

**List of Recommended Titles for  
South-South Translation Grants  
Iran**

## Introduction.

The following is a list of books about Iran organized in the following categories. There are about 80 books on the list. About 30 are by Iranians written in English, and about 10 are by non-Iranians. This is not a reflection of chauvinism but simply that many of the Iranians that would have written in Iran are living outside Iran for a variety of reasons. The selection is thus a good reflection of intellectual production by Iranians. Books by non-Iranians were chosen on the basis of their importance and even classic status. In each category a horizontal line separates the books which are of first priority from those which - in the case of a limit on the number to be selected - are of secondary importance. It goes without saying that the list can be revised as well as amended.

	<b>Category</b>	<b>Number</b>
1	Biography, Autobiography	6
2	Political Biography	3
3	Contemporary Politics in the Islamic Republic	8
4	Political History	13
5	Economics, Economic History	3
6	Society	6
7	General History and Regional Relations	6
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9	Philosophy, Religion, Intellectual Life	13
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**Note: Author's name in BLUE means original in English**

## Biography, Autobiography

### Reading Lolita in Tehran. [Azar Nafisi](#).

International Bestseller recalling this literature professor's life in Tehran during the most difficult years after the Islamic Revolution. The book skillfully weaves literature and life in interesting ways.

### Persepolis : The Story of a Childhood

by [MARJANE SATRAPI](#)

Paperback: 160 pages

Publisher: Pantheon (June 1, 2004)

ISBN: 037571457X

Originally published to wide critical acclaim in France, where it elicited comparisons to Art Spiegelman's Maus, Persepolis is Marjane Satrapi's wise, funny, and heartbreaking memoir of growing up in Iran during the Islamic Revolution. In powerful black-and-white comic strip images, Satrapi tells the story of her life in Tehran from ages six to fourteen, years that saw the overthrow of the Shah's regime, the triumph of the Islamic Revolution, and the devastating effects of war with Iraq.

### **Journey from the Land of No : A Girlhood Caught in Revolutionary Iran**

by [ROYA HAKAKIAN](#)

Hardcover: 256 pages

Publisher: Crown; 1st edition (August 10, 2004)

Hakakian recounts her past as a girl growing up in the second largest Jewish community in the Middle East—Tehran—during the takeover of the Ayatollah Khomeini. She paints pictures of a changing Iran, from a land that was immersed in the poetry of life and discovery to one that spoke of militaristic prayer and repression, where Jewish people were once again subject to anti-Semitism and where women were stripped of many of their rights. Hakakian's poetic prose is lovely, lyrical, and wry, full of metaphor as well as humor and pain. Teens who are interested in history, poetry, different cultures, or biography should enjoy her memoir

### **Daughter of Persia : A Woman's Journey From Her Father's Harem Through the Islamic Revolution**

by [Sattareh Farman Farmaian](#), [Dona Munker](#)

Paperback: 432 pages

Publisher: Anchor; Reprint edition (April 1, 1993)

In this poignant autobiography, Farman Farmaian brings Persian history and culture alive. Born in 1921 into the powerful, aristocratic Qajar family, her life spans nearly a century of tremendous change in Iran: from a sheltered childhood in her father's harem (there was an extended family of four wives and over 30 children) through her studies at the University of Southern California where she was the first Iranian student to attend to her return to Iran to found and direct the Tehran School of Social Work from 1958 until 1979 when radical students took over the school and forced her into exile.

### **Scent of Saffron: Three Generations of an Iranian Family**

by [Rouhi Shafii](#)

Paperback: 252 pages

Publisher: Scarlet Press (July 1, 1997 (

ISBN: 1857270886

The writer gives an eloquent account of the life of her two preceding generations in Iranian small towns as well as the story of her own fights, achievements and torments. These, combined with the history of economical rise and the subsequent political downfall of Iran makes the book highly interesting..highly recommend to all groups and generations of Iranians and others who are interested in knowing more about Iran, its people and the way of life in that country.

### **The Dance of the Rose and the Nightingale (Gender, Culture, and Politics in the Middle East)**

by [Nesta Ramazani](#)

Hardcover: 272 pages

Publisher: Syracuse University Press (April 1, 2002)

ISBN: 081560727X

A true gem, a must read, an illuminating memoir. Nesta Ramazani has written a true gem of memoir and history. With her extremely capable pen, she takes us on both a personal journey into her own diverse, eclectic, and inspiring life and also into revealing vignettes of Iranian life of the 1940's and 1950's -- a period lamentably ignored by too many historians. The book does what the best memoirs should do: it

tells a great tale, weaves the background history nicely, and illuminates slices of life and Iranian society in all its color and diversity. It is touching, funny, enlightening, and exquisitely told. The book should be on the reading list of anyone interested in good memoirs, in Iran, in women's studies, in the Middle East, or simply in good writing. I rank the book at the top of any list of Iranian memoirs in the English language.

### **The *Khalij* Travelogue**

ABBAS MAS'OUDI

Ettelaat, Tehran 1964

A slim volume by the Pahlavi era publisher and Senator who traveled to the Gulf Coast and which nevertheless offers a very unique and interesting perspective of the Gulf States before the great boom that was to come.

