

Oil, Nukes, Mullahs, Democracy and U.S. Hegemony: The Political Economy of the Iran Crisis



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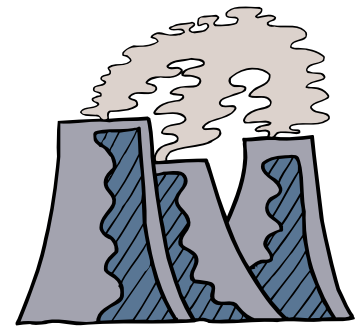
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The long-suffering Iranian people face dual burdens: the constant prospect of a bloody U.S.-led intervention, and the continued internal rule of the mullahs. This panel examines the motivations of both sides, and addresses a number of questions: What is the political-economic basis for the persistent hostility towards Iran by the U.S. and its allies: Britain, France and Germany? What is the role of their long-term quest for oil? What are the real issues involved in the nuclear power dispute? What is the political economy of the present clerical regime, and what are the prospects for internal social and democratic transformation? What is the current status of women in Iran, and how are policies towards women used to maintain overall social control? Our panelists will cut through the abundance of official misinformation on Iran, and seek effective ways to express our solidarity with the just struggles of the Iranian people.

SPEAKERS

Faramarz Farbod is an Iranian-American (a native of Iran). He taught politics in Iran for several years in the 1990s, and has been teaching politics in the US (Moravian College, Bethlehem, PA) since 1998. He is pursuing his PhD in comparative politics at Rutgers University. His primary areas of interest are: American foreign policy in the Third World (especially in the Middle East); issues related to globalization, empire, capitalism, and development; politics of dissent here in America; and issues related to the US media.

Reza Ghorashi has a Ph.D. in economics from Fordham University and teaches at Richard Stockton College of New Jersey. His areas of research and interest are international trade, globalization, and the Middle East, particularly Iran. He has published articles in both English and Farsi on the listed subject matters.

Fatemeh Moghadam teaches courses on Economic Development, Women and Development in the Middle East, Economic Development in the Middle East, and International Economics. She has published extensively on economic history, agricultural development, and women and development, including a book, *From Land Reform to The Revolution: The Political Economy of Agricultural Development in Iran (1960-1979)* (Tauris Academic Studies, London, February 1996). Her research work includes several field studies in Iran. Her most recent publications include entries in *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Economic History* (New York, 2003), entries in *Encyclopedia of Women and Islamic Cultures* (to appear 2006), as well as articles on women and work in Iran.

Tom O'Donnell (PhD, nuclear physics) is Lecturer at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor in the Science, Technology and Science Program (STS) and the Center for Middle East and North African Studies (CMENAS), and the Residential College. He lectured on "The Global Oil System and the Middle East" in graduate economics at The University of Algiers and, as visiting professor, at The New School for Social Research in New York City in spring-summer of 2005. He is currently writing a book on "The New Globalized Oil Order." He is also Associate Member of the Michigan Center for Theoretical Physics (MCTP). He previously spent a decade as an industrial worker and organizer-activist in Detroit auto plants and on Chicago railways.