

social change in iran behzad yaghmaian

Social Change in Iran Behzad Yaghmaian: Understanding the Dynamics of Transformation

social change in iran behzad yaghmaian is a topic that invites deep reflection on the complex interplay of social, political, and cultural forces shaping modern Iranian society. Behzad Yaghmaian, a prominent sociologist and scholar, has extensively explored these dynamics, offering insightful analyses that illuminate the pathways through which Iran has evolved over recent decades. His work not only highlights the multifaceted nature of social change but also emphasizes the critical roles played by grassroots movements, political reforms, and cultural shifts within the Iranian context.

Understanding Social Change in Iran

Social change refers to the significant alterations over time in behavior patterns, cultural values, norms, and social structures within a society. In the case of Iran, these shifts are especially intriguing due to the country's rich history, religious influence, and political transformations. Behzad Yaghmaian's scholarship provides a valuable lens through which we can examine how social change in Iran is both a product of internal dynamics and external pressures.

The Role of Sociopolitical Movements in Iran's Transformation

One of the core themes in Behzad Yaghmaian's work is the emphasis on sociopolitical movements as catalysts for change. Iran's modern history is marked by waves of activism, protests, and reformist efforts that have sought to redefine governance, civil rights, and social justice. From the Constitutional Revolution of the early 20th century to the more recent Green Movement, these collective actions demonstrate the persistent demand for transformation among various segments of Iranian society.

The Green Movement and Its Legacy

The Green Movement of 2009, which emerged in response to contested presidential elections, serves as a powerful example of grassroots mobilization. Yaghmaian points out that this movement was not simply about electoral politics but symbolized broader aspirations for freedom, transparency, and social equity. Despite facing repression, the movement left an indelible mark on Iran's social fabric, inspiring ongoing debates about democracy, human rights, and the role of youth in social change.

Cultural Shifts and Identity in Iranian Society

Another critical aspect of social change in Iran highlighted by Behzad Yaghmaian involves evolving cultural identities and values. The tension between tradition and modernity is a recurring theme in Iranian discourse, with younger generations often challenging established norms related to gender roles, religious practices, and personal freedoms.

Youth and the Quest for New Social Norms

Iran's youth population plays a pivotal role in shaping the country's social trajectory. Behzad Yaghmaian's research underscores how young Iranians are increasingly engaging with global ideas while negotiating their unique cultural heritage. This duality fuels a desire for reforms in education, employment opportunities, and social liberties, which collectively contribute to gradual but meaningful social transformation.

Gender Dynamics and Women's Empowerment

Gender relations in Iran have undergone significant changes, with women asserting greater participation in education, the workforce, and political life. Yaghmaian's analyses reveal how women's movements have challenged patriarchal structures and advocated for legal reforms, despite facing systemic obstacles. The push for gender equality remains a vital component of social change, reflecting broader shifts in societal values.

Economic Factors Influencing Social Change

Economic conditions often serve as both drivers and indicators of social change. In Iran, economic challenges such as sanctions, inflation, and unemployment have profound social implications. Behzad Yaghmaian highlights the interconnectedness between economic hardship and social unrest, noting that economic grievances frequently translate into demands for political and social reform.

The Impact of Sanctions on Social Structures

International sanctions have had a multifaceted impact on Iran's society. While they have strained the economy, leading to increased poverty and inequality, they have also sparked resilience and innovation within communities. Yaghmaian discusses how economic adversity has led to the emergence of informal networks and grassroots initiatives aimed at social support and empowerment.

Urbanization and Changing Lifestyles

Rapid urbanization is another economic and social phenomenon reshaping Iran. The migration from rural to urban areas has altered family structures, employment patterns, and cultural interactions. These changes contribute to the evolving social landscape, as urban centers become hubs for new ideas, social movements, and cultural expressions.

The Influence of Religion and Political Ideology

Religion and political ideology are deeply intertwined with social change in Iran. The Islamic

Revolution of 1979 fundamentally transformed the nation's political and social order, embedding religious principles into governance and daily life. Behzad Yaghmaian's work critically examines how this fusion affects social dynamics.

Religious Authority and Social Control

The role of religious authority in shaping norms and regulating behavior is crucial in understanding Iran's social change. Yaghmaian notes that while religious institutions have been instrumental in maintaining social cohesion, they have also been challenged by segments of society advocating for secularism and pluralism.

