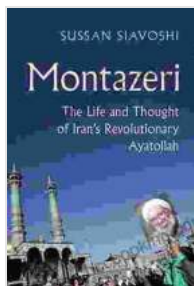


# Unveiling the Life and Thought of the Iranian Revolutionary Ayatollah



## Montazeri: The Life and Thought of Iran's Revolutionary Ayatollah by Robert Coram

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 4209 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 313 pages



The Iranian Revolution of 1979 stands as a pivotal moment in world history, forever altering the political and religious landscape of the Middle East. At the heart of this transformative event was a charismatic and enigmatic figure: Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. As the spiritual leader of the revolution, Khomeini's life and thought left an enduring legacy that continues to resonate today.

## Early Life and Education

Ruhollah Khomeini was born in the holy city of Khomein, Iran, in 1902. From a young age, he displayed a keen intellect and a passion for Islamic studies. He pursued his religious education at the seminary in Qom, where he became a renowned scholar of Shiite Islam. Khomeini's mastery of Islamic jurisprudence and theology earned him the title of "Ayatollah," a high-ranking religious authority.

## **Political Activism and Exile**

Khomeini's religious fervor extended beyond the seminary walls. He emerged as a vocal critic of the authoritarian rule of the Shah, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi. Khomeini's fiery sermons, which denounced the Shah's Western-oriented policies and suppression of religious freedoms, resonated with the Iranian people. In 1964, Khomeini was arrested and exiled to Turkey. However, his influence continued to grow throughout the 1970s as Iran's economy floundered and social unrest mounted.

## **Return to Iran and the Revolution**

In 1979, amid widespread protests and civil unrest, Khomeini returned to Iran from exile. His arrival in Tehran was met by millions of ecstatic supporters. Khomeini quickly assumed leadership of the revolution, which culminated in the overthrow of the Shah and the establishment of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

## **Key Beliefs and Vision**

Khomeini's political vision was deeply rooted in his religious beliefs. He advocated for the implementation of an Islamic government, based on the principles of Shiite Islam. Khomeini believed that religious leaders should play a central role in governing society. He also advocated for social justice, economic equality, and the liberation of oppressed nations around the world.

## **Legacy and Impact**

Ayatollah Khomeini's legacy is a complex and multifaceted one. His revolution transformed Iran into a global player and inspired Islamic movements worldwide. However, his authoritarian rule and suppression of

dissent have drawn criticism. Khomeini's death in 1989 did not diminish his influence; his ideas continue to shape Iranian politics and society today.

## Understanding the Complexities

To truly understand the life and thought of Ayatollah Khomeini, it is essential to delve into the complexities of Iranian history and Shiite Islam. Khomeini's beliefs and actions were deeply rooted in the cultural, political, and religious context of his time. By exploring the historical forces that shaped his life, we gain a deeper appreciation for the profound impact he had on Iran and the world.

The life and thought of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini remain a subject of intense fascination and debate. His revolutionary vision and enduring legacy have left an indelible mark on the global stage. By unraveling the complexities of his beliefs and motivations, we can gain a deeper understanding of one of the most influential figures of the 20th century.

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## Suggested Reading

\* "Ayatollah Khomeini: Life of the Ayatollah" by Hamid Algar \* "Khomeini: The Life and Legacy of an Iranian Revolutionary" by Farzaneh Milani \* "The Iranian Revolution: A History in Documents" by Ervand Abrahamian

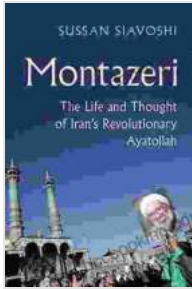
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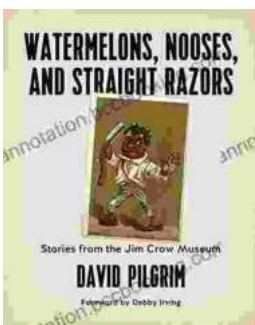


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