Addendum

The European has generally either romanticized or degraded Persia. It has been little understood by most of the people who have written about her. Besides, many writers having rigorous, negative and biased view misrepresented it. They only focused on their unreasonable religious enthusiasm, their hostility towards them, their fanaticism and incompetency of the shahs, hence while symbolizing Iran they distorted the truth of its culture. But there were writers who gave a fairly good summary of Persian images free of prejudice.

It cannot be denied by the fact that in 19th century Iran has been badly served by her rulers and leaders. They were only careful of their personal benefit, ease and comfort, neglecting the need of general public. The country was on the decline attended by state bankruptcy, extreme corruption and internal disorder. The shah’s European tours cost tremendous sums almost leaving the treasury without funds. Nobles and courtiers amassed fortunes. The rulers had no interest in developing contacts with general public. People of the lower class could not meet the rulers. Criminals were released for a ransom. While distributing land the shah himself used to take bribe. There were no rule of law. Under such atmosphere the high officials appeared more cruel upon whom who were under their submission. Moreover such events occurred here which struck the European mind. Some took it positively, some negatively and some superficially. Every one described the matter in their own way.
according to their capacity of observation that made their views and opinion different from others. And some time the matters fell in the category of falsehood.

There were two very important events in the Iranian history of the last century which created a new dimension in every walks of Iranian life. One is the cancellation of Tobacco License and the next is Constitutional Movement. The later event was the great achievement of the Iranians. This made the country free from two great evils like despotic rule and UN Islamic court of the shah. This movement replaced the Iranian monarchy into Constitutional government, resulting the formation of fundamental constitution. Now the matter of state was dealt by the consultative assembly. The rights of the kings became limited and his rule was subjected to approval by the Assembly of Representative (Majlis).The Constitution provided Iranians to a great extent the freedom of political organization, expression and other activities. But soon the Counter-Revolutionary Movement deprived them of these facilities. The cause of this movement was illiteracy among the people. This movement reached to its climax by Reza Khan who in order to stabilize his government carried out many social evils in the society which destroyed the economic, political, social and cultural life of the masses.

During the Second World War Reza Khan failed to heed British and Russian warnings which abdicated him replacing his youthful son Mohammad Reza. Under his regime the political and Islamic activities increased. But not satisfying from his government a majority of English
educated people under the strong influence of the West established Dr Mosaddique’s government under the leadership of Ayatollah Kashani. The most important outcome of this government was nationalization of Petroleum industry which deprived the British of its profit. Not only this but all superpowers of east and west suffered great loss of political and economical gain. With superpowers the communist and antisocial group of people who had suffered severe setbacks at the hand of theologians brought many movements, protests and strikes to weak the present government. As a result the shah returned to power.

As new government of the shah was not supported by the people he totally relied upon the alien colonists and SAVAK (intelligence and information organization). This organization appeared harsher. In the field of politics- despotism and oppression touched a new mark. The SAVAK indulged in unprecedented harshness. By terror, imprisonment and torture it silenced the people and crushed every contention and struggle under its heavy boots. Under such sensational and tension prevailing atmosphere people started underground movements. The shah’s destructive and antinationalist politics increased the foreign influence in the affairs of the country. Imam Khomeini invited the people to rise against the present ruler. The struggle developed in the form of Islamic Revolution in Iran. In this way Iranians saved their country from the tyrannical, oppressive and corrupt regime of the shah.

The Islamic revolution created a land Mark in the political history of Iran. It established Islamic Republic of Iran in 1978. Aftermath this
revolution, the president, deputies of the Islamic Council Assembly and other members (total 270, for four years) of the Council were chosen through election by public votes. The ruling bodies of Islamic Republic are: the legislative, executive and judiciary. All act under presidential and religious guardianship.

For administrative facility Iran has been divided into 24 provinces, 115 township and 498 districts. Of whom provinces are under a governor, townships under a sub governor and district under a superintendent.

General educational system in Iran is divided into four sections; preparatory, elementary, guidance and secondary school. In order to give education to illiterate, an independent organization in the name of literary movement established by Ministry of education, clergy and the deputies of the constructive *Jihad*, (is an organization created to revive and develop the social, economic and cultural condition of the villages. Its aim was sound and healthy rural environment. Its activity has been in the maintenance of necessary construction project.) In this movement a large number of trained teachers participated. The aim of this movement is to instruct all illiterate above ten years and uneducated employees less than fifty years of age, working in government offices, factories and workshops.

