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Art/Culture/Political Protest  
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#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Malu Halasa is a writer and editor based in London. She is the editor of seven anthologies on Middle Eastern art and culture, including two on Iran: *Transit Tehran: Young Iran and Its Inspirations*, with Maziar Bahari, and *Kaveh Golestan: Recording the Truth in Iran*, with Hengameh Golestan. Halasa has written for *The Guardian*, *Financial Times* and *Times Literary Supplement*, and is currently literary editor at the *Markaz Review*. She was a founding editor of *Tank Magazine* in London.

#### BY THE SAME AUTHOR

*Syria Speaks: Art and Culture from the Frontline* 978-0-86356-787-2

## WOMAN LIFE FREEDOM

Voices and Art from the  
Women's Protests in Iran

EDITED BY MALU HALASA

'An emotional read ... These women are fearless,  
brave and utterly powerful'

**Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe**

'These women appeal to our hearts and souls.  
Through art and true stories, they reveal the truth  
against the regime's lies and give birth to a new  
reality, one in which Life means Freedom.'

**Azar Nafisi**

#### KEY SALES POINTS

- A unique anthology and a deeply moving testimony to resistance
- The first book to showcase Iranian activist art and writing
- Editor is a renowned authority on Middle Eastern art and culture
- Extensive PR campaign to mark the anniversary of Jina Mahsa Amini's death with expected coverage in broadsheets, magazines, radio, podcasts and in events and festivals

#### OUTLINE

Jina Mahsa Amini's death at the hands of Iran's Morality Police on 16 September 2022 sparked widespread protests across the country. Women took to the streets, uncovering their hair, burning headscarves and chanting 'Woman, Life, Freedom' – '*Zan Zendegi Azadi*' in Persian and *Jin Jiyan Azadi* in Kurdish – in mass demonstrations. An explosion of creative resistance followed as art and photography shared online went viral and people around the world saw what was really going on in Iran.

*Woman Life Freedom* captures this historic moment in artwork and first-person accounts. This striking collection goes behind-the-scenes at forbidden fashion shows; registers the sound of dissent in Iran, where it has been illegal for women to sing unaccompanied in public since 1979; and walks the streets of Tehran with 'The Smarties' – Gen Z women who colour and show their hair in defiance of the authorities, despite the potentially devastating consequences. Extolling the power of art, writing and body politics – both female and queer – this collection is both a universal rallying call and a celebration of the women the regime has tried and failed to silence.

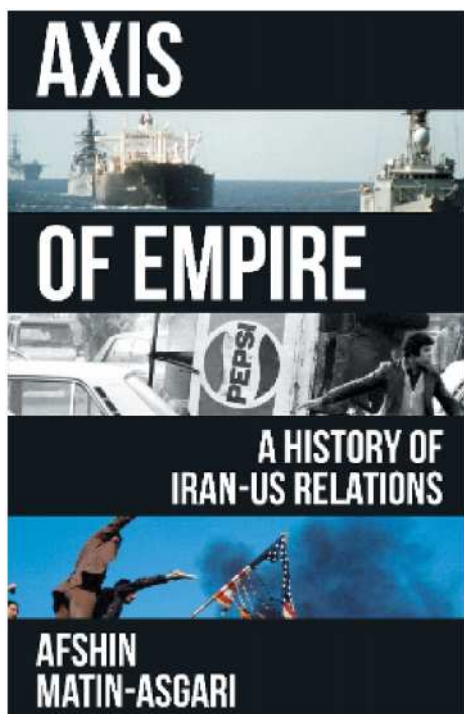
This is what protest looks like.



New Iranian protest poster art by Meysam Azarad. Poster, left: "A huge army is no use. One battle girl is better than a hundred thousand." Poster, right, in honour of slain teenager Nika Shakarami, with the words: "As Iranians saw her face, they rubbed their own faces to the ground."



From the streets of Tehran, a 'Smartie', portrait by Shiva Khademi



9781839762260

Hardback | 304 pages | £25.00

### Middle Eastern history International relations

**Born in Iran**, Afshin Matin-Asgari studied in the United States, where he was active in the 1970s anti-shah student opposition. He returned to Iran to participate in the revolution. He lives in the United States and is Professor of Middle East History at California State University, Los Angeles. Matin-Asgari has published two scholarly monographs and more than two dozen articles and book chapters on modern Iranian political and intellectual history, focusing in particular on leftist thought and movements.