Political Reformism and Social Aspirations

Political reform movements, often led by intellectuals and activists, seek to balance religious values with democratic principles. Behzad Yaghmaian highlights how these reformist aspirations reflect broader social desires for inclusion, justice, and modernization without abandoning cultural identity.

Insights from Behzad Yaghmaian's Approach to Social Change

What distinguishes Behzad Yaghmaian's analysis is his nuanced understanding of social change as neither linear nor uniform. He emphasizes the importance of contextual factors, historical legacies, and the agency of diverse social actors. His work suggests several key insights for anyone interested in the topic:

- **Social change is multifaceted:** It involves political, economic, cultural, and religious dimensions that interact in complex ways.
- **Agency matters:** Ordinary people, especially youth and marginalized groups, play active roles in shaping change.
- **Resistance and adaptation coexist:** Societies resist certain changes while adapting to others, resulting in dynamic, ongoing transformation.
- **External influences are significant:** Globalization, sanctions, and international relations impact internal social processes.

By appreciating these nuances, scholars and observers can better grasp the realities of social change in Iran and anticipate future developments.

Exploring Social Change Through a Broader Lens

Social change in Iran, as explored by Behzad Yaghmaian, is a testament to the resilience and creativity of its people. It reflects a society negotiating its past, present, and future amid challenges and opportunities. Whether through political activism, cultural innovation, or economic adaptation, Iranians continue to shape their social world in profound ways.

For those interested in understanding Iran beyond headlines and stereotypes, engaging with Yaghmaian's work offers a rich, informed perspective. It encourages us to look at social change not just as an abstract concept but as a lived experience affecting millions of individuals striving for a better society.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is Behzad Yaghmaian and what is his contribution to the study of social change in Iran?

Behzad Yaghmaian is a scholar and researcher known for his analysis of social and political developments in Iran, focusing on the dynamics of social change within Iranian society.

What are the main factors driving social change in Iran according to Behzad Yaghmaian?

According to Behzad Yaghmaian, key factors driving social change in Iran include political repression, economic challenges, youth activism, globalization, and the struggle for human rights and democracy.

How does Behzad Yaghmaian view the role of youth in Iran's social change?

Behzad Yaghmaian emphasizes the critical role of Iranian youth as agents of social change, highlighting their activism, demand for freedoms, and use of digital platforms to challenge traditional power structures.

What impact has political repression had on social change in Iran as per Behzad Yaghmaian?

Behzad Yaghmaian argues that political repression in Iran has both hindered and fueled social change by suppressing dissent while simultaneously motivating opposition movements and increasing calls for reform.

How does Behzad Yaghmaian analyze the influence of globalization on Iranian social change?

Behzad Yaghmaian suggests that globalization has exposed Iranian society to new ideas and values, facilitating cultural exchange and contributing to shifts in social attitudes, especially among younger generations.

What role do economic conditions play in social change in Iran according to Behzad Yaghmaian?

Economic hardship and inequality are seen by Behzad Yaghmaian as significant catalysts for social change, driving public discontent and demands for systemic reforms in Iran.

How does Behzad Yaghmaian explain the interaction between religion and social change in Iran?

Behzad Yaghmaian discusses the complex relationship between religion and social change in Iran, noting how religious institutions both influence and are challenged by evolving social norms and political movements.

What are Behzad Yaghmaian's views on the prospects for democracy in Iran?

Behzad Yaghmaian is cautiously optimistic about the prospects for democracy in Iran, emphasizing the importance of grassroots social movements and international support for democratic reforms.

How has Behzad Yaghmaian addressed the impact of social media on social change in Iran?

Behzad Yaghmaian highlights social media as a powerful tool for mobilization, communication, and raising awareness, playing a pivotal role in recent social movements and protests in Iran.

What solutions or strategies does Behzad Yaghmaian propose for facilitating positive social change in Iran?

Behzad Yaghmaian advocates for inclusive political dialogue, protection of human rights, economic reforms, and support for civil society as essential strategies to promote positive social change in Iran.