One of the most important acts of the modern Iran in the field of medicine and hygiene has been a reform of pharmaceutical system of the country under a project called *generie*. 
In modern Iran many changes have been noticed in the life of the tribal people. In order to improve their position the chief of the tribe used revenue. Because of the educational and communicational facility, the young generation of Persian tribe made great progress in every field. They gave the society intelligent engineers, medical men, administrators, scientists to serve the country. Tribal women were not only expert in needle work as Edward Stack the author of Six Months in Persia observed while his stay in Iran. But they showed their skill in medicine. They enjoyed better educational, medical and transportation facilities. As the ruling families of the tribe often sent their young men abroad for education, for example in 1945, the daughter of a Bakhtiyari Khan was a student at the University of California; they directly kept in touch with the foreigners. Now they are much more familiar with foreigners and foreign language.

The Khan of Iranian tribe had connection and influence with important officials. Often he was a man who had studied in Europe or America and can read French, English and German and can deal directly with people in New York, London and Paris.

The tribes have been important backers-up of power. Reza Shah always did his best to crush their power. But he never broke their spirit of independence. Unlike his father Mohammad Reza Shah showed his much more liberal tribal policy by getting, marriage with a daughter of a Bakhtiyari Khan. In addition to, he engaged many Bakhtiyaris as members of his government. Later on they had been very active in the struggle for the constitution in 1906. The tribal leaders who were in ruling lineages
were the most powerful and wealthiest members of the tribe. These leaders usually moved in elite circles in the urban area in Iran or abroad associating with high government officials. At the same time such association of the urban elite enhanced their position in the society.

Iran in the late 19th century has been a period of political upheavals. Contacts were made with European country which brought a considerable transformation in the way of dress, life, culture, custom, literature etc.

Fine arts due to the lack of royal patronage could not make much progress. Safavid rulers diverted their much attention to the delicate art of architecture and painting which considerably declined in 19th century. Under the influence of European, artists became westernized and leaving the Iranian tradition followed European style of art. As the ruler of the period did not admire of the masterpieces of artists, they produced cheap art. In construction they used poor quality material which soon became the cause of decaying the architecture made by the shah. *Six Months in Persia* by Edward Stack gives vivid example of the said statements. Unfortunately very meager information about the life of this traveller is available.

The style of Hafiz and Sa’di which had been discarded by the poets of modern thought again came into use. A movement, *Daureh Bazgasht* (Renaissance) under the leadership of Hatif Isfahani started. Qasida writing again made popular by the royal patronage. Many poets showed their skill in this field. Of whom Fath Ali Khan Saba was the *Malik ush shuara* of the
shah. But Q’aani was the most popular poet of this period. He was fortunate enough to have the patronage of the three shahs.

The movement *Daureh Bazgasht* also impressed the prose writers of 19th century. They employed simple language in their works. Their contact with Europeans encouraged them to produce works of translation from Persian into French and vice versa. Many dramas were translated from Turkish into Persian.

Drama writing and its exhibition in the theatre was introduced by the royal patronage in this period. *Wokalai Morafia, Haji Baba Isfahani* and *Siyahat Namai Ibrahim Beg* are the popular works of this field. Printing Press was established. Later on journalism became a well organized art.

There were vivid changes in the social and cultural life of Iran in this period. Modern Persian literature containing new ideas and themes awakened the mind of the masses. Their relation with the foreign countries resulted many foreign assimilation in their culture. The cultural revival made them free from the clutches of the oppressive, corruptive and tyrannical regime of the shah in coming days.

The present day Iran as an active political lever in the world of Islam has been always in news. The transformations undoubtedly produced many phenomena worth seeing, administered by the Islamic criteria and models. It is no longer under the monopoly of home and foreign capitalist. The people’s contact with the government is established through new
organization. The masses today have a greater share in determining their own destiny.

Iran stands today as one of the leading and most dynamic nations of Asia. It preserved a long continuous historical and socio-cultural tradition. It is once again becoming politically economically strong. Under the great influence of Europeans in the late 19th century due to the give and take policy from the neighbouring country, the land literary, socially, politically, historically and culturally developed.

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