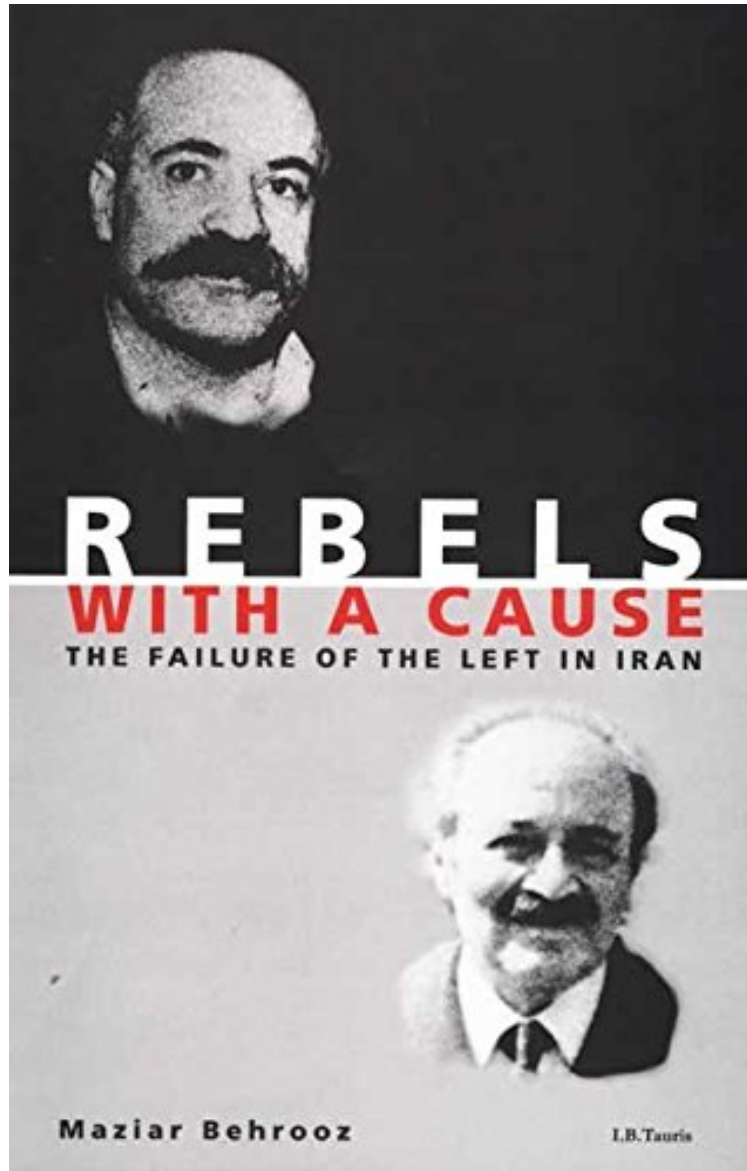


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## Rebels With A Cause: The Failure of the Left in Iran

*Maziar Behrooz*

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Why were left-wing politics so ineffective in Iran while socialism and communism were making great strides in the rest of the world? Why did the Left not capitalize on Iran's brief flirt with anti-Western politics in the early 1950s before the Shah was restored to his throne? Above all, why was the Left so crushingly defeated after the 1979 Islamic revolution in Iran? Based on primary and secondary Persian-language sources never before published in English, this book reveals new details and provides fresh insights into an enduring puzzle of modern Iranian political history, concluding that the Left's demise came from a combination of Iran's geopolitical setting, where both the Soviets and the West saw advantage in the stability of Iran during the Cold War, and the Iranian Left's over-enthusiastic devotion to a barren Stalinism.

Behrooz argues that Marxism in Iran was defeated not through ideological crisis engulfing international communism but because of its inability to understand and cope with the internal dynamics of the 1979 revolution. An objective, comprehensive, and balanced presentation... Choice Relying on an array of Persian and English sources, his valuable book documents the revival of the left in the wake of the coup against Muhammad Mossadegh in 1953, the anti-shah movement, and the early years of the Islamic revolution. Middle East Quarterly