## **Political Biography**

### **Khomeini: Life of the Ayatollah**

by [Baquer Moin](#)

Hardcover: 355 pages

Publisher: Thomas Dunne Books; 1st U.S. ed edition (June 1, 2000)

ISBN: 0312264909

The Ayatollah Khomeini was the most radical Muslim leader of this age. Baquer Moin here explores how and why this frail octogenarian, dressed in the traditional robes of a Muslim cleric, overthrew the secular Shah of Iran and became the spiritual leader of a new and militant Islamic regime. Still an enigma in the West, Khomeini transformed the Middle East and the world. But where did the man come from? What was his childhood and family background? What lay behind his implacable opposition to the Shah? What role did the turbulent events in Iran during his youth play in shaping Khomeini's political perceptions? What changed him from an obscure traditional theologian with mystical and poetic inclinations into a combative and highly vengeful radical? How will his vision of an international community of Muslims, a kind of Islamic Internationale, affect the Middle East?

Drawing on many exclusive personal interviews with Khomeini's associates, on unpublished new materials and on the author's firsthand experience in Islamic seminaries, this biography provides a fascinating, well-documented and highly accessible analysis of the life and thought of one of the most controversial leaders of the late twentieth century.

### **An Islamic Utopian, A political biography of Ali Shari'ati, by Ali Rahnema, I. B. Tauris, 1998**

This book provides a new understanding of a man who played a significant part in the Iranian revolution and an analysis of a current of political Islam that has influenced movements throughout the Middle East. This full-length political biography looks at Ali Shari'ati's life and thought in the context of the complex and contradictory cultural, social, and political conditions of the Iranian society that shaped him

### **Amir-Kabir and Iran**

Fereydoon Adamyyat

Perhaps the most influential scholarly work of history published prior to the Islamic Revolution and an introduction to one of the most important figures in modern Iranian history, who was a key force in modernization of Iran during the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

### **The life and Thought of Mirza Aghakhan Kermani**

Fereydoon Adamyyat

312 Pages

Tahouri, Tehran 1968

An authoritative biography of one of the major philosophers of the modern Middle-East.

## **Contemporary Politics in the Islamic Republic**

### **The Constitution of Iran : Politics and the State in the Islamic Republic**

by [Asgar Schirazi](#)

Paperback: 336 pages

Publisher: I.B.Tauris (September 15, 1998)

ISBN: 1860642535

This book is a milestone in our understanding of the ideology and practice of an Islamic state. Asghar Schirazi chronicles and analyzes political life in Iran since the revolution, showing the gradual transformation of the state from intended theocracy and republic to a hierocracy in which Islam and the shari'a play a subordinate role. He thus provides the context for the dramatic debate between reformists and traditionalists in Iran. Schirazi addresses the major contradictions inherent in the Iranian constitution--between its legalistic and democratic components on the one hand, and between the alleged potential of a legally and ideologically interpreted Islam to resolve social problems as against the growing evidence that this Islam is an inadequate legal and political basis for government. He charts the gradual replacement of Islamic legalism with a political practice based centrally on the interests of the state, and points to a growing crisis of the shari'a that will open the way for possible developments of Islam in the future.

### **The Making of Iran's Islamic Revolution: From Monarchy to Islamic Republic**

by [Mohsen M. Milani](#)

Paperback: 268 pages

Publisher: Westview Press; 2nd edition (September 1, 1994)

ISBN: 0813384761

In this fully revised and expanded second edition, Dr. Milani offers new insights into the causes and profound consequences of Iran's Islamic Revolution. Drawing on dozens of personal interviews with the officials of the Islamic Republic and on recently released documents, he presents a provocative analysis of the dynamics and characteristics of factional politics in Islamic Iran. Among the new issues covered are the events leading up to the Teheran hostage crisis, Ayatollah Khomeini's life and writings, President Rafsanjani's activities against the Shah, Rafsanjani's recent reforms, Iran's involvement in the Kuwaiti crisis, and the domestic and foreign policy challenges facing Iran in the post-Cold War era.

**Takeover in Tehran: The Inside Story of the 1979 U.S. Embassy Capture**

by [Massoumeh Ebtekar](#), [Fred A. Reed](#)

Paperback: 224 pages

Publisher: Talonbooks, Ltd.; 1 edition (January 20, 2001)

ISBN: 0889224439

In this first-ever insider account of the American Embassy takeover in 1979, Massoumeh Ebtekar attempts to correct twenty years of misrepresentation by the Western media of what the aims of both the Iranian students and the populist revolution they personified were, and have since remained.

This book is essential reading for anyone interested in the rapidly proliferating international phenomenon of peoples attempting to preserve their independence and culture from the overwhelming hegemony of American dominance in the global community of nations, and in how the "independent" American media continues to play an active, no matter how innocent and unwitting, role as an instrument of American foreign policy.

**The Mantle of the Prophet: Religion and Politics in Iran.** by [Roy Mottahedeh](#)

Paperback: 384 pages

(Publisher: Oneworld Publications; New Ed edition (August 1, 2000

ISBN: 1851682341

Drawn from the first-hand accounts of eye-witnesses, Roy Mottahedeh's gripping account of Islam and politics in revolutionary Iran is widely regarded as one of the best records of that turbulent time ever written

**From Holy Witness to Worldly Witness. Saeed Hajjarian.** Tarhe No 2002

Collected Essays from one of the leading Islamic Reformers and strategists who was paralyzed after an assassination attempt in 2000. Should be read as a statement of the ideas and position of the Islamic reformists.

