THE AYATOLLAHS' DEMOCRACY

AN IRANIAN CHALLENGE

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LESLEY HAZLETON,
AUTHOR OF *AFTER THE PROPHET*

HOOMAN MAJD

The Ayatollahs Democracy An Iranian Challenge

Mohammad Mohaddessin

The Ayatollahs Democracy An Iranian Challenge:

The Ayatollahs' Democracy Hooman Majd,2011-08-23 Hooman Majd offers a dramatic perspective on a country with global ambitions an elaborate political culture and enormous implications for world peace Drawing on privileged access to the Iranian power elite Majd argues that despite the violence of the disputed 2009 elections a group of influential ayatollahs including a liberal almost secular opposition still believes in the Iranian republic for them green represents not a revolution but a civil rights movement pushing the country inexorably toward democracy albeit a particular brand of Islamic democracy With witty candid and intelligent reporting Majd himself the grandson of an esteemed ayatollah introduces top level politicians and clerics as well as ordinary people even Jewish community leaders all expressing pride for their ancient heritage and fierce independence from the West From publisher description   The Eternal Revolution Hamad Albloshi,2016-04-27 More than three decades have passed since the establishment of the Islamic Republic of Iran in 1979 In that time theories of modern revolution would suggest a retreat from ideological goals heralding a phase of institutional development However Hamad Albloshi argues that Iran is unique the current rhetoric of conservative Iranian leaders implies the regime has not left its revolutionary stage Through an examination of the hardline conservative ideology in Iran personified by the former president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad this book explores how the usual development seen in revolutions from radical discourse to pragmatic rhetoric has not been the case in Iran Albloshi explores the evolution of the hardline conservatives and their main ideas about the nature of the Iranian regime their position toward other groups within the system and their approach to the international community By doing so he sheds new light on the group s position in the country and the ideological roots of major shifts that occurred in Iran s internal and external policies in the period between 2005 and 2013   The Saudi-Iranian Rivalry and the Future of Middle East Security W. Andrew Terrill,2011 The Strategic Studies Institute is pleased to offer this monograph as a contribution to the national security debate on this important subject as our nation continues to grapple with a variety of problems associated with the future of the Middle East and the ongoing challenge of advancing U S interests in a time of Middle East turbulence   **Democratic Uprisings in the New Middle East** Mahmood Monshipouri,2016-01-08 As Egypt retreats from its newly elected government and Syria moves from one crisis to another this book s reflection on the Arab Spring could not be more timely Monshipouri s account of the role of emotion solidarity and online activism is informed by several trips to the region that continue to this day The uprisings were fueled by a demographic surge of young people unable to find employment and frustrated by the lack of freedom and now the elected regime has been ousted for failing to address these continuing circumstances While modern technologies and social media may have brought new politics to the streets organization on the ground trumps the enthusiasm of young protesters when it comes to shaping a country s political future How to turn elections into democracy in these post conflict societies continues to be a daunting task especially in countries with a longstanding history of military involvement in politics now

experiencing a resurgence This book addresses all of these subjects in an engaging and accessible narrative Key features of the text **Anti-Access Warfare** Sam Tangredi,2013-10-15 The book is the definitive conceptual and historical introduction to the concept of anti access strategies Unlike current studies it is not simply technology focused Nor is it primarily intended as critique of the current Air Sea Battle concept It combines conceptual thinking with historical examples and potential scenarios in order to identify options for future defense planning Strategies of anti access also known as area denial more recently combined into the awkward acronym A2 AD are presumed to be the primary threats to the employment of U S military forces in overseas crises This presumption has gradually evolved into a joint concept of operational access Anti access capabilities appear to be the current military posture of the People s Republic of China and Islamic Republic of Iran The study of anti access or area denial strategies for use against American power projection capabilities has strong naval roots which have been largely ignored by the most influential commentators In reality denial of access was the Soviet Navy s operational objective during the Cold War The first use of the actual anti access term can be traced to a series of anti Navy studies by the Office of Net Assessment designed to examine the ability of the U S Navy to carry out its Maritime Strategy and later From the Sea strategic vision Sustained long range power projection is both a unique strength of U S military forces and a requirement for an activist foreign policy and forward defense In more recent years the logic of the anti access approach has been identified by the Department of Defense as a threat to this U S capability and the joint force countering it is one of the defense priorities identified in the President s directions issued this past January In addition to potential regional powers a number of think tanks have suggested that non state actors such as terrorist organizations are developing anti access area denial capabilities The book s conclusions differ from most commentary on anti access Rather than a technology driven post Cold War phenomenon the anti access approach has been a routine element of grand strategy used by strategically weaker powers to confront stronger powers throughout history But they have been largely unsuccessful when confronting a stronger maritime power Although high technology weapons capabilities enhance the threat they also can be used to mitigate the threat Rather than arguing against reliance on maritime forces presumably because they are no longer survivable the historical analysis argues that maritime capabilities are key in breaking the great walls **The Middle East in the World** Lucia Volk,2015-02-11 The Middle East in the World offers students a fresh comprehensive multidisciplinary entry point to the broader Middle East After a brief introduction to the study of the region the early chapters of the book survey the essentials of Middle Eastern history important historical narratives and the region s languages religions and global connections Students are guided through the material with relevant maps resource boxes and text boxes that support and guide further independent exploration of the topics at hand The second half of the book presents interdisciplinary case studies each of which focuses on a specific country or sub region and a salient issue offering a taste of the cultural distinctiveness of the particular country while also drawing attention to global linkages Readers will come away from this

