



Drugs Politics

Iran has one of the world's highest rates of drug addiction, estimated to be between two and seven per cent of the entire population. This makes the questions this book asks all the more salient: what is the place of illegal substances in the politics of modern Iran? How have drugs affected the formation of the Iranian state and its power dynamics? And how have governmental attempts at controlling and regulating illicit drugs affected drug consumption and addiction? By answering these questions, Maziyar Ghiabi suggests that the Islamic Republic's image as an inherently conservative state is not only misplaced and inaccurate, but in part a myth. In order to dispel this myth, he skilfully combines ethnographic narratives from drug users, vivid field observations from 'under the bridge', with archival material from the pre- and post-revolutionary era, statistics on drug arrests and interviews with public officials. This title is also available as Open Access on Cambridge Core at doi.org/10.1017/9781108567084.

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Drugs Politics

Managing Disorder in the Islamic Republic
of Iran

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*In memoriam Massimo Riva, javanmard, for his love of living
simply*

بود درد مو و درمانم از دوست
بود وصل مو و هجرانم از دوست
اگر قصابم از تن واکره پوست
جدا هرگز نگردد جانم از دوست

*My pain and my cure is from the friend.
My closeness and my distance is from the friend.
Should the butcher peel off my skin from my body,
My soul will never depart from the friend.*

Baba Taher-e Oryan

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Note on Transliteration

Throughout the text, I used a simplified version of the *International Journal of Middle East Studies* (Persian language) transliteration guidelines. For the *hamza* I have used ', whereas for *ayn* I have used '. I avoid diacritics and I have used the spelling of popular places as they are in use inside Iran. Names of people and place known in Western languages are translated with the most common form, e.g. Khomayni is Khomeini. For names such as 'Ali, I have dropped the ', since this is not generally pronounced in Persian. Local dialects (and slang) are transliterated as close as possible to the original pronunciation. The *ezafeh* is written as -e after consonants and as -ye after vowels and silent final *h*. The *tashdid* is transliterated by doubling the letter.

Persian Glossary

<i>‘attari</i>	Traditional apothecary
<i>Bangi</i>	Hashish smoker
<i>Basij-e Mosta‘zafin</i>	Voluntary Forces of the Disinherited
<i>Camp (Kamp)</i>	Rehabilitation centre
<i>Daru</i>	Medicine (slang for heroin)
<i>Defa‘-e Moqaddas</i>	Sacred Defence
<i>E‘tiyad</i>	Addiction
<i>Estekbar-e jahani</i>	Global Arrogance
<i>Gart</i>	Slang for ‘heroin’
<i>Gasht-e Esrshad</i>	Moral police
<i>Gharbzadegi</i>	Occidentosis/Westoxification
<i>Hakem-e shar‘</i>	Leading state prosecutor
<i>Janbazan</i>	War veterans
<i>Jang-e Tahmili</i>	Imposed war
<i>Jonbesh</i>	Movement
<i>Kahesh-e asib/zayan</i>	Harm reduction
<i>Kamp</i>	Camps (rehab camp), TC
<i>Kerak (kerack)</i>	Heroin-base drug, smoked and injected
<i>Khomari</i>	Withdrawal symptom/drunken state
<i>Klinik</i>	Clinic
<i>Komiteh-ye Eslami</i>	Islamic Committee
<i>Komiteh-ye Mobarezeh ba AIDS</i>	Committee to Fight against AIDS
<i>Kopon</i>	Coupon/voucher
<i>Majles Shoura-ye Eslami (Majles)</i>	National Assembly/Parliament
<i>Majma‘-e Tashkhis-e Maslahat-e Nezam</i>	Council of the Discernment of the Expediency of the State (or Political Order)
<i>Manqal</i>	Brazier

<i>Mo'tad</i>	Addict
<i>Mo'tadan-e Gomnam</i>	Narcotics Anonymous (NA)
<i>Namaz-e Jom'eh</i>	Friday prayer
<i>Niru-ye Amniyat-e Jomhuri-ye Eslami</i> (NAJA)	Police
<i>Nezam</i>	System/state/order
<i>Ordugah</i>	Compulsory treatment centre
<i>Pasdaran</i>	Revolutionary Guards (IRGC)
<i>Qachaq(chi)</i>	Smuggling/(smuggler)
<i>Qovveh Qazai'yeh</i>	Judiciary
<i>Sazman-e Behzisti-e Keshvar</i>	Welfare Organisation
<i>Sazman-e Zendan-ha-ye Keshvar</i>	Prison Organisation
<i>Seda va Sima</i>	Radio and TV of the Islamic Republic
<i>Setad</i>	Headquarters
<i>Shahid</i>	Martyr
<i>Shireh</i>	Cooked opium residue
<i>Shirehkesh-khaneh</i>	Opium/ <i>shireh</i> smoking den
<i>Shisheh</i>	Methamphetamine
<i>Sukhteh</i>	Opium residue (dross)
<i>Sut</i>	1/10 of <i>Shisheh</i>
<i>Tajahor</i>	Publicly intoxicated
<i>Tarh-e jam'avari</i>	Drug addict collection plan
<i>Taryak(i)</i>	Opium (opium addict)
<i>Vafur</i>	Opium pipe
<i>Vaqf</i>	Religious endowment
<i>Velayat-e Faqih</i>	Guardianship of the Jurist
<i>Vezerat-e Behdasth va Darman</i>	Ministry of Health and Treatment
<i>Zarurat</i>	Necessity, emergency (in Islamic Jurisprudence)

English Glossary

ATS	Amphetamine-type stimulants (e.g. ecstasy, meth)
BMT	Buprenorphine maintenance treatment (aka BST)
DCHQ	Drug control headquarters (see <i>Setad</i>)
HRI (aka IHRA)	Harm Reduction International
INCAS	Iranian National Center for Addiction Studies
INCB	International Narcotics Control Board
IRGC	Islamic Revolution Guardian Corps (see <i>Pasdaran</i>)
IRIB	Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (see <i>Seda va Sima</i>)
MENAHRA	Middle East and North Africa Harm Reduction Association
MMT	Methadone maintenance treatment (aka MST)
NAJA	Iranian National Police
NEP	Needle exchange programme
TC	Therapeutic communities (see <i>Camp</i>)
UNODC	United National Office on Drugs and Crime
WHO	World Health Organisation