The context of this thesis is the attempts by the United States and Great Britain to control Iran throughout the 20\textsuperscript{th} century. In the historical background of this thesis those attempts are explained. Britain together with the Soviet Union occupied Iran in both the First and the Second World War. The main motivation in these attempts was the control of the Iranian oil industry which was both lucrative and strategically essential. The British were able to control this industry through the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company of which the British government owned a majority share. This control was threatened by Iranian Prime Minister Mohammed Mossadeq who fought to nationalize Iran’s oil industry. The United States and Britain fought Mossadeq and organized a coup to oust him utilizing the Central Intelligence Agency and the Secret Intelligence Service of the United States and Great Britain respectively. This thesis will investigate this coup through two chapters. The first will examine the planning, execution and aftermath of the coup. The Second will analyze the motivations behind the coup, how the United States viewed key figures in Iran, and how the United States viewed Iranian society.

The sources for this thesis are CIA documents released by the National Security Archive. These documents have been declassified, leaked or been obtained through Freedom of Information Act requests. They include internal histories, reviews of the operation, and the planning documents for the coup all produced by the CIA.

The thesis shows that the United States viewed Iran and its people with contempt and cared little for their opinions or wellbeing. Almost every part of Iranian society comes in for heavy criticism and the American observers writing about Iran possess a great sense of superiority over those they are describing. This prejudice towards Iranians arguably had an effect on shaping policy which in the long term had terrible consequences both for the United States and the Iranian people.

Key words: Mossadeq, coup, Iran, imperialism, oil, CIA, SIS, the United States, Great Britain, Shah, attitudes, Anglo-Iranian Oil Company, 1953