

LC CIP



0 042 061 906 6

"Alam Saleh makes a powerful case for understanding Iran's regional behaviour from the inside out. Conceptually sophisticated and empirically rich, this book will be essential reading for those who really want to understand how Iran's ethnic and national makeup impacts upon the conduct of Tehran's external relations."

—Clive Jones, Durham University, UK

"This ambitious study provides an original approach to the ongoing debate over security and the socio-economic and political situation in Iran, as well as regime stability. Alam Saleh's cutting-edge analysis renders an important contribution."

—Rory Miller, King's College London, UK

Tehran's complicated relationship with its ethnic sub-groups has been a pressing security concern since the formation of modern Iran in 1925. This concern is intimately linked with issues related to citizenship, democracy, and democratic political processes, which remain fundamental to Iran's political structure and the Iranian political sphere. This book argues that, while the Islamic Republic has employed various strategies to mitigate the worst excesses of inter-ethnic tension while still securing a Shi'a-Persian dominated state, the systematic neglect of ethnic groups by both the Islamic Republic and its predecessor regime has resulted in the politicization of ethnic identity in Iran.

**Alam Saleh** is Lecturer of Middle East Politics and International Relations in the Department of Peace Studies at University of Bradford, UK. His teaching focuses on Middle East politics, international relations, and security studies. His research interests include Middle East politics and security, Iran's politics and societal security, ethno-religious conflict, and international security.

palgrave  
macmillan

Cover Image: © niroworld - Fotolia.com

Cover design by Will Speed

ISBN: 978-1-137-31086-6



9 781137 310866

www.palgrave.com

# Contents

Acknowledgments	ix
Introduction	1
1 Ethnic Conflict: Theories and Concepts	9
2 Continuity and Change: The Tradition of Security Discourse in Iran	25
3 Iran's National Identity Problem	45
4 Ethnic Conflict in Iran: Continuity and Change	59
5 Relative Deprivation Theory and Political Violence in Iran	85
6 Ethnic Minorities in Iran: The View from the Ground	105
7 Separatism and the State's Mechanism of Control	137
Conclusion: Themes and Implications	163
Bibliography	171
Notes	187
Index	221