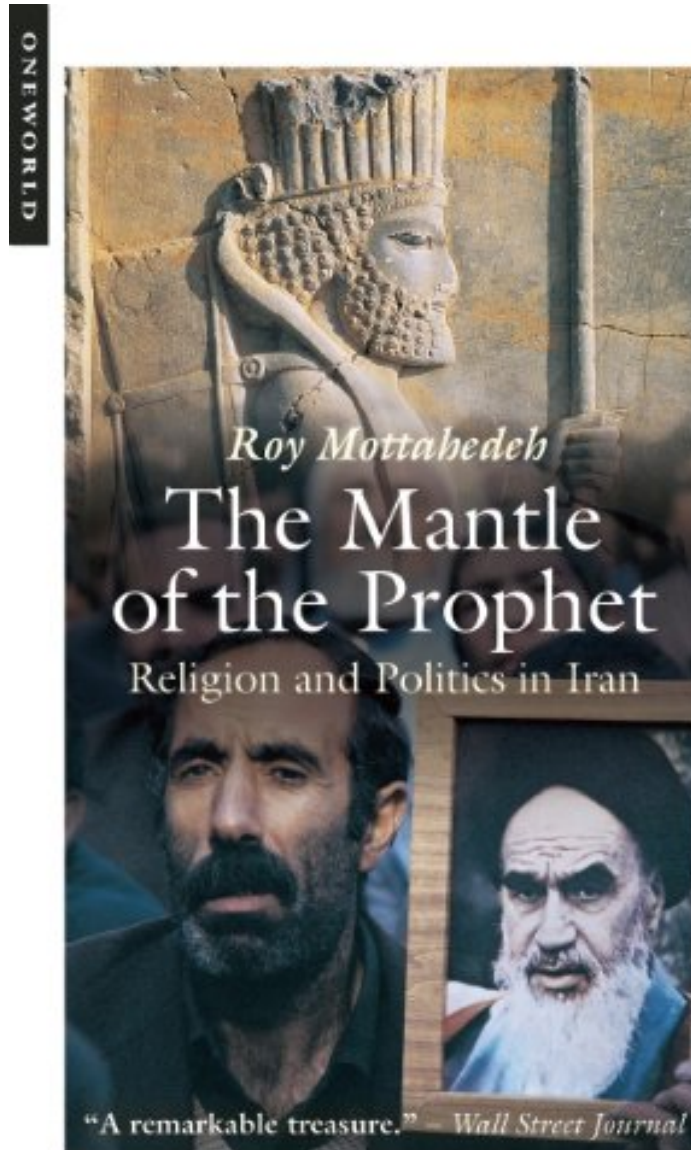


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## The Mantle of the Prophet

*Roy Mottahedeh*

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**Roy Mottahedeh : The Mantle of the Prophet** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Mantle of the Prophet:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Iran is indeed a complex country By Babak Iran is the only majority Muslim country today that still has a conscious connection to its pre-Islamic past. This book is not only about Islam. It

also explores what you may call "Iranian Consciousness" rooted in the region's historical experiences with multiple religions and intellectual trends. In the beginning of the book Ali Hashemi's resistance to overtly celebrate the fall of the monarchy brings into mind Khatami's emotionless stare at the Azadi stadium that was captured on television cameras after the Iranian national team scored a goal. It gives you a clue to the mindset of the clerical class in Iran. One also has to add to this the question that was posed to Khomeini as his plane was about to land in Iran: What is your feeling about coming back to Iran? Khomeini replied "NOTHING." Towards the end of the book there is a mention of Imam Hussain and Rustam. Only a few Iranians will take one over the other as a superior hero. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great read! By Hussein Shahine The book is wonderful in that it goes past simple history and tries to give you the upmost context possible. You live the life of a young boy and see how he and his nation progressed through time. It's like a history book with flavor by not focusing on a step by step narration of what resulted in Iranian history. Many subjects converge and diverge such as art, Islam, logic and politics, etc. To me, that accurately describes the multi-cultural characteristics of Iran and its revolution. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An original rendering By Thomas This work relates much of the religious background to the 1978 Iranian Revolution with its focus on Shia learning. Its structure is tricky with forays onto the past peppering a first person retelling.

Drawn from the first-hand accounts of eyewitnesses, Roy Mottahedeh's gripping account of Islam and Politics in revolutionary Iran is widely regarded as one of the best records of that turbulent time ever written. The true story of a young mullah, his life in the sacred shrine city of Qom, and the dramatic events of the 1979 Revolution, this enthralling account paints a vivid picture of contemporary Iran, while providing a panoramic survey of Muslim, Shi'ite and Persian culture from the Middle Ages to the current day. From the ancient time of Zoroaster to the world of Khomeini, this sweeping saga interweaves biography with history, politics and religion to offer new levels of understanding into Iran's past, present and future. Written with feeling, sympathy and clarity, this revised edition includes a new chronology detailing events in Iran from the revolution right up to the present day and Ahmadinejad's controversial regime.

Even with news breaking daily in Iran, the first book I send myself and other readers back to has to be Roy Mottahedeh's "The Mantle of the Prophet: Religion and Politics in Iran," which was first published in 1985. A professor at Harvard, Mottahedeh has written an intellectual history as stirring and graceful as any novel. He sets the intimate biography of a young cleric against the vast epic of Iranian thought from Zoroaster to Avicenna, Kasravi to Khomeini. "The Mantle of the Prophet" is literary, learned, and deeply felt; the writing is splendid, and the story is an education for the Western reader unaware of the powerful tides of Shi'ite and Persian thought over a period of centuries. -- The New Yorker, June 26, 2009 From the Publisher "A masterpiece....[Mottahedeh exposes], with dazzling erudition, the subterranean Sufi and poetic heritage lying just below the surface of Khomeini's seemingly granitelike orthodoxy." -- The New York Times About the Author Roy Mottahedeh is Gurney Professor of Islamic History at Harvard University. An internationally renowned expert, his academic awards include a Guggenheim and a MacArthur Prize Fellowship.