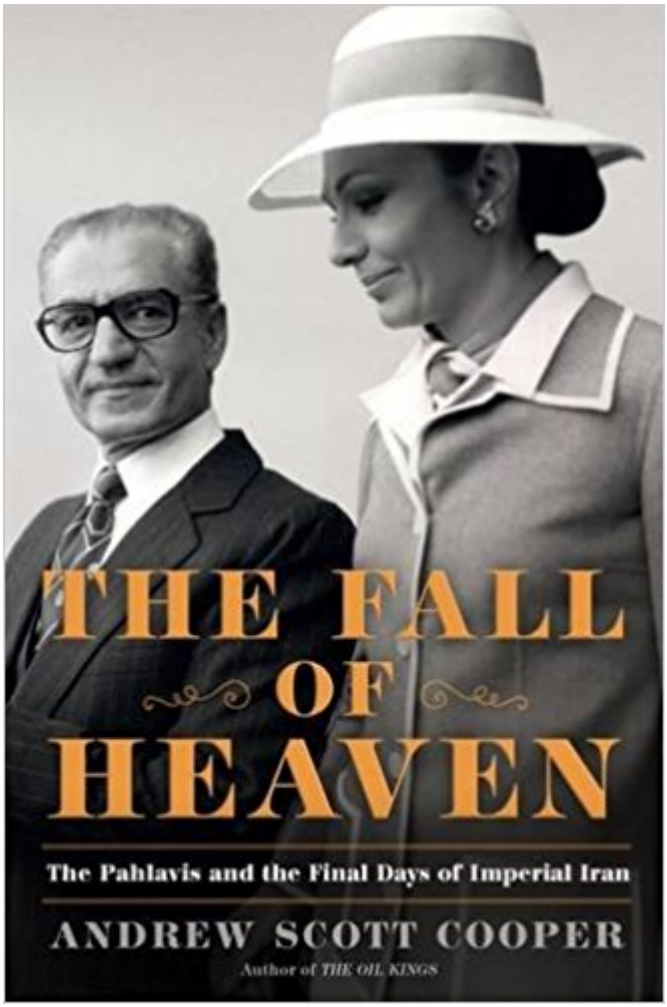
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The Fall Of Heaven: The Pahlavis And The Final Days Of Imperial Iran



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Synopsis

An immersive, gripping account of the rise and fall of Iran’s glamorous Pahlavi dynasty, written with the cooperation of the late Shah’s widow, Empress Farah, Iranian revolutionaries and US officials from the Carter administrationIn this remarkably human portrait of one of the twentieth century’s most complicated personalities, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, Andrew Scott Cooper traces the Shah’s life from childhood through his ascension to the throne in 1941. He draws the turbulence of the post-war era during which the Shah survived assassination attempts and coup plots to build a modern, pro-Western state and launch Iran onto the world stage as one of the world’s top five powers. Readers get the story of the Shah’s political career alongside the story of his courtship and marriage to Farah Diba, who became a power in her own right, the beloved family they created, and an exclusive look at life inside the palace during the Iranian Revolution. Cooper’s investigative account ultimately delivers the fall of the Pahlavi dynasty through the eyes of those who were there: leading Iranian revolutionaries; President Jimmy Carter and White House officials; US Ambassador William Sullivan and his staff in the American embassy in Tehran; American families caught up in the drama; even Empress Farah herself, and the rest of the Iranian Imperial family. Intimate and sweeping at once, The Fall of Heaven recreates in stunning detail the dramatic and final days of one of the world’s most legendary ruling families, the unseating of which helped set the stage for the current state of the Middle East.

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Customer Reviews

Ã¢â ¬Å“Riveting . . . Based on various documentary sources as well as impressive access to royalists, revolutionaries, Queen Farah Pahlavi, and various U.S. officials, this thorough work is immensely detailed yet readable and continuously engaging.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â ¢Publishers Weekly "[Cooper] delves intimately into the life of the leader who believed firmly in the separation of church and state and who seemed stern and humorless to the public yet was a devoted father of five children and had no patience for the imams dragging their feet on reforms. . . A thorough new appraisal of an enigmatic ruler who died believing his people still loved him." Ã¢â ¬â ¢Kirkus (starred review) Ã¢â ¬Å“Cooper provides an expert and more nuanced view of the Shah, his regime, and its collapseÃ¢â ¬Â¦This is a fine revisionist study of major world events that continue to influence the fate of the Middle East.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â ¢BooklistÃ¢â ¬Å“Here is all the power and glamourÃ¢â ¬â ¢but also the dark side and ultimately the tragedyÃ¢â ¬â ¢of the last Shah of Iran. A moving and thoroughly researched account.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â ¢Robert Lacey, author of The Kingdom and Inside the KingdomÃ¢â ¬Å“The Fall of Heaven is a vivid and penetrating portrait of the last chapters of imperial Iran and the ruler whose attempt to thrust his country into modernity ended with upheaval and exile. This book provides valuable insight into the background of a revolution that is still shaking international politics today.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â ¢Paul R. Pillar, twenty-eight-year veteran of the CIA and senior fellow at Georgetown University and the Brookings Institution

