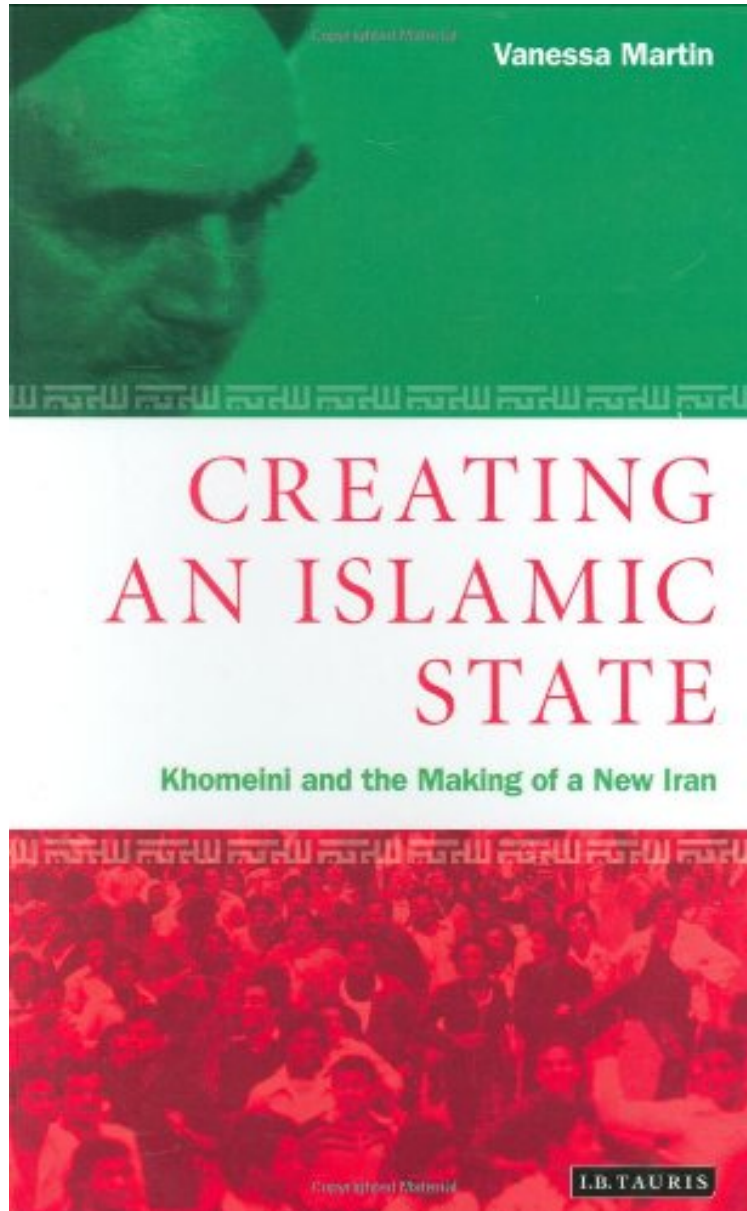


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# Creating An Islamic State: Khomeini and the Making of a New Iran

*Vanessa Martin*

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engaging. Although the topic is somewhat specialized, Martin does a fine job in keeping this book accessible and information. A great book for those wishing to study and/or compare 20th century revolutions. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. *Khomeini's dream* By Pablo Yes, the book title clearly states that it's about Khomeini's role in creating the Islamic Republic of Iran; but on reading it one is misled to believe that Khomeini walked a straight path from the late thirties to 1979 with a clear picture in his head. The book evades the fact that Khomeini adapted to circumstances and, above all, took advantage from other leading factions in the struggle to dethrone the Shah. Much of the book is dedicated to study Khomeini's background and theologic curricula in the pre-revolution years, and very little to the fierce struggle to wrest power from other factions after the revolution. That's precisely Khomeini's contribution to the creation of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and if you want to read about it, you should look for other book, not this.

In this volume, Vanessa Martin makes a groundbreaking contribution on the dynamics of the Iranian Revolution and the Islamist revival especially relevant in the context of the debate arising out of Iran's recent elections. Political Islam and its recent violent by-products first became the focus of international attention following the success of the 1979 Iranian Revolution led by the Ayatollah Khomeini. This extraordinary book is the first to analyze the ideological roots of an Islamic state as conceived by Khomeini. Martin finds much of the inspiration behind Khomeini's political thinking being influenced by western sources.