## Axis of Empire

### A History of Iran-US Relations

Verso Books (IPS UK)

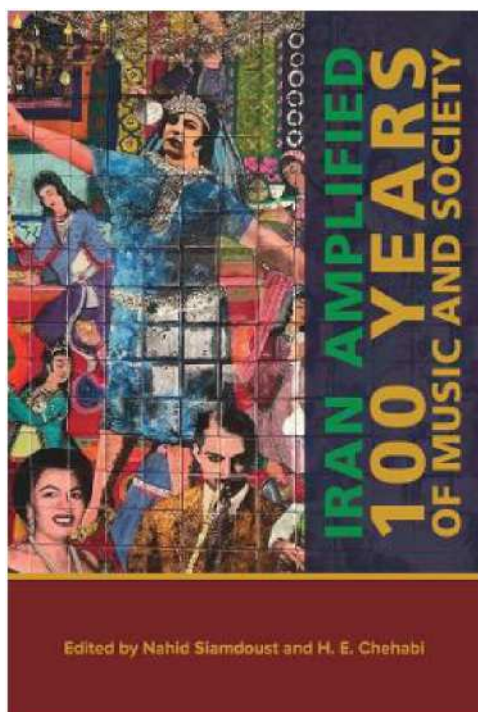
20 January 2026

*A chronicle of intrigue and influence in the Iran-US entanglement*

Ironic plot twists and colorful characters abound in Afshin Matin-Asgari's accessible history of relations between the United States and Iran. The missionaries and educators who descended on Iran in the early nineteenth century made way for the next century's oilmen, CIA agents, scholars, and arms dealers in the assertion of US imperial priorities. Whether Iran resisted or succumbed to US interests, it couldn't fail to be shaped by the superpower. Matin-Asgari offers fresh takes on familiar topics: America's rise as a Middle East hegemon during the Cold War; the special relationship between Washington and the shah; the Iranian Revolution and hostage crisis; the Iran-Iraq war; the Islamic Republic's peculiar anti-imperialism; the decades of onerous American sanctions; Israel's intervention in Iran-US relations; the ascendance of Trump; and the 2025 attempt by the United States and Israel to bring regime change to Tehran. A labyrinthine tale of American imperial misadventures, *Axis of Empire* incorporates and challenges scholarly narratives while offering a sophisticated yet highly readable account of Iran-US history.







9780674302846

Paperback | 700 pages | £31.95

10 photos

Music

Middle Eastern history

**Nahid Siamdoust** is Assistant Professor of Media and Middle East Studies at the University of Texas at Austin, and the author of *Soundtrack of the Revolution*. Previously, she was a correspondent for *Time Magazine* and for *Al Jazeera International*. Her recent commentaries have appeared in the *New York Times*, *New Lines Magazine*, *Foreign Policy*, *BBC*, and *NPR*. **H. E. Chehabi** is Professor Emeritus of International Relations and History at Boston University. He is the author of *Iranian Politics and Religious Modernism* and *Onomastic Reform*, and editor or co-editor of a dozen volumes, most recently, with David Motadel, *Unconquered States*.

## Iran Amplified

### One Hundred Years of Music and Society

Harvard University Press (John Wiley & Sons Ltd)

16 December 2025

*Iran Amplified: One Hundred Years of Music and Society, the first edited volume on music in modern Iran, collects compelling scholarship, musician narratives, and primary sources. It offers historiography and critical examination of music's significant role in social and political discourses in Iran throughout the twentieth century.*

*Iran Amplified: One Hundred Years of Music and Society*, the first edited volume on music in modern Iran, presents a cross-genre collection of compelling scholarship, musician narratives, and primary sources. This groundbreaking volume, seizing on this burgeoning academic field, offers historiography and critical examination of music's significant role in social and political mediation in Iran spanning the twentieth century. It also investigates central analytical vectors such as Islam, gender, media technology, alterity, transnational flows, and diasporic communities. As demonstrated at critical moments in Iranian history—from the Constitutional Revolution of 1906–1911 to 1960s and 1970s Third-Worldist activism, the 1979 Revolution, the Iran-Iraq War, the 2009 Green Movement, the 2022 Woman, Life, Freedom Uprising and beyond—music has played a pivotal role in mediating and expressing social and political discourses. Music has also been significant in coalescing sentiments and subjectivities throughout seemingly quieter periods of nation-building during the Pahlavi era, the post-WWII period of Great Power machinations, the cosmopolitan 1970s era, and the post-war reconstruction period of the 1990s. This timely volume, compiled by two leading readers of Iranian culture, finally affords music its important place in the scholarship of modern Iran.



