

# **A Glimpse of the Islamic Republic of Iran**

Mohammad Hadi Fallahzadeh, Mehdi Eskandarian, Ghasem Simiarian  
Translated by: Hadi Azimi  
Edited by Dr. Sadrodin Moosavi

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## Preface

*The history of Iran can be traced back to several millenniums BC. This ancient land has a rich culture that has not only influenced the Middle East but has left its impact other parts of the world as well.*

*The rich Iranian culture became profounder with the embracement of Islam by the inhabitants of this territory, leading to the sublimation and promotion of the Iranian culture through interminglement of the Iranian and Islamic cultures.*

*Having been situated on the Silk Road, for several millenniums Iran was a bridge between China and Mediterranean facilitating trade between the two parts of the world. Iran's geopolitical situation and its rich resources have always endowed it with a special significance, which at the same time caused the colonial powers to covet it.*

*The victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran under the leadership of Imam Khomeini in 1979 that put an end to the domination of the United States and its allies drew the attention of the world, particularly the Muslims. The Revolution at the same time put forth a number of questions about the history of Iran, the revolution and Iran's current situation. Meanwhile the victory of the Islamic Revolution turned Iran into a focal point of the Muslims, particularly the youth who hungered for the genuine teachings of Islam.*

*Lots of efforts have been made in order to introduce Iran to others. Some of the existing works are very comprehensive and precise. However since the questions of the youth are unlimited, it was necessary to introduce Iran in a brief handbook through a different approach.*

*I deem it pertinent here to mention a few points:*

1- Iran is an ancient country with a longstanding history. Today about 98 percent of the Iranians are Muslims. The Muslims along with other citizens of Iran created a great revolution called the Islamic Revolution. Iran is a cradle of knowledge, culture and literature with a large number of historical monuments.

2- In studying the Iranian history, failure to pay attention to any historical stage would be an affront to Iran and the Iranians. Hence, attempts have been made in the present study to take into consideration all the aforementioned points.

3- The Iranian attach special significance to the Iranian culture, civilization, customs, norms, religious feasts, national festivals etc. Hence attempts have been made to shed light to all these aspect of course within the limits of the present brief study.

The lovers of Iran and those who care for the Iranian culture and history proposed to me to write a brief handbook of Iran. The outcome is what has seen the light of the day: *A Glimpse of the Islamic Republic of Iran*. My endless thanks are due to those who assisted me in the accomplishment of this task, particularly Mr. Hadi Azimi for the translation of this book from Persian to English and Dr. Sadroddin Moosavi for meticulously editing the English version.

**Mohammad Hadi Fallahzadeh**  
**Summer 2006**