**Power, Law and Culture.** Abbas Abdi. Tarhe No 2001

Collected Essays from another leading Islamic reformist now in prison. Should be read as a statement of the ideas and position of the Islamic reformists.

**Human Rights in Iran: The Abuse of Cultural Relativism (Pennsylvania Studies in Human Rights)**

by [Reza Afshari](#)

Hardcover: 359 pages

Publisher: University of Pennsylvania Press (August 1, 2001)

ISBN: 081223605X

**Freedom of Thought and Speech.** By Nasser Katouzian. Tehran: Gerayesh. 2004.

An unexpected book from a Tehran University Law professor, dealing in explicit and legal terms with the issue of freedom of thought and speech within the context of the Islamic Republic's constitution, laws, courts and practice. It also demonstrates the difficulty of writing about human rights in Iran.

## **Political History**

**Modern Iran: Roots and Results of Revolution**

by [Nikki R. Keddie](#)

Paperback: 406 pages  
Publisher: Yale University Press (October 1, 2003)  
ISBN: 0300098561

In this substantially revised and expanded version of Nikki Keddie's classic work *Roots of Revolution*, the author brings the story of modern Iran to the present day, exploring the political, cultural, and social changes of the past quarter century. Keddie provides insightful commentary on the Iran-Iraq war, the Persian Gulf War, and the effects of 9/11 and Iran's strategic relationship with the U.S. She also discusses developments in education, health care, the arts, and the role of women.

**Islam and Revolution** (Kegan Paul Library of Central Asia)

by [Iman Khomeini](#)

Publisher: Kegan Paul (November 13, 2002)  
ISBN: 0710308051

The classic writings of Khomeini on Islamic government and politics. Originally in Persian, this is a collection of representative essays.

**Iran Between Two Revolutions** (Princeton Studies on the Near East)

by [Ervand Abrahamian](#)

Paperback: 561 pages  
Publisher: Princeton University Press (July 1, 1982)  
ISBN: 0691101345

Emphasizing the interaction between political organizations and social forces, Ervand Abrahamian discusses Iranian society and politics during the period between the Constitutional Revolution of 1905-1909 and the Islamic Revolution of 1977-1979.

**The Strangling of Persia: Story of the European Diplomacy and Oriental Intrigue That Resulted in the Denationalization of Twelve Million Mohammedans (Persia Observed Series)**

by [W. Morgan Shuster](#)

Hardcover: 496 pages  
Publisher: Mage Publishers; Reprint edition (February, 2005)  
ISBN: 093421106X . Originally published in 1912

In 1911, an ambitious American was invited by a budding Iranian democracy to bring financial stability to the country. He went with the blessing of the British and Russian governments, both of which enjoyed a wide sphere of influence in the region. However, no one expected him to succeed so quickly in making Iran into a credible democracy and he was ousted by the actions of the Russian and British governments. After he was forced to return to the US, Shuster wrote a book revealing the true motives of the superpowers of the time and how the region's course of history was forever altered. *Strangling of Persia* offers keen insights into the timeless methods used by powerful nations to achieve their own ends. More than 85 years after its' first publication, it remains a powerful indictment of a short-sighted policy that crushed a fragile but promising democracy.

**All The Shah's Men: An American Coup And The Roots Of Middle East Terror, Library Edition**

by [Stephen Kinzer](#)

Paperback: 272 pages  
Publisher: John Wiley & Sons (July 30, 2004)

ISBN: 0471678783

This is the first full-length account of the CIA's coup d'etat in Iran in 1953—a covert operation whose consequences are still with us today. Written by a noted New York Times journalist, this book is based on documents about the coup (including some lengthy internal CIA reports) that have now been declassified. Stephen Kinzer's compelling narrative is at once a vital piece of history, a cautionary tale, and a real-life espionage thriller.

### **The Iranian Constitutional Movement**

Mash'allah Ajudani

2004

Akhtaran

This book provides a fresh interpretation of the crucial constitutional revolution of 1905 in Iran. It employs techniques of textual interpretation of the key speeches and writings of the most important characters and thinkers of the time. It shows that religion and republicanism were more intimately connected than previously believed

### **Great Britain & Reza Shah: The Plunder of Iran, 1921-1941**

by [Mohammad Gholi Majd](#)

### **The Mossadegh Era: Roots of the Iranian Revolution**

by [Sepehr Zabih](#)

### **The Shadow of God and the Hidden Imam: Religion, Political Order, and Societal Change in Shi'ite Iran from the Beginning to 1890** (Center for Middle)

by [Said Amir Arjomand](#)

Publisher: Univ of Chicago Pr (Tx); Reprint edition (September 1, 1987)

### **The Disturbed dream of oil: Dr. Mossadegh and the National Movement**

Mohammad Ali Movahed

2000

### **Karnameh**

The story of Dr. Mossadegh in the current minds of the current generation of Iranians has become transformed from a historical episode that ended in failure to an epic of freedom. The conscience of the past retains insights and the re-interpretation and re-presentation of that past can offer ways to realize the original goals of the earlier movement.

