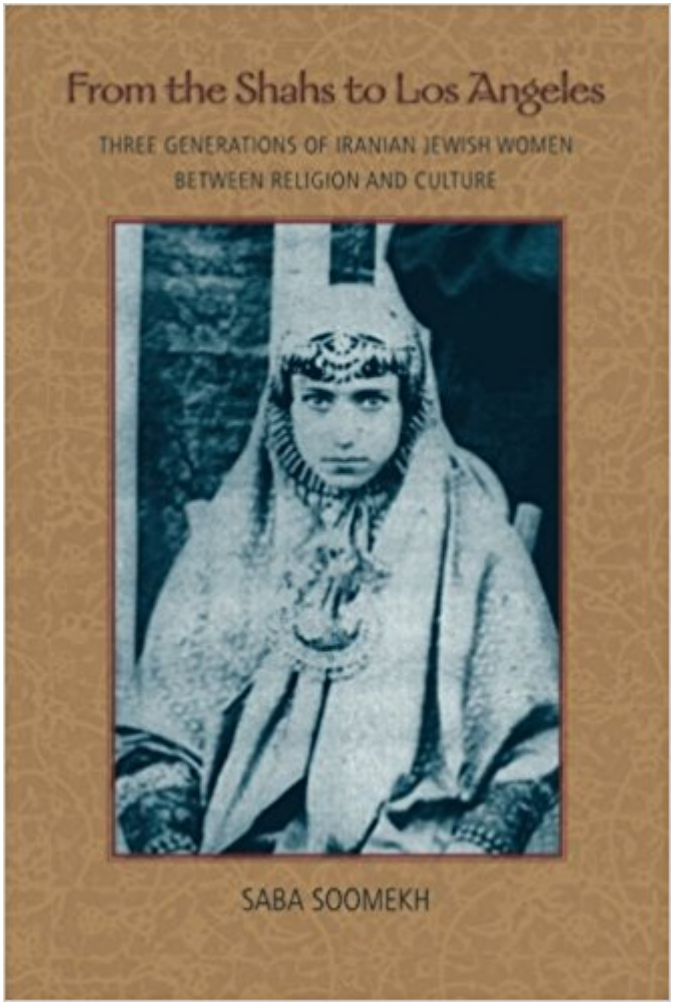
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# From The Shahs To Los Angeles: Three Generations Of Iranian Jewish Women Between Religion And Culture




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## Synopsis

A fascinating look at the lives, culture, and religious and ritual observance of three generations of Iranian Jewish women in the United States.Saba Soomekh offers a fascinating portrait of three generations of women in an ethnically distinctive and little-known American Jewish community, Jews of Iranian origin living in Los Angeles. Most of IranÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Jewish community immigrated to the United States and settled in Los Angeles in the wake of the 1979 Iranian Revolution and the government-sponsored discrimination that followed. Based on interviews with women raised during the constitutional monarchy of the earlier part of the twentieth century, those raised during the modernizing Pahlavi regime of mid-century, and those who have grown up in Los Angeles, the book presents an ethnographic portrait of what life was and is like for Iranian Jewish women. Featuring the voices of all generations, the book concentrates on religiosity and ritual observance, the relationship between men and women, and womenÃ¢â ¬â„¢s self-concept as Iranian Jewish women. Mother-daughter relationships, double standards for sons and daughters, marriage customs, the appeal of American forms of Jewish practices, social customs and pressures, and the alternate attraction to and critique of materialism and attention to outward appearance are discussed by the author and through the voices of her informants.Ã¢â ¬Å“As many as 40,000 Iranian Jews live in the Los Angeles area Ã¢â ¬Â¦ Saba Soomekh, an Iranian-born member of this community, has written an informative profile of the three generations of women in this community Ã¢â ¬Â¦ As an insider, Soomekh has a unique perspective on these three generations on the basis of her own experience, her background research, and interviews with members of each generation.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â • Jewish Book Council

