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Why look
at the
past?

Pahlavi

AWARENESS

Today's young generation has an image of the Pahlavi era that is far from reality: "An era of welfare, dignity, and comfort." But those who lived through that era and historical documents tell a story of "humiliation, poverty, and systematic corruption."

*Let's read history
without retouching.*

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Life at the Level of Survival

Source: Arthur Chester Millspaugh
(American Financial Adviser)



“The masses of the people had only a little more than the minimum of subsistence and lived only slightly better than animals in cave-like huts and in the midst of unbelievable misery.”

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Death for a Piece of Bread

Source: William Douglas, US Supreme Court Justice

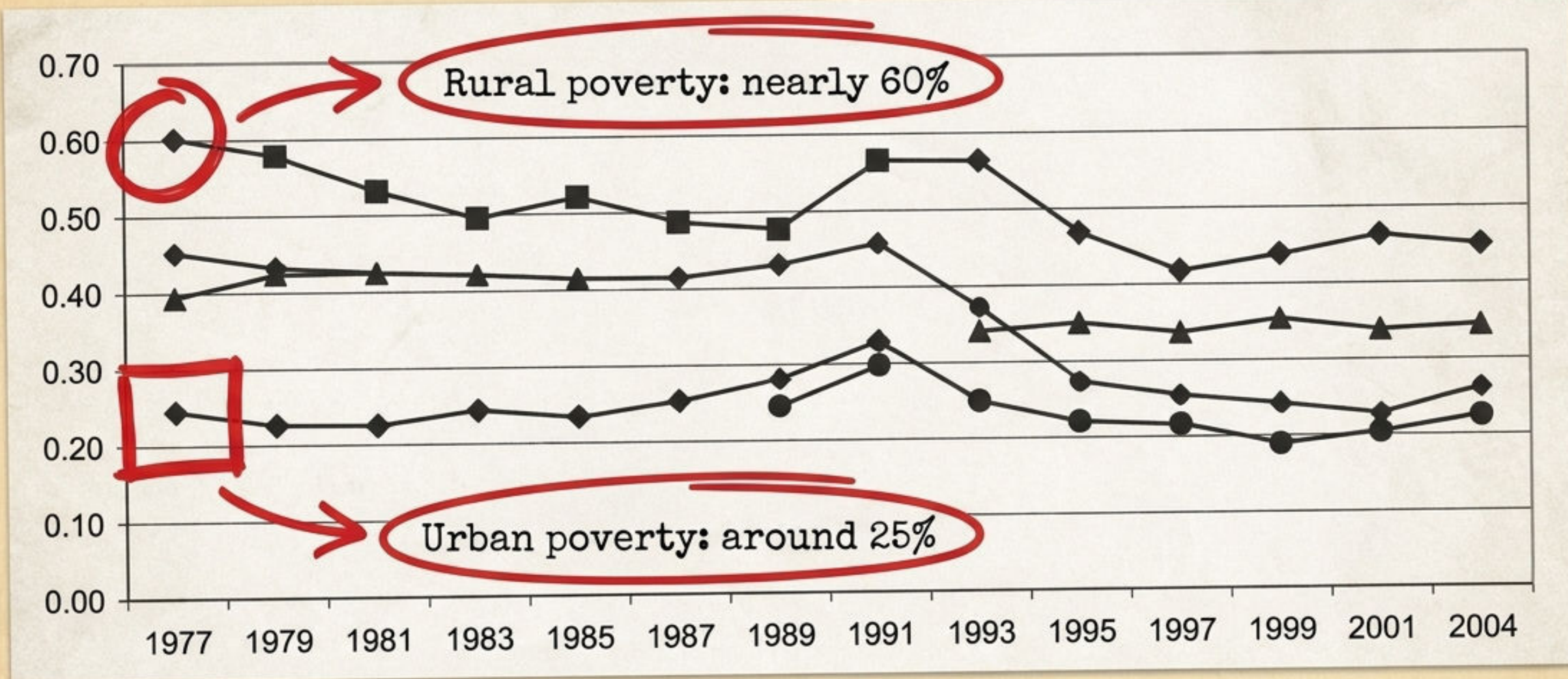
- Eyewitness observations from a decade of 5,000 people in Lorestan: 900 people died of starvation.
- The Lurs living in the villages had become so weak that they could not stand continuously for more than 5 minutes.



Book: Strange Lands and Friendly People

Statistics Don't Lie

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Analysis: Considering the 53% rural population, the average poverty in the country was 46%.

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Class Divide: The Worst in the World



Source: Ervand Abrahamian, Historian

1950s: Iran was one of the most problematic countries in income distribution.

1970s: It became one of the worst countries in the world.

Court Priorities: Furniture or the People?



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Date: Esfand 1353 (Feb/Mar 1975)
Subject: Furniture for Farahabad
Palace and the Queen's
exclusive basketball hall
Amount: 25 million Tomans from
state credits



This amount was
equivalent to
the monthly
salary of 80,000
workers in 1974.



Uncountable Corruption

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Source: Hossein Fardoust (Head of the Imperial Inspectorate Organization)



Financial corruption
was so widespread that
we said we would only
investigate figures
above 100 million
Tomans.

