

The Washington Quarterly >
Volume 30, 2007 - Issue 1

1,222 Views | 10 CrossRef citations to date | 0 Altmetric

Inside Iran

Understanding Iran's New Authoritarianism

Elliot Hen-Tov

Pages 163-179 | Published online: 05 Jan 2010

“ Cite this article <https://doi.org/10.1162/wash.2006-07.30.1.163>

Sample our
Politics & International
Relations Journals
>> [Sign in here](#) to start your access
to the latest two volumes for 14 days

“ Citations

 Metrics

 Reprints & Permissions

Read this article

 Share

We Care About Your Privacy

We and our 894 partners store and access personal data, like browsing data or unique identifiers, on your device. Selecting I Accept enables tracking technologies to support the purposes shown under we and our partners process data to provide. Selecting Reject All or withdrawing your consent will disable them. If trackers are disabled, some content and ads you see may not be as relevant to you. You can resurface this menu to change your choices or withdraw consent at any time by clicking the Show Purposes link on the bottom of the webpage .Your choices will have effect within our Website. For more details, refer to our Privacy Policy. [Here](#)

We and our partners process data to provide:

Use precise geolocation data. Actively scan device

I Accept

Reject All

Show Purpose

Understanding Iran's New Authoritarianism

Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's victory in the June 2005 Iranian presidential elections and his confrontational politics highlight two remarkable aspects of Iran's political development. First, it indicates that Iran is in fact undergoing a gradual process of regime change, not moving toward democratization but rather modifying Iran's brand of authoritarianism. It constitutes the beginning of a marked shift from the existing clerical theocracy toward a more conventional authoritarian regime. Two threats have created the need for more effective authoritarian governance to secure Iran's clerical regime: the internal challenge by the reformist opposition and the external threat of U.S. intervention posed to Iran in the post-September 11 world. This transition will therefore see remnant democratic features erode as the evolving regime concentrates power among a small number of key decisionmaking centers. Similar to other authoritarian regimes, the role of the military-security apparatus will be enhanced, as will the regime's dependence on tools of patronage or repression to assert full control.

Second, in contrast to many ill-fated predictions regarding Iran, the domestic political economy underpinning the regime is surprisingly stable in the medium term. Profound structural problems in Iran's economy will prevent



Add to

Notes

Elliot Hen-Tov is a doctoral candidate specializing in contemporary Iranian and Turkish affairs in the Department of Near Eastern Studies at Princeton University.

Log in via your institution

➤ [Access through your institution](#)

Log in to Taylor & Francis Online

➤ [Log in](#)

Restore content access

➤ [Restore content access for purchases made as guest](#)


Purch

Save for later

Article

- 48 h
- Article
- Article


EUR 3

 Add to
cart

Is

- 2
- Article
- Article

EUR 2

 Add to
cart

* Local tax



Cited by
10

Books



Acco



or & Francis Group
orma business