



## Modern Iran Since 1921: The Pahlavis and After

*By Ali Ansari*

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Straddled between the world's two major energy basins, the Persian Gulf and the Caspian Sea, and possessing a rich reservoir of hydrocarbon resources as well as diverse minerals, Iran has always been economically significant. The Islamic Revolution thrust the country back onto the political centre-stage, and dramatically altered relations between Iran and the West. This book looks at these developments within an historical context. It charts how Iran sought to respond to the challenge of the West through reform and revolution, and to reverse the decline of the previous century with an ambitious programme of development. Combining detailed historical narrative with comprehensive analysis and explanation, Ali Ansari presents a new interpretation of the complex cultural polity that is modern Iran.

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### Review

"...Ansari has written a straightforward, though skilfully analytical, history of Iran" "Times Literary Supplement", July 03

### From the Back Cover

Whether as friend or foe, Iran continues to play a pivotal role in a strategically vital area of the world. Straddled between the world's two major energy basins, the Persian Gulf and the Caspian Sea, and possessing a rich reservoir of hydrocarbon resources as well as diverse minerals and a large and growing population, Iran remains important in economic terms. However, the Islamic Revolution of 1979 thrust Iran back onto the political centre stage and dramatically altered the relationship between Iran and the West. **Modern Iran since 1921** places these developments in an historical context, and looks at how Iran sought to respond to the challenge of the West through reform and revolution, to reverse the decline of the previous century with a development programme that would catapult the country back into the top division. This new interpretation combines detailed historical narrative with comprehensive analysis and explanation of political, social and economic developments in Iran during the 20th century. It emphasises those factors which have helped shape attitudes and policies in an effort to explain the complex cultural polity that is modern Iran. **Ali M. Ansari** is Lecturer in Political History of the Middle East, University of Durham. He is the author of *Iran, Islam and Democracy: The Politics of Managing Change* (2000).

### About the Author

**Ali M Ansari** is lecturer in the Political History of the Middle East at the University of Durham and an expert in Iranian affairs. He acts as consultant to business and policy makers and makes regular media appearances.

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