IMPORTANCE OF IRAN'S ECONOMY IN THE REGION

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Annotation: This thesis contains information about the economy of Iran, one of the countries with a large economy located on the Asian continent. The thesis began with information about the location of this country, the structure of the country. In the main part of the thesis, Iran's economy and its importance in the region are discussed based on facts.

Key words: The Islamic Republic of Iran, Iranian rial, GDP, purchasing power parity (PPP), OPEC, Persian Gulf, the Caspian Sea, oil, gas.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is a country in Western Asia. The capital is the city of Tehran. The area is 1,648, 95 km², the population is 86,835,152 people (2023). The currency is the Iranian rial. Administratively, it is divided into 31 masters. Major cities: Mashhad, Karaj, Tabriz, Shiraz, Isfahan, Ahvaz.

Until the 1970s, Iran was a predominantly agricultural country. In the early 1970s, the government of the Shah's Prime Minister Amir Abbas Hoveyda, with the help of Western, primarily American, companies, actively industrialized the economy and modernized existing production to meet the country's internal needs. However, due to significant social stratification (and low mass demand) and political tensions, by 1978 the White Revolution had produced minimal results. Mass strikes and a sharp decline in production began in Iran. In February-April 1979, there was a change of power in the country.

The new economic course, proclaimed by the leadership of the Islamic Republic, was aimed at the economic independence of Iran from Western countries, as well as at achieving maximum employment.

The current constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran was adopted after the results of a national referendum held on December 2-5, 1979. Later some changes were made. Officially, Iran is an Islamic republic. This country is currently one of the few theocratic countries in the world. According to the country's constitution, the supreme official of the state is the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Supreme Leader controls the general politics and other aspects of the country. Also, the Supreme Leader is the commander-in-chief of the country's armed forces, the head of military intelligence. The Supreme Leader appoints and dismisses officials to some high positions of the state. These are: the presidents of the Supreme Courts, the head of the police, the commanders of all types of armed forces, as well as 6 of the 12 members of the Council of Guardians of the Constitution. The Supreme Leader is elected by the Council of Experts and reports to this council.

Iran, formerly known as Persia, is situated at the crossroads of Central Asia, South Asia, and the Arab states of the Middle East. This strategic position—and its access to the Persian Gulf in the south—have made Iran an important country throughout its history. Iran can trace its history back 2,500 years to the time of the achaemenids. The country has long been of interest to global powers because of its strategic location within the Middle East and its abundant supply of oil and other natural resources.

Iran is an agrarian industrial country with a developed oil industry. Agriculture accounts for 21.3% of GDP, industry for 32.7% (including oil and gas extraction for 18.7%). Iran has the third largest oil reserves, after Saudi Arabia and Venezuela (18.8 billion tons, 9.9% of global reserves) and occupies 5.5% of the global oil products trading market.

Iran is a mixed economy with a large public sector. It is the world's 19th largest by purchasing power parity (PPP). Some 60% of Iran's economy is centrally planned. It is dominated by oil and gas production, although over 40 industries are directly involved in the Tehran Stock Exchange.

Mining of oil, gas, coal, chromium, lead, zinc, copper, manganese and iron ores is of great importance in its industry. 85 billion per year on average kWh of electricity is generated. There are oil refining and petrochemical enterprises. Ferrous and non-ferrous metallurgy, machinery and metallurgy, food and textile industries are developed. They are also engaged in crafts (weaving carpets, making metal products).

Agriculture is an important branch of the country's economy. The leading branch of agriculture is farming. The main food crop is wheat; also barley, rice, legumes are planted. Horticulture (apricots, peaches, figs, pistachios, dates, quinces, pomegranates, citrus fruits, walnuts, etc.), viticulture, vegetable growing and policing are practiced in all parts of the country. Cotton is planted, sugar beet, sugarcane, tobacco are grown, and tea is grown. Sheep, goats, cattle, donkeys, camels, horses, and mules are reared in livestock farming. Poultry is developed. It is engaged in cocooning. Fish is caught in the Persian Gulf and the Caspian Sea.

The economy of Iran, one of the richest countries in Asia, is the 18th largest in the world in terms of national production and the largest among the countries of Western Asia, the Middle East and OPEC. Iran is the fourth largest economy in the Islamic world in terms of GDP (22nd in the world), after Indonesia, Saudi Arabia and Turkey.

It ranks 76th in terms of competitiveness, 78th in terms of innovation, and 94th in the knowledge economy index among other countries in the world.

The agricultural sector accounts for 10% of Iran's GDP and employs about 1/4 of the working population. 30% of GDP is occupied by industry (23% of the population), including petrochemicals. 60% - service sector (63% of labor force).

Iran has a positive trade balance of 73% (exports - 230, imports - 150 billion dollars). 80% of exports are mineral resources, while only 1% of the population is employed in their extraction.

In 2006, the average annual salary was $2,700; in 2017 - $3,000. Population below the poverty line - 18.7% (2011). Inflation is 15.8%.

Recently, special attention has been paid to the diversification of the Iranian economy, thanks to the development of such industries as precision engineering, the nuclear industry, automotive engineering, the rocket and space industry, as well as nanotechnology, medicine, and information technology.

Based on the above facts, it can be concluded that Iran's economy plays an important role in the region. The reason is that this country is extremely rich in oil and natural resources. The population of Iran is also small. The average population density is 42 people/km^2. Despite the sanctions, Iran's economy is growing. The growth of the economy leads to the growth of the

lifestyle of the population. The Iranian government also has an active foreign policy. He was considered a member of a number of prestigious organizations, for example, a full member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. Iran is a country located in the Persian Gulf. Many powerful countries, such as the USA, Great Britain, and Russia, are fighting for cooperation with the countries of the Gulf region.

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