



Kurds and the State in Iran: The Making of Kurdish Identity (International Library of Iranian Studies)

By Abbas Vali

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In early 1946, Kurds declared an independent republic in north-west Iran. The Mahabad Republic, as it became known, was the first time that the Kurds experienced self-rule in the modern era. Although short-lived, the Republic had a formative influence on the subsequent development of Kurdish nationalist movements in Iran and the wider region. Here, Abbas Vali disputes the conventional view that the Kurdish Republic was the result of a Soviet conspiracy to dismember Iran, a side-effect of the Cold War. Instead, he emphasizes the diversity of the internal Iranian and Kurdish factors that led to the formation of the Republic, arguing that the Republic represents the culmination of a new and modern Kurdish national identity. This was an identity which emerged in response to the exclusionary effects of the political and discursive processes and practices of the construction of a modern Iranian nation-state and national identity since the Constitutional Revolution of 1906. With its analysis of the formation and effects of nationalism and ethnic identity, this book is essential reading for anyone interested in the Kurds or the development of national and state identities in the Middle East.

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About the Author

Abbas Vali is Professor of Modern Social and Political Theory at the Department of Sociology, in Bogaziçi Universiti, Istanbul. He previously taught Political Theory and Modern Middle Eastern Politics at the Department of Politics and International Relations, University of Wales, Swansea, before moving to Erbil, Iraq to serve as the first Vice Chancellor of the University of Kurdistan Hawler from 2006 to 2008. His writings include *Pre-Capitalist Iran: A Theoretical History* (I.B.Tauris, 1993), *Essays on the Origins of Kurdish Nationalism* (2003), and *Modernity and the Stateless: The Kurds in the Islamic Republic* (I.B.Tauris, forthcoming).

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