

Kenneth M. Pollack

Bestselling author of *The Persian Gulf*

THE
PERSIAN
PUZZLE



THE
CONFLICT
BETWEEN
IRAN AND AMERICA

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The Persian Puzzle by Kenneth M. Pollack

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In his hugely influential e-book "The Threatening Storm," bestselling writer Kenneth Pollack either expert and outlined the nationwide debate approximately Iraq. Now, in "The Persian Puzzle," released to coincide with the The Persian Puzzle twenty-fifth anniversary of the Iran hostage crisis, he examines the behind-the-scenes tale of the tumultuous courting among Iran and the United States, and weighs techniques for the future. Here Pollack, a former CIA analyst and nationwide protection Council official, brings his prepared research and insider standpoint to the lengthy and ongoing conflict among the U.S. and Iran, starting with the fall of the shah and the seizure of the yank embassy in Tehran in 1979. Pollack examines all of the significant occasions in U.S.-Iran relations-including the hostage crisis, the united states tilt towards Iraq in the course of the Iran-Iraq war, the Iran-Contra scandal, American-Iranian army tensions in 1987 and 1988, the covert Iranian conflict opposed to united states pursuits within the Persian Gulf that culminated within the 1996 Khobar Towers terrorist assault in Saudi Arabia, and up to date U.S.-Iran skirmishes over Afghanistan and Iraq. He explains the innovations and explanations from American and Iranian The Persian Puzzle views and tells how each one main issue coloured the taking into account both countries' management as they formed and reshaped their rules over time. Pollack additionally describes efforts through moderates of varied stripes to attempt to discover a way prior animosities to create a brand new dynamic in Iranian-American relations, basically to discover that once one facet used to be prepared for this type of step, the opposite facet fell short. With balanced tone and insight, Pollack explains how the USA and Iran reached this impasse; why this courting is necessary to regional, global, and united states interests; and what simple political offerings can be The Persian Puzzle found as we take care of this significant yet deeply afflicted country.

I examine myself extra conscious and higher knowledgeable concerning the center East than the typical Westerner considering that i've got lived in 3 Arab nations and feature either Arabic and Persian language skills. i am not a huge fan of what I understand to be a heritage of yankee and eu bungling in that and different areas of the globe, yet this booklet gave me much more balanced point of view at the historical past of Iran and the West than I had formerly had. This overview is a brief recap of what I got here away with after having learn the book. yet you must learn the e-book your self to get the genuine gist of it. And, when you disagree with The Persian Puzzle a few of my concepts below, i feel you'll find that there's proof within the publication to again up all or so much of them. Certainly, Iran has many legitimate grievances opposed to either Britain and Russia who, for a few years top up throughout the moment global War, manipulated and took terrible good thing about Iran either politically and economically. For example, they positioned into strength the 1st Pahlavi shah and divided up the country's oil reserves among themselves and wrote up one-sided contracts which assigned miniscule chances of the oil sales to the country. When Mohammed Mosaddeq used to be deposed in 1953, it is precise that the CIA was The Persian Puzzle once involved. besides the fact that Britain, which hasn't ever publicly said its personal position during this incident, was once the beneficiary of the deed. Furthermore, Mosaddeq had alienated almost everybody in Iran together with his authoritarian habit to the measure that the clerics and masses of the remainder

