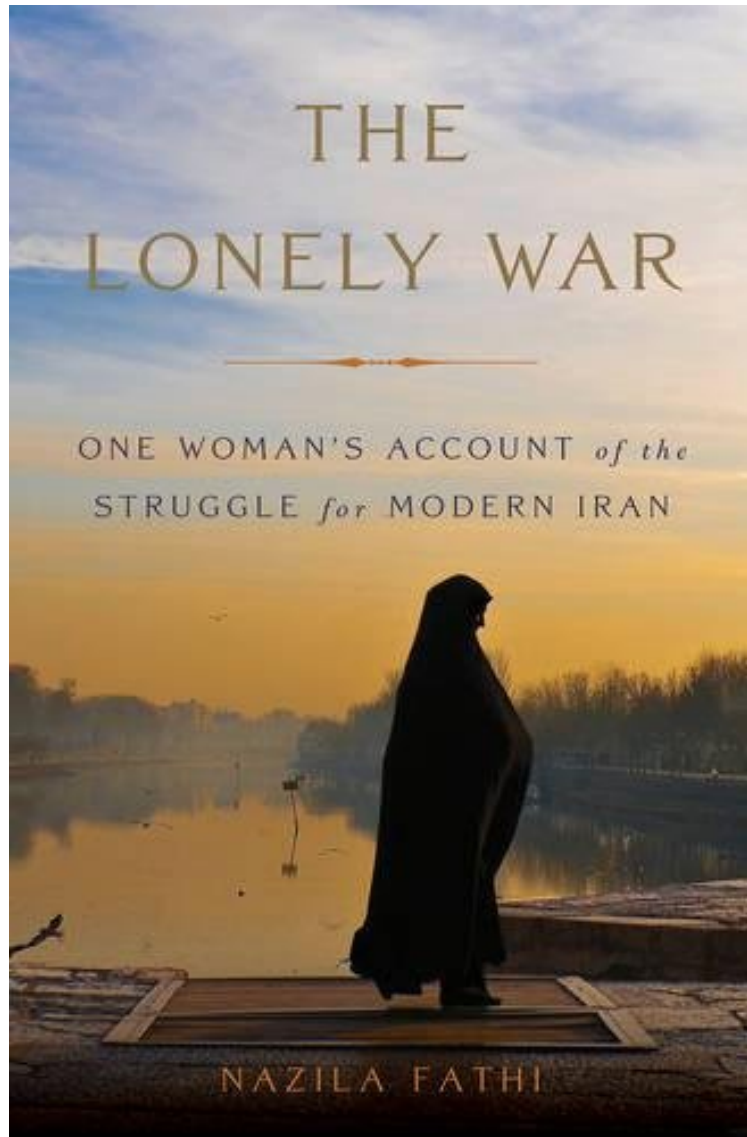


(Read free) The Lonely War: One Womans Account of the Struggle for Modern Iran

# The Lonely War: One Womans Account of the Struggle for Modern Iran

*Nazila Fathi*

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**Nazila Fathi : The Lonely War: One Womans Account of the Struggle for Modern Iran** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Lonely War: One Womans Account of the Struggle for Modern Iran:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. What a courageous woman!By OrchidWhile there is the obvious Muslim overtone, I think the more important theme has to do with how women fight for freedom in an ultra-

oppressive society. Since she is a journalist, the assault on freedom of speech is not just a Middle East issue over there - but the power dynamics apply to all governments. I was also interested in how clothing could be used as a method of control and to what extent it could be successful. While we in the west may look upon this practice as controlling while our media says otherwise, she confirms how this rule became one focus for oppressing women who were used to dressing like we do in the west. The other take-home message was how it was the small number of fringe extremists who gained power through deceit that took a whole country down. After several thousand years, mankind hasn't evolved much.<sup>2</sup> of 2 people found the following review helpful. My book club enjoyed it and we had a good discussion  
By K. Scarpace  
The book was compelling. An Iranian woman journalist's perspective on current events in Iran. It gave me a perspective on the last 100 years or so in Iran, although the point of the book was the past 40 years or so. As a result of reading, my perspective on Iran was broadened, something I always appreciate in a book or an article.  
The book had a kind of technical style, lots of names and references that I found challenging to follow. My book club enjoyed it and we had a good discussion. This was not the first book we read on Iran.<sup>1</sup> of 1 people found the following review helpful. Best book I've ever read on Iran so far  
By Califfoto  
This is an objective and in-depth analysis of the contemporary history of Iran. As a native Iranian who has lived abroad for most of my life, my view of Iran has always been biased by the media, and my own experience as a teenager in the early years after the revolution. While recounting her personal story, the author provides a window into the political struggles and personal agendas that have governed the country and regional history over the past 30 years.  
For the first time, this book sheds light on how and why Iran has remained unique in the middle of a troublesome region.  
Best book I've ever read on Iran so far ... And looking forward to read more from the same author