Andrew Scott Cooper is the author of The Oil Kings: How the U.S., Iran and Saudi Arabia Changed the Balance of Power in the Middle East, and an adjunct assistant professor at Columbia University. He is a regular commentator on US-Iran relations and the oil markets, and his research has appeared in many news outlets including The New York Times and The Guardian. He holds a PhD in the history of US-Iran relations and lives in New York City.

A good book. Even if one does not subscribe to the conspiracy theories of the expatriate Persians, Cooper’s analysis confirms that the United States made enormous mistakes in 1978, urging the Shah to liberalize in the middle of an economic crisis. But the biggest mistakes were made by the Shah himself, by centralizing all the power in his own persion, by his failure to notice his own inpopularity and by then turning weak when ruthless action was required. I had never heard the story that in a direct telephone call in August 1978 the young Saddam Hussein had offered the Shah to kill Khomeini in Najaf but that the Shah had been unable to say yes. Khomeini should have never been allowed into France and back into Iran. Given the problems we presently face in

South-West Asia, we need cold-blooded analys and we need to learn from our mistakes in 1978. By all means, let the Saudis pump more oil and keep the oil price down and let's hope that this will destabilize Iran and Russia.

I am loving learning about the Shah as I only remember as a child the narrative that he was an evil dictator type and so I couldn't understand why the USA was letting him in our country for cancer treatment. Now I find myself going somewhat sweet on him and his wife. It seems like they loved their country and were really trying to do what was best to move it forward without reverting to bloodshed to keep his power. He would rather leave the throne than to keep it by force. He wanted the people to love him and want him to be their ruler

A different perspective on the Iranian Revolution with a much more sympathetic view of the Shah. A fascinating epic of a great culture torn between its past and the modern world. The complexity of Iranian culture, politics, and history is well-presented. There are no heros in this tale, with the exception of Farah, the Shah's modern and open third wife. The ineptness of the Americans and the Carter administration is revealing.

Very informative and readable account if the Shah's undoing by his arrogance, his family's corruption, his inept and self-centered appointees who served themselves not Iran (or the Shah) and the well orchestrated campaign of his religious adversaries led by Khomeini. Best anecdote: Saddam Hussein seeking the Shah's acquiescence to haveKhomeini murdered while still in exile in Iraq and the Shah's demurring. The first 200 pages of history are less engaging if you know something of Iran but the succeeding pages provide a gripping blow by blow if the slow, then accelerating, inevitable demise of the shah's regime and if the horribly ignorant and inept US policy beginning with an arrogant and inept US ambassador in Tehran. Great folo to Mr Cooper's also great book on the Oil Kings, which recounts US-Saudi cooperation to reduce oil prices in the late 70s which left Iran in dire economic straits and provided the public discontent to help gather disparate Iranians into cohesion against the shah.

This book filled in many holes in my knowledge of time that I have lived. I met the Shah and Queen Farrah for a moment as they entered Wilford-Hall Medical Center in 1979. Much of the mystery and mystic of that time is now much more clear. This book is background for understanding where and why we find ourselves in the Middle East today.

It is about former Iranian ruler who could control all craziest countries in the Middle East . The Shah of Iran was a dictator, but a good one. A dictator who cared about his people. A dictator who decided to leave his Theron, because he didn't like to kill his citizens as opposed to MR. ASAD or other Dictators. A dictator who was developing his country that he inherited from his preceding . Removing shah was a bad mistake. It is a stain for WEST. Now, we see Jahadis are spreading every where. As Mr, Donald Reagan said once, Removing SHAH was a mistake.

I lived in Ahwaz South Iran until 1977 just prior to the revolution. I was only 18 at the time and was naive to all the turmoil. This is one of the best and most thourighly researched books on the Pahlavi Dynasty. Brought back slot of memories. It was such a shame that the Shah's dreams for his country never came to fruition.

The Book Club I'm in read this for our May meeting.The book was extremely detailed and a difficult read. It was, however, very informative about the period in history when Iran was a more open society and women's rights were expanded greatly during the 1960's and 1970's prior to the return of radical Islam to the country and the Shah's demise.

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