of the rustic had already disowned him and could not wait to cast off him. The booklet issues out that Truman and Kennedy driven the shah to adopt vital reforms to rein in poverty and push schooling within the rural areas. Britain and Russia had by no means performed the sort of thing. With the assassination of Kennedy, Johnson endured those programs. yet Nixon and, earlier, Eisenhower had by no means been fairly attracted to Iran and took no nice efforts to profit a lot approximately it, they usually didn't push the shah to enhance the lot of Iranians. Consequently, the shah took terrible benefit of his countrymen and was once capable of pin many of the blame on the USA simply because we have been his closest best friend but knew little approximately what used to be happening in his country. The moment Pahlavi shah, additionally put in with assistance from outsiders, used to be a terrible dictator, and Iranians had each correct to despise him for his brutal mystery police, SAVAK, and for his refusal to permit nearly any democratic speech or task within the country. His White Revolution was once a halfhearted try at land reform, and it made enemies out of the landed gentry, who have been most likely his basically genuine fanatics ever. He was once obviously very jealous of JFK and attempted to undertaking just like a young, profitable leader, yet his lavish palaces and his family's pricey journeys in a foreign country didn't fairly endear him to his subjects. When Carter got here along, his management likewise did not placed loads of attempt into figuring out Iran, and so they acquired the United States right into a lot of hassle by means of simply assuming that the shah was once doing great things for the rustic whereas carrying on with to paintings with him. Meanwhile, Khomeini, who used to be captivated with maligning the United States particularly although Britain and Russia have been the first villains through the sleek historical past of Iran's courting with the West, used to be satisfied to enable out-of-control agitators take over the united states Embassy and carry fifty two humans hostage for over a yr presently after his ascension to the hot place of ideally suited chief within the new progressive government. Which, of course, finally ended in the removing of family among the 2 countries. Khomeini used to be rather happy with himself for influencing the result of the yank elections by way of protecting the hostages over Carter's head, thereby making sure that Ronald Reagan ousted Carter. stable for him. If he concept that The Persian Puzzle Reagan and the Republicans have been going to be more straightforward for Iran to paintings with, he was once evidently a fool. While it really is real that Sunni Muslims have handled Shiites quite often horribly through the historical past of Islam, it really is unhappy to notice that the hot upward push of ever uglier and uglier Sunni terrorists activities has its roots in Khomeini and the early days of the Shi'ite Islamic Republic whilst he used to be education suicide bombers and dispatching terrorist squads to Lebanon and Israel and the occupied territories and, later, to Saudi Arabia. i think that Iranian leaders this present day observe what a shortsighted approach that was once given the out-of-control violence opposed to Shi'ites in Iraq today. Moreover the repressive principles imposed on Iranians because the starting of the Islamic revolution are likewise a forerunner of totalitarian teams like Daesh today. In fact, a few think of Khomeini's rule because the Sunnification of the Shi'ite clergy. and a few favorite Shi'ite clerics in Iraq vociferously antagonistic Khomeini's "innovation" (ijtihad) of velayæt-e feqih, believing in its place that the position of clerics used to be basically an advisory function and they usually are not ever rule or reign politically. One tricky subject matter that's repeated through The Persian Puzzle the publication is the shortsightedness of Europe and Japan in carrying on with to alternate with Iran whilst it was once transparent that its undesirable habit was once spilling throughout foreign borders and perilous to create ailment or maybe destabilize yes regions. And, regardless of the way you may perhaps think approximately Israel, there is definitely The Persian Puzzle not

anything optimistic approximately Iran's efforts to derail the peace technique at each stage. A variety of experiences the following have urged that the ultimate bankruptcy is outdated now. I disagree. within the wake of the nuclear accord that has lately passed, plenty of questions stay approximately what's going to take place sooner or later if/when Iran ultimately has the potential to construct The Persian Puzzle a nuclear weapon. i think that bankruptcy deals loads of considerate principles for the way the realm can paintings opposed to that state of affairs but, if it's going to come to pass, take care of it sensibly. I'm sorry that my overview comes throughout as particularly blatantly pro-American. As i attempted to indicate above, i am completely acutely aware that either the United States and Europe have performed lots to create havoc in that a part of the world. One visible instance is that we proceed to prop up a corrupt Saudi Arabian regime given their adverse remedy in their minorities and their ladies and their very thinly veiled hatred of us. and that i think our heritage of virtually unconditional aid for Israel has created an untenable state of affairs for that nation and for the Palestinians, whose future is heavily attached with Israel's own.

The Persian Puzzle

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