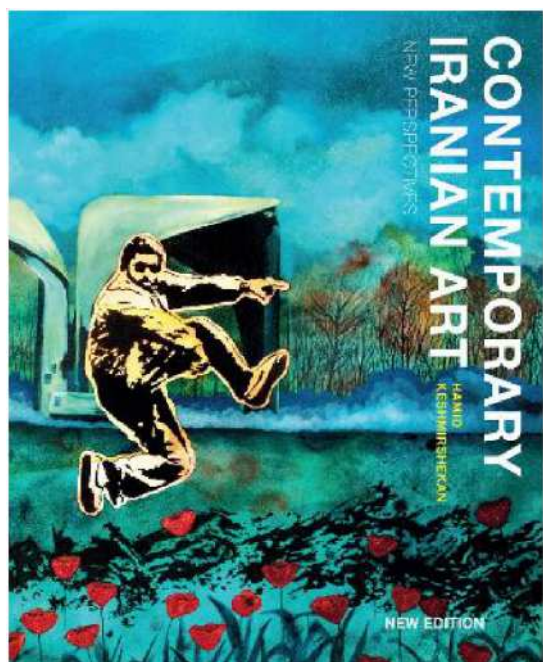
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9780863569791

Paperback | 368 pages | £25.00

382 colour illustrations; 382  
Illustrations

History of art & design styles:  
from c 1900 -

Art & design styles: from c 1960  
Painting & paintings

**Hamid Keshmirshekan** is Senior Teaching Fellow at the Department of History of Art and Archaeology at SOAS, University of London, and Senior Research Fellow at the Khalili Research Centre (KRC), Oxford University. He was previously a senior lecturer at the Advanced Research Institute of Art, Iranian Academy of Arts, an associate fellow at the KRC at Oxford University, and Editor-in-Chief of the bilingual (English Persian) quarterly, Art Tomorrow.

## Contemporary Iranian Art

### New Perspectives

Saqi Books (John Wiley & Sons Ltd)

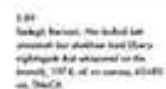
29 April 2025

*A landmark survey of modern Iranian art, this richly illustrated volume by Hamid Keshmirshekan explores a century of cultural shifts and artistic innovation, spotlighting key figures like Shirin Neshat, Parviz Tanavoli and Sohrab Sepehri. A vital guide to Iran's dynamic visual history.*

Iranian artists have been producing some of the world's most thought-provoking and intellectually grounded artworks. In this landmark compendium, renowned art historian Hamid Keshmirshekan provides a thorough review of contemporary art in Iran and shows that the twentieth century was a crucial period in the country's art and culture, when the legacies of tradition and modernism were critically reassessed.

Contemporary Iranian Art is an unprecedented introduction to Iran's vibrant art history over the past one hundred years. This fully revised and updated edition features more than 370 colour illustrations by the country's leading artists, including Mahmoud Bakhshi, Shadi Ghadirian, Barbad Golshiri, Marcos Grigorian, Farhad Moshiri, Shirin Neshat, Sohrab Sepehri, Mitra Tabrizian, Parviz Tanavoli and Charles Hossein Zenderoudi.









9781911723738

Hardback | 368 pages | £30.00

## Geopolitics

**Nicole Grajewski** is a fellow in the Nuclear Policy Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, and an associate researcher with the Belfer Center's Project on Managing the Atom, Harvard Kennedy School of Government. She received her PhD and MPhil from the University of Oxford. She speaks Russian, Persian and French.

## Russia and Iran

### Partners in Defiance from Syria to Ukraine

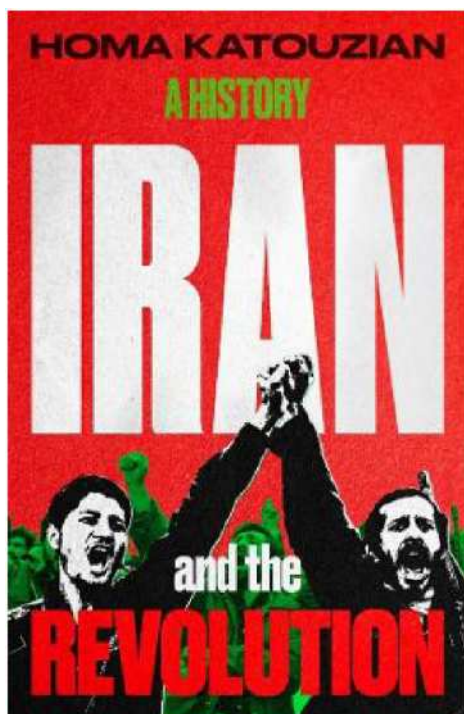
C Hurst & Co Publishers Ltd (Macmillan Distribution (MDL))

19 March 2026

*Charts the evolution of the Russia-Iran relationship in the twenty-first century, from tenuous alignment to robust partnership.*

