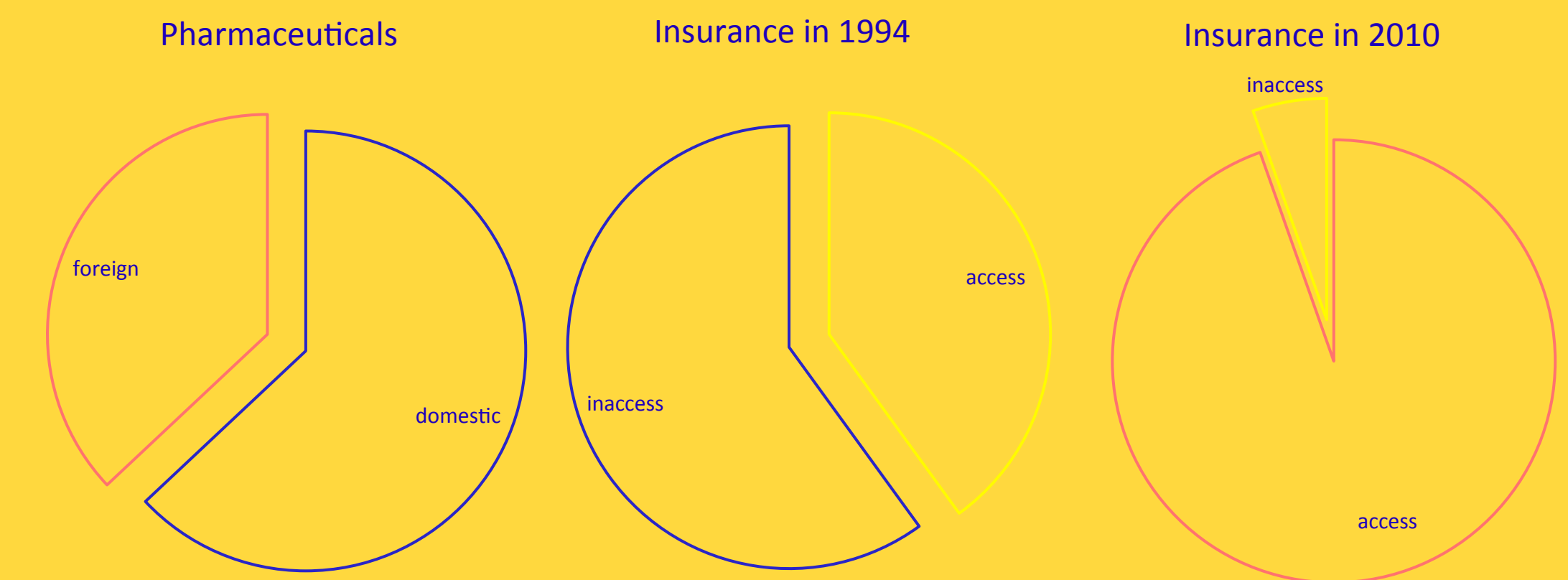
This brought the oppressive Shah back in power, leading to decades of state violence, censorship, economic degradation & political unrest.

The Islamists and the communists mobilized the masses for revolution as the Shah fled the country.

1979: the Islamic Republic of Iran came into being, promising freedom and economic prosperity.

Slowly, the regime became more & more openly oppressive.

Findings



Discussion

- Recent uprising of Iranian masses shows clear distrust in both the regime and western powers' support
- Not Global North versus Global South but ruling class versus the masses.
- Important not to be coerced into choosing between the lesser of two evils.
- Mobilization against the oppressive forces, worldwide!