Additional Resources

Social Change in Iran Behzad Yaghmaian: An Analytical Perspective

social change in iran behzad yaghmaian stands as a critical theme in understanding the complex socio-political fabric of contemporary Iran. Behzad Yaghmaian, a prominent scholar and political analyst, has extensively explored the dynamics of social transformation within Iranian society, emphasizing the interplay between political structures, cultural shifts, and grassroots movements. His works dissect how social change unfolds in a nation marked by historical upheavals, ideological conflicts, and economic challenges. This article delves into Yaghmaian's perspectives, situating them within the broader discourse on Iran's evolving social landscape.

Understanding Social Change in Iran: Context and Theoretical Framework

Social change in Iran is deeply intertwined with the country's unique historical trajectory, characterized by the 1979 Islamic Revolution, subsequent political consolidation, and ongoing tensions between reformist and conservative forces. Behzad Yaghmaian approaches social change not merely as a linear progression but as a complex, multi-dimensional phenomenon shaped by both internal pressures and external influences.

According to Yaghmaian, social change in Iran involves shifts in social norms, values, and power relations, often driven by economic factors, political activism, and cultural renegotiations. His analysis highlights how grassroots movements, including labor unions, women's rights activists, and student organizations, contribute significantly to the redefinition of social roles and expectations.

Behzad Yaghmaian's Analytical Lens on Iranian Society

Yaghmaian's scholarship places emphasis on the dialectical relationship between state power and society. He argues that social change in Iran is frequently met with resistance from entrenched political institutions that seek to preserve ideological purity and control. This tension manifests in cycles of reform and repression, which shape the trajectory of social progress.

One of Yaghmaian's notable contributions lies in his examination of class dynamics within Iran. He suggests that the country's socio-economic stratification influences access to education, employment, and political participation, thereby affecting the pace and nature of social change. For instance, the rise of an urban middle class and increased educational attainment among women have catalyzed demands for greater social freedoms and legal reforms.

Key Drivers of Social Change in Iran According to Behzad Yaghmaian

Yaghmaian identifies several pivotal factors that act as catalysts for social change in Iran:

1. Economic Challenges and Their Social Implications

Economic hardship, exacerbated by international sanctions and domestic mismanagement, has intensified social grievances. Yaghmaian points out that inflation, unemployment, and income inequality fuel public discontent, which often translates into protest movements and calls for policy reforms. These economic realities also impact family structures, migration patterns, and youth aspirations, reshaping societal expectations.

2. Role of Women and Gender Dynamics

The evolving role of women in Iranian society is a central theme in Yaghmaian's analysis of social change. Despite legal and cultural restrictions, Iranian women have increasingly asserted their presence in education, the workforce, and political activism. This shift challenges traditional gender norms and has sparked debates around gender equality and rights, contributing to a broader transformation of social values.

3. Influence of Technology and Social Media

Yaghmaian underscores the transformative impact of technology, particularly social media platforms, in amplifying voices of dissent and facilitating social mobilization. The digital sphere has become a battleground for competing narratives, allowing marginalized groups to organize and disseminate information beyond state-controlled media. This phenomenon has accelerated social change by fostering awareness and solidarity.

4. Youth and Generational Change

Youth constitute a significant demographic force in Iran, and their attitudes toward politics, culture, and identity differ markedly from older generations. Yaghmaian highlights how younger Iranians' exposure to global ideas and their frustrations with limited freedoms fuel demands for modernization and reform. This generational gap often leads to social tensions but also opens avenues for progressive change.

Challenges and Complexities in Achieving Social Change

While Behzad Yaghmaian acknowledges the momentum behind social change in Iran, he also stresses the formidable obstacles that impede sustained transformation. The state's authoritarian apparatus, including surveillance, censorship, and repression, limits civic space and curtails activism. Additionally, ideological divisions within society complicate consensus-building around reforms.

Yaghmaian also notes the risk of social fragmentation as different groups pursue divergent agendas. For example, ethnic minorities, religious factions, and political opposition movements may have conflicting visions for Iran's future, making unified social change more elusive. Economic instability further exacerbates these challenges by creating uncertainty and weakening social cohesion.