### **Ineffectiveness of political elites between the two revolutions**

Alireza Azghandi

2001

### **Ghumes**

The author aims to show the inability of political elites to influence events and policies in the period from the constitutional revolution to 1905 to the Islamic revolution of 1979

### **Iran and the World in Crisis**

F. ZAND-FARD

260 PP.

SHIRAZEH, TEHRAN

A no-nonsense memoir of a career foreign service officer who served in Kuwait and other Arab-Speaking countries, as well as the United Nations, in some of the most tumultuous and eventful years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

### **The Twenty-Five Year History**

2 Volumes

Col. Gh. Nejati

Rasaa, Tehran, 1995

The well-regarded work on modern Iranian history, covering political events in the period between the 1954 *Coup* and the advent of the Islamic Revolution. This is a political history, which complements Abrahamian's more social analysis of the same period.

## **Economics, Economic History**

### **The Economy of Iran : The Dilemma of an Islamic State (Library of Modern Middle East Studies)**

by [Parvin Alizadeh](#) (Editor)

Hardcover: 272 pages

Publisher: I.B.Tauris (March 21, 2001)

ISBN: 1860644643

The Islamic revolution of 1979 heralded an expanded economic role for the Iranian state in safeguarding the revolution's redistributive aims. However, the Iranian economy in the 1980s and 1990s deteriorated markedly, and the state's enlarged role in the economy has been accompanied by acute macroeconomic instability and a sharp decline in the standard of living. This book of original essays identifies the principal issues, social, economic, and political, that have shaped and determined Iran's economic performance since the revolution

### **An analysis of the brain drain from various perspectives**

Hossein Vughufi

2001

Zohd

This book analyzes one of the key challenges facing developing countries today

### **Trade during the Qajar Period**

Ansari Ranani and Gh. Kermani

2002

Alameh University Press

This book examine the emergence of institutions that emerged to deal with modern trade and economics during the 19th century. It shows the emergence of modern institutions in Iran during the crucial period of 19th century interaction with western powers.

## Society

### **Cultural Change in Contemporary Iran.**

by Abbas Abdi and Mohsen Goudarzi. Ravesh: Tehran 2000.

This is one of the few books to provide an analysis of changes in cultural and social values and attitudes in contemporary of Iran based on empirical survey research. By itself this would make the book significant since empirical social research in a country such as Iran – and other middle eastern and authoritarian countries – is very difficult to conduct. When it is conducted it is usually done so by the government and the state who have the authority and the funds to support such research, as well as the ability to censure or influence the questions and the results. The authors make a number of claims: that there is an increasing class polarization of social attitudes and values, a move from collectivism to individualism, and that “satisfaction with life” has moved away from purely economic calculus towards a more social definition. The main author is a key political dissident and currently in jail.

### **Religious Minorities in Iran (Cambridge Middle East Studies)**

by [Eliz Sanasarian](#)

Hardcover: 249 pages

Publisher: Cambridge University Press (April 13, 2000)

ISBN: 0521770734

Eliz Sanasarian's book explores the political and ideological relationship between non-Muslim religious minorities in Iran and the state during the formative years of the Islamic Republic to the present day. Her analysis is based on a detailed examination of the history and experiences of the Armenians, Assyrians, Chaldeans, Jews, Zoroastrians, Bahais and Iranian Christians, and describes how these communities have responded to state policies regarding minorities. Many of her findings are constructed out of personal interviews with members of these communities. While the book is essentially an empirical study, it also highlights more general questions associated with exclusion and marginalisation and the role of the state in defining these boundaries.

### **The Administrative and Social History of the Qajar Period (3 Volume Set)**

by [Abd Allah Mustawfi](#), [Abdollah Mostofi](#).

Lets you live in late Qajar Iran and know what life was like. Mr. Abdollah Mostofi came from a long line of royal "Mostofis" (chief accountant/tax collectors) of the Qajar dynasty. what this book lacks in academic structure, it makes up for in the real picture of life it gives you of Persia at the end of the nineteenth and early twentieth century. Abdollah Mostofi was able to recall with astounding detail people's attitudes, children's folk songs which poked fun at the Shahs, street names, cultural mannerisms, the personality of the Kings, and the drastic changes that the twentieth century brought about in Iran.

### **Conflict and Cooperation**

by [Jamsheed Choksy](#)

Hardcover: 224 pages

Publisher: Columbia University Press (April 15, 1997)

ISBN: 023110684X

In this study of Zoroastrians in Medieval Iranian society, Choksy creates, with exquisite eloquence, detailed knowledge, and empathy, a pioneering historical masterpiece out of the most disparate sources. A delight to read.

Using Zoroastrian as well as Muslim sources, Jamsheed Choksy weaves an extraordinary picture of how a rich religious and social community adapted itself to the new religious order of Islam, sometimes compelled unexpected variations in Muslim traditions and ways of rule, and eventually declined. What emerges from the book is the poignancy of a community's disappearance from its ancient land and the power of the new Iranian Islamic world in the process of making itself.

**Torture & Modernity: Self, Society, and State in Modern Iran (Institutional Structures of Feeling)**

by [Darius M. Rejali](#)

Paperback: 289 pages

Publisher: Westview Pr (January 1, 1994)

ISBN: 0813318793

**The Assassin Legends : Myths of the Isma'ilis**

by [Farhad Daftary](#)

## **General History and Regional Relations**

**Ancient Persia**

by [Josef Wiesehofer](#)

Hardcover: 400 pages

Publisher: I.B.Tauris (July 15, 1998)

ISBN: 1850439990

Of all the great civilizations of the ancient world, that of Persia is one of the least understood. Josef Wiesehöfer, one of the most respected scholars of the ancient world, provides here a comprehensive survey of the Persian Empire under Achaemenids, the Parthians and the Sassanians. By focusing on the primary Persian sources--written, archaeological and numismatic evidence from Persia--he avoids the traditional Western approach which has tended to rely so heavily on inaccurate and sometimes prejudiced Greek and Roman sources. Part of the freshness of this book comes from presenting a historical discussion of Persia from a Near Eastern perspective. A comprehensive social, political and cultural history of ancient Persia, Wiesehöfer's book provides important new material for specialists while being fully accessible and appealing to general readers interested in the ancient world.

