

European Secular Democracies Are Supporting An Islamic Republic Theocracy. = \$\$\$\$

By Alireza Sabouri
May 18, 2004

By the eighteenth century, Europe was finally able to end religious fundamentalism and the nightmare of theocracy as a form of government. Today, Europeans look back at its worst moments with disdain, regret and the bitter sweet realization of Europe's backwardness and missed opportunities during that dark era. The gift of secularism brought to Europe the notion of separation of religion and government, and started a generally continuous path of progress and modernity for the continent as a whole.

It is therefore ironic, and otherwise tragic, that in the twenty-first century, secular European democracies are helping to support and perpetuate an Islamic theocracy in Iran. From a European economic point of view, it is actually a clever, although shameful, tactic whereby European nations bestow an illusion of global legitimacy to preserve the hated mullahs in exchange for exploitation of Iranian oil, natural gas, gold, copper and other vast riches and resources rightfully belonging to the people of Iran. In the absence of the separation of religion from government and legitimate democracy, the political landscape of the Islamic Republic is characterized not by political parties or movements that fight over ideas and alternative policies, but by "insiders" and "outsiders." The rewarding mechanism is based on common background, family connections, social class, and even geographical location. Insiders are a restricted oligarchy, which consists of a perhaps fifty to sixty families who hold all the wealth and power, as well as all the strings over the future of over seventy million oppressed Iranians.

The typical insider has a modest education, grew up in certain neighborhoods of Tehran, and has good connections with the all-powerful bazaaris -the shop-owners of Tehran's bazaar- if not at least one of them. Conspiring with the mullahs, these bazaaris provided the financial backing needed for Khomeini's terror revolution. They were rewarded by the regime they helped install, by being allowed to amass incredible fortunes. The true story of the 1979 revolution was all about the redistribution of wealth among these insiders to determine who

would occupy the most prestigious governmental posts. These posts, incidentally, made for the best sources of perks and income, thanks to the rampant corruption which has defined this so-called republic since February 11, 1979. Presently, bazaaris represent the backbone of support for the theocratic regime in Tehran. Secular and democratic-minded outsiders, don't stand a chance of ever becoming part of the restricted oligarchy of mullahs-and-sons that share the real power.

Today, religious fundamentalism, of the kind suffered by Iranians for over twenty-five years, would not be tolerated in any European country. Any nation attempting the theocratic or religious "experiment" would immediately become an outcast, and would be economically black-listed by the other European nations. It is likely that the same treatment would be reserved for European nations attempting to implement religious fundamentalist policies.

However, unlike Europeans, Iranians are sitting on top of a country with the greatest per capita concentration of natural resources and riches which constitute the only hope for British and European prevention of the economic collapse they experienced in the 1970's. Consequently, the well being of over seventy million Iranians has been subjugated to the economic interests of a fuel-hungry British dominated Europe. So, instead of applying economic, diplomatic, and political pressure upon the so-called Islamic Republic and its "billionaire mullahs" in order to help Iranians bring about a true secular democratic alternative, EU nations have opted to maintain the status quo, thereby exploiting the situation to their own economic advantage.

The political justification used by the Europeans to condone their dealings with the mullahs relied on the illusion that the mullahs would have been able to reform the theocratic regime. That illusion has been shattered by the extremely low turnout for the national elections on February 20, 2004. This nation-wide boycott of the sham elections and the Islamic regime in its entirety was the result of an organized campaign that began back in August 2003, by Iranian secular democratic activists known as the "third force." The successful outcome of this maneuver has been to expose the smoke-and-mirrors tactic devised by the mullahs and their European counterparts to deceive western media into reporting that the mullahs were moving ever closer to a legitimate democracy.

The boycott has also undermined the legitimacy of the Islamic Republic in the eyes of the world, rather than just the hardliners or the pseudo-reformists working within the regime. Those who were once blind now realize that reformists and hardliners are just slightly different political manifestations of the same group of insiders that contributed to the creation of the Islamic Republic in 1978-79 and nowadays help the clerical regime navigate through perilous waters. Of greatest significance is the fact that the boycott in February 2004 was a clear message from Iranians to the hated mullahs and their European sponsors to stop using the reformist farce because the days of the Islamic Republic are numbered.

Today, eighty percent of the population in Iran is under the age of thirty five. We the younger generation of Iranians, were either small children or not yet born when our great nation was pulled into a chaotic nightmare by the greed and shortsightedness of many. Fortunately for us however, European powers are now left without any justification for continuing their support for the theocratic Islamic regime. Forget about real democracy and an open dialogue with the theocratic Islamic Republic. Our numbers are growing, as are our collective experiences and wisdom. Today we stand together in unity to bring about a referendum for selection of a secular democratic alternative to the Islamic Republic. Tomorrow, when the light of progress and modernity shines upon Iran once again, we shall teach our children about those who stood with the Iranian people, and those who stood against us.

Website: WWW.OYICM.ORG