Comparative Insights: Iran and Regional Social Movements

Placing Iran within the broader Middle Eastern context, Yaghmaian draws parallels between Iranian social change and regional movements such as the Arab Spring. However, he cautions against simplistic comparisons, emphasizing Iran's distinctive political culture and history. Unlike some

neighbors, Iran's revolutionary legacy and centralized religious authority shape unique pathways for social reform and resistance.

This comparative approach enriches the understanding of social change in Iran by highlighting both shared patterns—such as youth activism and digital mobilization—and unique national features, including the enduring role of the clergy and constitutional frameworks.

Implications for Policy and Future Research

Behzad Yaghmaian's insights into social change in Iran have significant implications for policymakers, academics, and international observers. Recognizing the multifaceted nature of change underscores the necessity for nuanced engagement that supports grassroots initiatives while respecting Iran's socio-cultural context.

For researchers, Yaghmaian's work encourages interdisciplinary approaches that combine sociology, political science, and economics to capture the complexity of Iranian society. Further empirical studies on the impact of social media, gender dynamics, and generational shifts can deepen understanding and inform effective interventions.

- **Support for Civil Society:** Encouraging the growth of independent organizations can foster participatory governance and social resilience.
- **Economic Reform:** Addressing structural economic issues is crucial for alleviating social tensions and enabling sustainable development.
- **Dialogue and Inclusivity:** Promoting inclusive dialogue among diverse social groups may help bridge ideological divides and build consensus.

As Iran continues to navigate complex internal and external pressures, the evolving narrative of social change shaped by thinkers like Behzad Yaghmaian remains vital to comprehending the country's future trajectory. His analytical approach provides a valuable framework for interpreting ongoing transformations and the persistent quest for social justice and political reform in Iran.

[Social Change In Iran Behzad Yaghmaian](#)

social change in iran behzad yaghmaian: *Social Change in Iran* Behzad Yaghmaian, 2012-02-01 *Social Change in Iran* is an inquiry into the recent changes in Iran, blending scholarly analysis, eyewitness accounts, and the author's personal experiences. It tells the stories of everyday people, be it young men and women challenging the cultural and social mandates of the Islamic Republic, or workers toiling at multiple jobs to overcome harsh economic realities. This passionate homage to the people of Iran as told by a native is a glimpse into the human feelings and aspirations of a people subjected to varying forms of violence at home and widespread misunderstanding abroad. At the same time Yaghmaian provides an informed analysis of the widening political divide

within the state, and the emergence of a movement for reform, both of which have shaken the seemingly indisputable foundations of the Islamic Republic.

social change in iran behzad yaghmaian: Social Change in Iran Behzad Yaghmaian, 2002-01-24 A multi-level insider's look at the changes transforming contemporary Iran.

social change in iran behzad yaghmaian: Postrevolutionary Iran R. R. Asaadi, 2021-04-19 How is Iran governed? Is the state accountable to its society? How have Iran's political institutions evolved since the 1979 revolution? In short, *Postrevolutionary Iran: the Leader, the People, and the Three Powers* argues that the answers to these critical questions are neither as certain nor as fixed as much of the existing literature on this topic would lead one to believe. Part 1 of the book (chapters 1-3) analyzes what Iran's Constitution refers to as "the Three Powers": the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government along with the unique mediating institutions of the Guardian and Expediency Councils. In each chapter, the author describes the unique structure and function of the governing institution as outlined in Iran's Constitution, then explains how the institution has evolved in practice over time. Several trends emerge from this analysis, including, among others, the growing influence of the military in politics, the expanding power of the Guardian Council at the expense of the parliament, and the widening asymmetry of executive power favoring the supreme leader at the expense of the president. In Part 2 of the book (chapters 4-6), the analytical focus shifts from Iran's formal political institutions to consider instead the relationship between state and society more broadly, with chapters on Iran's military and economic structure, social movements, and public attitudes and the media. Finally, in the concluding chapter, the author offers a comprehensive view of what this analysis of Iran's political institutions in theory and practice reveals about both the resilience of Iran's political system and its capacity for meaningful change.