**The value of ancient historiography of Aria and Pars**

Mohammad Taghi Atai and Ali Akbar Vahdati

2004 Shirazeh, Tehran

Through a critique of another work- Twelve Years of Silence- this is a great introduction to the current discourse on ancient history of a vast region of the Old World of Iran and Persia.

**Frontier Fictions**

by [Firoozeh Kashani-Sabet](#)

Hardcover: 328 pages

Publisher: Princeton University Press (January 10, 2000)

ISBN: 0691004978

In *Frontier Fictions*, Firoozeh Kashani-Sabet looks at the efforts of Iranians to defend, if not expand, their borders in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and explores how their conceptions of national geography influenced cultural and political change. The "frontier fictions," or the ways in which the Iranians viewed their often fluctuating borders and the conflicts surrounding them, played a dominant role in defining the nation. On these borderlands, new ideas of citizenship and nationality were unleashed, refining older ideas of ethnicity.

Kashani-Sabet maintains that land-based conceptions of countries existed before the advent of the modern nation-state. Her focus on geography enables her to explore and document fully a wide range of aspects of modern citizenship in Iran, including love of homeland, the hegemony of the Persian language, and widespread interest in archaeology, travel, and map-making. While many historians have focused on the concept of the "imagined community" in their explanations of the rise of nationalism, Kashani-Sabet is able to complement this perspective with a very tangible explanation of what connects people to a specific place

### **Arab-Iranian Relations**

by [Khair el-Din Haseeb](#) (Editor)

Hardcover: 528 pages

Publisher: I.B.Tauris (December 15, 1998)

Regionally-based Arab and Iranian scholars here explore the preoccupation of the economic, political, educational and strategist present of Arab-Iranian relationships in the context of the historical and cultural past.

The issues covered include: historical ties and the current state of mutual awareness between Arabs and Iranians; the impact of the political and journalistic rhetoric of each side on their relationships; the image of Arabs and Iranians in each others' schoolbooks; economic ties and the prospects for their future development; the status of Arab and Iranian women; border and territorial disputes between Arab states and Iran; the position of Arab states and Iran on the Kurdish question; the Palestine question in Arab-Iranian relations; a comparative study of civil society in Iran and in Arab countries; and Arab-Iranian ties in the context of international relations.

### **Distant Relations: Iran and Lebanon in the Last 500 Years**

by [Houchang Chehabi](#) (Editor)

Hardcover: 288 pages

Publisher: I.B.Tauris (June 18, 2005)

Iran and Lebanon have touched each other's fortunes, on religious, political, and cultural levels, for over 500 years. *Iran and Lebanon* is the first definitive study of the centuries-long contact between these countries, and provides the only basis for any understanding of their effect on the world today.

### **Iran and the Surrounding World: Interactions in Culture and Cultural Politics**

by [Nikki R. Keddie](#) (Editor), [Rudi Matthee](#) (Editor), [Rudolph P. Matthee](#) (Editor)

Paperback: 393 pages

Publisher: University of Washington Press (June 1, 2002)

ISBN: 0295982063

These essays examine Iran's place in the world--its relations and cultural interactions with its immediate neighbors and with empires and superpowers from the beginning of the Safavid period in 1501 to the present day. The book provides important

historical background on recent political and social developments in Iran and on its contemporary foreign relations. The topics explored include Iranian influence abroad on political organization, religion, literature, art, and diplomacy, as well as Iran's absorption of foreign influences in these areas. A special focus is the prevailing political culture of Iran throughout its early modern and contemporary periods. The authors combine approaches from history, political science, anthropology, international relations, and cultural studies. Some essays address Iran's interactions with various Arab and Turkic ethnicities in the region stretching from India to Egypt. Others examine its relations with the West during the Qajar and Pahlavi eras, women's issues, culture inside Iran during the Islamic Republic, and the Shi'ite theocracy of Iran as compared with other Muslim states.

## Gender

### **Women and the Political Process in Twentieth-Century Iran (Cambridge Middle East Studies**

by [Parvin Paidar](#)

Hardcover: 417 pages

Publisher: Cambridge University Press (May 11, 1995)

ISBN: 0521473403

In a comprehensive and original analysis, Parvin Paidar considers the role of women in the political process of twentieth-century Iran and demonstrates how political reorganization has redefined their position. Challenging the view expressed by conventional scholarship that emphasizes the marginalization of Muslim women, the author asserts that gender issues are right at the heart of the political process in Iran. The implications of the study bear on the position of women throughout the Middle East and in the developing countries generally.

### **Women with Mustaches and Men without Beards : Gender and Sexual Anxieties of Iranian Modernity**

by [Afsaneh Najmabadi](#)

Paperback: 366 pages

Publisher: University of California Press (March 15, 2005)

ISBN: 0520242637

Drawing from a rich array of visual and literary material from nineteenth-century Iran, this groundbreaking book rereads and rewrites the history of Iranian modernity through the lens of gender and sexuality. Peeling away notions of a rigid pre-modern Islamic gender system, Afsaneh Najmabadi provides a compelling demonstration of the centrality of gender and sexuality to the shaping of modern culture and politics in Iran and of how changes in ideas about gender and sexuality affected conceptions of beauty, love, homeland, marriage, education, and citizenship.

