

Preface and Acknowledgments

This book deals with highly political and contentious subjects. This research contains segments that attempt to present factual descriptions of the activities of the Iran National Front (INF). This research also contains segments that engage in analysis of the policies of the INF and other political actors. The bulk of this book deals with description. In these segments, I have attempted, to the best of my abilities, to describe the activities and views of the INF objectively. These segments attempt to answer “what happened,” “what the INF did,” and “what the INF said.” These segments have to be objective and factual. If there are any errors of fact, I would most appreciate if the readers and critics would point these out. Such corrections will add to our knowledge and would enhance our understanding of this major subject. If there are documents that my research has been ignorant of, I would be very happy to get access to them. Scholarship is a collective activity. By providing more documents, our knowledge will become more complete. Readers may send me such documents and corrections via my work e-mail. Updates and corrections will be made available through the website of the publisher: <https://www.degruyter.com/document/isbn/9783110782158/html>.

This research also contains analytical segments. These segments attempt to answer “why the INF or other actors” did this or that action. There are only a few such segments in this book. All scholars may make errors of judgements or logical inconsistencies. Through criticism and debate, we can understand the shortcomings of our analyses. Consciously or unconsciously, scholars may cherry pick evidence to further a particular analysis. Through debate, we can learn and correct, or debunk such analyses.

Paradigmatic and theoretical frameworks also influence analyses. The primary goal of this book has been to provide an objective description; therefore, this work has avoided theoretical analysis. Those scholars who utilize particular paradigms or theories (e. g., feminism, Marxism) may ask questions or look for areas that my research has neglected. My book is not an all-encompassing work intended to answer all the questions pertaining to Iran. The primary contribution of this book is simply to provide a description of the activities of the INF. Other scholars who utilize various theoretical analyses enrich our understanding of Iranian politics and history.

A heartfelt thanks goes to Penny Watson, who read many drafts of this book and made many constructive suggestions and criticisms. This work owes a great debt to many members of the INF. I thank Kambiz Ghaemmagham and Dr. Homayoun Mehmaneche for their comments and suggestions on earlier drafts of

this book. I thank my friend Dr. Mohsen Ghaemmagham for the numerous discussions about the INF. I learned a great deal through e-mail exchanges with Dr. Hussein Moussavian and the late Abbas Amir-Entezam, as well as interviews with the late Khosrow Seif and Dr. Mehrdad Arfazadeh, and conversations with the late Dr. Saeed Fatemi, the late Hussein Razi, the late Abolqassem Lebaschi, and the late Hassan Lebaschi. I am solely responsible for any errors of fact or analysis.

The research for this book began when I was at Utah Valley University. I thank my former department chair and friend, Dr. Keith Snedegar, who provided class release so that I could conduct the basic research. I thank Dr. Jason Enia, my department chair, and Dr. Chien-pin Li, my Dean, for their support of a generous sabbatical leave, which allowed me to complete this book. I thank Faye Leerink, Michaela Göbels, and Gerhard Boomgaarden, my wonderful editors at De Gruyter, for their highly efficient work. It was a pleasure working with them on this project.