3,750 Cases of Massive Corruption

At a time when the price of a house in Tehran was 500,000 Tomans,
thefts under 100 million were ignored.

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The Cost of the Shah's Lust

Source: Memoirs of Hossein Fardoust



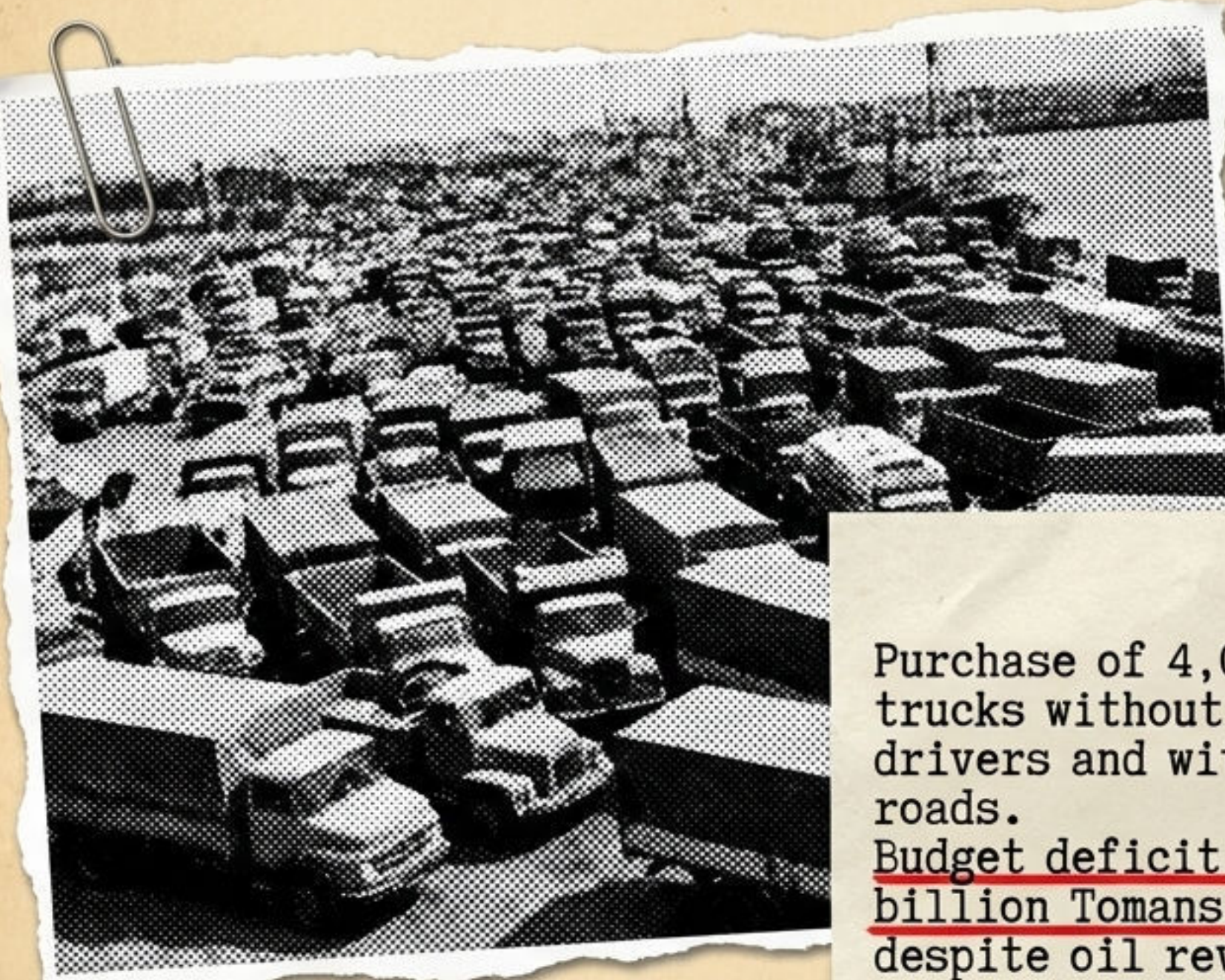
Gifts to mistresses:
\$1 million a week.
Today's equivalent:
about 1,200 billion
Tomans per month

Money spent from the nation's
pocket for the Shah's personal
relationships.

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Imperial Management: Driverless Trucks

Source: Memoirs of Asadollah Alam (Minister of Court), 3 Bahman 1354 (Jan 1976)



Purchase of 4,000 trucks without drivers and without roads.
Budget deficit of 25 billion Tomans despite oil revenues.

“The situation is such that it should normally lead to a revolution.”

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Rotten Meat for the "Noble People"



Minister of Agriculture of Australia:

"These meats are rotten and only suitable for fertilizer."

Response of court representatives:
Mass purchase for the people of Iran.

National TV: "Her Majesty's favor
for the welfare of the people"

Skiing on Blood and Ice

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Blizzard of 1350 (1971-72)



4,000 Dead
(World Record)



Royal family on
Swiss vacation

Insult to Human Dignity

Shiraz Arts Festival, I356 (I977)

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“Parsons to the Shah:
“If this play had been
performed in Winchester,
the actors would not
have survived.””

Shah's reaction: Laughter.

Source: Anthony Parsons (British
Ambassador) - The Pride and the Fall



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