

'Developmentalism' and Resource Nationalism in Iran's Modernist Press, 1906-1911

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Abstract

Modernist periodicals produced during Iran's Constitutional Revolution (1906-11) carried a wide-ranging discussion on the roots of social progress (taraqqi). Writers and editors used a new vocabulary of nationalism, patriotism, and the homeland to express their political goals during the revolutionary uprising, which produced Iran's first parliamentary system limiting the power of the monarchy. Part of this discussion which is of particular interest to environmental historians is the emergence of an early discourse of "developmentalism" (abadi), implying an improvement of the material conditions of the empire. While clearly connected to earlier conceptions about the role of government in promoting justice, this was also connected to contemporary issues of resources management and the material conditions for prosperity.

Bio

James Gustafson is Associate Professor of History and Chair of the International Studies program at Indiana State University where he teaches courses in environmental history and the history of the Persianate World. He also serves on the Executive Committee of the Association for Iranian Studies. This lecture is based on a chapter of his upcoming book *The Lion and the Sun: Nature and the Formation of Modern Iran*, which will be published by I.B. Tauris in 2023. He is also the author of a local history of Kirman, Iran in the nineteenth century titled *Kirman and the Qajar Empire* (Routledge, 2015).