

From the 1979 Revolution to Today's Deadlock: An Analytical Look at the Erosion of Power in the Islamic Republic of Iran

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Five decades after the 1979 revolution, the erosion of legitimacy, efficiency, and the capacity to reproduce social consensus has left the Islamic Republic facing a kind of structural paralysis. In this article, Shahriar Sanaei shows how a rapidly transforming society has come face to face with a government stuck in the language and logic of the revolution's early decades. In this framework, while the "Woman, Life, Freedom" movement emerged as the peak of the divide between a transformed society and a stagnant government—revealing the possibility of a socio-political transition—domestic repression and the return of individual-centric leadership models within the opposition have today turned the post-Islamic Republic future into an open and unresolved question.