



Ali Shariati: ideologue of the Iranian revolution

Westerners commonly perceive the Iranian Revolution as an atavistic and xenophobic movement that rejects all things modern and non-Muslim, a view reinforced by the present leaders of Iran. They claim that the revolution spearheads the resurgence of Islam, and that the revolutionary movement is an authentic phenomena uncorrupted by any alien ideas and inspired solely by the teachings of the Prophet and the Shi'i imams. This conventional wisdom, however, ignores the contributions of 'Ali Shari'ati, the main ideologue of the Iranian Revolution.

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Ervand Abrahamian "Ali Shariati: Ideologue of the Iranian Revolution," *Middle East Report* 102 (January/February 1982). The ideology of the Iranian Revolution has been called a "complex combination" of nationalism, political populism, and Shia Islamic "religious radicalism". Perhaps the most important of the diverse ideological interpretation of Islam within the grand alliance that led to the 1979 revolution were traditional clerical quietism, Khomeinism, Ali Shariati's Islamic-left ideology, and Mehdi Bazargan's liberal-democratic Islam. Less powerful were the socialist guerrilla groups of Islamic and secular variants

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