social change in iran behzad yaghmaian: *Iran and Christianity* Mark Bradley, 2011-10-27 In this enlightening study Mark Bradley looks at the growing underground church in Iran. Given the hostility of the regime, it is often assumed that Christianity is withering in Iran, but in fact more Iranian Muslims have become Christians in the last 25 years than since the seventh century, when Islam first came to Iran. Beginning with an in-depth look at the historical identity of Iran, religiously, culturally and politically, Bradley shows how this identity makes Iranians inclined towards Christianity. He goes on to look at the impact of the 1979 revolution, an event which has brought war, economic chaos and totalitarianism to Iran, and its implications for Iranian faith. The study concludes with an analysis of church growth since 1979 and an examination of the emerging underground church. This is a fascinating work, guaranteed to improve any reader's knowledge of not only Iranian faith and church growth, but of Iranian culture and history as a whole thanks to the thorough treatment given to the country's background.

social change in iran behzad yaghmaian: A Social Revolution Kevan Harris, 2017-08-08 For decades, political observers and pundits have characterized the Islamic Republic of Iran as an ideologically rigid state on the verge of collapse, exclusively connected to a narrow social base. In *A Social Revolution*, Kevan Harris convincingly demonstrates how they are wrong. Previous studies ignore the forceful consequences of three decades of social change following the 1979 revolution. Today, more people in the country are connected to welfare and social policy institutions than to any other form of state organization. In fact, much of Iran's current political turbulence is the result of the success of these social welfare programs, which have created newly educated and mobilized social classes advocating for change. Based on extensive fieldwork conducted in Iran between 2006 and 2011, Harris shows how the revolutionary regime endured through the expansion of health, education, and aid programs that have both embedded the state in everyday life and empowered its challengers. This first serious book on the social policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran opens a new line of inquiry into the study of welfare states in countries where they are often overlooked or ignored.

social change in iran behzad yaghmaian: Contemporary Domestic and Foreign Policies of Iran Pejman Abdolmohammadi, Giampiero Cama, 2020-05-06 This book is a comprehensive

analysis of the domestic and foreign politics of Iran, focusing on its complex nature from political, social and cultural perspectives. It has adopted a multidisciplinary approach, combining comparative politics and intellectual and modern history with international relations. It analyses the institutional structure of the Islamic Republic, the main political and social actors and alliances, as well as Iranian opposition forces both inside and outside the country. The book tries to simplify the seemingly intractable complexity of the Islamic Republic by demystifying it and using political science methods to prove that it is a peculiar hybrid regime.

social change in iran behzad yaghmaian: *Navigating Contemporary Iran* Eric Hooglund, Leif Stenberg, 2013-02-28 This detailed examination of contemporary Iran addresses the most important current social, political, and economic issues facing the nation and the way it is perceived by the outside world. The volume brings together some of the most important scholars and researchers in the field, working in such diverse disciplines as anthropology, economics, history, international relations, philosophy, political science, and sociology, to offer a broad range of perspectives on the significance of three decades of changes for Iran's current and near-term-future domestic and international politics. Drawing upon a wealth of original field research, the authors challenge conventional wisdom and simplistic media stereotypes about the Islamic Republic. The chapters reach beyond traditional images of the country to show that, as a consequence of thirty years of economic and social changes, the reality, or 'essence', of contemporary Iran is more complex and nuanced than is often portrayed in the international media. Offering valuable insights into Iran's economic and social policies, as well as its politics, since the Islamic Revolution, this book will be of great interest to students and scholars of political science, sociology, and Iranian studies.

social change in iran behzad yaghmaian: *Christian Encounters with Iran* Sasan Tavassoli, 2011-04-30 The interface between the current Shi'ite landscape and Christian thinking is of the greatest significance for the shifting political and religious dynamics of the Middle East. Sasan Tavassoli here examines Iranian Shi'ite thinkers' encounters with Christian thought since the Islamic revolution of 1979, and provides insight into the cultural and intellectual climate surrounding Christian-Muslim dialogue in contemporary Iran. The literature on Christianity in Iran reveals a wide range of approaches and attitudes, and Tavassoli demonstrates that traditional polemics are giving way to a more descriptive and subjective understanding of Christian thought. He also studies Muslim-Christian dialogue and research conducted and supported by governmental as well as non-governmental organizations, and offers a close examination, with interviews, of the work of three prominent liberal religious intellectuals - Abdol Karim Soroush, Mostafa Malekian and Mojtabeh Shabestari. Placing contemporary Shi'ite thought in the broad historical context of pre- and post-revolution Iran, Tavassoli relates concrete religious, cultural and socio-political realities to the themes and orientations in the latest phase of the Shi'i Islam-Christianity encounter, and offers fresh insight into the dynamism of contemporary Islam and the religious complexities of the Muslim world.