### **Women, Work and Islamism : Ideology & Resistance in Iran**

by [Maryann Poya](#)

This book explores Islamism in practice and looks at the influence of state, economy and religion on women in Iran. Drawing on original research into women's participation in the work force, the author shows how the Islamization of state and society which followed the 1979 revolution involved an attempt by the Islamic state to seclude women within the home. Its power to transform gender relations, however,

was constrained by many factors--the Iran-Iraq war, economic restructuring, and women's varied responses to oppression. In 1999, women's participation in the labor force is greater than it was before the revolution, and gender consciousness is at a higher level than at the height of westernization in the 1960s and 70s.

### **Law of Desire: Temporary Marriage in Shi'I Iran (Contemporary Issues in the Middle East)**

by [Shahla Haeri](#)

Paperback: 280 pages

Publisher: Syracuse University Press (November 1, 1989)

ISBN: 0815624832

An interesting book about desire and morality: This study attempts a cultural and critical understanding of an important and controversial institution of shi'ite Islam, mut'a or "temporary" marriage. The focus of the book is on the perception of the institution by some Iranian men and women whose lives have been tied together by a contract of fixed term marriage. This book is interesting and is about law and custom, religion and morality, public and private contracts, eroticism and desire.

### **Development and Challenges facing Women**

Jaleh Shaditalab

2003

Ghatre

This book is a contribution to the sociology of gender in Iran. With a special focus on the fields of policy and development studies. It examines several areas of social life in Iran which impact women.

### **Women's political rights in Iran**

Mehrangiz Kar

1998

Roshangaran

Written by a leading political dissident living in exile the book examines the political rights in the Islamic republic. It also discusses religious jurisprudence which shows the way in which modern religious law tries to adapt to the current situation and challenges.

### **Women and Power**

Pardis Ghandahri

2004

ناشر: سازمان میراث فرهنگی – پژوهشکده مردم شناسی

This is a sociological monograph about gender and the family in contemporary Tehran. It provides a scientific picture of an important social institution in Iran as well as insights into the roots of several important social problems linked with unequal power and gender.

### **Wife-Mother: Another Look at the Woman Question**

Roya Monajem

2003

Mes

The author tries to outline a third way for "eastern" women which seeks to avoid the mistakes and build on the experiences of western feminism.

## **Islam and Gender**

by [Ziba Mir-Hosseini](#)

## **Philosophy, Religion, Intellectual Life**

### **Intellectual Trends in Twentieth-Century Iran: A Critical Survey**

by [Negin Nabavi](#) (Editor)

Hardcover: 229 pages

Publisher: University Press of Florida (July 1, 2003)

ISBN: 081302630X

Intellectual Trends in Twentieth-Century Iran, a collection of essays by journalists and Iranian scholars based in both North America and the Middle East, examines the major intellectual trends in twentieth-century Iran and explores the role that the intellectual has played in shaping the debates and political culture in both prerevolutionary and postrevolutionary Iran. The issues discussed in this collection are among the most provocative in contemporary Iran and range from the hermeneutics of Mojtaba Shabestari to the movement of the reformist press to clerical discourses on the subject of women's rights.

### **Reason, Freedom, and Democracy in Islam: Essential Writings of Abdolkarim Soroush**

by [Abdolkarim Soroush](#), [Mahmoud Sadri](#) (Editor), [Ahmad Sadri](#) (Editor)

Paperback: 254 pages

Publisher: Oxford University Press; New Ed edition (November 1, 2002)

ISBN: 0195158202 . Originals from the Persian

Abdolkarim Soroush has emerged as one of the leading moderate revisionist thinkers of the Muslim world. He and his contemporaries in other Muslim countries are shaping what may become Islam's equivalent of the Christian Reformation: a period of questioning traditional practices and beliefs and, ultimately, of upheaval. Presenting eleven of his essays, this volume makes Soroush's thought readily available... The essays set forth his views on such matters as the freedom of Muslims to interpret the Qur'an, the inevitability of change in religion, the necessity of freedom of belief, and the compatibility of Islam and democracy. Throughout, Soroush emphasizes the rights of individuals in their relationship with both government and God, explaining that the ideal Islamic state can only be defined by the beliefs and will of the majority.

### **Spirituality in the Land of the Noble : How Iran Shaped the World's Religions**

by [Richard C. Foltz](#)

Hardcover: 192 pages

Publisher: Oneworld Publications (March 25, 2004)

ISBN: 185168333X

This is the first book to tell the story of Iran's shaping and transmitting of the world's religions, starting with the Iranian merchants and missionaries who brought, not only Islam, but also Christianity, Judaism, and Buddhism to China.

### **Modernity and Us.** By Darioush Ashouri (1999 Serat)

This series of essays from one of the prominent thinkers explores questions such as Iranians place in the contemporary world and their identity. It also explores the impact of the last two centuries of history on Iranian identity and society.

### **The century of intellectuals**

Mohammad Taghui

2002

Hermes Press

The book is a collection of interview and conversations with contemporary Iranian writers and intellectuals focussing on the question of the role intellectuals. It can thus been seen as a statement of a representative group of Iranian thinkers about the state of intellectual life in Iran.