Vladimir Putin's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022 has cast a spotlight on Russia's burgeoning partnership with Iran. Moscow looked to Tehran for drones and ammunition to fuel its so-called 'special military operation', and Iran's support for Russia's war reflected a decade-long strengthening of Russo-Iranian ties, beginning with the 2011 outbreak of the Syrian Civil War. Despite a relationship historically marred by mistrust and unmet expectations, the two regimes have worked together to promote their common interests in Syria, where battlefield coordination soon developed into much deeper political alignment. Drawing on extensive Russian and Persian primary sources, and interviews with elites from both countries, Nicole Grajewski uncovers the drivers of ever-closer cooperation between the Kremlin and the Islamic Republic. Detailing the internal structures, shared anxieties and broader ambitions underpinning this alignment, she explores the genesis of Russia and Iran's mutual antagonism towards the Western-led global order; the impact of deep-seated leadership concerns over regime security and domestic protests; and the future trajectory of the partnership within the larger world order. Examining both military dynamics and economic endeavours, as well as elaborate sanctions evasion schemes and collaboration within international organisations, this is the definitive account of contemporary Russia-Iran relations.





9780300282887

Hardback | 352 pages | £25.00

19 b-w illus. + 1 map

Middle Eastern history  
Revolutions, uprisings,  
rebellions  
National liberation &  
independence,  
post-colonialism

**Homa Katouzian** is a member of the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, University of Oxford, and a visiting scholar at the Department of History, University of Toronto. He is the author of numerous books, including *Iran: Politics, History and Literature*, *Iran: A Beginners' Guide*, and *The Persians*.

## Iran and the Revolution

### A History

Yale University Press (John Wiley & Sons Ltd)

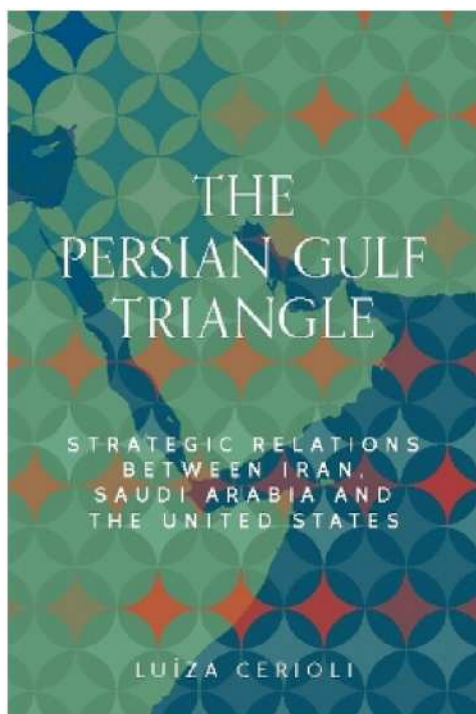
12 May 2026

*A major new history of revolutionary Iran, from the 1940s to the present*

Iran's revolution in 1979 shook the world. The Pahlavi dynasty came crashing down, and the Islamic Republic rose in its place. But what led to this seismic event? How did the revolutionary movement gain such strength? And what has its legacy been for modern Iran? In this comprehensive history, Homa Katouzian explores Iran from the 1940s to the present, showing how the revolution came into being. From the chaos of oil nationalisation to the overthrow of Mosaddeq in 1953, through the revolutionary moment itself, to the resistance movements of contemporary Iran, the revolution has had long and lasting effects. We see the profound influence of US presidents and the ramifications of Saddam Hussein's invasion in 1980. Crucially, Katouzian shows how the revolution constituted an uprising of the whole of Iranian society and was not a purely Islamic movement. This is an engaging account of an epochal event—one which continues to shape Iran to this day.







9781526198051

Paperback | 248 pages | £25.00

## International relations

**Luíza Cerioli** is a Political Science Researcher at the University of Kassel.

## The Persian Gulf Triangle

### Strategic Relations Between Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United States

Manchester University Press (Turnaround Publisher Services)

23 June 2026

*This book explores the relations between Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the United States through a Neoclassical Realist framework and shows how their dynamic has affected the Persian Gulf regional system and its international relations from the 1970s until today. -- .*

This book offers a nuanced snapshot of the complex geopolitical dynamics in the Persian Gulf, underlining the interaction between Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the US. Examining their interwoven relations since the 1970s, Luíza Cerioli's framework reveals how changes in US-Saudi ties have ripple effects on Iran-US and Iran-Saudi relations and vice versa. Using a historical lens, she explores how enduring US-Saudi connections hinge on order expectations, delves into the cognitive factors shaping US-Iran enmity and traces the source of oscillation in the Saudi-Iran ties. Employing Neoclassical Realism, the book investigates status-seeking, national identities and leadership preferences, offering a deeper understanding of the region's multipolar system. By combining International Relations and Middle East Studies, Cerioli's work contributes to both fields, unravelling the intricate interplay between international structures, regional nuances and agency in shaping Persian Gulf geopolitics.

