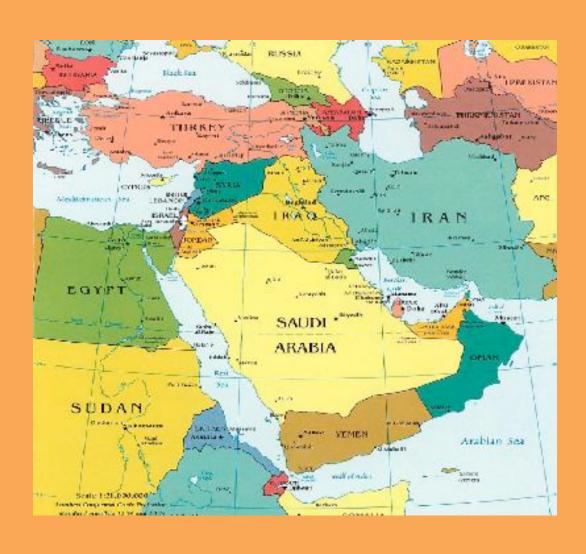
# Popular Music in Iran

# Iran – Persian culture, Farsi



## political/religious policies

Ershad – government's ministry of Islamic Guidance

Since the 1979 Revolution, the government has wanted to prevent Western influence on culture

## Censorship

Solo female performance is forbidden in public (except in front of all-female audiences) – to protect the "sexuality" of women

Dancing is forbidden on stage

Lyrics – grammatical errors are forbidden, unsuitable words, lyrics that declare love for anyone but Allah

Musical Style – too much electric guitar is forbidden Appearance – shaved heads, unsuitable clothes

#### Rap

Rap music – deemed "illegal" 2007 (same year, there was a crackdown on fashion)

Many recording studios have been shut down

Rap-e-Fahrs (rap in Farsi) – lyrics are political, sexual – influenced by Iranian rap scene in Los Angeles – circulated back to Tehran via underground networks

#### Music Distribution

No nightclubs – musicians have no place to perform

Internet – government censorship, but they find ways around it - tehran360.com

2009 – a rock concert was raided by police – 109 audience members arrested for being devil worshippers and drinking alcohol (alcohol is banned in the Islamic republic)

### Iran – traditional instruments

Tar (left) Setar (middle)



Kamenchech – spiked fiddle

