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The People Reloaded: The Green Movement And The Struggle For Iran's Future



Synopsis

A definitive collection of essays and documents on the movement behind Iran's mass protests. Since June of 2009, the Islamic Republic of Iran has seen the most dramatic political upheaval in its three decades of rule. What began as a series of mass protests over the official results of a presidential election—engendering the slogan “Where is My Vote?”—has grown into something much larger, indeed the largest political protest since the 1979 revolution. The Green Movement has been described as “an Iranian intifada,” a “great emancipatory event,” a “grassroots civil rights movement a century in the making,” and “something quite extraordinary, perhaps even a social revolution.” What are the movement’s aims—are they revolutionary, reformist, or something else altogether? Does it have a chance of fundamentally changing Iranian politics or removing president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad from office? This momentous anthology explores these critical questions and others by assembling the key statements, communiqués, manifestos, interviews, and debates to have emerged from this vibrant social movement—many of which are translated and published here for the first time. This indispensable volume is the first to bring together the leading voices and key players in Iran’s Green Movement, providing an intellectual and political road map to this turning point in Iran’s history and a vital resource for the study of Iran, social movements, and the future of the Middle East.

Book Information

Paperback: 464 pages

Publisher: Melville House (January 25, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1935554387

ISBN-13: 978-1935554387

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 1.2 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (3 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,154,126 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #490 in [Books > History > Middle East > Iran](#) #1562 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Elections & Political Process > Elections](#) #2237 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > International & World Politics > Middle Eastern](#)

Customer Reviews

In this recent publication Hashemi and Postel contribute an introduction and two pieces for the work,

but the remainder comes from noted historians, political activists in and out of Iran, and journalists. Among the historians are Ervand Abrahamian of CUNY, Hamid Dabashi of Columbia University, and Juan Cole of the University of Michigan. Activists include Grand Ayatollah Montazeri's student Ayatollah Mohsen Kadivar, who now teaches at Duke, Nobel Prize Winner, Shirin Ebadi, and prominent Iranian political scientist Hossein Bashiriyeh, who lost his job at Tehran University in 2007. Journalists like Roger Cohen, Stephen Kinzer, and Laura Secor contribute pieces. The combined effect is a history of the Green Movement that includes much of Iran's revolutionary past and a vision of the future of the Green Movement in their struggle for justice and a voice in the ancient civilization of Iran. This book is well designed to give someone with minimal knowledge of Iran's current politics and recent past a comprehensive overview of the last couple years and the historical context that shaped them. Numerous details and stories emerge beyond the wrenching pictures that began the summer of 2009--with the post electoral drama that captivated our attention until Michael Jackson died. I highly recommend this very accessible paperback to familiarize yourself more deeply with a nation that has a central role to play if we are ever going to get out of Iraq and Afghanistan. Hashemi's contributions to analyzing the development of democracy hold great value. The path to democracy in the West was far from a straight line and it took centuries to arrive where it is. It is important to value the quest for democracy in the Muslim world and do all we can to help them.

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