



Iranians are suspicious of the West

The Soul of Iran

Afshin Molavi,

W.W.Norton and Co, 2005

For anyone wanting to know something about Iran, its history, culture and what is going on within it at the grassroots, this book would be hard to beat. Those who went with me to Iran in 2000 would find it both a refresher course and an updating. Although first published in 2002, a new introduction and final chapter have been added since then.

The author was born in Iran but now lives and works in USA as a journalist. He toured Iran, talked to as many people as he could, and brings to light what the ordinary people are thinking. And they do not all think the same by any means.

Along the way he introduces important bits of history, descriptions of important sights, conversations he had, and cameos of the great and important Iranians of the past (cultural, religious and political).

It also makes clear how much Britain, Russia and USA have interfered with Iran and, instead of promoting democracy, have actually prevented it from emerging.

This is not an anti-West book in itself but it makes clear why Iranians generally are so suspicious of the West. On the other hand many of the professionals in Iran want to migrate to the West (two million have already done so).

It has some gruesome descriptions of the dreadful 8-year war with Iraq, made worse by the fact that the West gave all their aid to Saddam Hussein!

It is easily read and is in a journalistic style rather than a literary one but is very educative. I got my copy from Amazon.com for US\$14.95 and it has 355 pp.

Lloyd Geering