### **The New Disenchantment – Fragmented Identity and Fluid Thought**

Darisuh Shayegan (original French)

2002

Farzan Ruz

Shayegan, one of the most important thinkers in Iran, a specialist of Indian as well as western philosophy, discusses the notions of post-modernity and fragmented identity and knowledge from an Iranian perspectives and examines how the contemporary world culture impacts Iranians.

### **Iranian intellectuals in Berlin, 1915-1930**

Jamsheed Behnam

2001

Farzane Ruz

In the years 1915-1930, a group of Iranian intellectuals called the “committee of million Iranians” and espousing liberal and radical ideas, were living in Berlin. Through their publications, this group;s opposition to the authoritarian government of the time in Iran had an important influence on structure of power, religion and public life. The author a well known sociologist and historian analyzes the character and activities of this group.

### **The decline of Political Thought in Iran**

Javad Tabatabai

2004 new edition

Kavir

This book explores the philosophical and historical roots of the decline of political philosophy in Iran from the middle ages to the modern age. It explores the impact and transformation of Greek philosophy during the early Islamic age and sets out an agenda for the intellectual history of Iran.

### **Glimses of our westernized history (The current situation of thought in Iran)**

Reza Davar Ardakani

1985

Suroush

Davari, a conservative professor of philosophy at Tehran University, and defender of the principles of the Islamic republic, provides an intellectual history of the decade before the Islamic revolution, both in humanities as well as social science and philosophy.

**Memories and Forgetfulness: Recollection of Ahmad Shamloo.** By Mohammad Ghaed. Tarhe No 2003. Innovative and insightful essays on the leading secular leftist poet in this century.

**Eleven Persian essays: Philosophy, Logic, Gnosis**

Ayatollah Hassanzadeh Amoli  
1999

Humanities Research Institute

A contemporary treatment of traditional philosophical and religious themes from an important cleric.

**Iranian's awareness of western philosophy**

Karim Mojtahedi

2001

ناشرین: مرکز نشر آثار پژوهشگاه فرهنگ و اندیشه اسلامی و موسسه مطالعات تاریخ معاصر ایران  
Iranians first became aware of modern western philosophy in the 19th century, a process that was to have far-reaching impact on thought in Iran. This book traces the roots of this process and examines the impact and influences on today's society and thought.

**Lost Wisdom: Rethinking Modernity in Iran**

by [Abbas Milani](#)

Paperback: 164 pages

Publisher: Mage Publishers (March 1, 2004)

ISBN: 0934211906

In the essays collected here, Abbas Milani uses an impressive array of cross-disciplinary Western and Iranian theories and texts to investigate the crucial question of modernity in Iran today. He offers a wealth of new insights into the thousand-year-old conflict in Iran between the search for modernity and the forces of religious obscurantism. The essays trace the roots of Shiite Islamic fundamentalism and offer illuminating accounts of the work of Iranian intellectuals—both men and women—and their artistic movements as they struggle to find a new path toward a genuine modernity in Iran that is congruent with Iran's rich cultural heritage. *Lost Wisdom: Rethinking Modernity in Iran* challenges the hitherto accepted theory that modernity and its related concepts of democracy and freedom are Western in essence. It also demonstrates that Iran and the West have more that brings them together than separates them in their search for such modern ideals as rationalism, the rule of law, and democracy. These essays will reward the scholar and the general reader alike, and will go far toward explaining the enigma that is Iran today.

## Literature

**One day left to Easter**

Zoya Pirzad

1999

Markaz

Pirzad is one of the most prominent novelists in Iran today. In this collection of three stories the narrator describes her life in her family.

**The dark half of the moon**

Hushang Golshiri

2002

Nilufar

The late Golshiri was perhaps the leading writers of recent times. In this book, he explores the anxieties and concerns of middle class Iranians employing an unusual personal style.

**Getting to Know Hedayat**

M.F. Farazneh

2001

Markaz

The first part of this book uses a variety of recollections to draw a picture of Hedayat, who was one of the most important modernist writers of the earlier part of this century. His personality and character are explored, especially in the few years before his suicide in Paris. The second part of the book explores the key characters in his novels and their relationship to his life.

**My Bokharei, My Tribe**

Mohammad Bahman Beigi

1987

Agah

The author is a educator of tribal nomads in Iran. This collection of stories can also be viewed as an anthropology of the nomads of Fars province.

**The Little Black Fish**

Samad Behrangi

n.p., n.d. [ca 1962]

The beloved children's book, known the world over, which moved generations of Iranians to take action against oppression and suffer the consequences. Perhaps the most famous "children's" book with a large and political and social message.

Classical Literature: The following are canonical Persian classical literature all in verse. According to the UNESCO these have not been translated. However these are difficult works both quantitatively and qualitatively. Thus although they should be on any list, they require special consideration.

Hafez Shirazi. Ghazals

Saadi Shirazi

Molavi (Rumi)

Ferdausi.