social change in iran behzad yaghmaian: *Participation Culture in the Gulf* Nele Lenze, Charlotte Schriwer, 2018-09-03 This book examines the civil-social interactions which have shaped and continue to influence the political and social development of modern Gulf societies. It analyses the influence of public and private social spaces, such as sports arenas and dawawin as well as developments in the legal and cultural spheres. Geographically, the volume covers Bahrain, Iran, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE. Each chapter discusses a different aspect of current trends in society, offering a multidimensional perspective on recent developments. In so doing, the chapters highlight the existence of a growing participation culture as a force for dynamic social change in a global context. Bringing to attention the continuing social change in public and private spaces, which have increased public social interactions within the last ten years, this book also demonstrates the opening of dialogues between the public and the authorities. The contributors are established scholars living in the Gulf, as well as academics with long-term field research in the region, thus providing unique perspectives on current sociopolitical trends in the Gulf states. *Participation Culture in the Gulf* will be useful to students and scholars of Middle Eastern politics

and society, as well as social movements and political participation more generally.

social change in iran behzad yaghmaian: Navigating Iran O. Seliktar, 2012-04-23 This book provides the first full account of America's relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran from Jimmy Carter's presidency to Barack Obama's. It discusses all major facets of Iranian policy of interest to the United States: nuclear proliferation, revolutionary export and support for international terrorism, efforts to undermine the Israeli-Palestinian peace process, and violations of human rights. It compares developments in Iran to their perception in Washington, providing the clearest picture available yet of the discrepancies between the complex and elusive Iranian reality and its understanding in the United States.

social change in iran behzad yaghmaian: Shi'i Theology in Iran Ori Goldberg, 2011-09-12 Taking a theologically oriented method for engaging with historical and cultural phenomena, this book explores the challenge, offered by revolutionary Shi'i theology in Iran, to Western conventions on theology, revolution and religion's role in the creation of identity. Offering a stringent critique of current literature on political Islam and on Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution, the author suggests that current literature fails to perceive and engage with the revolution and its thought as religious phenomena. Grounded in the experience of unconditional faith in God, Shi'i thinkers recognize a distinction between the human and the divine. Concerned with the challenge of constructing a virtuous society, these thinkers pose a model of authority and morality based on mediation, interpretation and participation in the experience of faith. Ori Goldberg considers this interpretative model utilizing a broad array of theoretical tools, most notably critical theologies drawn from Jewish and Christian thought. He draws on a close reading of several texts written by prominent Iranian Shi'i thinkers between 1940 and 2000, most of which are translated into English for the first time, to reveal a vibrant, complex discourse. Presenting a new interfaith perspective on a subject usually considered beyond the scope of such research, this book will be an important reference for scholars of Iranian studies, political Islam, theology and cultural studies.

social change in iran behzad yaghmaian: Guardians of the Revolution Ray Takeyh, 2011-05-05 For over a quarter century, Iran has been one of America's chief nemeses. Ever since Ayatollah Khomeini overthrew the Shah in 1979, the relationship between the two nations has been antagonistic: revolutionary guards chanting against the Great Satan, Bush fulminating against the Axis of Evil, Iranian support for Hezbollah, and President Ahmadinejad blaming the U.S. for the world's ills. The unending war of words suggests an intractable divide between Iran and the West, one that may very well lead to a shooting war in the near future. But as Ray Takeyh shows in this accessible and authoritative history of Iran's relations with the world since the revolution, behind the famous personalities and extremist slogans is a nation that is far more pragmatic--and complex--than many in the West have been led to believe. Takeyh explodes many of our simplistic myths of Iran as an intransigently Islamist foe of the West. Tracing the course of Iranian policy since the 1979 revolution, Takeyh identifies four distinct periods: the revolutionary era of the 1980s, the tempered gradualism following the death of Khomeini and the end of the Iran-Iraq war in 1989, the reformist period from 1997-2005 under President Khatami, and the shift toward confrontation and radicalism since the election of President Ahmadinejad in 2005. Takeyh shows that three powerful forces--Islamism, pragmatism, and great power pretensions--have competed in each of these periods, and that Iran's often paradoxical policies are in reality a series of compromises between the hardliners and the moderates, often with wild oscillations between pragmatism and ideological dogmatism. The U.S.'s task, Takeyh argues, is to find strategies that address Iran's objectionable behavior without demonizing this key player in an increasingly vital and volatile region. With its clear-sighted grasp of both nuance and historical sweep, *Guardians of the Revolution* will stand as the standard work on this controversial--and central--actor in world politics for years to come.

