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Janet Afary

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Sexual Politics in Modern Iran

Janet Afary is a native of Iran and a leading historian. Her work focuses on gender and sexuality and draws on her experience of growing up in Iran and her involvement with Iranian women of different ages and social strata. These observations, and a wealth of historical documents, form the kernel of this book, which charts the history of gender and sexuality in Iran from the nineteenth century to today. What comes across is the extraordinary resilience of the Iranian people, who have drawn on a rich social and cultural heritage to defy the repression and hardship of the Islamist state and its predecessors. It is this resilience, the author concludes, which forms the basis of a still unfinished sexual revolution taking place in Iran today, one that is promoting reforms in marriage and family laws, and demanding more egalitarian relations.

JANET AFARY is Professor of History and Women's Studies at Purdue University. Her previous publications include *The Iranian Constitutional Revolution: Grassroots Democracy, Social Democracy, and the Origins of Feminism* (1996) and, with Kevin B. Anderson, the award-winning *Foucault and the Iranian Revolution: Gender and the Seductions of Islamism* (2005).

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xviii Acknowledgments

I have adopted a modified version of the transliteration system of *Encyclopedia Iranica* (use of vowels o and e in addition to a, i, and u) for Persian words, and a modified version of the transliteration system of the *International Journal of Middle East Studies* (*IJMES*) for Arabic words. I have omitted all diacritical marks except hamzeh or ain. I have also reverted to the *New York Times* style of transliteration for commonly known words (i.e. Ali instead of ‘Ali).

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Map of Iran