book with an understanding of the larger historical political and cultural frameworks that shaped the Middle East as we know it today and of current issues that have relevance in the Middle East and beyond   *Losing Legitimacy* Clifton W. Sherrill,2018-09-15 This book contends that the transition of leadership from Ayatollah Ali Khamenei will result in a crisis of legitimacy for the Islamic Republic of Iran Using Max Weber s typology of legitimacy the book explains that the Islamic Republic s legitimacy was based on the charismatic authority of the regime s founder Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini Since Khomeini s death in 1989 the regime has failed to develop the rule of law necessary for legal rational authority Moreover it abandoned the logical underpinnings justifying clerical rule when a mid ranking cleric rather than a Grand Ayatollah was placed in the position of Supreme Leader With neither a legal basis nor a traditional basis of authority the new leader relied extensively on the cover of Khomeini s charismatic shadow for legitimacy After nearly four decades this shadow is fading Not only will Khamenei s successor lack the same direct ties to Khomeini but the demographic and societal changes in Iran have made the charisma of Khomeini a historical concept rather than a viscerally felt experience First the book analyzes the likely succession scenarios finding the most probable outcome is the appointment of a hardline conservative backed by the regime s security forces Next the regime s economic political and social failures are presented in order to explain why the new leader is likely to try to return to a traditional basis of legitimacy religion Thereafter the book explains how this hardliner focus on religion is likely to result in an aggressive Iranian foreign policy toward the United States Israel and Saudi Arabia impacting the region s security   **The Contemporary Review** ,2012   **The Democratic Challenge** Jorge Nef,Bernd Reiter,2009-05 This is a compelling analysis of the concept of decmoracy and of the challenge it faces in the contemporary era   **Enemies of the Ayatollahs** Mohammad Mohaddessin,2004 What happens in post war Iraq may well be decided by what happens in Iran In this powerful account of its theocratic regime the author pays particular attention to the Iranian factor in the 2003 Iraq war and the likely impact of the continuation of the mullahs regime and its tendency to interfere in its neighbour s affairs He reveals startling new information about Iran s continued links with fundamentalist Islamic organizations abroad the pursuit of its nuclear ambitions and its ongoing use of terrorism against its own opponents all of which justify a high level of international concern The author argues that in contrast to the ruling regime the main Iranian opposition is essentially democratic nationalist and in favour of a separation of religion and state He raises fundamental questions about Islamic fundamentalism and sets out a liberating compassionate tolerant and democratic version of Islam which can hold out hope for the Middle East as a whole   **The New Iranian Leadership** Yonah Alexander,Milton Hoenig,2008 This book documents Ahmadenijad s background and rise to power It explains the current structure of the Iranian revolutionary government the competing centers of power and the major players   **The Echo of Iran** ,2002   *Complicity* Elliot M. Kramer,2003   Democracy in Asia and Africa Seymour Martin Lipset,1997 Contains alphabetically arranged articles that provide information about various aspects of democracy in over forty countries and regions in Asia and