social change in iran behzad yaghmaian: Iranian Romance in the Digital Age Janet Afary, Jesilyn Faust, 2021-01-28 Following the 1979 Islamic Revolution, there was a dramatic reversal of women's rights, and the state revived many premodern social conventions through modern means and institutions. Customs such as the enforced veiling of women, easy divorce for men, child

marriage, and polygamy were robustly reintroduced and those who did not conform to societal strictures were severely punished. At the same time, new social and economic programs benefited the urban and rural poor, especially women, which had a direct impact on gender relations and the institution of marriage. Edited by Janet Afary and Jesilyn Faust, this interdisciplinary volume responds to the growing interest and need for literature on gender, marriage and family relations in the Islamic context. The book examines how the institution of marriage transformed in Iran, paying close attention to the country's culture and politics. Part One examines changes in urban marriages to new forms of cohabitation. In Part Two contributors, such as Soraya Tremayne, explore the way technology and social media has impacted and altered the institution of family. Part Three turns its eye to look at marital changes in the rural and tribal sectors of society through the works of anthropologists including Erika Friedl and Mary Hegland. Based on the work of both new and established scholars, the book provides an up-to-date study of an important and intensely politicized subject.

social change in iran behzad yaghmaian: *Iran's Long Reach* Suzanne Maloney, United States Institute of Peace, 2008 As the third book in the series from the Institute's Muslim World Initiative on pivotal states in the Muslim world, this lucid and timely volume sheds much-needed light on Iran's strikingly complex political system and foreign policy and its central role in the region.

social change in iran behzad yaghmaian: *Democracy in Iran* Misagh Parsa, 2016-11-07 In Misagh Parsa's view, the outlook for democracy in Iran is stark. Gradual reforms will not be sufficient for real change: the government must fundamentally rethink its commitment to the role of religion in politics and civic life. For Iran to democratize, the options are narrowing to a single path: another revolution.

social change in iran behzad yaghmaian: *After Jihad* Noah Feldman, 2007-05-15 A lucid and compelling case for a new American stance toward the Islamic world. What comes after jihad? Outside the headlines, believing Muslims are increasingly calling for democratic politics in their undemocratic countries. But can Islam and democracy successfully be combined? Surveying the intellectual and geopolitical terrain of the contemporary Muslim world, Noah Feldman proposes that Islamic democracy is indeed viable and desirable, and that the West, particularly the United States, should work to bring it about, not suppress it. Encouraging democracy among Muslims threatens America's autocratic Muslim allies, and raises the specter of a new security threat to the West if fundamentalists are elected. But in the long term, the greater threat lies in continuing to support repressive regimes that have lost the confidence of their citizens. By siding with Islamic democrats rather than the regimes that repress them, the United States can bind them to the democratic principles they say they support, reducing anti-Americanism and promoting a durable peace in the Middle East. *After Jihad* gives the context for understanding how the many Muslims who reject religious violence see the world after the globalization of democracy. It is also an argument about how American self-interest can be understood to include a foreign policy consistent with the deeply held democratic values that make America what it is. At a time when the encounter with Islam has become the dominant issue of U.S. foreign policy, *After Jihad* provides a road map for making democracy work in a region where the need for it is especially urgent.