## **Literary Criticism, Culture and Arts**

**The Politics of Writing in Iran: A History of Modern Persian Literature**

by [Kamran Talattof](#)

Paperback: 250 pages

Publisher: Syracuse University Press (August 1, 2000)

ISBN: 0815628196

A Veritable Encyclopedia. The Politics of Writing in Iran: A History of Modern Persian Literature is a small encyclopedia about modern Persian literature. It contains analyses of most literature in Iran, whether of the famous males, the women, Islamic writers, etc. Moreover, its theoretical model is useful for the literary analysis of Arabic and Turkish literature as well. It may not have been the direct intention of the book, however, it helps to understand why and how things happen in Iran. The book offers fantastic insight into the profound interplay there is in Iran between the art of writing and social and political progress. A fine text for any upper level undergraduate or graduate level literature course and any variety of area studies course touching on the culture and particularly the literature of the Middle East.

**A History of Literary Criticism in Iran 1866-1951: Literary Criticism in the Works of Enlightened Thinkers of Iran : Akhundzade, Kermani, Malkom, Talebof, Maraghe'i, Kasravi and Hedayat**

by [Iraj Parsinejad](#)

Hardcover: 352 pages

Publisher: Ibex Publishers (February 1, 2003)

ISBN: 1588140164

In the historical analysis of modern Persian literary criticism the contribution made by tenth century Iranian socio-political enlightened thinkers of Iran regrettably have not been fully examined as yet. This book contains a comprehensive research on the works of leading figures in the field of literary criticism in modern Iranian thought of the nineteenth century: Mirza Fath `Ali Akhundzade, Mirza Malkom Khan, Mirza `Abd al-Rahim Talebof and Zeyn al-`Abedin Maraghe`i. Inclusion of Ahmad Kasravi and Sadeq Hedayat was considered appropriate later due to some common aspects of critical attitude to the predecessors. This book is useful in familiarizing the readers with one of the most crucial aspects of progressive and critical thought in the Iranian modern era.

**Picturing Iran: Art, Society and Revolution**

by [Shiva Balaghi](#), [Lynn Gumpert](#)

Paperback: 144 pages

Publisher: I.B.Tauris; Illustrate edition (February 22, 2003)

ISBN: 1860648835

This book assesses modern Iranian visual culture from the 1960's and 1970's and suggests that modernity in Iran was a creative, complex, and contested process. It examines the expression of Iranian modernity in a variety of media including painting and sculpture, photography, posters, and graphic arts. It highlights new modes of artistic production and the expanding scene in Iran: developments in Iranian art criticism, exhibition apparatus, education, and patronage. The contributors also address changes in the iconography of Iranian art and in the increasingly social role of the artist. This groundbreaking work demonstrates that the visual arts serve as an important archival record of a critical period in Iranian history.

**Life and Works of Ostad Sani ol-Molk (Abol Hassan Ghaffari) 19th century**

Yahya Zaka

2004

Cultural Heritage Press

Life and Times and works of an important 19th century painter from a leading Iranian art historian. contains some illustrations.

### **The History of Iranian Cinema**

Jamal Omid

1995 Rowzaneh , Tehran

1,175 Pages

A comprehensive and authoritative narrative on the hundred-year history of one the most important cinematic cultures of our time. Note: This is a very long book.

### **Iranian Culture**

by [Michael C. Hillmann](#)

Hardcover: 228 pages

Publisher: University Press of America (August 16, 1990)

ISBN: 081917694X

In light of the great importance Iranians themselves attach to their imaginative Persian literature and in light of the underutilization of literary figures, works, and evidence in existing studies of Iranian culture, this work focuses on leading authors and classic literary works in attempting to discern enduring cultural features and values. It is a Persianist account of the pivotal features of Iranian culture through the eyes of six Persian literary figures, three from the pre-modern and three from the modern literary history of Iran. The work examines the literary dimensions of the Persian culture as well as the political, social and religious significance of the dimensions within the culture. The author reveals the ancient Persian tradition of the struggle between two opposing forces and the way in which it relates to the present political turmoil in that country. Contents: A Chronology of Iranian Culture; Iranian Patriarchy, Its Victims, and Persian Sadness; Perennial Iranian Skepticism, Individualism, and Dreams of Gardens; Persian Classicism, Aesthetics of Decoration, and Ambivalence; A Modernist Iranian Writer's Almost Inevitable Nightmare; Cultural Dilemmas of an Iranian Literary Intellectual; An Iranian Finally Speaks as a Woman and as an Individual; An Iranian Identity Crisis Past and Present.

### **A Guide to Iranian Games**

Sharia Ghezelayagh

2001

Cultural Research Bureau and UNESCO

Games and pastimes are an important component of an Nation's culture. This book provides both a practical guide and an anthropological approach to understand the place of games in Iranian culture and society.

### **The Marvellous Cookbook from A to Z**

Najaf Daryabandari

2001

Karnameh

Written by a leading translator and philosopher, this comprehensive cookbook of Iranian cuisine contains many historical, literary and philosophical asides. It seeks to argue for the pivotal importance of Iranian cuisine alongside Indian and Chinese cuisines with important influences on neighboring countries, such as Turkey and the Arab countries.

**Iranian Theatre and Playwrights**

Akhtaran, Tehran 2002

An effort to show the exalted place held by theatre and playwrights in the course of Modern Persian Literature by re-examining its history against modern views on the subject.

**Loftali Suratgar Shirazi****Jasem Ghazabanpour**

1998

National Cultural Heritage Organization

A collection of works of Loftali Suratgar Shirazi, an important painter of the Qajar Era. This artist was especially influential in delicate illustrations of small objects such as pen holders. Commentary and analysis is by Aidin Aghashloo a well known art historian.