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Saba Soomekh draws a compelling ethnographic portrait of what life was and is for [Jews] in Iran and the United States. Canadian Jewish NewsAs many as 40,000 Iranian Jews live in the Los Angeles area Saba Soomekh, an Iranian-born member of this community, has written an informative profile of the three generations of women in this community As an insider, Soomekh has a unique perspective on these three generations on the basis of her own experience, her background research, and interviews with members of each generation. Jewish Book Council Saba Soomekh draws a compelling ethnographic portrait of what life was and is for [Jews] in Iran and the United States. Canadian Jewish NewsSoomekh traces the innovation and maintenance of being Jewish in "From the Shahs to Los Angeles", providing a valuable contribution for study and a story on immigrant communities in the U.S. that s accessible to the reader outside the insular community of Iranian Jews in Los Angeles. "Portland Book Review" As many as 40,000 Iranian Jews live in the Los Angeles area Saba Soomekh, an Iranian-born member of this community, has written an informative profile of the three generations of women in this community As an insider, Soomekh has a unique perspective on these three generations on the basis of her own experience, her background research, and interviews with members of each generation. Jewish Book Council Saba Soomekh draws a compelling ethnographic portrait of what life was and is for [Jews] in Iran and the United States. "Canadian Jewish News""Soomekh s study offers some valuable insight into the history, culture, and society of a sometimes insular and somewhat inscrutable segment of Los Angeles s contemporary Jewish community a sound and accessible study. "H-Net Reviews (H-Judaic)"  Soomekh traces the innovation and maintenance of being Jewish in "From the Shahs to Los Angeles," providing a valuable contribution for study and a story on immigrant communities in the U.S. that s accessible to the reader outside the insular community of Iranian Jews in Los Angeles. "Portland Book Review"  As many as 40,000 Iranian Jews live in the Los Angeles area Saba Soomekh, an Iranian-born member of this community, has written an informative profile of the three generations of women in this community As an insider, Soomekh has a unique perspective on these three generations on the basis of her own experience, her background research, and interviews with members of each generation. Jewish Book Council  Saba Soomekh draws a compelling ethnographic portrait of what life was and is for [Jews] in Iran and the United States. "Canadian Jewish News""an astute anthropological study. "Lilith"  Soomekh s study offers some valuable insight into the history, culture, and society of a sometimes insular and somewhat

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Saba Soomekh is Assistant Director of the Jewish Studies Program at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, California.

Although most readers of this book are probably Iranian Jews--the descendants of it's subject matter--and/or students of Dr. Soomekh, I find it extremely illuminating for we non-Iranian/Persians as well. After all, we in Los Angeles live side-by-side to some degree with Persians so it behooves us to learn more about their history and culture--which you will, if you read the intimate information shared in this book.My only complaint (which was actually shared w/my mother, who read it after me) is the repetition of information. This may be because it serves as a textbook for Dr. Soomekh's classes. So I figured she must be repeating vital info (albeit in different contexts, perhaps) to emphasize its importance--or even perhaps as a hint that she'll be testing her students on those very items...!Regardless, I learned a lot from the book, and now have an understanding of why local Persians dress, behave and perform as they might--and conversely, why older generations remain unassimilated, and how new generations who break free from traditional expectations are so brave in their iconoclasm.

This was a wonderful book and I feel I learned so much from it. The author takes us through a wonderful toru of history, tradition and ritual. the book is written with wonderful clarity giving new insights to the plight of Iran and it's exiles. This book is a must read for everyone in los angeles, I look forward to new writing from the author.

Necessary for students of migration and Iranian culture

I look forward to future publications by Dr. Soomekh. The work while interesting relies far too much on anecdotal references.

I recently read the book Daughter of Persia and loved it. But, as an Iranian Jew, I really wanted to learn more about my community's experiences and how they shaped who we are and where we are today. This book had a profound impact on me. It was so enjoyable to read; it didn't feel like a textbook at all. Every few pages I would have to stop and call my mom to discuss something that

was written in the book that I had always thought was unique to our family. I will probably read it again and I hope that Saba Soomekh writes more books to elaborate on this subject. I highly recommend this book to anyone who is Iranian Jewish, or knows people who are Iranian Jewish. It was so good!

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