social change in iran behzad yaghmaian: *Bitter Friends, Bosom Enemies* Barbara Slavin, 2009-01-06 In *Bitter Friends, Bosom Enemies*, Barbara Slavin untangles the love-hate relationship between Iran and the United States that has brought the two countries to the brink of war. Slavin reveals that relations between Washington and Tehran have been riddled with contradictions for decades and details missed opportunities for reconciliation under both the Clinton and Bush administrations, including diplomatic rebuffs to Iran in Bush's first term based on the mistaken belief that the U.S. invasion of Iraq would weaken Iran's Islamic government. One of the few reporters to interview high-profile Iranian officials, including Iran's current and last two presidents, Slavin describes all the key constituencies in Iran society from the clerics, to the Revolutionary Guards, to reformers and Iranian youth. She unveils Iran and shows it to be a country that both adores and fears the United States. Despite government propaganda that portrays the U.S. as the

Great Satan, many Iranians have come to idolize staples of American pop culture while holding on to their own traditions. The United States, on the other hand, has demonized Iran as a member of an axis of evil that supports terrorists and represses its own people who, in the words of U.S. officials, deserve better. As Iran moves toward becoming a nuclear power, Slavín believes that the power brokers in Washington may be suffering from the same lack of understanding and foresight that led the U.S. into prolonged warfare in Iraq. Distrustful of each other's intentions yet longing at some level to reconcile, neither Tehran nor Washington knows how this story will end. Anyone interested in understanding the dynamics of this pivotal international relationship will find *Bitter Friends, Bosom Enemies* a crucial and compelling read.

social change in iran behzad yaghmaian: Psycho-nationalism Arshin Adib-Moghaddam, 2017-12-07 States routinely and readily exploit the grey area between sentiments of national affinity and hegemonic emotions geared to nationalist aggression. In this book, Arshin Adib-Moghaddam focuses on the use of Iranian identity to offer a timely exploration into the psychological and political roots of national identity and how these are often utilised by governments from East to West. Examining this trend, both under the Shah as well as by the governments since the 1979 Iranian revolution, Adib-Moghaddam's analysis is driven by what he terms 'psycho-nationalism', a new concept derived from psychological dynamics in the making of nations. Through this, he demonstrates how nationalist ideas evolved in global history and their impact on questions of identity, statecraft and culture. Psycho-nationalism describes how a nation is made, sustained and 'sold' to its citizenry and will interest students and scholars of Iranian culture and politics, world political history, nationalism studies and political philosophy.

social change in iran behzad yaghmaian: Young and Defiant in Tehran Shahram Khosravi, 2011-09-28 With more than half its population under twenty years old, Iran is one of the world's most youthful nations. The Iranian state characterizes its youth population in two ways: as a homogeneous mass, an army of twenty millions devoted to the Revolution, and as alienated, inauthentic, Westernized consumers who constitute a threat to the society. Much of the focus of the Islamic regime has been on ways to protect Iranian young people from moral hazards and to prevent them from providing a gateway for cultural invasion from the West. Iranian authorities express their anxieties through campaigns that target the young generation and its lifestyle and have led to the criminalization of many of the behaviors that make up youth culture. In this ethnography of contemporary youth culture in Iran's capital, Shahram Khosravi examines how young Tehranis struggle for identity in the battle over the right to self-expression. Khosravi looks closely at the strictures confronting Iranian youth and the ways transnational cultural influences penetrate and flourish. Focusing on gathering places such as shopping centers and coffee shops, Khosravi examines the practices of everyday life through which young Tehranis demonstrate defiance against the official culture and parental dominance. In addition to being sites of opposition, Khosravi argues, these alternative spaces serve as creative centers for expression and, above all, imagination. His analysis reveals the transformative power these spaces have and how they enable young Iranians to develop their own culture as well as individual and generational identities. The text is enriched by examples from literature and cinema and by vivid reports from the author's fieldwork.

social change in iran behzad yaghmaian: The Psychology of Genocide and Violent Oppression Richard Morrock, 2014-01-10 The twentieth century was one of the most violent in all of human history, with more than 100 million people killed in acts of war and persecution ranging from the Herero and Namaqua genocide in present-day Namibia during the early 1900s to the ongoing conflict in Darfur. This book explores the root causes of genocide, looking into the underlying psychology of violence and oppression. Genocide does not simply occur at the hands of tyrannical despots, but rather at the hands of ordinary citizens whose unresolved pain and oppression forces them to follow a leader whose demagoguery best expresses their own long-developed prejudices and fears. The book explains how birth trauma, childhood trauma, and authoritarian education can be seen as the true causes of genocidal periods in recent history.

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