



Iran, The Green Movement and the USA: The Fox and the Paradox

By Hamid Dabashi

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Iran, The Green Movement and the USA presents the dilemma that the West faces in dealing with the Islamic Republic of Iran and their nuclear armament, and how the unfolding civil rights movement in Iran (the Green Movement) will be affected by this interaction. Iranian scholar and author Hamid Dabashi argues that if Obama negotiates with Ahmadinejad, he will further strengthen the IRI regionally and legitimize Ahmadinejad's otherwise troubled presidency internationally; and if he were not to do so and opt for further economic sanctions and/or military strikes, he will paradoxically strengthen the IRI regionally and altogether destroy the domestic opposition and the budding Green Movement. This elegantly written book presents an Iran weak in domestic affairs, but strong in regional geopolitics, providing the reader with a dynamic picture of the region, and a purposeful analytic of how to understand and deal with it. It also features a short history of how the US and Iran were placed in this confrontational position and who their respective allies in the region are.

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Editorial Review

Review

'Hamid Dabashi, once again, offers his readers a rare gift of passionate intellect into the meaning of the 2009 presidential protest movement in Iran. He traces the deeply committed democratic roots of Islam in this Green Movement for Civil Rights. He offers us a richly nuanced, complex understanding of the resilient, defiant, brave men and women in the streets and in the prisons. Dabashi shares his treasure chest with us. He dismantles the binary and oppositional divides like secular/religious; West/Muslim; men/women that do not let us understand others not like ourselves. He gives voice to this revolutionary moment of cyber culture found with You Tube, cell phones, digital cameras, web-blogs, Facebook, etc. and connects the Iranian Green Movement to the U.S. Civil Rights Movement of the 1960's-'70's. Dabashi shares Iran and with it Islam's ancient democratic wisdom in a 'heart-writing' that gives us hope, against all odds. I thank him for this amazing gift.' Zillah Eisenstein 'Steeped in Iran's history and culture, Hamid Dabashi offers an insider's view of a rapidly changing country. His insight into Iran's culture and national psyche allows him to see the vibrant democratic society that is emerging there, beneath the veneer of religious rule. This book combines passion with academic rigor to show an Iran that is not fated to America's enemy forever, and that could in fact become its partner. Americans need to hear this message.' Stephen Kinzer, author of *All the Shah's Men and Reset: Iran, Turkey, and America's Future* 'This remarkable book masterfully weaves together a tapestry of old Persian animal fables, contemporary music of dissidence, with an extraordinary new genre of "public" love letters in the feminine voice, published in web blogs by the wives of political prisoners, to offer a deeply informed and passionate analysis of the recent opposition movement and its potentials to transcend the poetics and politics of power and resistance in Iran and beyond. Dabashi's timely work bestows the Humanities with a much-needed model of combining the depth and breath of scholarly knowledge with the punctual and fast pace spirit of journalism. One does not have to agree with every point in his analysis to recognize his invaluable contribution, not merely to academia, but to the spirit of resistance in the world. His approach and analysis challenge us all to rethink such reductive dichotomies as secularism, religion; tradition, modernity; West, East, and so on, in the name of a transformative cosmopolitanism. The scope and the erudition in this book are reminiscent of a time of old fables in which the "traditionally" cosmopolitan intellectuals, at once artists, historians, philosophers, and so on, created their masterpieces.' Shahla Talebi, author of *Ghosts of Revolution* 'A profoundly thoughtful analysis of Iran's convulsive political identity from one of the world's most brilliant and informed cultural critics. Dabashi intersperses his elegant narrative with rich philosophical commentary. A literary treasure.' Firoozeh Kashani-Sabet

About the Author

Hamid Dabashi is the Hagop Kevorkian Professor of Iranian Studies and Comparative Literature at Columbia University.

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