Africa and includes maps charts graphs and related documents   *The Twilight of Democracy* Patrick E. Kennon,1995 In an explosive work that will disturb many and anger many others a modern Machiavelli a retired CIA analyst argues calmly and rationally that democracy is an outdated and doomed form of government Targeted political mailings   <u>Iran, Harsh Arm of Islam</u> George H. Hassan,2005 Iran Harsh Arm of Islam sets out to bulldoze what it considers the most far reaching and distractive of all travesty created by men It is not my intention to trash Islam but to demonstrate that Shiite belief is irrational to nauseating heights If world Shiite wishes to continue believing in deceptive teachings of Iran s Shiite ayatollahs after reading this book that is their privilege however they will find it difficult to convince their children that the Shiite Islam is a religion to follow Iran Harsh Arm of Islam offers an unvarnished portrait of the Shiite religion the past Shiite imams including Imam Khomeini and the struggle of Iranians fighting a conspiracy in the name of religion Iran Harsh Arm of Islam is not just another hysterical anti Islam polemic but a forensic peep into the guts of Islam written by an intelligent angry and compelling Muslim critics intimately involve with current events This lively and compelling book is a product of nearly a decade of research and reflection on the relation and the polarization between secular minded Iranians and the Arab Iranian clergy It shows the lack of patriotism toward Iran and the Islamic institution s loyalty to the sands of Arabia The book s balance critique and recommendations are credible and deserve serious considerations Among much suggestion for change is for Iranians to shun the Arab ethos The Arab Islam and the Arab Allah The seven century Arab Allah that Arabs brought into Persia was created in their own image helplessly incompetent and supremely ignorant The ayatollah s of antiquity attributed superlative culture specific human words to their Allah Their Allah is accorded the epithets of allinfinite all compassion all merciful all powerful all knowing and all seeing As some Iranians would say they put watermelons under Allah s armpit to puff up his chest It was also a smart way to promote the class and status of mullahs in the Iranian society In assigning all power to Allah and to themselves the prerogative to carry out that power they have obtained a free hand Iranians should do away with the morbid Arab months in the Arabic calendar especially the months of Moharram and Safar At the same time they should throw out the Arab Allah and embrace their own God The Persian God of pre Arab Islam who championed love Compassion wisdom and tolerance for all people and all religions By doing away with Arab Allah Shiite clergies can no longer bequeath each other honorific titles by adding the word Allah to nouns to give definite and specific connotation to Arab Allah such as Ayat Allah Allah s miraculous sign Ruh Allah Allah s spirit Hojat Allah Allah s proof to exert their influence over Iranians Iranians will be able to study and choose any religion without fearing the firing squads Also Iranians should convert thousands of useless mosques that are centers for prevention of knowledge with much needed libraries computer Art social activities and learning centers Perhaps in the past the world has not been conscious of one of the most dangerous place the triangle of Terror Qom Iran Karbala Najaf Iraq its complicity its perverse brand of theology its zealous opposition to western democracy or at best saw it as a rather more distance peril but from this day on the world must

be on alert and worry	**Editorials on File** ,2006	**Reaping what You Sow** Ely Stefansky Ratner,2009	<u>Newsweek</u> ,2003	**In the Land of the Ayatollahs Tupac Shakur is King** Shahzad Aziz,2007 Using the cities and culture of the Middle East as a backdrop this study explores issues within the Arab world and in its relations with the West Serious debate is interspersed with witty travel dialogue to discuss many issues facing the Eastern world today such as the adoption of Western popular culture the war on terror the Arab Israeli conflict martyrdom the position of women in Islam and the Western view of the Muslim world

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Table of Contents The Ayatollahs Democracy An Iranian Challenge

1. Understanding the eBook The Ayatollahs Democracy An Iranian Challenge
    - The Rise of Digital Reading The Ayatollahs Democracy An Iranian Challenge
    - Advantages of eBooks Over Traditional Books
2. Identifying The Ayatollahs Democracy An Iranian Challenge
    - Exploring Different Genres
    - Considering Fiction vs. Non-Fiction
    - Determining Your Reading Goals
3. Choosing the Right eBook Platform
    - Popular eBook Platforms
    - Features to Look for in an The Ayatollahs Democracy An Iranian Challenge
    - User-Friendly Interface
4. Exploring eBook Recommendations from The Ayatollahs Democracy An Iranian Challenge
    - Personalized Recommendations
    - The Ayatollahs Democracy An Iranian Challenge User Reviews and Ratings
    - The Ayatollahs Democracy An Iranian Challenge and Bestseller Lists
5. Accessing The Ayatollahs Democracy An Iranian Challenge Free and Paid eBooks

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