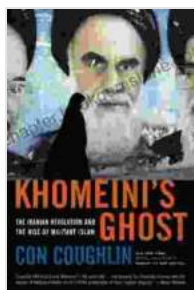


The Iranian Revolution and the Rise of Militant Islam: A Transformative Event in Modern History

The Iranian Revolution: A Catalyst for Change

The Iranian Revolution of 1978-1979 was a pivotal event that reshaped the political, social, and religious landscape of Iran and had profound implications for the region and the world. The revolution led to the overthrow of the Pahlavi dynasty, which had ruled Iran for over 50 years, and the establishment of the Islamic Republic of Iran, a theocratic state led by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

The revolution was sparked by a complex combination of factors, including widespread discontent with the authoritarian rule of the Shah, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, and the country's rapid modernization under western influence. The Shah's regime was perceived by many as corrupt, repressive, and out of touch with the needs of the people.



Khomeini's Ghost: The Iranian Revolution and the Rise of Militant Islam by Con Coughlin

★★★★☆ 4 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 6353 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 418 pages



The revolution was led by a diverse coalition of opposition groups, including liberal intellectuals, secular nationalists, and Islamist organizations. Ayatollah Khomeini, a charismatic religious leader who had been exiled from Iran in 1964, became the figurehead of the revolution.

The revolution culminated in the overthrow of the Shah in February 1979 and the establishment of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Khomeini returned to Iran and assumed the position of Supreme Leader, the highest political and religious authority in the new regime.

The Rise of Militant Islam

The Iranian Revolution marked a turning point in the history of Islam. It demonstrated the potential for religion to mobilize people for political action and to shape the course of events in the modern world.

The revolution's leaders promoted a radical interpretation of Shia Islam that rejected Western influence and emphasized the importance of Islamic law and the *ولاية الفقيه* (Guardianship of the Jurist). This concept gives supreme authority to a religious leader, who is believed to be the successor to the Prophet Muhammad and the guardian of Islamic law.

The revolution's ideology inspired the emergence of militant Islamist movements in other parts of the world. Groups such as Hezbollah in Lebanon, Hamas in Palestine, and the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt have all been influenced by the Iranian Revolution.

The Impact of the Iranian Revolution

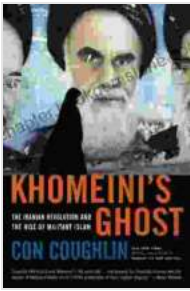
The Iranian Revolution has had a profound impact on Iran and the wider region.

Internally, the revolution has transformed Iran into a theocratic state where religious law and ideology permeate all aspects of life. The regime has implemented a strict interpretation of Islamic law, including mandatory hijab for women, censorship of the media, and the suppression of political dissent.

Regionally, the revolution has contributed to tensions between Iran and its neighbors, particularly Saudi Arabia. Iran's support for Shia groups in Iraq, Lebanon, and Yemen has been seen as a threat by Sunni-majority countries in the region.

The revolution has also influenced global politics. It has challenged Western domination and the idea of secularism as the only path to modernization. It has also raised concerns about the spread of militant Islam and its potential to destabilize the region and beyond.

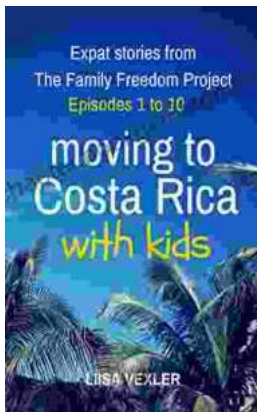
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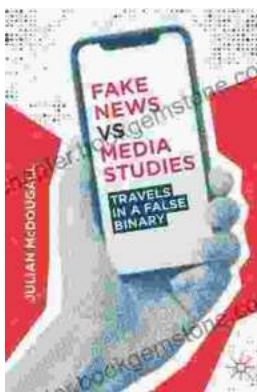
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