


Cambridge University Press  
978-1-108-72029-8 — Iran's Reconstruction Jihad  
Rural Development and Regime Consolidation after 1979  
Eric Lob  
Frontmatter  
[More Information](#)

---



## *Iran's Reconstruction Jihad*

Based on more than 130 interviews with government officials, revolutionary activists, war veterans, and development experts, this is the first full-length study in English to examine the significant yet understudied organization and ministry, Reconstruction Jihad, as a basis for understanding the political and social changes and continuities that have transpired in the Islamic Republic of Iran (IRI) over the last four decades. Exploring the success of the Iranian revolution, the state's development policies, its overall resilience and the conflicting dynamics of its attempts to mobilize and institutionalize activists, *Iran's Reconstruction Jihad* is one of the few studies that adopts an institutionalist approach toward analyzing critical aspects of the IRI's history and politics, with comparative implications for analyzing revolutionary processes and outcomes across other geographic regions and time periods.

ERIC LOB is Assistant Professor in the Department of Politics and International Relations at Florida International University. He received the 2014 Foundation for Iranian Studies annual award for best dissertation and honorable mention for the biannual Association for Iranian Studies Mashayekhi Dissertation Award. His research has been published in journals including *IJMES*, *Iranian Studies*, *Middle East Critique*, and *The Middle East Journal*. He is a Board of Trustees member of AIIRs and a member of MESA.

Cambridge University Press  
978-1-108-72029-8 — Iran's Reconstruction Jihad  
Rural Development and Regime Consolidation after 1979  
Eric Lob  
Frontmatter  
[More Information](#)

# Iran's Reconstruction Jihad

Rural Development and Regime  
Consolidation after 1979

ERIC LOB  
*Florida International University*



CAMBRIDGE  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press  
 978-1-108-72029-8 — Iran's Reconstruction Jihad  
 Rural Development and Regime Consolidation after 1979  
 Eric Lob  
 Frontmatter  
[More Information](#)

## CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom  
 One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA  
 477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia  
 314-321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre, New Delhi - 110025, India  
 103 Penang Road, #05-06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)  
 Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781108720298](http://www.cambridge.org/9781108720298)  
 DOI: 10.1017/9781108766852

© Eric Lob 2020

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2020  
 First paperback edition 2022

*A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library*

*Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication data*

Names: Lob, Eric S., 1974– author.  
 Title: Iran's Reconstruction Jihad : rural development and regime consolidation after 1979 / Eric S. Lob.

Description: Cambridge, United Kingdom ; New York, NY : Cambridge University Press, 2020. | Includes bibliographical references and index.

Identifiers: LCCN 2019040408 (print) | LCCN 2019040409 (ebook) | ISBN 9781108487443 (hardback) | ISBN 9781108720298 (paperback) | ISBN 9781108766852 (epub)

Subjects: LCSH: Iran. Vizārat-i Jihād-i Sāzandagī. | Rural development—Iran. | Iran—Politics and government—1979-1997. | Iran—Politics and government—1997–  
 Classification: LCC HN670.2.Z9 C636 2020 (print) | LCC HN670.2.Z9 (ebook) | DDC 307.1/4120955–dc23

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2019040408>  
 LC ebook record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2019040409>

ISBN 978-1-108-48744-3 Hardback  
 ISBN 978-1-108-72029-8 Paperback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication, and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

## *Contents*

<i>List of Figures</i>	<i>page</i> vi
<i>List of Tables</i>	vii
Introduction: Reconstruction Jihad	1
1 Inception (1962–1979)	15
2 Expansion (February 11–November 6, 1979)	39
3 Consolidation (1979–1989)	68
4 Demobilization and Institutionalization (1983–2001)	125
5 Disillusionment and Mobility (1983–2001)	170
6 Associationalism (1983–2013)	222
7 Africa (1985–2013)	249
8 Lebanon (1988–2013)	281
9 Jihadi Culture and Management (2005–2017)	310
Conclusion: Deconstructing Reconstruction Jihad	335
<i>Bibliography</i>	349
<i>Index</i>	373

## Figures

1.1 Five dinar stamp commemorating the Shah's 1962 White Revolution and Land Reform – Referred to as the “Revolution of the Shah and the Nation” ( <i>Inqilāb-i Shāh va Milat</i> )	page 16
2.1 Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini and RJ's “All Together” slogan and logo with a sickle, stalk, and Qur'anic Verse	40
3.1 Two hundred riyals currency note commemorating RJ	68
3.2 Members of the trench builders without trenches during the war	91
3.3 RJ's organizational structure (1979–1983)	93
3.4 A political rally organized by RJ	102
4.1 RJ's organizational chart between May 13, 1988 and September 2, 1990	147
6.1 An RM recruitment poster	228
6.2 The TBA's logo	234
6.3a The MAJ supreme leader's representative, Ayatollah Hassan 'Alami, addressing members of the JA at its annual meeting	238
6.3b 'Alami honoring and giving a gift to a member of the JA at its annual meeting	238
6.3c 'Alami attending the JA's annual meeting	239
9.1 Model of a trench builders' trench at the Museum of the Holy or Sacred Defense and the Promotion of Resistance Culture	316

## Tables

3.1 WES's wartime performance record (1982–1989)	<i>page 89</i>
3.2 The IRI and RJ's developmental performance record (1979–1999)	94
4.1 RJ's economic targets and achievements	136
4.2 Training center enrollment by major and level (1985–1989)	156
4.3 Short-term course enrollment by major (1986–1989)	156
4.4 Students under contract at the training centers by major and level (1989)	160
4.5a Student enrollment abroad by country and level (1989)	162
4.5b Student enrollment abroad by year and expenditure	162
4.6a Students with service commitments by level (1989)	164
4.6b Students with service commitments by major (1989)	164
6.1 RM's developmental performance record (1983–1989)	224
6.2 The JA's priority programs and operating costs for 2011	241
7.1 RJ's overseas operations from 1987 until March 1993	260
8.1 JB's developmental activities (1988–2008)	308