In the summer of 2009, as she was covering the popular uprisings in Tehran for the New York Times, Iranian journalist Nazila Fathi received a phone call. They have given your photo to snipers, a government source warned her. Soon after, with undercover agents closing in, Fathi fled the country with her husband and two children, beginning a life of exile.  
In *The Lonely War*, Fathi interweaves her story with that of the country she left behind, showing how Iran is locked in a battle between hardliners and reformers that dates back to the country's 1979 revolution. Fathi was nine years old when that uprising replaced the Iranian shah with a radical Islamic regime. Her father, an official at a government ministry, was fired for wearing a necktie and knowing English; to support his family he was forced to labor in an orchard hundreds of miles from Tehran. At the same time, the family's destitute, uneducated housekeeper was able to retire and purchase a modern apartment all because her family supported the new regime.  
As Fathi shows, changes like these caused decades of inequality especially for the poor and for women to vanish overnight. Yet a new breed of tyranny took its place, as she discovered when she began her journalistic career. Fathi quickly confronted the upper limits of opportunity for women in the new Iran and earned the enmity of the country's ruthless intelligence service. But while she and many other Iranians have fled for the safety of the West, millions of their middleclass countrymen many of them the same people whom the regime once lifted out of poverty continue pushing for more personal freedoms and a renewed relationship with the outside world.  
Drawing on over two decades of reporting and extensive interviews with both ordinary Iranians and high-level officials before and since her departure, Fathi describes Iran's awakening alongside her own, revealing how moderates are steadily retaking the country.

Drawing on more than a decade of reporting for the New York Times in Iran, Nazila Fathi has written a lucid and highly engaging portrait of Iranian politics from the 1979 revolution to today. One of the book's most illuminating features is her vivid portrait of the impoverished recruits for the paramilitary Basij and Revolutionary Guard Corps including their subsequent disillusionment and adoption of a more middle class, secular life style. Highly recommended for college courses.  
Janet Afary, author of *Sexual Politics in Modern Iran* As fearless as it is honest, *The Lonely War* tells the inside story of how Iranians have grappled with and also been inspired by their Islamic Republic. Journalist Nazila Fathi gives us a powerful personal account of coming of age in revolutionary Iran, exploring Iran's turbulent modern history through a remarkable cast of real characters and deftly navigating Iran's cultural and political divide to provide us a superb picture of what makes Iran today.  
Scott Peterson, author of *Let the Swords Encircle Me: Iran A Journey Behind the Headlines* In short and lucid chapters... Ms. Fathi conveys the experiences of people from different walks of life and intersperses these accounts with observations about how the new Islamic revolutionary ideology was conceived, anticipated, received and resisted. Her portraits of the women's rights activists Faezeh Hashemi and Shahla Sherkat make for fascinating reading. So do her accounts of other courageous Iranian women... Ms. Fathi's book is a testament to her courage and to the brave struggles of many Iranians who continue to live there with patience, hope and determination.  
New York Times A revealing and often exhilarating portrait of [Fathi's] life as a female reporter in the Islamic Republic.  
Wall Street Journal A personal and experiential account of how changes in the internecine politics of Iran since the revolution have affected the lives of millions. Fathi's supremely accessible narrative is an excellent primer for those who want to understand the machinations of the regime; hers is a brave and important voice.  
Washington Post Fathi distills three decades of Iranian politics through a personal lens in her unputdownable memoir.  
Vogue.com Paints a vivid portrait of a nation struggling to reinvent itself after years of

oppression.Shelf Awareness